

EAST Serials & Journals Collection Analysis and Retention Modeling 2016-2019

Phase 1 Project - “medium rare” titles

In November 2016, the EAST Executive Committee appointed a [Serials and Journals Working Group](#), representing almost half of the Serial/Journal Retention Partners. This Group was tasked with developing retention rules for serials and journals titles. After investigating different approaches taken by other shared print programs and surveying the EAST membership, the Working Group made the decision that in order to make retention decisions they needed to analyze the collective collection. To support this work the EAST Executive Committee in the Spring of 2017 approved a proposal from the [Center for Research Libraries](#) (CRL) to provide collection comparison reports.

Of the then 48 Cohort 1 partners, 21 libraries agreed to participate in a pilot project with CRL. CRL provided spreadsheet reports that showed holdings overlap, subjects, languages, electronic availability, OCLC WorldCat holdings, availability in JSTOR, format, and retention commitments from other shared print programs. This data was loaded into the visualization software Tableau to assist the Working Group in analyzing the plethora of data provided.

After reviewing these reports, the Working Group decided to look more closely at journals and serials titles held by 4-6 of the participating libraries. These “medium rare” titles were considered to be most at risk of loss from the collective collection as libraries moved on to withdrawing these titles, having already weeded more widely-held titles. The following retention model was agreed:

- Retain up to 3 holdings of titles held by 4-6 EAST Serial & Journal Retention Partners.
- The 3 libraries with the deepest run of a title were allocated retention responsibility.
- The following materials were excluded from retention consideration:
 - Reference works
 - Non-print formats
 - Guides
 - Indexes
 - Monographic series
 - Directories
 - Government documents
 - Loose-leaf reference works
 - Newspapers
 - Almanacs
 - JSTOR titles
 - Fact Books
 - Handbooks

- Yearbooks

CRL applied the retention rules to the collective collection and allocated retention responsibility to individual libraries for titles that met the project parameters. The 21 serials and journals retention partners received their retention allocations in December 2017 and confirmed their final retentions in February-April 2018. Some of these libraries carried out shelf checks to confirm the titles were present and the physical holdings matched those recorded in the ILS.

Phase 2 Project - “medium rare” titles

In early 2018, EAST embarked on a phase 2 of its serials and journals project. The 21 Cohort 1 libraries were joined by a second cohort of 11 libraries who had agreed to be EAST Serial and Journal Retention Partners. EAST again contracted with the Center for Research Libraries to support the collection comparisons of this expanded group. A Cohort 2 Serial & Journals Working Group was appointed to analyze the collection data that was again loaded into Tableau.

In October 2018, the Cohort 2 libraries agreed on a retention model for their own “medium rare” titles that were held by 4-6 of the now 32 participating libraries:

- Retain up to 3 holdings of titles held by 4-6 EAST Serial & Journal Retention Partners*.
- Only Cohort 2 libraries with the most complete runs of retained titles were allocated retention responsibility.
- Titles with an existing EAST commitment from Phase 1 weren’t allocated for retention.
- Titles with an existing commitment at a Rosemont Alliance for Shared Print member library weren’t allocated for retention**.

*The material exclusions agreed in Phase 1 (see above) were also applied in the Phase 2 work.

**We were able to rely on Rosemont commitments because EAST had joined the Rosemont Alliance and could access material from our fellow members in line with the [Rosemont Access Principles](#).

In early 2019 the Cohort 2 libraries were provided their retention proposals to review and agree which titles they would retain.

Phase 2 Project - “widely-held” titles

In December 2018, the two cohorts of libraries came together and agreed a retention model for widely-held titles, those held by 7-28 EAST Serial and Journal Retention Partners. This group of titles provide ample withdrawal opportunities at those libraries that were not allocated a retention commitment.. The model agreed was consistent with the rules agreed for the Phase 2 “medium rare” titles:

- Retain 3 holdings of titles held by 7-28 EAST Serial & Journal Retention Partners*.
- Libraries with the most complete runs of retained titles were allocated retention responsibility.
- Titles with an existing EAST commitment from Phase 1 weren't allocated for retention.
- Titles with an existing commitment at a Rosemont member library weren't allocated for retention.

*The material exclusions agreed in Phase 1 (see above) were also applied in the Phase 2 work.

Phase 2 Project - “scarcely-held” titles

From late 2018 to the summer of 2019, the Serials & Journals Working Group analyzed the largest group of titles held by EAST member libraries: those held by 3 or fewer participating EAST libraries. This group totaled approximately 97,000 titles. As this group of titles was so large and diverse, the Working Group considered different strategies to maximize retention of appropriate titles without placing an undue burden on individual libraries.

Libraries were asked to consider retaining titles they owned which met the following criteria:

- They owned at least 50% of the run;
- The WorldCat US holdings were 20 or fewer;
- The WorldCat worldwide holdings were 30 or fewer;
- Titles not retained by any of the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance member libraries;
- No existing EAST commitments.

Some libraries chose to focus on titles in specific subject areas for which they have local strengths.