EAST Strategic Framework 2026-2031 & A Report on the Planning Process

Approved by EAST Board of Directors, September 26, 2025

Mission

Affirmed by the EAST Board of Directors, March 28, 2025

To secure the print scholarly record in support of teaching, learning, and research.

Vision

Adopted by the EAST Board of Directors, May 23, 2025

EAST will empower members through trusted leadership and advocacy to collaboratively steward enduring print collections to serve their campus and the wider scholarly community for decades to come. EAST will be a vital element and champion of the global shared print landscape and a model for financially sustainable, flexible, and distributed collective action by libraries.

Values

Affirmed by the EAST Board of Directors, March 28, 2025

Collaboration and consensus in our decision making
Transparency and open communication with our member libraries and the larger community
Diversity and inclusivity in our membership and in our collective collections
Trust and respect for each other

EAST's Core Strategy

At the core of EAST is our work to **facilitate members' data-informed decision making about collections**. To date, this facilitation has focused on decision-making about existing, or retrospective, collections. As EAST looks to the future, it will investigate ways to support prospective collection activities, such as helping members to identify local subject strengths and weaknesses and to proactively commit to retain items at the time of acquisition.

Without this core strategy, EAST will not succeed in achieving its mission or its vision. The strategic pillars below are built on that foundation.

Strategic Framework for 2026-2031

The EAST Board of Directors has defined four strategic pillars to guide EAST until 2031. The order of these pillars was determined via member input on the objectives assigned to each one, with members finding the objectives assigned primarily to Pillar One most important and so on. As you proceed through the plan, you will find that many of our objectives support multiple strategic pillars, but were assigned to a primary pillar for ease during the member engagement activities.

PILLAR 1:
STRENGTHEN
member collection
building &
management
strategies

PILLAR 2:
ADVOCATE
on behalf of members

STRENGTHEN

COLLABORATE   VISION   ADVOCATE

ENHANCE

PILLAR 4:
COLLABORATE
to improve
preservation and
access

PILLAR 3:
ENHANCE
the ongoing value of
membership
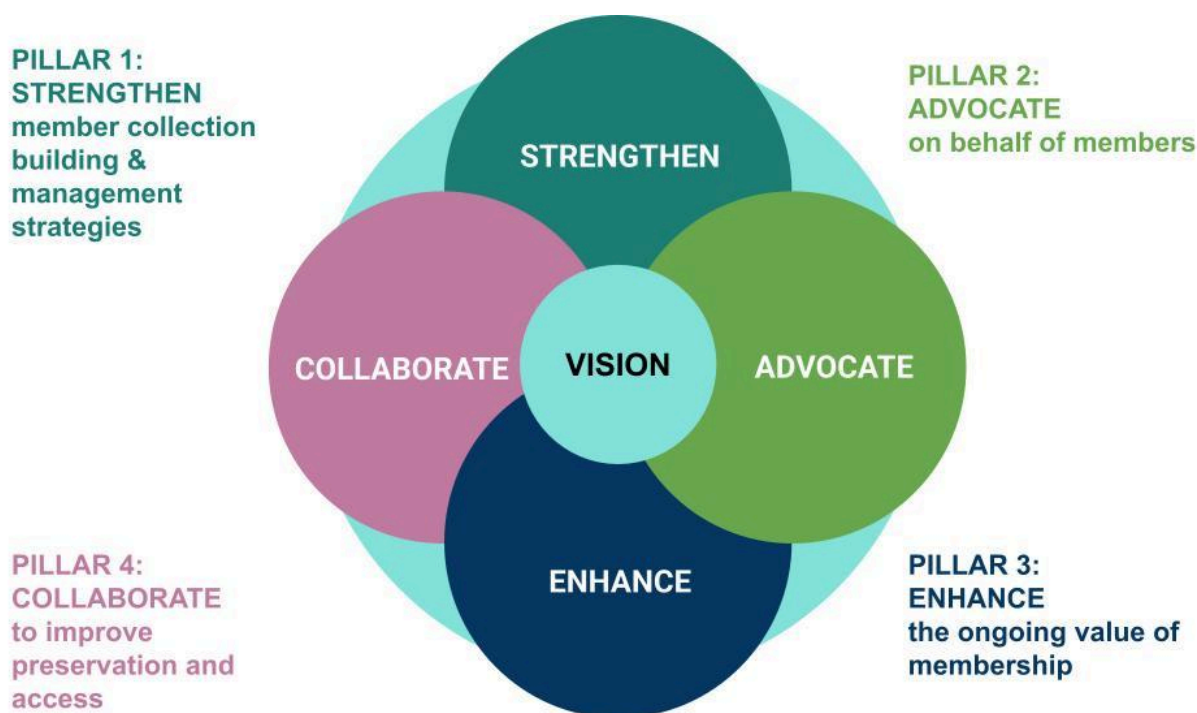
PILLAR 1: STRENGTHEN member collection building & management strategies

Through engagement with the Board of Directors and member libraries, **it is clear that EAST's top priority is to secure retention commitments beyond 2031 so that members can continue to rely on the EAST collective collection**. While work will occur in every area, EAST activities over the next 5 years will center on achieving this objective.

EAST has already begun engaging in projects intended to provide relief to libraries feeling overburdened by their existing retention commitments with an eye toward increasing the feasibility of renewing remaining retention commitments. In 2025, these projects included an ephemera review and a reduction of retentions on over-retained (more than 5 copies) titles. Ultimately, EAST's goal in these and subsequent projects is to provide maximum benefit to member libraries while having a minimal impact on the overall shared print ecosystem.

EAST will also focus on activities that build the value of the EAST collective collection, including the prospective collection support described in the section on EAST's Core Work and support for maintaining and increasing the diversity of the EAST collective collection to ensure it is representative of all communities served, especially those underrepresented in the scholarly record.

Alongside this work, it is important to demonstrate and communicate the long-term value of EAST membership, and EAST will do this via the remaining strategic pillars.

PILLAR 2: ADVOCATE on behalf of members

Member input makes clear that advocating for member libraries in ways that make their participation in shared print as easy as possible is essential. This advocacy is two-fold.

First, EAST will provide support to library workers to make the case for shared print as a practice both inside and outside the library. Those working closely with library collections may need EAST's support in educating library administrators, while library administrators may need assistance (e.g., talking points on the importance of print library collections and the necessity of collaboration) in educating institutional administrators.

Second, EAST provides a strong voice for member libraries with vendors, service providers, and standards developers. We advocate for open standards and systems interoperability as well as the tools and infrastructure that support integration of shared print, making it easier for library workers to make shared print a seamless part of their collections workflows.

PILLAR 3: ENHANCE the ongoing value of membership

The ongoing value of EAST membership is enhanced when the EAST collective collection is enhanced. As part of Pillar 1, EAST will focus on activities that build the value of the EAST collective collection (see above). In addition, value is built through membership growth. To that end, EAST will identify and reduce barriers to membership and engage in outreach, particularly with those institutions serving underrepresented voices.

EAST understands that the landscape in which we operate is constantly changing, and EAST may need to evolve to meet member needs and best provide value into the future. Member engagement will play a key role in determining when and how EAST's evolution occurs.

EAST also understands that communication is key, whether that be through the body of EAST documentation or regular updates via email, webinar, etc. Knowing that the EAST Policies & Documentation are essential to effective operations, EAST will reorganize and regularly refresh its documentation to improve user experience and findability. EAST will endeavor to communicate its activities and the value of membership to member libraries and their constituencies via multiple channels and offer templates for local communication. Some of the work around the value of shared print will be done through EAST's participation in the Shared Print Partnership, a collective of North American shared print programs.

PILLAR 4: COLLABORATE to improve preservation and access

As EAST itself illustrates, we achieve more when we collaborate. During 2025, EAST has launched two communities of interest (COIs), engaging member representatives and facilitating conversations to share knowledge and improve collaboration between member libraries. These COIs came at the request of member libraries, and EAST will continue to provide a forum for members to engage with each other as well as with EAST.

It is also essential that EAST collaborate externally. Working closely with shared print programs nationally and internationally allows EAST to share knowledge, promote collaboration, and enhance advocacy. External partnerships also help us to minimize duplication of effort and leverage the strengths of all organizations involved.

One specific area in which EAST hopes to develop external partnerships is in enhancing access to resources, whether they be digital or physical. Resource sharing through the EAST Lending Network is a key component of EAST membership, and EAST must continuously improve the mechanisms by which its members provide access to one another. EAST's initial focus will be on strengthening existing connections between member resource sharing systems.

There may also be opportunities to expand, or in some cases maintain, the EAST collective collection by providing access via digital surrogates. As the collection ages, digital surrogates as access copies could help extend the life of physical items or allow already fragile items to be preserved and retained for EAST.

EAST will prioritize partnerships in support of improving preservation and access, sharing knowledge, and strengthening the North American shared print network.

Appendix A: Strategic Framework 2026-2031 At-A-Glance

This appendix provides an at-a-glance overview of EAST's strategic pillars and objectives for 2026 to 2031. For additional context, please see the [Strategic Framework for 2026-2031](#) section above.

PILLAR 1: STRENGTHEN member collection building & management strategies

Objectives

1. Secure retention commitments beyond 2031 so that members can continue to rely on the EAST collective collection
   a. Proactively engage members in discussions of the feasibility of extending retention commitments and impacting factors
   b. Develop policies and practices that ensure equitable, distributed holdings
2. Diversify the EAST collective collection to include underrepresented voices in the scholarly record
   a. Provide assistance when EAST members are unable to retain diverse materials

PILLAR 2: ADVOCATE on behalf of members

Objectives

1. Make the case for shared print writ large (e.g., integration, activities, national network)
   a. Help members to educate institutional administrators on the importance of maintaining shared print efforts (e.g., Provide talking points on the importance of print library collections)
2. Advocate for open standards and systems interoperability
3. Work with vendors and service providers to advocate for tools and infrastructure that support integration of shared print

PILLAR 3: ENHANCE the ongoing value of membership

Objectives

1. Identify and reduce barriers to membership
2. Engage in outreach to institutions serving underrepresented communities
3. Communicate the value of membership to member libraries and their constituencies
4. Consider ways in which EAST may need to evolve to best provide value into the future

PILLAR 4: COLLABORATE to improve preservation and access

Objectives

1. Engage members and facilitate conversations to improve collaboration
2. Develop external partnerships to expand both digital and physical access to resources
3. Work closely with shared print programs nationally and internationally to promote collaboration and advocacy

Appendix B: Strategic Planning Retreat Summary

Authored by Deb Mashek of Myco Consulting LLC, the external consultant engaged to facilitate EAST's virtual Board Retreat.

Retreat Overview

Over the course of four sessions[1] between March and June 2025, the EAST Board of Directors engaged in a strategic planning retreat designed to update and clarify the organization's high-level strategic objectives. The goal was to develop a guiding framework for EAST's next six years—anchored in mission, grounded in current realities, and reflective of both board and member perspectives.

This retreat was not about drafting a detailed implementation plan. Instead, it focused on identifying EAST's strategic priorities, surfacing shared aspirations, and strengthening the alignment between vision, objectives, and organizational capacity. Program staff will use the resulting framework to develop annual plans in consultation with the board, with a commitment to revisiting the strategy in three years.

Each session built intentionally on the last, guiding the board from retrospective reflection to forward-looking prioritization:

- **Session 1**: What has EAST achieved?
- **Session 2**: What could we do?
- **Session 3**: What should we do?
- **Session 4**: What might we be missing?

Over the course of these four sessions, the Board:

- Affirmed the organization's mission and values
- Articulated a shared vision statement
- Developed a strategic model to guide EAST's work
- Identified four strategic pillars
- Articulated 13 objectives, each supporting at least one strategic pillar
- Proposed a set of five top-priority objectives to guide near-term implementation
- Refined the top-priority objectives in response to member input
- Affirmed a proposal for finalizing and sharing the strategic plan

Key Questions and Process

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[1] The sessions were facilitated by Deb Mashek of Myco Consulting LLC. www.debmashek.com

The retreat design blended prework, facilitated dialogue, collaborative analysis, and real-time synthesis to ensure thoughtful engagement and efficient decision-making.

Session 1 invited board members to reflect on EAST's accomplishments under its existing strategic directions. Prework involved documenting known achievements and reviewing member survey data. The session surfaced themes of progress, uneven implementation, and areas where EAST's mission and strategies needed sharpening. A quick alignment check of mission, vision, goals, and values laid the foundation for subsequent discussions.

Session 2 focused on EAST's future aspirations. Using exploratory writing, participants reflected on the impact EAST aims to have in the world and envisioned the organization at its best. These reflections formed the basis for a working draft vision statement. The group also reviewed an early draft of a strategic model connecting EAST's objectives to broader strategies. This draft model created the scaffolding for deeper prioritization work.

Session 3 centered on identifying which strategic objectives should take priority in the near term. Based on data from a pre-session survey, which assessed perceived impact and resource needs for each of the objectives, board members reviewed a visual 2x2 matrix mapping each objective; the axes were "Low Impact <> High Impact" and "Resource Intensive <> Resource Light". Through structured dialogue and dot voting, the board identified five top-priority objectives and began naming possible projects to advance them.

Session 4 asked: What might we be missing? The board reviewed member feedback on the same set of objectives, examining resonance and dissonance across stakeholder groups. Ultimately, the group affirmed two top-priority objectives for public emphasis and endorsed continued, quieter advancement of three others. The board also endorsed the Executive Director's plan to finalize and share the strategic plan.

Recommendations for Moving Forward

As EAST moves from strategy articulation to implementation, the following considerations may support sustained alignment and progress:

- **Keep centering the needs and wisdom of members.** Member input played a key role throughout the retreat—continue to make it a cornerstone of decision-making.

- **Keep the board-level strategy conversations going.** Don't wait for the next formal retreat to revisit strategic questions. Ongoing conversation strengthens clarity and ownership.

- **Empower staff to lead the implementation.** The board has named the "what"; staff should now guide the "how," with the board staying informed and supportive.

- **Remain responsive to change.** The landscape EAST operates in is dynamic. Be prepared to revisit priorities and pivot as needed.

- **Keep wearing your board hats.** Continued alignment around governance, stewardship, and strategic direction will be essential to EAST's future success.

Appendix C: Member Engagement Activities

The EAST Strategic Framework 2026-2031 was developed over the course of several months, beginning with process planning in February 2025. A Board Retreat Planning Group composed of the Program Team and three Board members outlined a series of four virtual board retreats that took place from March to June 2025 and were facilitated by an external consultant. Each session was structured to address specific questions.

March 28: What has EAST achieved?
April 11: What is our vision for EAST? How can EAST increase its value to members?
May 23: How do we focus our efforts to achieve our vision?
June 16: What have we missed?

A key component of the planning process was a series of activities to engage members and solicit their input. EAST engaged with members in a variety of ways, either before or after each board retreat session. Those activities and the resulting feedback are outlined below.

Member Pulse Survey

Before embarking on the first board retreat, the EAST Board of Directors wanted input from members to inform their reflections on success and strategic planning moving forward. The Board Retreat Planning Group identified two key questions to be distributed in a survey to "take the pulse" of members.

EAST distributed this "pulse" survey to members via its Quarterly E-Newsletter distributed in mid-February 2025 and again via a message to the Members email discussion list on February 25. Members were given until March 7 to complete the survey and were asked to provide general demographic information. Optionally, respondents could include their name and institution/library in their responses. EAST received 60 responses.

The majority of respondents hold a role related to collection development or management, followed by administration and cataloging/metadata. The chart below shows all respondents' roles within the library.

What is your role within the library?

60 responses

Role	Count
Administrator	22 (36.7%)
Cataloging/Metadata	19 (31.7%)
Collection Development	16 (26.7%)
Collection Management	16 (26.7%)
Instruction	2 (3.3%)
Reference	2 (3.3%)
Resource Sharing	11 (18.3%)
Public Services / Access Services	3 (5%)
Systems	4 (6.7%)
ILL Manager	1 (1.7%)
Repair and Processing	1 (1.7%)
Electronic Resources	1 (1.7%)
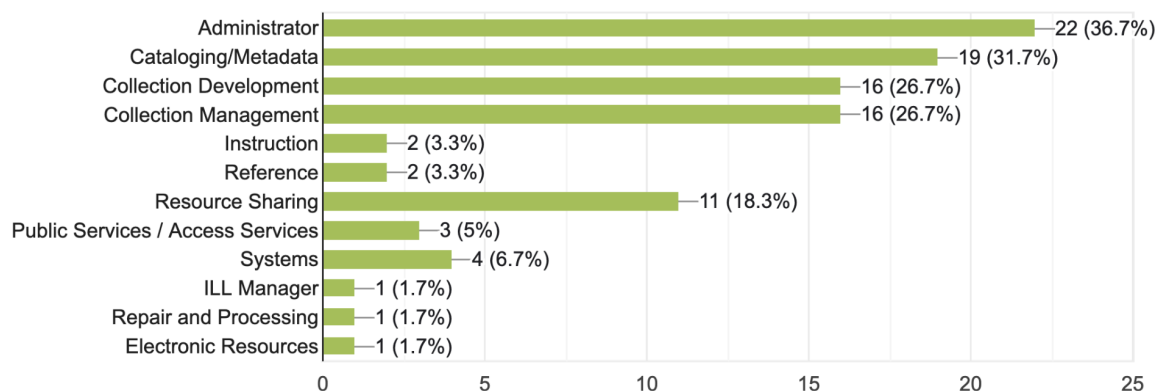
Respondents by role within the library

The survey asked respondents to answer two open-ended questions.

1. What are the benefits of EAST membership to your library?
2. What are the biggest collections-related challenges your library is currently facing and/or will face in the next five years?

Themes emerged in the responses to both questions. For question one regarding benefits of EAST membership, the themes were resource sharing, print collection management, and scholarly preservation. For question two regarding challenges, themes included space limitations, budget cuts, managing physical collections, and the struggle to balance preserving print materials with adapting to evolving collection policies.

Sample Responses to Question 1:
"Shared print programs like EAST have enormous strategic value when thinking about the long-term permanence of the scholarly record. Ebooks are good and users value them, but to my mind, there will never not be a place for print collections. With more demands on our budget, programs like EAST allow us to make shared decisions to ensure consistent availability of print resources in a thoughtful way."

"Politically it enables us to reassure faculty that we are seriously thinking about the security of the collective print collection (and taking action.) Practically, we see it as an insurance policy for

actions to streamline our print collection if (when?) we have to begin deaccessioning some print in the future."

Sample Responses to Question 2:
"The biggest challenge is the reduction of our library budget, cutting the amount we can spend on collection development. We recently cut our book budget to pay for a streaming video service which is popular with our faculty. With the state and federal government looking at resolving budget deficits, we expect to see more cuts in our budget."

"Space is a huge issue and being a part of EAST helps us prioritize what to keep and what to deaccession."

Respondents' answers to these questions affirmed much of the EAST Program Team and Board of Directors' thinking regarding benefits and challenges and informed the development of the strategic framework.

Quarterly Member Update Informal Discussions

EAST utilized the second half of the April Quarterly Update webinars to engage members. The groups were relatively small with approximately 12-15 people staying for the discussion in each session. The groups were presented with the following representation of potential EAST strategic objectives.

A. SUPPORT member collection building and management strategies	**B.** ENHANCE the value of membership	**C.** ADVOCATE on behalf of members	**D.** COLLABORATE to improve preservation and access
Help members make data-informed decisions about existing collections	Reduce barriers to membership	Work with vendors and service providers to advocate for, and facilitate the development of, tools and infrastructure	Convene members and facilitate conversations
Help members to identify local subject strengths for proactive retention	Develop policies and practices that ensure equitable, distributed holdings	Advocate for open standards and systems interoperability	Develop partnerships to expand both digital and physical access to resources
Help members to proactively commit to retention at the time of acquisition	Engage in outreach to institutions serving underrepresented communities	Make the case for shared print writ large (integration, activities, national network)	
Secure retention commitments beyond 2031 so that members can continue to rely on the EAST collective collection	Consider ways in which EAST may need to evolve to best provide that value	Provide talking points on the importance of library print collections	

The following questions were used to prompt discussion.

- What strategy do you think is most important for EAST to pursue?
- What objective is most important to / would have the most impact on your library?
- Are there important objectives you think are missing?
- Are there objectives here that you don't think EAST should pursue?

Member Survey on Draft Strategic Objectives

EAST distributed a survey to the EAST Members email discussion list requesting feedback on the draft strategic objectives on May 28, 2025 with a reminder sent on June 4. Members were given until Friday, June 6 to complete the survey. EAST received 37 survey responses, and responses were anonymous.

Members were first asked to rate the importance of thirteen strategic objectives using the following scale.

1. Not Important: The objective has a low level of significance or relevance.
2. Slightly Important: The objective has some relevance, but it's not a top priority.
3. Moderately Important: The objective is considered reasonably significant.
4. Very Important: The objective has a high level of significance and relevance.
5. Critical: The objective is essential and must be addressed.

The distribution of responses resulted in a relatively small range of average rating, ranging from 2.97 to 3.86. Instead, EAST looked at the count of each rating for each objective, which, for all but two objectives, showed a clear majority assigning a single rating. The results of this analysis are shown in the table below. The objectives are color-coded by strategic pillar as follows.

- STRENGTHEN member collection building & management strategies
- ENHANCE the ongoing value of membership
- ADVOCATE on behalf of members
- COLLABORATE to improve preservation and access

Member Ratings of Objectives by Highest Count of Rating

Moderately Important	Moderately / Very Important	Very Important	Very Important / Critical
Identify and reduce barriers to membership (49%)	Make the case for shared print writ large (e.g., integration, activities, national network) (32% / 30%)	Facilitate members' data-informed decision making about collections (54%)	Secure retention commitments beyond 2031 so members can continue to rely on the EAST collective collection (32% / 32%)
Work closely with shared print programs nationally and internationally to promote collaboration and advocacy (49%)		Work with vendors and service providers to advocate for tools and infrastructure that support integration of shared print (57%)	
Communicate the value of membership to member libraries and their constituencies (46%)		Consider ways in which EAST may need to evolve to best provide value into the future (51%)	
Engage members and facilitate conversations to improve collaboration (46%)		Diversify the EAST collection collection to include underrepresented voices in the scholarly record (46%)	
Engage in outreach to institutions serving underrepresented communities (43%)		Advocate for open standards and systems interoperability (41%)	
		Develop external partnerships to expand both digital and physical access to resources (38%)	

Alternatively, the draft strategic directions can be ordered by the percentage of respondents rating the objective either "Very Important" or "Critical."

Objective	% Very Important & Critical
Facilitate members' data-informed decision making about collections	73%
Secure retention commitments beyond 2031 so that members can continue to rely on the EAST collective collection	65%
Consider ways in which EAST may need to evolve to best provide value into the future	65%
Work with vendors and service providers to advocate for tools and infrastructure that support integration of shared print	65%
Diversify the EAST collective collection to include underrepresented voices in the scholarly record	57%
Make the case for shared print writ large (e.g., integration, activities, national network)	54%
Advocate for open standards and systems interoperability	54%
Develop external partnerships to expand both digital and physical access to resources	46%
Work closely with shared print programs nationally and internationally to promote collaboration and advocacy	46%
Engage in outreach to institutions serving underrepresented communities	38%
Communicate the value of membership to member libraries and their constituencies	35%
Engage members and facilitate conversations to improve collaboration	30%
Identify and reduce barriers to membership	24%

Member Comments Regarding Ratings of Objectives

Next we asked members to tell us why they ranked any of the objectives either "Not important" or "Critical." Below is a summary of comments regarding the rating of "Critical" grouped by theme.*

1. Strategic and Inclusive Print Preservation

- **Diversity in collections** must be actively preserved, particularly in an era of book bans and political threats to underrepresented voices.
- EAST enables **data-informed weeding**, ensuring important print materials are retained collectively rather than discarded haphazardly.

2. Critical Need for Long-Term Retention

- Securing **retention commitments beyond 2031** is crucial. Without them, the foundation of shared print collapses.
- These commitments allow libraries to make responsible, future-proof collection decisions based on shared agreements.

3. Collaborative, Cost-Effective Resource Sharing

- **Reciprocal, no-cost ILL (Interlibrary Loan)** among EAST members is essential, especially for under-resourced libraries.
- Improved **interoperability** and **open standards** will reduce costs, increase usability, and make sharing smoother—especially for non-OCLC members.

4. Outreach, Communication, and Advocacy

- Communication about the **value of the scholarly record** and **shared print's role** in protecting it is fundamental in a time when public trust in information is eroding.
- **Internal and external outreach** is needed to build institutional support and secure ongoing funding.
- Collaboration with **other shared print initiatives** can prevent redundancy and build a more comprehensive, coordinated collection.

5. Sustained Value and Membership Justification

- Participation in EAST allows libraries to **make thoughtful local decisions** with confidence, backed by collective data and agreements.
- EAST must demonstrate ongoing value to help libraries **justify membership costs**, especially in tight budget environments.

- Growing membership can **reduce costs** and increase the robustness and utility of the shared collection.

6. Urgency and Immediate Action

- 2031 is **rapidly approaching**—planning and securing commitments must begin now.
- EAST must focus on **sustainable growth, interoperability, and shared responsibility** to maintain momentum.

Summary generated by ChatGPT.

Are there other objectives EAST should engage in during the next 5 years?

- Fewer meetings (VERY obsolete). More documentation.
- Print serials/journals are more important to collectively maintain because of vendors.
- Maintaining the existing commitments and resisting the urge to constantly grow and do more.
- I would like to see greater emphasis on sustainability and long term preservation of content. This includes a consideration of equity in how individual members contribute to print retention.
- I worry about the state of higher education and the closure of colleges and universities that might have EAST retention commitments. Will those be honored during difficult times, e.g. will bankruptcy courts honor EAST retentions? Some guidance from EAST could be helpful on what libraries could / should do if they ever find themselves in these circumstances (needed, but also really depressing).
- I think infrastructure building is going to be an important activity over the next five years. Right now, the infrastructures around shared print are extremely disconnected, which makes it hard to turn shared print data into something more actionable. Investment in this area would pay huge dividends for EAST and the entire shared print community.
- Targeted justifications for the titles that are included in retention. Sometimes I find it hard to justify the titles we've committed to retaining.

Interest level in Three Specific Activities By Percentage of Response

Activity	Not at all	Somewhat	Interested	Very	Extremely
EAST supporting identification of collection subject	11	8	24	**46**	8

strengths / weaknesses					
EAST supporting proactive retention of newly acquired titles	5	19	24	**41**	5
EAST supporting education of local administrators on the importance of shared print efforts and print collections generally	3	14	**46**	30	5

Are there other specific activities EAST should engage in during the next 5 years?

Only one respondent provided an answer to this question – "Simple policies, procedures and documentation. We do our job logically, without pleading in desperation for fear of losing support."

Any additional comments

The survey was presented in two sections, and respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments at the end of each section.

At the end of the first section, two respondents included additional comments.
- Stop community engagement. Stop meetings. Have simple, effective, well-documented policies that everyone can stand behind, without showing favoritism.
- Thank you for all you are doing!

At the end of the second section, two respondents included additional comments.
- Don't have the time or staffing to dedicate to EAST-specific objectives. EAST needs to be simple and streamlined in order for its members to continue with participation.
- Regarding the proactive retention of newly acquired titles, ideally there should be coordination of titles being acquired as print and ebook, with whole ebook ILL rights for the e version.

Member Focus Groups

EAST used the July 2025 quarterly update webinars to conduct member focus groups on the proposed strategic framework. The sessions began with a short presentation by EAST Director Tina Baich to provide an update on the strategic planning process. Throughout the sessions, attendees were asked to reflect on the proposed plan via a poll, interactive whiteboard, and discussion. Approximately 28 participated in the July 22 session and 14 in the July 23 session. The following is a summary of those sessions.

Poll Results

Attendees were asked to "Select the two suggestions from the member survey that you would most like to see EAST pursue." In both sessions, the top two were "Sustainability and long-term preservation" and "Strengthen resource sharing."

July 22 Poll Summary

Member suggestions	COUNTA of Member suggestions
Sustainability and long-term preservation	14
Strengthen resource sharing	13
Simplify and streamline	5
Improve documentation	6
Guidance on closures	2
Grow membership in EAST	4
Focus on maintenance	7
Diversify the EAST collective collection	3

July 23 Poll Summary

Member suggestions	COUNTA of Member suggestions
Sustainability and long-term preservation	10
Strengthen resource sharing	7
Simplify and streamline	3
Improve documentation	2
Grow membership in EAST	2
Focus on maintenance	4

Diversify the EAST collective collection	5

Poll Discussion

Attendees were asked to comment on the top two suggestions – "Sustainability and long-term preservation" and "Strengthen resource sharing." Below are notes from live and chat conversation.

- Damage to EAST items - some concerns about preserving those materials in the long term.
- Sustainability best done at institution level
- Grow membership is exciting - EAST assumed a dominant position
- growing membership also helps w/sustainability and long-term pres
- For me, sustainability and long-term preservation mostly just means making sure that EAST is stable into the future and that retention commitments endure long-term. I think it's also worth thinking about lending for e.g. fragile items or maybe creating guidelines on how to handle falling apart items that would normally be discarded due to condition but are uniquely or rarely held in EAST.
- Is there an EAST commitment to lend to every other EAST member? If so, EAST might look into helping smaller members figure out how to connect with EAST members who no longer use the same systems they do
- A baseline of preservation activities EAST members are encouraged/required to maintain?
- Regarding Sustainability, one thing we've been talking about is knowing which EAST titles/copies are in a closed stack storage facility and perhaps thus at less risk.
- Long-term retention is critical, as many members of East often rely on these commitments for their own collection development moving forward.
- I didn't choose resource sharing only b/c my sense is that the demand for RS is low and perhaps getting lower. Others will be better informed than I am on this, but maybe prioritizing should be related to demand.
- I'm concerned that if we need to remove a commitment because our copy is in poor shape, the new institution's copy will also be in similar shape. We don't have offsite storage for circulating materials
- One of the main reasons we participate in EAST is that we can deselect a resource with confidence that someone in the group has a retention commitment. It helps us keep our collection as relevant as possible while retaining access to materials. (This is predicated on sustainability/retention, I suppose)

- Sustainability - HathiTrust a great way to access but limited members, so much pressure to get rid of print and make things more accessible. We would have a warehouse for the print, but digitize it all and we could all access it.

Whiteboard Results

What is most important?

- Pillar 1: member collection building & management strategies is extremely important but also the most time/staff-consuming
- Making the case for shared print
- investigating the development of external partnerships (which, what, how much)
- Secure commitments
- Secure retention commitments
- shared prospective collecting in addition to retrospective commitments
- Advocate for open standards and systems
- Pillar 4, particularly encouraging institutions to collaborate
- Make the case for shared print.
- Helping members articulate to their institution how EAST/shared print contributes to sustainability and content preservation
- Secure retentions beyond 2031 x1x1
- Make the case for shared print
- Continue to advocate for library space/space in library so that we can retain past 2031
- engage members and facilitate conversation
- preservation
- diversify
- working with service partners to advocate for integration

ChatGPT Summary of What is most important responses:

Here is a concise summary of the responses to the question **"What is most important?"**:

- **Shared Print Advocacy**: Emphasizing the importance of making the case for shared print programs and helping institutions understand their value for sustainability and preservation.

- **Retention Commitments**: Securing and extending retention commitments, particularly beyond 2031.

- **Member Engagement & Collaboration**: Encouraging collaboration among institutions, engaging members, and facilitating ongoing conversations.

- **Collection Management**: Prioritizing strategies for building and managing member collections, despite being time- and staff-intensive.

- **Prospective & Retrospective Collecting**: Supporting both retrospective and forward-looking (prospective) shared collecting efforts.

- **External Partnerships**: Exploring and developing partnerships with external organizations.

- **Standards & Integration**: Advocating for open standards and systems, and working with service partners for better integration.

- **Library Space**: Advocating for continued space in libraries to support long-term retention.

- **Preservation & Diversity**: Maintaining focus on content preservation and diversifying efforts.

How do we get there?

- Put the first emphasis on standards and systems — that work is critical to facilitating a record of commitments, diversifying the collective collection, and so much more
- Increase capacity for data storage, maybe? Or something related to data infrastructure so we're not so reliant vendor products? Independence.
- Secure commitments-- most straightforward would be to just renew existing, but if there was desire to redistribute more equitably/update based on new ephemera criteria, a new evaluation could be run. Also need to think through what happens if an institution says no to renewing commitments--mass reallocation as much as possible?
- Have we collectively tried to identify "vulnerable" print - small press, current imprints, government documents, regional or local or linguistic…? This could guide future growth or focused directions - could we think of this as part of pillars 1 and 3?
- Securing retentions past 2031: in some cases is this just a matter of simply replacing the dates on existing commitments?
- shared database specific to EAST, and shorter deadlines for members to log their retention commitments there (and in OCLC)
- I like the point about working with service providers for integration. This would seem to help with both collection development goals and resource sharing
- This seems like the time to start planning for what comes next for the current retentions

- Advocate for controlled digital lending in order to pursue the kind of idea mentioned earlier -- i.e., a shared print warehouse with those items digitized and available for member libraries patrons to borrow x1
- Continue retaining volumes.
- Some of our community think EAST forces us to save "junk" we would otherwise weed. Need tools for this conversation. x1

What needs fixing (clarifying)?

- communicating the value of memberships within the above frameworks
- What might prevent an institution from renewing their retention commitments?Do we have a good understanding/strategy for addressing?
- Pillar 2- advocate to whom? Does this include EAST advocating for member libraries to those members' own Senior Leadership or Univ Admin? This also overlaps with Pillar 3 in terms of $ value
- What happens after the outreach to the underrepresented communities?
- understanding of institutions' responsibilities for preservation
- Evolve to best provide value: Not sure if there are specific evolutions/types of value/challenges in mind.
- More of a word choice clarification: Should collection collection be changed to collective collection?
- Defining retention criteria -- what exactly is out of scope, what is ephemera, when/if superseded editions need to be retained, etc. x1 x1
- We should define "diversify". What kind of diversity? x1

What is missing?

- Through Shared Print Partnership, I'm hopeful for more coordinated approaches, but I think that piece has not been as optimal as it could be
- Cases that show how EAST helps individual libraries rightsize their resources.
- Preservation
- Guidelines for sharing fragile materials
- working to make the cases for shared print and with service providers
- Making sure commitments through 2031 are relevant and maintained
- How do small independent colleges who close share weeded materials? Not for BSU just a question.
- Institutions accept a cost responsibility in maintaining their retentions. Hence the need for advocacy x1
- where do we want this project to be in 50 years?

Below are notes from live and chat conversation.

- Partnerships - beyond library world - external partnerships with ..? what would our possibilities be? What would assist us in providing stability, publicity, revenue stream, market to a different audience???
- Following up on Joe's comments [re: campus closures], if EAST is aware, and the library has some control over the collection at closing, we can assist with identifying particularly rare materials, at least according to EAST and WorldCat data.
  - Interesting -- has EAST been involved with, or at least become aware of, any project whereby a closing library's physical materials were transferred to a different library at a different institution entirely?
  - At NYU we've occasionally taken other libraries' materials but not related to retention commitments. More like "X Museum is closing their library" and NYU said "we'll take everything and sort it out later", discarding duplicates and such.
- [re: barriers to renewing commitments]
  - One barrier for us would be that when we exported our data at the outset, we inadvertently included some materials that had been targeted for withdrawals. So we'd rather see a reset of sorts when we renew our commitments.
  - What does "perpetuity" mean in a practical sense? [In response to live comment asking about RECAP's retention commitments in perpetuity versus setting an end date]
  - A second barrier would be that our physical footprint/capacity is less now than when we joined, and so we are having to make harder retention decisions for the overall footprint of our collection. If EAST commitments represent ~20% of our collection now, we need to be careful about that % rising significantly as our physical footprint gets smaller.
  - Our users are high school students, so one barrier to continued retention for us would be the content of the item: if it contains outdated/harmful information, we might reconsider retention so it's not on the shelves for our students to find
- subject strengths: yes, great idea
- How long do you expect the next commitment period to be?
  - Longer=Less work in some ways.
- I have a thought based off of the comment about EAST in 50 years, will born digital content be added?
  - As academic publishing has moved increasingly to a print-on-demand model, what impact will that have on EAST and other shared print initiatives? Will it be more important to ensure long-term retention of the digital files, rather than

copies of print books? Is there an opportunity for EAST to partner with university presses on this type of thing?