

WEST Program Update

PAN Forum, January 2022

Western Regional Storage Trust <https://cdlib.org/west>

Community

WEST is made up of over 60 member institutions, including 6 Archive Builders that take a leadership role in creating archives of high-risk print-only materials and 34 Archive Holders that maintain archives of lower-risk materials. Additionally, six past members continue to maintain archives on behalf of WEST.

At the end of 2021, WEST members endorsed a [Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles](#). In formalizing the foundations upon which the collaboration was established, WEST creates greater transparency around program goals and heightens accountability for how those goals are pursued and achieved.

Archiving & OCLC Registration Progress

WEST members completed Cycle 10 archiving in the summer of 2021, adding over 2,200 new retention commitments for a total of over 35,000 holdings for nearly 33,000 distinct titles archived for WEST since its inception. Roughly half of the WEST Archives are Bronze materials (titles with reliable full text electronic surrogates available considered to be at low risk for loss) with the remainder split evenly between higher-risk Silver (titles with electronic abstracting and indexing and partial full text availability) and Gold (titles with few to no electronic access points).

Members have also been working to register their WEST shared print commitments via OCLC's new shared print registration service. WEST has been coordinating this work with the Center for Research Libraries for members that request their assistance completing this project, and has provided project support as needed.

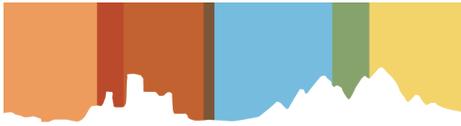
Cycle 11 archiving is currently ongoing, and is anticipated to conclude in the summer of 2022.

AGUA Development

WEST concluded its fifth AGUA Development Phase (Phase 5) in September 2021. Phase 5 saw the successful development and implementation of eight major enhancements to the AGUA collection analysis and decision support system, including a mix of member-facing projects and backend enhancements to continue improving WEST's analytical capabilities. Among the new tools and enhancements are:

- a packaged file of MARC records for the WEST Archives that members may load into their local systems for local discovery of the WEST collection;
- implementation of a new metadata validator developed by the Center for Research Libraries that provides granular analyses of members' records which are reported back to members;
- a new interface to support Builders' efforts to fill gaps in their Silver and Gold archived titles;
- a new On Demand Comparison report that allows users to compare their collections against WEST members' unarchived print journal and serial collections, in addition to the WEST archives; and
- new insights into members' collections, including completeness of holdings and relative scarcity in the larger library community, to support thoughtful decision making on what to archive next.

WEST extends congratulations and thanks to the AGUA Development Team for their hard work and successful completion of these critical projects, the OCC for their thoughtful guidance and oversight during development, and WEST members for providing essential testing and feedback to ensure the success of the final products.



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WEST Working Groups

The WEST working groups convened in 2020 continued their work throughout 2021.

- **Disclosure and Validation Standards.** After concluding their work updating the WEST Disclosure Policy, the DVS Working Group took up a review of the WEST Validation Standards. The group has identified necessary updates, and will be distributing a draft of the updated Validation Standards to various WEST groups for review and comment in early 2022.
- **Non-journal Formats.** The NjF group presented refined pilot proposals to the WEST Operations and Collections Council (OCC) and Executive Committee. In 2022, the group will be engaging the WEST membership on the potential impact and relative priority of the pilot proposals.
- **Resource Sharing.** The RS Working Group has made steady progress reviewing the WEST Access Policy and identifying areas for revision. The group is also working to investigate additional tools and resources that may support WEST members' ability to discover and share collective collections, and the potential implications of adoption for the WEST program and member institutions.

The Working Groups are anticipated to complete their charges in 2022.

Rosemont Shared Print Alliance

WEST continues to collaborate with other US regional shared print programs through its membership in the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance. One WEST member participated in the Rosemont Last Known Copy Initiative, a pilot project to identify and secure retention commitments for journal and serial titles held by only one Rosemont participating library. The WEST Governance groups provided feedback and input on the draft updated Strategic Directions that will guide the Rosemont Alliance's activities from 2022-2024.

Coming Up in 2022

- **Cycles 12 & 13 Collections Analysis.** WEST is preparing for its next biennial collections analysis to identify archiving candidates for Archive Cycles 12 & 13. The OCC and WEST Executive Committee have endorsed a recommendation to prioritize identifying scarce and uniquely held print journal and serial titles in members' collections, building on the success of and enthusiasm for the Rosemont Last Known Copy initiative.
- **WEST Program Assessment.** WEST anticipates conducting its next triennial program assessment in 2022. This project is in its very initial planning phases, and more information will be shared in the coming months.
- **AGUA Development Phase 6.** After the Cycles 12 & 13 collections analysis is completed, WEST will begin its next period of AGUA systems development (Phase 6). Planning for Phase 6 is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2022, with final projects selected in time for development work to begin in the fall.