

PAN Update – June, 2017

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With thanks to Matthew Revitt, Sara Amato and Mei Mendez for their contributions

The following is an update on the activities of the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust ([EAST](#)) project since the January 2017 posting to the PAN list. During this period we have received an extension and reallocation of funds from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation extending their funding of EAST through June 30, 2018 from the original June 30, 2017 end date. We have also seen two project team changes with Mei Mendez joining as the EAST Project Manager and Patrick Carr of the University of Connecticut (already a member of the EAST Executive Committee) replacing Laura Wood as a co-PI on the Mellon grant.

- Signing of the formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – By February 15, 2017 all 47 EAST Cohort 1 members had returned signed copies of the EAST MOU. We will be asking EAST Cohort 2 members to sign the MOU once their final retention allocations are finalized. The MOU is available on the EAST web site [here](#).
- Cohort 2 The major new development over the last few months is the growth of EAST, which now includes 59 libraries from Maine to Florida. In May 2017, EAST welcomed thirteen institutions as part of the project's expansion with a second cohort. Of the thirteen libraries in Cohort 2, 12 are Retention Partners, and one is a Supporting Partner. The institutions are:
 - Bucknell University
 - Davidson College
 - DeSales University
 - Florida State University
 - Furman University
 - Gettysburg College
 - Hofstra University
 - New York University
 - Syracuse University
 - Union College (although part of Cohort 1 through their membership in the ConnectNY consortium, they did not participate in the collection analysis as they will do as part of Cohort 2)
 - University of Pittsburgh
 - University of the South
 - Villanova University (Supporting Partner)

These libraries represent a significant step for EAST, as some of them are geographically far from the core EAST membership. Cohort 2 institutions are located in Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New

York.

In addition to the wide geographic range, the Cohort 2 libraries have great diversity in collection size and include two libraries with circulating print monograph collections of over 3 million holdings. This diversity may well have an impact on the collection analysis work and validation study. In addition, the EAST Executive Committee is interested in how the Cohort 2 libraries will be integrated into the existing EAST operations and how they may or may not challenge these operations.

- Serials/journals work - While the protection of print monographs remains the priority for EAST, we have also planned to develop a shared print strategy for journal and serial titles. Twenty-two EAST Cohort 1 members have so far agreed to be Serial and Journal Retention Partners; all but one of these institutions are also Monograph Retention Partners. In December 2016, a Serials & Journals Working Group (WG) was formed and tasked with making recommendations to the EAST Executive Committee regarding the retention of serial and journal titles. The WG has been considering factors that will likely impact EAST's retention rules such as:
 - Holdings levels (both at the group level and across OCLC)
 - Digital availability
 - Preservation by trusted repositories such as JSTOR and CLOCKSS
 - Retention commitments from other shared print programs and regional repositories.

We are keen for EAST not to retain the same titles as other shared print programs, particularly when the Center for Research Libraries' @Risk matrix shows there are large numbers of titles that are not currently part of any shared print agreement. However, looking at a sample of rare titles from the participating EAST libraries, it was clear to the Working Group that most of these titles were not appropriate for EAST retention, as they included government documents, reference resources, small society/organization newsletters, in-house publications, and most were single volume and in special collections. Instead, the WG decided to focus on widely held titles that are likely to be at most risk of withdrawal. This approach should also provide greater withdrawal opportunities for members and much needed space savings.

The EAST Project Team investigated different collection analysis support services and eventually decided to contract with Center for Research Libraries. As of June 13 all 22 Serial and Journal Retention Partners had submitted data to CRL for the analysis and we expect our first group of data reports will be ready by the end of June. The EAST Project Team anticipates that the Working Group will have been able to use these reports to develop an initial set of retention recommendations for consideration in the fall of this year.

- Further work on validation - As a follow up to our initial work on validation, we asked our statistical consultant, Grant Ritter from Brandeis University, to take a deeper dive into the data we had collected from the validation sample study with 40 of the Cohort 1 libraries. We first determined that of the 240,000 items included in the validation sample study, 92,575 received retention commitments. Using this data set, Professor Ritter extrapolated to the full holdings of the EAST collective collection and identified approximately 70,000 titles that have a > 7.5% chance of being missing or in poor condition AND which have surplus copies in EAST. The EAST membership was asked to retain these additional titles, with the majority of libraries agreeing to do so. Any titles for which we were unable to secure a second copy will be allocated in Cohort 2 whenever possible.

As part of the extension of the funding from the Mellon grant, we will be replicating the validation sample study with the 12 Cohort 2 Retention Partner libraries. This is planned for the late fall of 2017.

- Refinement of the retention reallocation process - Libraries seeking to reassign retention commitments within the EAST collective collection, either due to loss/damage of an item, or because of an additional retention request generated from the further work on validation, will follow a semi-annual process coordinated by the EAST Project Team, beginning in 2018. This alleviates the communication and management burden of the reallocation process on the individual libraries. In the near term, EAST will attempt to assign reallocations to the Cohort 2 libraries.

Next Steps: In addition to funding the replication of the EAST validation sample study with the 12 Cohort 2 Retention Partner libraries in the fall of 2017, the Mellon grant extension included funding to focus on ways in which EAST can further collaboration and cooperation among the growing number of regional and national shared print programs. We are hosting a meeting at ALA Annual to begin a dialog with a number of these programs and planning a summit for the spring of 2018 that will include a written report of our findings and recommendations. Our goal with this initiative is both to look to the longer-term future of EAST and begin to address ways in which initiatives such as the HathiTrust Program, shared print programs such as those of MI-SPI, SCELIC, ALI/PALNI, and the evolving work of the Ivy Plus libraries can work collectively to further their common mission of protecting and preserving the print scholarly record.