



Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust Update for the June 2025 PAN Forum

The Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST) is the collaborative effort of over 170 academic and research libraries to document, protect, and provide long-term access to their print collections.

Vision and Strategic Planning

We are pleased to share the following newly created EAST vision from the board of directors:

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.

EAST strategic planning is also well underway! The Board of Directors and Program Team has engaged in a series of virtual retreat sessions with the intention of charting the course for the next 5 years of EAST as we approach the end of our initial retention period in 2031. When surveying membership about collections-related challenges, member responses centered on space limitations, budget cuts, managing physical collections, and the struggle to balance preserving print materials with adapting to evolving collection policies.

Refining Retentions Task Force

A task force has started looking at the distribution of EAST retentions across our member libraries. As a first step, the task force is looking at titles that exceed the '5 copies in EAST' threshold, and devising a strategy that allows, in an equitable manner, the drawdown of retentions on some of the surplus retained copies. Factors that are being considered are geographic distribution, FEMA risk areas, and percent of collection currently retained for EAST. Early joiners of EAST, who often hold a disproportionately larger number of retentions, will be offered the opportunity to participate in this work. Also, a short survey on storage location of EAST materials has been distributed to EAST members. The results of this survey may play into future work.

Reviewing Ephemera

EAST occasionally adds new publishers and/or keywords to our "Ephemera" category based on feedback from member libraries. These additions are vetted by the EAST Operations Committee, and at their prompting, a small working group undertook a review of the current ephemera categories and publishers. This included grouping publishers into tiers, dividing out those that are always considered out of scope from those that publish materials that may or may not be in scope. The potentially out of scope publishers will now be flagged as 'suspect', giving libraries an opportunity to more closely review

their titles before committing to retain. The results of this work are now linked off of the EAST [Collection Analysis Scope and Ephemera](#) page, and will be used in future collection analyses. Many thanks to Alison Armstrong (Radford University), Ed Lener (Virginia Tech), and Steve Smith (UMass Boston) for their work on this project.

PALNI Proof of Concept Project

EAST is continuing to work with the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana (PALNI) on a group collection analysis project to explore the relationship between their circulating print collections and the EAST collective collection. We have some preliminary results showing that 20% of their collections are not yet retained by an EAST library, whereas 35% of their titles already have 5 copies in EAST, and another 35% are retained by fewer than 5 EAST members, thus being an area where PALNI could help EAST reach our retention goals. Detailed data has been presented to PALNI, and they are beginning to think creatively about how and where to retain materials, how to best support their members of varying sizes, and how their collections work may fit into EAST membership.

Serials and Journals Collection Analysis Project

EAST is currently gauging interest in a serials and journals collection analysis project beginning this summer. We are grateful to the Center for Research Libraries for offering to perform that collection analysis at no cost to members. This work will allow newer members to partake in serials and journal retention, and allow those with existing commitments to revisit their commitments in light of expanded participation.

Membership Updates

Over the past year, two libraries have left EAST, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and the University of North Florida (UNF), due to budgetary issues and scope of retentions, respectively. UNF was a retention partner and we have been working with them to ensure that material which is in scope and unique to EAST is not lost for the remainder of the retention period.

We are also pleased to welcome the University of Tennessee Knoxville as our latest supporting partner. They will be onboarded over the summer.

Member Meetings

The next EAST Quarterly Update webinars will take place on July 22, 11am - 12pm ET and July 23, 1 - 2pm ET. The focus will be communicating the results of the strategic planning process EAST has undertaken during the first half of 2025.

The EAST Annual Member Meeting will be held October 15, 9:30 - Noon ET.

Both meetings are free and open to all. Registration for all events can be found via the Upcoming Events box on the eastlibraries.org homepage.