



PAN Update – January, 2017

Submitted by Susan Stearns, Project Director, EAST

As a reminder: the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust ([EAST](#)) is a collaboration of 40+ academic and research libraries across the Northeast and extending as far south as Maryland who are developing a regional program to retain scholarly monographs [and eventually serials]. The program is supported by funding from both the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Davis Educational Foundation and was formally launched in July, 2015. The Boston Library Consortium (BLC) acts as the administration host for EAST whose staff include a project manager, shared print consultant and data librarian.

Since the PAN update in June, EAST has completed the following;

- Final allocation of retention commitments – based on the retention model described in the June, 2016 update [and provided below as a reminder], the 40 EAST Retention Partners have finalized commitments for over 6 million holdings representing 4.6 million titles. The allocated titles were based on the final retention model:
 - EAST will retain ALL titles holding that meet the following criteria as **scarcely held** in the region:
 - Fewer than 5 holdings held within EAST
 - Fewer than 40 holdings as reflected in WorldCat
 - Fewer than 5 holdings held in regional larger academic libraries
 - No holdings within the Connect NY Retention Partners
 - Publication year prior to 2011
 - Not considered to be “ephemera” [a category of non-scholarly material flagged based on publisher]
 - EAST will retain up to 5 holdings of titles that meet the following criteria of **frequently used** titles:
 - Total aggregate uses across the EAST libraries of more than 30
 - Publication year prior to 2011
 - Not considered to be “ephemera” per the above
 - EAST will retain **one title holding of any remaining title** in the EAST collective database that does not meet the above criteria, is published prior to 2011 and is not considered “ephemera”. In this way EAST is making a clear commitment to retaining at least one copy of the scholarly content

across the EAST Retention Partner libraries.

- Completion of the formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)– The EAST Executive Committee, our primary governing body signed off on the final [MOU](#) language in early October, 2016, and the MOU was distributed to the Voting Member at each EAST library for signature at the end of October with a deadline of January 31, 2017. As of 12/27/16, we have just over 50% of the MOU’s signed. In addition to completing the MOU, the EAST libraries have [finalized major operating policies](#) and established an interim Operations Committee [the final will be elected by the members later in 2017] to oversee issues relating to operationalizing these policies and recommended practices.
- Disclosure of EAST retention commitments – The EAST Data Librarian, Sara Amato, worked with a small group of EAST librarians to finalize [documentation](#) that would ensure all of the EAST libraries could update their local catalogs with the EAST retention commitments in the MARC 583 field. Unfortunately, OCLC has not yet completed work on the tool that will allow EAST to do a similar update of the retention commitments in OCLC. As a result, the EAST Project Team has been working to provide alternatives for the member libraries that ensure they have access to the full database of EAST retention commitments. A standalone database was developed by Sara Amato – [see here](#) – and is being enhanced to allow retention commitments to be updated in the future. This will ensure that EAST can maintain an accurate accounting of the EAST retention commitments as they change over time and the data in the SCS GreenGlass® database becomes outdated. EAST is also undertaking a pilot project with the Gold Rush® Content Comparison tool to determine if offering EAST libraries access to the EAST retention commitments on Gold Rush could provide at least a short-term alternative to WorldCat®. Needless to say, these unexpected delays on the part of OCLC and the lack of a clear and reasonable business model for disclosing and discovering EAST retention commitments in WorldCat have provided unplanned challenges to the project.
- Development of best practices for lending – An important component of EAST is ensuring that the member libraries have access to the EAST retention commitments locally, particularly should they undertake de-accessioning programs that assume another EAST library will conserve the title and make it available through interlibrary loan. And, while not a formal policy of EAST, the vast majority of EAST libraries are committed to no charge lending of their entire circulating collections (not just the EAST retention titles) to their EAST partners. To facilitate this, an ILL Working Group was established to develop best practices for the EAST lending network. They are completing their work now and we expect to make the best practices recommendations available to the full EAST membership in late January/early February once approved by the Executive Committee.
- Planning for serials/journals retention – While the focus of EAST for its first 18 months

of operation has been on retention of scholarly monographs, many of the EAST libraries are also interested in collaborating on serials and journals retention. To that end, EAST recently established a Working Group to develop recommendations for the approach EAST should take on the retention of serials and journals. Recognizing that there are already a number of quite successful serials/journals retention programs across the country, EAST is looking at the most effective way of complementing these existing programs while best serving its member libraries and its goal of protecting the scholarly record. We are investigating a variety of approaches to serials and journal and expect to begin work in the spring/early summer. The EAST Project Team has also been in conversations with OCLC SCS and may undertake a pilot project of some kind with them.

- Deeper dive into the validation data – As reported in June, EAST undertook a large-scale sample validation study across the 40 EAST Retention Partners focused on determining an “availability metric” and insight into the condition of titles at the libraries. This study involved 240,000 items (6,000 at each of the 40 participating libraries) and resulted in an average of 97% availability with 90% of the items in average or better condition. Working in conjunction with our Statistical Consultant, the EAST Project Team, has now taken a deeper dive into the validation data collection and compared it to the full database of EAST retention titles. It is clear from this deeper analysis that certain retained titles may be at higher risk than others, either because they are retained by a library with a statistically significant “low” availability metric (i.e. they are at higher risk of being missing) or they are more likely be in poor condition. We will be reviewing this analysis with the EAST Executive Committee in early 2017 and determining if any modifications to the EAST retention commitments should be recommended based on these findings.
- Outreach for Cohort 2 – The EAST business model included a set-aside of funding, both from the Davis Educational Foundation grant and from the first two years’ membership dues, to provide a subsidy for collection analysis for a second cohort of EAST libraries. Over the last few months, the EAST Project Team has been involved in outreach to interested libraries in the region and beyond and working with the Executive Committee to determine the best approach to populating a Cohort 2 of libraries. We expect to distribute a Letter of Commitment to interested libraries in early 2017 with the goal of finalizing Cohort 2 in early March and moving forward with a second collection analysis. Since the collection analysis subsidy is limited, EAST may not be able to accommodate all of the interested libraries.

As we move into 2017, we are also seeing a change in the EAST staffing. Anna Perricci, the EAST Project Manager, will be leaving the project January 31st. Sara, Matthew and Susan will remain on the team and a new project manager will be recruited to replace Anna.