



*Updated January 2025*

## What is EAST?

The Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust, or EAST, is a shared print initiative whose mission is to secure the print scholarly record in support of teaching, learning, and research. EAST does this through the development of a decentralized collective collection that includes both monographs and serials, which means that each of its Retention Partners agrees to store and make accessible the titles assigned during the collection analysis process. This practice allows member libraries the opportunity to deselect print items knowing that they are maintained at other institutions and trusting that they will be freely available for borrowing when needed by patrons. Libraries that are EAST Retention Partners are required to 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](https://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?

As an EAST member, your institution is addressing both local and community needs. As a community, EAST members are safeguarding and providing access to the scholarly record in a way that no single institution can do alone. Participation in EAST and its collection analyses projects supports local collection management and resource allocation. When facing space and/or financial pressures, EAST Libraries can use their collection analysis data to identify what is truly unique in their collections as well as collection gaps based on current curricula, and make data-informed de-selection decisions. EAST Libraries can also readily see what their partners have committed to retain, giving them confidence that items withdrawn or not purchased are being retained for preservation and future access. 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. EAST is a member of the [Shared Print Partnership](#).

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 retention commitments, EAST Retention Partners are required to maintain updated retention information, including metadata, and repair or replace damaged and lost items whenever possible. All EAST member libraries (both Retention and Supporting Partners) are required to participate in the EAST lending network via interlibrary loan.

## Where can I go if I have questions about EAST?

The EAST website, [eastlibraries.org](http://eastlibraries.org), is your go-to place to find answers. The site provides FAQs and Best Practices on topics including retention commitments and interlibrary loan. It contains a listing of each library's Operational and Resource Sharing Contacts. Questions may also be directed to [info@eastlibraries.org](mailto:info@eastlibraries.org).

## EAST and Interlibrary Loan

The EAST collective collection comprises over 8,000,000 unique titles and over 11,000,000 volumes held across the 100+ retention member libraries. The collective collection is a circulating collection, with all materials available for lending and borrowing. The EAST [Major Operating Policies](#)<sup>1</sup>, 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. However, EAST's [Resource Sharing Best Practices](#) strongly encourage no-charge lending across EAST member libraries. Currently, no EAST members have imposed lending fees. EAST member libraries should publish their resource sharing policies in appropriate resource sharing directories (e.g., OCLC ILL Policies Directory, Alma Resource Sharing Directory, etc.).

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](#)<sup>2</sup> 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 RapidILL members, an [EAST pod](#) is available.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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/>



The EAST Resource Sharing Working Group created the [EAST Resource Sharing Best Practices](#).<sup>2</sup> As EAST continues, 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 Rapid 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](#) on the EAST Members and EAST Resource Sharing lists. EAST also has a [Resource Sharing Community of Interest](#) which is open to all.

Additional questions can be addressed to [info@eastlibraries.org](mailto:info@eastlibraries.org).