SCELC Shared Print has been engaged in a period of significant growth in recent months. Our cohort of California State University (CSU) libraries grew by one, with the addition of Sonoma State University, which reviewed and accepted retention commitments in record time. There is continued interest amongst not yet participating institutions in the CSU group as the long-term budget implications of the pandemic settle. Santa Clara University also joined, making us three for three among Jesuit institutions in California as members of the program. And we added our first institution from members of the Orbis Cascade Alliance with the addition of Central Washington University. This brings the program to 37 participants and 2.2 million volumes retained, not counting final retention numbers by the new members listed above.

As 2021 marks the fifth year of the program, our Shared Print Committee will be engaging the membership in our first program assessment. Shared Print consultant Bob Kieft has been actively reviewing recent assessment projects by our colleagues at other programs to help us frame our review. This will build upon a member survey conducted in fall of 2020, which provided insight into what is working with the program and areas where we need to improve, which often revolve around communication, particularly with library staff not directly involved in shared print issues at their respective institutions.

Related to that, SCELC is in the midst of a significant overhaul of its website with the goal of making information more easily discoverable for existing and prospective participants of its programs and offers. This will involve moving a significant amount of information onto SCELC’s LibGuide, which will make it much easier for Shared Print Committee members to update information.

As new opportunities for greater engagement across consortia expand, SCELC remains committed to participating in those conversations. Linda Wobbe, staff liaison to the SCELC Shared Print Committee, is the convenor of the Partnership for Shared Book Collections' Infrastructure Working Group and serves on the Operations Committee. Glenn Johnson-Grau, in his role as a SCELC Shared Print consultant, serves on the Best Practices Working Group. And Laura Turner, outgoing Chair of the Shared Print Committee serves on the Operations and Collections Council for WEST. Mark McCallon (mccallonm@acu.edu) is the incoming chair of the Shared Print Committee as of July 1, 2021.
Lastly, at the end of June, Rick Burke will retire as Executive Director of SCELC. Rick oversaw the creation of the Shared Print Program from the earliest conversations to the present. Rick saw that SCELC could be a home for a vibrant shared print program geared to the needs of small and mid-sized institutions with unique and valuable collections, libraries that both needed to thoughtfully manage their own print collections and could also contribute in the mutual responsibility to preserve the print scholarly record.