



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.

The following list gives important information about retained titles:

- Monograph, journal, and serial titles are retained for 15 years (currently through June 30, 2031).
- EAST retention commitments are reflected in a 583 MARC Field of bibliographic, holdings, and/or item records.
- EAST retention commitments can be transferred or reallocated. Procedures for doing so are outlined in the Retention FAQ, under the Retention & Access menu on eastlibraries.org.
- Member libraries can determine if another institution retains a particular title by searching the database available on the eastlibraries.org homepage. Additional data about the full EAST collective collection is available via [OCLC](#), [Gold Rush](#) and [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 EAST Libraries can also readily see what their partners have committed to retain, giving them confidence that items withdrawn or not purchased are being retained for preservation and future access.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](#).



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, 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.

EAST and Collection Management

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 scope of the collection was determined by EAST Working Groups, focusing originally on pre-2011 print monographs, and now contains titles up to 2021. More information on the scope and retention models used can be found in the [Collection Analysis](#) section of eastlibraries.org.

Some EAST institutions have committed to retain titles that are out of scope of their local collection management policies so that others can rely on those commitments when making their own collection development decisions. Member libraries are responsible for continued access to retained titles, which includes repairing or replacing damaged or lost items. See the [Policies](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions about Retention Commitments](#) sections of eastlibraries.org for more information on policies and processes relating to retained titles.

Collection Analysis and Serials/Journals Working Groups

Monograph Collection Analysis and Serials and Journals Working Groups provide input and guidance on collection analysis and curation of the collective collection. These working groups, with input from the membership, arrived at the original retention models and worked with new members to ensure equitable distribution of retained titles throughout all EAST member libraries.



Collection Analysis Access to GreenGlass®, Choreo Insights® and Gold Rush®

EAST retention commitments are [registered with OCLC](#) and thus [visible in several additional OCLC products](#). Libraries that have a current contract with OCLC for GreenGlass or Choreo Insights can use these products to compare their collections to EAST retentions. All EAST libraries have access to the Gold Rush collection comparison tool, which contains data for all EAST retentions. For login information to Gold Rush please contact the [EAST Program Team](#). Retained journals are also visible in the [Print Archives Preservation Registry \(PAPR\)](#). PAPR also provides a free, lightweight, on demand [serials collection comparison tool](#).

As members update their holdings, libraries can request reallocation for retained titles that have been lost and cannot be replaced, are out of scope for EAST, or have been moved into non-circulating collections. This [reallocation process](#) formally occurs yearly. Note that EAST libraries may, on an opt-in basis, choose to retain materials in their special collections on behalf of EAST. Lending of such items is at the discretion of the owning libraries' local policies, but is encouraged in keeping with [EAST's resource sharing principles](#). Digital surrogates are acceptable for loaning of non-circulation materials.

How do I become personally involved in EAST?

In 2025, EAST is launching two new communities of interest, Alma and Resource Sharing. Calls for participation on committees, working groups, and communities of interest are posted to the EAST Members Mailing list ([subscribe](#)), or you can contact the [EAST Program Team](#).