

Recommendations for Supporting Resource Sharing Activities

EAST Resource Sharing Task Force
April 26, 2024

Introduction

The EAST Resource Sharing Task Force met monthly between January and May 2024 to discuss the needs of Resource Sharing departments in relation to shared print and retention commitments. Members of the task force were instructed to speak to their respective Resource Sharing departments and gather their feedback and thoughts in order to drive these discussions.

Findings

Resource sharing professionals have shared with us the following wants and needs for EAST support in Resource Sharing activities:

- A vendor-agnostic centralized directory of EAST members and policies
- Community and communication with other EAST Resource Sharing departments
- Concrete expectations for lending to EAST members, especially regarding retained items
 - Free lending for EAST partners and retention commitments
 - Consistent loan periods
 - Shipping: fast, flexibility for smaller libraries, tracking numbers
- Statistics on how many items with EAST retention commitments libraries are lending and borrowing
- Best practices for communication between current Resource Sharing platforms; ideally, moving toward standards over vendors
- Onboarding and/or mentorship for new members
- More participation from EAST partners in the RapidILL pods (R, X, etc.) and Alma Peer-to-Peer workflow
 - For existing RapidILL members who currently only participate in article sharing consider joining the Rapid-R EAST pod to enable sharing loans (requires contacting Rapid to request inclusion in Rapid-R)
- Retention commitments for borrowing displayed in online catalog or discovery layer, especially for non-OCLC schools

- Resource Sharing values automation of processes to decrease the need for staff intervention
- Further investigation into platforms for CDL such as [Project ReShare](#) and the [Open Resource Sharing Coalition](#) (OpenRS)
- Ideally, a universal catalog of all retention commitments

Recommendations

As we discussed these wants and how they could be addressed, we settled upon the idea of developing an **EAST community of practice wiki** that is system agnostic, easily accessed, and editable by members. This platform would be accessible from the EAST website.

Such a platform might include the following:

Repository of documentation and best practices, either linked out or hosted on the site:

- Best practices developed by EAST and other shared print partners (i.e. Rosemont, Partnership for Shared Books)
- Documentation of routing rules, links to [IDS Logic](#) rules and configs, and automation scripts
- Training guides and presentations

Directory of EAST Members

- OCLC/ISO symbols
- Shipping addresses and methods such as UPS, FedEx, USPS, etc.
- Contact info
- ILS and resource sharing platform information
- Do you offer free/reciprocal lending? If not, what are your charges?
- Billing or replacement information
- Do you participate in Alma Peer-to-Peer, Rapid, ISO, etc.

A forum or listserv for asking questions and sharing announcements

- The platform to be decided at a later date, depending on institutions' preference
- Temporary or long-term changes to service
- EAST events or promotions
- Best practice reminders
- Archived and indexed

FAQs

- What can I do if an EAST library charges me for borrowing?
 - Check the directory for charging policies

- Contact program team/library
- Is our library obligated to lend our entire collection or just retained copies (or other questions about obligations, taken from the current FAQ and the MOUs, etc)
- How do I update our EAST contact?

Further considerations

To maintain the site, we recommend that EAST contacts be responsible for self-reporting and updating their institution's information, which would be made clear when a new contact is added. This will require a secure log-in. The directory should also be downloadable as a .csv file so that local address books and shipping software can be easily updated.

We have identified a list of potential platforms that could be used for this wiki/community of practice, to be hosted by EAST:

- Google Sheets with app overtop
- Slite
- Confluence
- Basecamp
- LibGuides
- Sharepoint or other Microsoft platforms
- Google Drive

Members of the Task Force

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