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EAST and Library Administration

Communicating the mission and value of EAST to staff and institutional stakeholders

Today's academic libraries are often unable to purchase all the print content they need or to continue to store and curate existing collections as the pressure to repurpose space increases. A library's participation in EAST ensures that unique, scarcely held, and potentially useful print books and journals will continue to be retained regionally and made accessible to users, even as libraries need to downsize their own local print collections.

Library administration is responsible for understanding and communicating the value of EAST membership to other institutional stakeholders by articulating that participation in EAST gives libraries and their users access to the collective teaching and research collections of 190+ libraries and thus provides its members increased flexibility to reimagine the local print collection as part of a much larger whole.

In addition, administrators at EAST member libraries typically act as the institution's Voting Member, authorized to vote on EAST-related matters. They may also be an institution's authorized representative to sign the agreement confirming membership in EAST. They are also responsible for keeping library staff aware of their institution's EAST commitments and ensuring that the library has an Operational Contact to oversee implementation.

Administrators should also understand that membership in EAST confers membership in the Shared Print Partnership (sharedprint.org). The Partnership's mission is to advance the sustainability, accessibility, and preservation of shared print collections and infrastructure through collective action, collaboration, and advocacy, ensuring enduring access and preservation of critical research materials for the global academic community.

Leadership in Shared Print

EAST continues to actively participate in national discussions with members and vendors that are helping to shape the shared print landscape, both in terms of preservation of and access to the scholarly print record. Through its involvement in the Shared Print Partnership, EAST has established itself as a leader in shared print. As libraries continue to experience pressure to allocate physical space to services rather than collections and to find opportunities to withdraw print content as digital alternatives become available, the core mission of EAST to protect and preserve print scholarly content becomes increasingly important. Administrators should relay to their staff and other institutional stakeholders that many EAST libraries see their membership in EAST as providing a critical safety net, ensuring they can provide print (monographs and journals) access for faculty, students, researchers, and scholars that might otherwise slip away with time.



Top 5 Things You Need to Know

1. EAST allows us to shift the conversation from withdrawing books to what we are doing proactively and collaboratively to protect the print scholarly record and ensure campus constituents maintain access to it.
2. EAST offers libraries enhanced flexibility in managing their local collections as part of a larger collective collection, including supporting intelligent downsizing when needed to support reclaiming space for new services.
3. EAST provides library staff with member resources and documentation that support internal work and foster a sense of community.
4. Our EAST resource sharing partners increase access to print resources for students, faculty, and scholars.
5. With our EAST partners, we have a strong voice in support of the importance of shared print at the national level.

Read the [Value of EAST](#) document for more information on how membership in EAST benefits your institution.

How to become involved in EAST

EAST's governing body, the EAST Board of Directors, is composed of library deans, directors, and other senior administrators who have a strong interest in shared print and collaborative collection management. The Board conducts elections on an annual basis. Library administrators interested in learning more about the Board's responsibilities should visit the Governance section of the eastlibraries.org site.