



Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust Update for the June 2022 PAN Forum

General Program Update

The EAST Executive Committee and Project Team are pleased to share that the retained EAST collection has now surpassed 10 million. This milestone was achieved following the collection analysis and retention process with our two newest members, Temple University and the State Library of Massachusetts.

We thank all our member libraries and the staff who have worked with EAST over the last six years to achieve this milestone, and look forward to continued collaboration.

EAST Working Groups

At the January 2022 PAN meeting, EAST reported on [several working groups](#) convened in response to our 2020 Program Assessment results: Collection Analysis, Special Collections, and Access. Following approval by the EAST Executive Committee, the recommendation from the Collection Analysis Working Group to survey the membership regarding interest in a group-wide collection analysis and other ways for libraries to contribute additional titles for retention was approved. Upon completion of a pilot project that analyzed three of the EAST members' special collections titles, the Special Collections Working Group recommended that this survey include an opportunity for member libraries to express interest in including some or all of their special collection titles in the anticipated group-wide collection analysis. Voting Members of EAST received this collection analysis survey in May and initial results indicate that a large number of EAST libraries are interested in pursuing additional group-level collection analysis pending the availability of cost information. EAST is currently following up on the results of the survey and hopes to undertake this large group analysis in 2021.

The Access Working Group created a Resource Sharing Data Analysis Task Force to review 2019 interlibrary loan statistics available on lending and borrowing across EAST member libraries from both OCLC and Rapid. Research results will be shared via the [EAST website](#) later this year.

Following up on the work of the Access Working Group, EAST reconvened the ILL Working Group, now renamed more appropriately the Resource Sharing Working Group. This group is reviewing and updating the foundational [EAST ILL Best Practices document](#) as the resource sharing landscape has evolved significantly since this document was developed in 2016. The group's focus is on current standards and interoperability rather than particular tools for interlibrary loan and the updated best practices will take into consideration that the EAST collective collection may include special collection titles as well as those in circulating collections.

Further Program Work

Over the last six months, EAST has conducted or begun pilot projects that align with the initiatives and recommendations proposed by these working groups. Recently, a project with Internet Archive (IA) identified the number and list of public domain titles retained by the University of Rochester with a digital surrogate in IA. This information was shared with Rochester to follow up as needed. EAST will be working with IA on further analysis work to determine if offering a service to members that captures digital surrogates for titles in the EAST collective collection is feasible and desirable.

Another ongoing project involves working with three VIVA libraries (James Madison University, Radford University, and the College of William and Mary) to analyze their previously agreed to VIVA shared print program retention commitments and determine overlap with the EAST retained collection in anticipation of further discussions on collaboration. The initial analysis, which was recently shared with the participating VIVA libraries, indicates overlap between existing VIVA retention commitments and titles retained by one or more EAST libraries on the order of 80%. Even taking into consideration having the VIVA libraries agree to retain the materials in their collections that are unique to EAST and “top up” existing EAST retention commitments if the current number of titles retained is less than 5, each of the current VIVA libraries could consider removing commitments for 30-40% of the original retentions, clearly demonstrating the value of undertaking shared print at scale. As part of this analysis, EAST has continued to work with the Gold Rush® Decision Support tool on improvements to meet the needs of shared print programs.

Additional EAST initiatives

To guide the future of EAST over the next few years, a subset of the Executive Committee, along with Project Director Susan Stearns and Shared Print Consultant Matthew Revitt has met monthly since January to analyze the shared print landscape and EAST’s role in it. This analysis culminated in a set of strategic directions for EAST for the coming 2-3 years. These strategic directions are currently under review by the full Executive Committee, and once approved, will be shared with the EAST membership for consideration and adoption as well as with the larger shared print community.

One of the highest priorities the subcommittee has identified is to ensure the sustainability of EAST as it continues to grow. This includes a thorough review of EAST’s governance to determine how it can best be strengthened in support of EAST’s mission and amid the general expansion and growth of shared print across the academic and research library landscape.

In March 2022, EAST and SCELCL submitted a proposal to the IMLS for a planning grant entitled SCELCL & EAST: Expanding Diversity and Inclusivity in the Collective Collection of Shared Print. A decision regarding the proposal is expected later this summer.

After working with web design and development firm [GORGES](#), the new EAST website is being launched this summer. The new website was migrated from Drupal to WordPress and received a design refresh to improve access to project documentation, events, and frequently asked questions.

The EAST Project Team recently reported on these updates in our latest member update webinar in May. Find the recording and slides on the [website](#). Non-EAST members interested in attending our webinar updates or member meetings are invited to sign up to our [EAST.Interested email list](#) to receive upcoming registration information.