



## **EAST and Library Administration**

### **Communicating the mission and value of EAST to staff and institutional stakeholders**

Today's academic libraries are often unable to purchase all of the print content they need or to continue to store and curate existing collections as the pressure to repurpose space increases. A library's participation in EAST assures that unique, scarcely held and potentially useful print books and journals will continue to be retained regionally and made accessible to users, even as libraries need to downsize their own local collections.

Library administration is responsible for understanding and communicating the value of EAST membership to other institutional stakeholders by articulating that participation in EAST gives libraries and their users access to the teaching and research collections of 60+ libraries and that the EAST collection is a collective collection, and this provides its Retention and Supporting Partners increased flexibility to reimagine the local print collection as part of a much larger whole.

In addition, administrators at EAST member libraries typically act as the institution's Voting Member, authorized to vote on EAST-related matters. They may also be an institution's authorized representative to sign the MOU confirming membership in EAST. They are also responsible for keeping library staff aware of their institution's EAST commitments and ensure that the library has an Operational Contact to oversee implementation.

Administrators should also understand that membership in EAST confers membership in the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance ([rosemontsharedprintalliance.org](http://rosemontsharedprintalliance.org)), whose mission and vision are "to ensure the preservation and availability of print journal literature, and to collaboratively develop, manage and coordinate the identification, retention, registration, discovery of and access to a shared, distributed collection of print journals in the United States." The Rosemont Shared Print Alliance is actively growing its collection through planned collection analysis across shared print programs to prioritize future retention decisions based on a national landscape of shared print commitments, with consideration of both preservation and access.

### **Leadership in Shared Print**

EAST continues to grow and lead national level discussions, both with members and vendors that are helping to shape the shared print landscape, both in terms of preservation and access to the scholarly print record. Through its involvement in the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance and its hosting of the Shared Print Monograph Summits, EAST has established itself as a leader in shared print. As libraries continue to experience pressure to allocate physical space to services rather than print collections and find opportunities to withdraw print content as digital alternatives become available, the core mission of EAST to protect and preserve print scholarly content becomes increasingly important.

Administrators should relay to their staff and other institutional stakeholders that many EAST libraries see their membership in EAST as providing a critical safety net, ensuring they can provide print (monographs and journals) access for faculty, students, researchers and scholars that might otherwise slip away with time.

## **EAST and Library Administration - Top 5 Things You Need to Know**

1. EAST allows us to change the conversation from deaccessioning books to what we are doing proactively as a library community to ensure the protection of the print scholarly record.
2. EAST gives libraries enhanced flexibility in managing their local collections as part of a larger collective collection, including supporting intelligent downsizing when needed to support reclaiming space for new services.
3. EAST provides library staff with member resources and documentation that support internal work and foster a sense of community.
4. Our EAST resource-sharing partners increase access to print resources for students, faculty and scholars.
5. With our EAST partners, we have a strong voice in support of the importance of shared print at the national level.

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### **Want to become personally involved in EAST?**

EAST's governing body, the Executive Committee (EC), is composed of library deans and directors who have a strong interest in shared print and collaborative collection management. The Executive Committee solicits new members as current members rotate off. Library administrators interested in learning more about the EC's responsibilities should visit the Governance section of the [eastlibraries.org](https://eastlibraries.org) site.