



EAST EASTERN ACADEMIC SCHOLARS' TRUST

Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust Update for the January 2023 PAN Forum

The Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST) is the collaborative effort of over 130 academic and research libraries to document, protect, and provide long-term access to their print collections.

2022-2025 Strategic Directions

The EAST Executive Committee and Strategic Directions Task Force developed four focus areas which were approved by the membership to guide the work of the project over the next few years:

1. Support the collection building and management strategies of member libraries
2. Ensure flexible and sustainable pathways to membership
3. Secure EAST's organizational sustainability
4. Expand opportunities for member libraries to contribute to the EAST collective collection.

Progress made in these areas is outlined below.

1. Support the collection building and management strategies of member libraries

Based on the 2020 EAST Program Assessment and the feedback provided from several working groups, the EAST Executive Committee approved going forward with an opt-in group-wide collection analysis project focused on titles published post 2011, the original cut off date in the EAST retention model. This project is expected to begin data gathering in the late spring of 2023 in preparation for an analysis project using the Gold Rush Comparison Tool over the summer into the fall.

2. Ensure flexible and sustainable pathways to membership

EAST is welcoming 39 new member libraries from the VIVA consortium in Virginia, 11 of which are joining as consortia retention partners. These libraries join taking advantage of the newly established consortia supporting partner category of membership. The retention libraries are engaged in the initial collection analysis process using the Gold Rush Comparison Tool and results are expected later this year.

A second program, the Consortium of UNC Shared Print (CUSP) has also joined EAST, adding 11 new individual retention partners and 1 new individual supporting partner. Data was loaded into the Gold Rush Comparison Tool late in 2022, with completion of retention assignments anticipated this spring. Among the new retention partners are four HBCU libraries.

This brings the EAST membership to 132 libraries.

3. Secure EAST's organizational sustainability

Since its inception, EAST has been a sponsored program of the [Boston Library Consortium](#). Over the last six months, the EAST Executive Committee, led by co-chairs Scott Warren (Syracuse University) and Tony Fonseca (Elms College), has been engaged in a transition plan that will culminate in establishing EAST as an independent 501(c)3 organization. The transition is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2023. This overall administrative and legal restructuring will ensure EAST's sustainability. Many thanks to the BLC for their support of the program through the years.

4. Expand opportunities for member libraries to contribute to the EAST collective collection

In addition to the group collection analysis for post 2011 titles, EAST is expanding its scope to support the opt-in retention of special collection titles. EAST libraries may choose to retain materials in their special collections on behalf of EAST, and are encouraged to make these items available either physically or digitally.

EAST is also investigating opportunities for libraries who are unable to participate in the group analysis to make self selected retention commitments to newer titles and investigating opportunities for member libraries to be able to flag a title for retention at the time of selection/acquisition. Continued conversations with vendors and service providers are critical to this effort.

Other Program Updates

Updated Resource Sharing

The Resource Sharing Working Group updated the [EAST Resource Sharing Best Practices](#) to be less vendor specific and include information about lending and borrowing retained special collections titles.

IMLS Grant with SCELCL

In 2022, SCELCL and EAST received an IMLS planning grant titled [SCELCL & EAST: Expanding Diversity and Inclusivity in the Collective Collection of Shared Print](#). Thus far, the grant project team has established a community council to guide the questions and research process and have presented on their initial project plan at the 2022 Charleston Conference. The initial program schedule is available on the [SCELCL website](#).

Internet Archive Pilot

In 2022, EAST and the Internet Archive embarked on a pilot project to determine the presence of digital surrogates for pre-1926 (public domain) retained titles in the collections of three member libraries: the University of Rochester, Morgan State University, and Adelphi University. The pilot found that a significant number of these titles were digitized in either the Internet Archive or HathiTrust. The second phase of the project is to provide URLs and MARC Records for these digital surrogates to the institutions for consideration of inclusion in their discovery layers. It is anticipated that this service will be rolled out to the full membership over the next year.

Staffing Update

EAST Program Manager Mei Méndez has moved on to take a full time position as Assistant Director of the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, NC. Her voice and talents will be greatly missed. EAST Data Librarian Sara Amato is stepping into the expanded role of Project Manager with increased hours and responsibilities.

The project team would like to thank the 40+ volunteers from member libraries who have participated in working groups and pilot projects.

Interested in staying informed about EAST's activities? Drop us a note at samato@blc.org and we'll add you to our 'interested' mailing list.