Retaining and Preserving the Scholarly Record: An Update on the Eastern Academic Scholars’ Trust

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From NERD to EAST

• Initial planning 2012-2014 – Mellon Foundation Officer’s Grant to Five Colleges, Incorporated
• Academic and research libraries in New England, New York and Pennsylvania
• Large scale collection analysis
• BLC to act as host institution
• Currently awaiting funding
Shared Print Workflow

- Review
- Access
- Discovery
- Weed
- Define the group or entity
- Analyze collection data
- Decision support
- Allocate retention commitments
- Register retention commitments

Workflow Diagram:

- Review, reconsider, renew
- Access
- Discovery
- Weed
- Define the group or entity
- Analyze collection data
- Decision support
- Allocate retention commitments
- Register retention commitments
EAST project goals

• Analyze 20M+ monographs in order to propose commitments to be made by retention partners
• Design, test and analyze a sample-based validation study
• Secure retention commitments
• Finalize EAST policies and business model
• Plan for the future of EAST
• Explore relationships with other regional and national shared print programs
The EAST Membership

- Two forms of membership
  - Retention Partners
  - Supporting Partners
- Annual membership fees
- Contribution to offset large scale [and expensive] collection analysis
- 47 current members
  - 37 as monograph retention partners (some also for journals)
  - 1 as journal retention partner only
  - 9 as Supporting Partners
- Coordination with Maine Shared Collections and ConnectNY as retention commitments are made
Anticipated business model for EAST

- Decentralized print retention and sharing
- Organizational development supported by grant funding
- Members contribute annual fees and modest portion of offset for collection analysis
- Projecting adding Retention Partners in Year 3 with additional round of collection analysis
- Ongoing sustainability via members’ fees
Retention in EAST

- Minimum of 15 year retention commitment for both monographs and serials
- Formal – but lightweight – agreement
- Retention commitments to be revisited at least 2 years before they end and at least every 5 years after that
- May be recalibrated in light of yet to be established national or international efforts
Collection analysis

- Very large scale with over 20 million volumes to be analyzed
- Compares circulating monograph holdings of participating members
- 40 EAST libraries will participate in first group
  - 34 new data
  - 6 recent SCS analyses
- Monograph Working Group
- Decision support for modeling of various scenarios
Validation

• Goal is to build trust in retention commitments
• EAST will focus on inventory confirmation
• Two stage sampling process
  – Random sample of volumes from full collections – to determine level of confidence in existence
  – Stratified sample at the consortium level based on level of redundancy – to inform number of copies retained
Access and delivery

- EAST is a light archive
- Holdings discoverable using existing systems
- Fulfillment of request for materials through ILL using existing systems
- Current plan is for no charge for ILL to other EAST members
Project staffing

• 1.5 FTE for EAST staff
  – Project Manager and Data Librarian
• Lizanne Payne, Shared Print Consultant
• Statistical Consultant to design and analyze validation study
• Mellon Foundation proposal
  – John Unsworth of Brandeis and Laura Wood of Tufts as Co-Principal Investigators
  – Susan Stearns, BLC, as Project Director
Timeline

• Pre-grant activities – Spring, 2015
  – Elect Executive Committee
  – Begin work on MOU
  – Establish Working Groups

• Year 1 July, 2015 – June, 2016
  – Hire staff
  – Reconfirm or revise policies
  – Validation study #1
  – Monograph collection analysis
Timeline

• Year 2 July 2016 – June 2017
  – Validation study #2
  – Finalize retention agreements
  – Define future EAST membership
  – Collaborate with other regional/national shared print initiatives
Collaboration with other projects

• Coordinate with existing retention commitments
• Work to align with evolving regional and national initiatives
• We see EAST as the beginning of a more thoughtful and coordinated approach to print management
More information on EAST

- For information on the planning done through Five Colleges: https://www.fivecolleges.edu/libraries/regionalproject
- To join the “interested parties” mailing list for EAST or discuss possible membership, contact Susan Stearns at the BLC: sstearns@blc.org or stay tuned through the BLC website: www.blc.org
Thank you!

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