



ReCAP Shared Print Report PAN Meeting June 2021

Background

ReCAP is a small consortium jointly owned and operated by Columbia University, Harvard University, The New York Public Library, and Princeton University. While ReCAP was initially formed to provide shared storage, it has expanded to include other collaborative efforts including a large shared print program.

Discovery to Delivery

With longstanding support from the Mellon Foundation, ReCAP and its partners launched its Discovery to Delivery, an innovative shared print program in the fall of 2017. By developing an open source middleware, named the Shared Collections Service Bus (SCSB), ReCAP Partners can seamlessly discover and request of items at the other participating libraries directly from their own discovery layers.

Over the past year, ReCAP has been refactoring SCSB to make it more flexible when adding libraries and storage locations as well as making it more sustainable. The new version will be released in mid-July simultaneously adding Harvard to the program. A smaller release is scheduled over the summer with added functionality. The code is public and available on [Github](#) and fully [documented](#). Because so much is being updated, we advise libraries and consortia who may be interested in evaluating the product for their own implementations to wait until the new code and updated documentation is released.

Other Initiatives

With the success of ReCAP's Discovery to Delivery Program, Partner libraries have turned their attention to collaborative collecting. They have settled a major collecting area, with several other areas nearing completion. These programs leverage SCSB to facilitate the sharing of collaboratively purchased items and is allowing the libraries to increase their scope by managed duplicate purchases.

Program Facts

- Once Harvard's items are added in July 2021, the program will include over 17.7 million items that are sharable among the participating institutions. Of the items in the collection, 14.25 million are unique and have permanent retention commitments.
- Use from ReCAP's facility has increased by 30% since the program was launched in 2017. We are expecting additional increases when Harvard is fully integrated into the program.
- Before the pandemic, ReCAP's Partners borrowed almost 5,000 items each month though the Discovery to Delivery Program on top of their use of their own items.
- ReCAP's partners have pledged to preserve items with permanent retention commitments.