

Rosemont Shared Print Alliance: Identifying and Retaining Last Known Copies of Journals

June 28, 2021

The Rosemont Shared Print Alliance was formed with the vision “To ensure the preservation and availability of print journal literature.” In November 2020, the Rosemont Alliance Executive Committee approved proceeding with a project to identify last known copies of print journals and to encourage the retention of those copies to the local shared print program.

The Rosemont Alliance Last Known Copy Initiative Working Group collected data (including title, OCLC and ISSN numbers) on journal titles held by four¹ of the Rosemont Alliance partners: BTAA, EAST, Scholars Trust (ASERL-only) and WEST. We filtered the data to those 61,538 journal titles for which only one copy was reported in OCLC (U.S. holdings). Data on these titles was ingested into Tableau, allowing us to easily filter the titles by various facets to get a better understanding of what we have. You can [explore the final dataset here](#). No retention commitment has been made for these last known copies and a Rosemont Alliance library is the only known holder of each title.

Fourteen libraries from four shared print programs with last known copies ranging from three to 3,004 titles agreed to participate in a pilot to verify the data, consider making retention commitments for the titles and to develop best practices on a variety of issues, including environmental storage requirements, access and circulation, physical validation and metadata validation.)

Project Plan

- All 61,538 last copies identified in the Rosemont Alliance that have no retention commitments in the Alliance and only one copy in OCLC (U.S. only) will be considered for retention by the library holding the title.
- The Rosemont Alliance is focused on print journal literature. Cataloging practices may have resulted in the inclusion of last copies that are not journals. If a title is not a print journal, it is out of scope for this Rosemont Alliance project.
- The “completeness” of holdings should not be considered as these appear to be the only extant copies discoverable and known to be available.
- Libraries are encouraged to retain first and opt out of commitments later, as necessary.

Guidance on opting against retaining a title:

- We begin with the assumption that any last copy is worth retaining until it is actively assessed not to be.
- Criteria to be considered when rejecting a retention commitment:
 - Monographic series that is cataloged as a serial;

¹ Equivalent data sets for FLARE and WRLC were not available and therefore those programs were not included in the analysis and outlines of the pilot project.

- Titles found to be entirely missing, lost, or damaged beyond repair;
 - Titles found to be designated as last copies in error;
 - Original copies are preferred over reprints, unless the reprint is the only known copy of the title;
- Participant actions
 - Records for all last copies should be updated with retention notes following Rosemont’s [metadata best practices](#), using the local program standards fields including program name (e.g. \$f WEST, \$f Scholars Trust), and the addition of a \$z: “Rosemont Last Known Copy” to the ‘Committed to Retain’ 583
 - Physical validation of last copies is optional, but if undertaken, should be recorded per [metadata standards](#) in the 583 retention note
 - Records for all last copies retained should be disclosed to PAPR and through OCLC WorldCat following the procedures established by your shared print program
 - Provide access to Rosemont Alliance libraries following institutional resource sharing policies and practices

To review step-by-step procedures, please see the [Guidelines for Participating Libraries](#).

Please join us for an informational meeting for all participants on XXX to review and discuss the data, the scope of the project and to answer your questions.

Thanks!

The Rosemont Alliance Last Copy Initiative Working Group

- BTAA
 - Rebecca Crist, Project Manager, Library Initiatives
 - Mary Miller, Head of Collection Management and Preservation at the University of Minnesota
- EAST
 - Matthew Revitt, Maine Shared Collections Librarian, Univ. of Maine and EAST Shared Print Consultant
 - Steve Smith, Collection Analysis and Development Librarian from UMass Boston
- FLARE
 - Tabatha Pursley, Shared Collections Coordinator, Univ. of Florida
- Scholars Trust
 - Jay Forrest, Data Scientist Librarian, Georgia Tech Library
 - Mark Jacobs, WRLC Executive Director - convener
- WEST
 - Jesse Silva, Scholarly Resources Strategy and Federal Government Information Librarian at UC Berkeley

- Alison Wohlers, Univ. of California/ WEST Shared Print Program Manager