



Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC) June 2016 PAN Update Report

Marketing Maine Shared Collections

Matthew Revitt, Maine Shared Collection Librarian continues to report on the work and services of Maine Shared Collections at library events across New England and at American Library Association conferences. A chapter on Maine Shared Collections was also recently included in the ALA monograph *Shared Collections Collaborative Stewardship*.

Collection Analysis Services

As of June 2016, Matthew and the contracted MSCC Systems Librarian Sara Amato have worked with 34 Maine libraries on analyzing their print monograph collections. MSCC provides libraries with spreadsheet reports that can be used to identify both retention and withdrawal candidates. The libraries are charged a one-off fee to cover the costs of Sara extracting holdings data from OCLC WorldCat, local ILS systems, and MaineCat and compiling the spreadsheets.

On average, 38% of the print monograph collections of the libraries the MSCC have worked with so far already have MSCC retention commitments at another library, which means substantial withdrawal opportunities.

One of the ongoing issues for the analysis is the quality of the holdings metadata which makes matching difficult. For one of the consortia MSCC has worked with, 40% of the records had issues with matching on the 001, be that either bad or non-existent data. MSCC representatives have spoken with the consortium regarding opportunities for system-wide data cleaning. It's clear that the quality of records may well be a limiting factor as MSCC looks to extend the analysis further in the state.

Identifying Additional Retention Commitments

Generally, the titles identified as retention candidates during the collection analysis process are those where there are less than ten holdings in OCLC, isn't an existing MSCC retention commitment, and content of scholarly value and/or Maine related. While at public libraries this mostly means local history and genealogical titles and fiction with a local setting, at academic institutions there have been large numbers of rare titles in the subject strength of these institutions: for example, on the Acadian Region at the University of Maine at Fort Kent and on environmental protection and land management at Unity College. On average, the number of titles identified as potential retention candidates account for less

than 1% of the library's print monograph collection, so even at small libraries this is not seen as being too onerous of a burdenⁱ. There's also the opportunity to transfer items to another MSCC member for retention.

Membership in Maine Shared Collections Cooperative

MSCC membership has more than trebled over the past two years. Of the 34 libraries that the MSCC have worked with, 24 have so far formally joined the Cooperative, making 33 members across the state. The new members have collectively agreed to retain approximately 1,500 titlesⁱⁱ. Although the number of commitments are small, the analysis is highlighting titles both the local libraries and the state collection didn't realize were rare as they are. Also, it's significant in a state like Maine to work with these libraries who wouldn't otherwise be included in such analysis, since they are not in OCLC, and lack the resources to contract with a commercial collection analysis vendor.

Documenting Retention Commitments

All new retention commitments are added to the relevant local Innovative and Koha ILS systems. Most new members are also checking to ensure the items they agree to retain are not missing or damaged: a note is added in the MARC 583 field to indicate this checking has been carried out. New members are also physically labelling retained items to indicate they have a retention commitment and therefore shouldn't be pulled for withdrawal.

Most new MSCC libraries are not OCLC members. However, for those that are, OCLC Shared Print Symbols were requested and the commitments have been recorded in the Local Holding Records of titles committed to retain. Maine Shared Collections and OCLC representatives have discussed OCLC's plans for changes to the shared print registration process and the affect this will have on MSCC.

Staff at MSCC libraries and Maine InfoNet worked on ensuring all MSCC retention commitments now flow from local catalogs to the central union catalog, MaineCat, and are displayed in the catalog's OPACⁱⁱⁱ.

MSCC Involvement in EAST

In March 2016, Maine Shared Collection Librarian Matthew Revitt was also appointed Shared Print Consultant for the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST).

Colby College is the only MSCC library that has joined EAST. Colby representatives sit on a number of the different EAST committees. The MSCC Collections Operations Committee will be working with Colby on the documenting and disclosure of EAST retention commitments alongside those already agreed as part of MSCC.

Although Maine Shared Collections Strategy retention commitments were used as a comparator group in EAST's collection analysis the EAST Monograph Working Group decided that EAST couldn't rely on commitments from MSCC without there first being a formal agreement between the two initiatives.

Planning for Group Collection Analysis

The MSCC Collections and Operations Committee have begun to prepare for the next group MSCC collection analysis in 2019. The analysis will include holdings from both the original grant libraries and new libraries that have joined since. The Committee met last in February 2016 and agreed that:

- Only print monograph titles published or added to collections between 2003 and 2008 will be in-scope.
- The usage threshold that triggers a retention commitment may be raised.
- Rarity in OCLC will again likely be included in the retention criteria.
- Going forward two holding commitments across the group may suffice.
- Relying on retention commitments from other shared print groups may be an issue without reciprocal borrowing agreements.

MSCC are considering a number of different collection analysis tools and support services to facilitate the group analysis.

ⁱ "MSC Data Comparisons", <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/166pguY5D5GLSZH0XQzeYOOIujbRRVT7gS2jk7Dn4PB4/pubhtml?gid=1086627895&single=true>

ⁱⁱ "Members", <http://www.maineinonet.org/mscs/about/partners/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Example of MaineCat retention commitment display, <https://mainecat.maine.edu/record=b1039697~S0>