



Western Regional Storage Trust

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## 2019 WEST Assessment – What’s Left to Archive

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## 1 Introduction

This analysis is based on reports produced in AGUA using data from the 2017 ingest. This does not include an analysis of titles that would be eligible for Silver or Gold Archive Type designation that are not currently held by one of the six Archive Builders. This is a known blind spot in the WEST collections analysis and archiving process. Additionally, any journal families that were committed to archiving during Cycles 8 & 9 were removed from the data set. Based on these data, there are 21,026 journal families represented in the unarchived collections.

## 2 Archive type

The [WEST collection model](#) is unique in that each journal family is assigned a risk level based on its electronic availability at the time of analysis. These risk levels are categorized into Archive Types (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) that represent progressively more rigorous validation standards to mitigate the progressively sparser electronic availability for each risk level. The remaining journal families skew heavily to the Gold Archive Type, indicating limited or no electronic presence:

- **Bronze:** 670 journal families (3.2% of the total unarchived journal families)
- **Silver:** 3,369 journal families (16.0% of the total unarchived journal families)
- **Gold:** 16,987 journal families (80.8% of the total unarchived journal families)

The Gold Archive Type requires the most effort in terms of physical validation, and only WEST's six Archive Builders are currently able to retain those journal families. Because of this, WEST's capacity to archive these titles is limited, even though the data show that doing this work would be of great benefit to the program, both in terms of preserving the scholarly print record and potential deselection and space reclamation.

## 3 Duplication across WEST

Of the 21,026 journal families remaining, 18,540 (88.2%) are duplicated in 10 or fewer WEST institutions and 4,958 journal families only appear in a single institution (23.5% of the total remaining journal families). Nearly 20% of all unique unarchived journal families are categorized as Gold, meaning that they have limited or no electronic availability, and are held at only a single institution in WEST, meaning that they also have limited physical availability. The prevalence of high-risk journals with low duplication in the remaining unarchived holdings indicates that WEST has succeeded in securing retention commitments for low-risk titles (which are available electronically through trusted digital repositories and are "easy" to archive because of the minimal physical validation requirements) with high duplication across WEST, fulfilling the goal of offering members significant opportunities for space reclamation. Moving into the future, WEST's focus may increasingly be one of ensuring preservation and providing discovery of and access to more unique content.

## 4 Archiving by other shared print programs

Overall, most of the unarchived journal families in WEST (78.4%) have not been archived by other programs that disclose to the Print Archive Preservation Registry (PAPR), indicating that there is significant opportunity for WEST to establish archives that are of benefit not only to its members but also the wider shared print and scholarly communities. This ratio rises even higher when compared against Rosemont disclosures in PAPR: 92% of the remaining unarchived journal families in WEST have not been archived by any of our Rosemont partner programs.

## 5 Implications for WEST

As is to be expected, the six Archive Builders have the largest number of potential commitments, with the University of California's two Regional Library Facilities (RLFs) holding the largest portions. Together, the RLFs have been identified as the optimal archiver for 14,357 journal families, over 68% of the remaining journal families. Together the six Archive Builders have been identified as the optimal archiver for 20,542 journal families, representing 97.7% of the remaining journal families. The final 484 journal families are all Bronze, which are eligible for proposal to Archive Holders.

The impacts of these archiving efforts on the wider WEST membership are varied: Bronze journals tend to see wider duplication in WEST, which offers more opportunities for space reclamation, while Silver and Gold journals are at higher risk for loss, meaning that creating a trusted archive ensures that the scholarly record remains intact and available to all members. Member institutions report being comfortable deselecting journals that have reliable electronic availability, and these highly-duplicated Bronze journals represent a significant amount of potential space savings compared to the effort required to archive them. Responses to the 2019 member survey indicate that local practitioners do not find Bronze archives trustworthy in and of themselves, so archiving Bronze journals may be thought of more as a backstop to prevent the accidental and unintentional total loss of the physical backfile as libraries deselect against trusted digital repositories rather than the creation of a verified archive.

Silver and Gold journals, on the other hand, typically see lower levels of duplication in WEST, and largely do not offer the same kinds of opportunities for space reclamation in location institutions. However, archiving these journals does offer invaluable, if intangible, benefits to WEST members and the wider scholarly community. Silver and Gold Archives that have low duplication across WEST are unique and scarce materials that are at high risk of being lost without the preservation efforts of WEST Archive Builders. This loss of the scholarly record would be incalculable, and even though the majority of WEST institutions may not be able to capitalize on space savings, all members would be able to capitalize on securing access to the intellectual content contained within these volumes. The differing rationales and benefits of archiving journals with varying risk levels act in harmony with each other to create a well-rounded archiving model.

## 6 Conclusion

WEST has made significant progress in securing retention commitments for journal families in the Bronze and Silver Archive Types, but still has much to do in the highest risk Gold Archive Type which requires the greatest amount of effort from a restricted number of member institutions. WEST has secured retentions for a large portion of the more highly duplicated journals, providing extensive opportunities for members to reclaim space in their local libraries. Moving into the future, WEST will need to place more emphasis on preservation to ensure continued access to unique, scarce, and high-risk journals. Based on WEST's current collection model, the majority of this archiving work will fall to the program's six Archive Builders, though Archive Holders have the potential to continue making significant impacts by retaining the remaining highly duplicated journals.