



Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust

Major Operating Policies

September, 2023

Approved by the EAST Voting Members, March 2020
(updated November 21, 2019 and September, 2023)

The policies established below are intended to define major operational elements of the EAST shared print collection and establish a common understanding among EAST members. The policies were developed with the mission of EAST in mind, to ensure scholars, including faculty and students in the eastern region of the United States, have access to the scholarly record of print monographs, print journals, and serials through multi-library collaborative arrangements that ensure copies of even infrequently used materials are retained in sufficient number to be readily available. Most of these policies, along with other terms and conditions, have been incorporated into the EAST Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (<https://eastlibraries.org/policies-mou>). These policies will be supplemented with more detailed operating procedures as needed (e.g. protocols for repair or replacement of lost or damaged materials, conditions under which retention commitments can be changed).

This major operating policies document was approved by the EAST Executive Committee (now Board of Directors) on June 20, 2016. A revised version was approved on October 25, 2016. With this version subsequently revised by EAST members on March 13, 2020. The Operations Committee (OC) has responsibility for operationalizing processes associated with these policies. Any issues with the policies should be addressed to the EAST Project Manager who will work with the OC as appropriate to address the issue.

It's expected that EAST policies will evolve over time and that modifications or amendments will be required. The EAST Board of Directors has the authority to revise policies and procedures from time to time as needed.

Selection of materials

The EAST shared print collections consists of monographs, serials and journals. Materials will be identified for inclusion through collection analysis or by other methods and a related decision-making process. The shared collection will include both widely-held and rarely-held

titles that can be shared with other participants in some form. Retention Partners are required to retain only one copy of titles they have been allocated a commitment to retain.

The EAST Executive Committee may periodically identify new categories of materials for retention as determined by the membership.

Allocation

In keeping with its mission to retain scholarly content, EAST will establish base expectations for participation in retention. Each Retention Partner is expected to retain holdings at an equitable rate as determined by the collection analysis or other agreed upon methodology.

Ownership

Retention Partners will maintain ownership of the materials for which they agree to retain.

Location

The EAST shared print collection will be a distributed collection with volumes maintained at the Retention Partner libraries, either in traditional campus shelving locations or in library storage facilities at the library's discretion.

Retention

Retention Partners agree to hold the designated items until the EAST retention expiration date, June 30, 2031. EAST Retention Partners that are also ConnectNY retention libraries agree to extend their existing 10-year ConnectNY commitments through June 30, 2031.

The EAST Board of Directors will revisit the retention period at least once every five years to determine if circumstances warrant extending or reducing the commitment periods for certain kinds of materials. EAST retention commitments survive membership in EAST. The MOU will establish provisions to handle cases where a Retention Partner withdraws from EAST or can no longer retain some or all of its committed holdings.

Validation

The EAST program does not require full validation of metadata (inventory confirmation) or physical condition for retained volumes.

Lost or damaged materials

Retention Partners are expected to follow EAST procedures available on the EAST website (www.eastlibraries.org) for replacing lost or damaged volumes and make every reasonable effort to ensure the volumes are replaced within the EAST collection.

Gap Filling

EAST libraries planning on withdrawing serial and journal titles are encouraged to first check the EAST Retention Database to identify whether the titles have existing EAST commitments and if there are gaps in the holdings of the retained titles which they could fill.

If your library's holdings could fill gaps contact the holding EAST Retention Partner library (see below for contact list) with the Title, OCLC number, and your holdings range.

If the EAST retaining library is willing to accept a physical transfer of issues to fill gaps they should follow EAST procedures for updating retention commitment statements in catalogs.

Shipping costs will be negotiated between the libraries and at their expense.

Revoking Retention Commitments Determined to be Out of Scope

Retention Partners that identify categories of materials they determine are neither in the retention interests of the local collection nor the EAST collective collection shall contact the Project Team and use the Reversal and Reallocation Requests Form, found on the EAST website (<https://eastlibraries.org/east-reversal-and-reallocation-requests>).

Titles allocated for EAST retention should meet the retention rules (see <https://eastlibraries.org/retention-models> for monographs and <https://eastlibraries.org/serials-and-journals> for serials and journals rules) recommended by EAST member libraries and approved by the EAST Board of Directors. Retention Partners are given the opportunity to review their retention commitment proposals before agreeing to their final allocation. However, due to the scale of monograph titles allocated for retention it is not practical to review at the title level which means items that were out of scope (<https://eastlibraries.org/collection-analysis/collection-analysis-scope/>) for EAST may have unintentionally been assigned for retention (for example, outdated and superseded editions of textbooks and guides).

Access

EAST materials will be held as an accessible light archive with volumes available for circulation to other EAST libraries.

Fulfillment and delivery

EAST members strongly support a practice of free lending across the member libraries. EAST members may use their own institutional policies to fulfill requests for EAST holdings. Libraries may opt out of this policy. Libraries that choose to opt out of free lending may be charged to borrow from any other EAST member at the lending member's discretion.

Delivery modes

Members agree to deliver physical volumes upon request using existing ILL or consortial delivery methods.

Members may require in-library use at the borrowing library for certain items (e.g. based on condition, rarity).

Where possible, delivery will be made through scanning and digital delivery, e.g. for an individual chapter or article in the case of journals.

Members will commit to deliver and return materials expeditiously via the established resource-sharing mechanism appropriate to each request.

Interlibrary Loan Code

EAST members are expected to adhere to the principles of the Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States: <https://www.ala.org/rusa/interlibrary-loan-code-united-states-explanatory-text>.

Operating policies and procedures

The EAST Board of Directors will review and approve detailed operating policies and procedures, such as protocols for replacement or repair of retained titles that are damaged, and will have authority to revise those policies and procedures from time to time as needed. Such policies or changes will be based on recommendations from the Operations Committee and/or working groups. The MOU will describe this principle but will not include the specific operating policies or procedures, to facilitate future modifications that may be necessary based on operating experience.

Disclosure

EAST Retention Partners will record EAST retention commitments in their local catalogs in an effort to prevent withdrawal of these volumes. Retention Partners will also disclose EAST retention commitments in regional and national/international systems (e.g., OCLC WorldCat) in ways that are consistent with emerging national or international standards. Specific details will

be developed and approved by the Board of Directors as operating policies and procedures outside the MOU.

Discovery

Discovery of EAST holdings will be made via local, regional, and international catalogs (e.g., OCLC WorldCat) as recommended. There is no requirement or current plan for an EAST discovery catalog.