EAST EASTERN ACADEMIC SCHOLARS' TRUST

Where the Sun Rises

A Newsletter of All Things EAST

February 2026

Contents: Notes from the Director | Querying the Collective Collection | Survey of Retention Renewals | Data Usage Policy | Hybrid Rapido Peer to Peer POD | Serials and Journals Updates | Upcoming Meetings

Notes from the Director

2026 marks a milestone for EAST as we celebrate ten years of collaboration to secure the print scholarly record. It is gratifying to see that collaboration continues to grow and succeed.

Since our last newsletter, EAST has grown in both members and retention commitments. Ohio University Libraries began the onboarding process this January, and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School has rejoined EAST as a Serials Retention Partner after a brief break in membership. At the same time, PALNI's Retention Partners have added more than 200,000 new monograph retention commitments to EAST, including some 60,000 titles new to EAST. Many thanks to these newest Retention Partners – Butler University, Concordia Theological Seminary, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, and Wabash College.

The reallocation of items reported lost in 2024 was EAST's most successful reallocation process to date, likely due to the growing pool of collections on which we are able to draw. More than half of the titles were reallocated, far exceeding previous reallocation rates. Many thanks to the Retention Partners who agreed to take on commitments to prevent the loss of these items from the collection. I hope the

reallocation process for titles lost in 2025, which were distributed earlier this month, is equally, if not more, successful.

Happy New Year! 🐴

Tina

Querying the Collective Collection

Essential to EAST's core strategy and strategic framework implementation is the ability to effectively query the EAST collective collection and compare it to the national collection and other retention commitments.

To date, we have primarily done that via OCLC, using the OCLC Search API, at no cost to EAST. Last fall OCLC initiated discussions about EAST API usage, which has resulted in EAST having to pay for continued access. Unfortunately, this continued access is less access, so we won't be able to do as many queries of our own, or on behalf of members, as we were previously able. This includes removal of the search box that used to be available on the EAST homepage. In addition, there are EAST members who are no longer OCLC members, making the OCLC picture of EAST retention commitments and holdings incomplete.

This has prompted two new avenues of work for the Program Team. One is thinking about how we can develop tools or, at the very least, provide helpful documentation to support member libraries using their own OCLC API access. The second is talking with other vendors about how they could provide an aggregated view of EAST holdings that could support current and future EAST work.

Survey of Retention Renewals

As mentioned in the strategic framework for 2026-2031, our top priority is to secure retention commitments beyond 2031. To that end, we've sent a preliminary survey to Voting Members at Retention Partner libraries, gauging their willingness to renew their EAST retention commitments and exploring areas of refinement. The survey responses will form the foundation of future work around securing retentions beyond 2031.

Data Usage Policy

As we investigate some of the potential projects coming out of the strategic framework, it has become apparent that sharing EAST data related to member library collections, particularly retention and holdings data, will be necessary to developing projects with partners. However, EAST does not currently have a data use agreement with its member libraries. Long term, since all of our MOUs will need to be renewed alongside the renewal of retention commitments, we plan to build data use into a new and improved MOU. In the short-term, we've put together a small group of Board and Operations Committee members to work with the Program Team on developing a data

usage policy, which we'll send to members for comment, revise as needed, and publish. The policy will likely offer the opportunity to opt out rather than opt in to data sharing. Rest assured that EAST will always be transparent on how the data you submit to EAST might be used.

Hybrid Rapido/Peer to Peer POD

Our Resource Sharing Contacts were sent a survey on terms for an ExLibris hybrid Rapido / Peer to Peer pod. More than 30 member libraries agreed to the terms and will serve as the pilot group for the pod. EAST expects this pod to go live within the next month.

Serials and Journals Updates

While we had hoped to be deep in the collection analysis with the 60 member libraries who are participating in the current serials and journals work, we have been delayed as the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) completes its system migration. While we are temporarily on pause, we do expect to continue the work into the summer. In the meantime, we've been meeting regularly with CRL staff and providing feedback on their new PAPR system, which is running on the TIND platform. We are excited by the increased functionality this system provides, and would like to thank our CRL colleagues for their diligence and responsiveness to our feedback.

Upcoming Meetings

The EAST Alma Community of Interest meets quarterly and will meet again on March 4, 2026, 10 a.m. (register for the meeting series).

EAST Quarterly Update Webinar - Join us for the first half hour for an EAST quarterly update, with the second half of the hour dedicated to discussion. Both sessions will cover the same agenda and will be recorded. A recording will be shared (along with the slides) on the EAST website and via the MEMBERS list.

    Register for Tuesday April 21, 10 a.m.
    Register for Thursday April 23, 1 p.m.

EAST on the Road

Are you interested in an EAST gathering at ELUNA in April?
Interested in EAST visiting your library or regional conference?

Let us know at info@eastlibraries.org!