



What is EAST?

The Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust is a shared print initiative whose mission is to create a collective collection that secures print monographs and serials in support of teaching, learning, and research. As part of this mission, EAST has created a decentralized repository system, which means that all of its retention partner member libraries agree to retain and make accessible the titles assigned during the collection analysis process. This practice allows all EAST member libraries the opportunity to deselect print items knowing that they are maintained at other institutions and trusting that they will be available for borrowing when needed by patrons. Retention partners retain, loan, and replace items that are designated for retention at their library for the agreed upon EAST retention period (currently through June 30, 2031). Supporting partners contribute to the mission of EAST through membership dues and following the [EAST Resource Sharing Best Practices](#), which includes the request to not charge other EAST members for Interlibrary Loan.

Member libraries can determine if another institution retains a particular title by using the search box available on the eastlibraries.org homepage. Additional data about the full EAST retained collection is available via [OCLC](#), [Gold Rush](#) and the [PAPR](#) databases. [Contact the Program Team](#) with any questions.

Why is my institution an EAST member?

Each EAST member joined for a variety of reasons, including wanting to safeguard and provide access to the scholarly record while recognizing that no single institution can do so by itself. EAST allows member libraries to make collection management decisions by taking into account other EAST members' willingness to retain and loan specific titles. Membership in EAST also indicates that an institution is interested in participating and contributing to the broader conversation around issues of shared print that is taking place at state, regional, national, and international levels. While your library is currently a Supporting Partner, it may choose to become a Retention Partner at a later date, contributing to the preservation mission of EAST. Should you be interested in considering this option, please [Contact the Program Team](#).

How does membership in EAST affect my institution?

To preserve the safety net of retentions, all EAST members are asked to maintain updated retention information in both their local catalogs and in OCLC WorldCat, and all EAST members are requested to participate in the lending network via interlibrary loan.

Where can I go if I have questions about EAST?

The EAST website, eastlibraries.org, is your go-to place to find answers. The site provides comprehensive and dynamic FAQs and Best Practices on topics including retention commitments and Resource Sharing. It also contains a listing of each library's EAST Voting Member and Operational Contact. For additional guidance, [contact the EAST Program Team](#) directly.



EAST and Interlibrary Loan

Titles agreed to be retained by EAST member libraries are held as a light archive within their local circulating collections. The EAST [Major Operating Policies](#)¹, as approved by the [Board of Directors](#), allow EAST member libraries to use their own local policies to fulfill borrowing requests of retained titles from other EAST libraries, keeping in mind that the majority of EAST members offer no-charge lending to fellow EAST members. EAST libraries are encouraged to publish their policies in the OCLC Policies Directory.

Resource Sharing staff are responsible for ensuring EAST member libraries have access to materials across the membership. An EAST OCLC Group Access Capability (GAC), named EAST, has been created. Interested librarians should consult the [list of OCLC and DOCLINE symbols](#)² available under the “EAST OCLC Symbols and Docline IDs” section of the [Access & Resource Sharing page](#) for a list of symbols included in the EAST GAC. For RAPID members using RapidR for returnables, an [EAST pod](#) is available.

The EAST Resource Sharing Working Group reviews policies and advises on implementation details. It has created an [EAST Resource Sharing Best Practices document](#)². As EAST evolves and grows, it remains important to measure the impact on Resource Sharing units across the membership. Therefore, compiling, analyzing, and providing access to loan and request data will be increasingly important. To that end, EAST collects GAC and POD level statistics, though libraries may wish to devise their own mechanisms for measuring impact.

All EAST members adhere to the principles of the ILL Code for the United States.

How do I become personally involved in EAST?

EAST periodically looks for volunteers to serve on its various committees and working groups, and the best way to find out about these opportunities is to [sign up for our emails](#). You can also use the [Contact Us form](#) on the EAST website to request to be added to the EAST_Members-L list-serv.

¹ EAST Policy documents can be found at <https://eastlibraries.org/policies-documentation/> and information about the Executive Committee can be found in the Governance section of the EAST website: <https://eastlibraries.org/governance>

² Links to the Resource Sharing Best Practices document, lists of member OCLC and Docline symbols, and information on how to add to the OCLC Policies Directory are all available in the Access section of the EAST website: <https://eastlibraries.org/retention-access/access/>