



## The Value of Membership in the Western Regional Storage Trust

Western Regional Storage Trust

The [Western Regional Storage Trust](#) (WEST) is a distributed, collaborative, and sustainable journal archiving program that is transforming the manner in which print journal collections are housed and managed. The program's unique analysis capabilities mean that archiving decisions are made intentionally, and that higher risk materials are identified for physical validation and storage in environmentally-controlled, high-density storage facilities. Built-in development phases allow WEST to continually adapt to the dynamic landscape of print journals and expand its scope as needed. WEST looks beyond its own regional efforts to what is possible at the national level and how shared print builds networks ideal for pursuing related collaborative partnerships. WEST is not only a robust archive for print journals, it is also an invaluable collective for building shared policies, practices, expertise, and community directions in shared print and beyond.

### Over 30,000 Unique Titles and 830,000+ Volumes Archived

- WEST is one of the largest regional shared journal archiving programs in the U.S. in terms of the breadth of its membership and the number of titles and volumes it has archived to date.
- WEST is also unique in explicitly archiving materials in a variety of risk categories, including both titles available electronically and titles that are only available in print and thus have the greatest risk of collection loss. 26% of WEST titles have only selected full text available electronically and 27% have no full text available electronically. High risk materials undergo physical validation work and are stored in secure, environmentally regulated facilities to guarantee the quality of the archive.
- Through member participation, WEST continually evaluates its selection and analysis criteria in order to keep pace with the dynamic landscape of shared print and archiving goals.
- Participation in WEST provides assurance to key stakeholders that journal deselection projects operate within a strategic decision-making framework based on assured access to the collective collection.

### National Collaboration on and Access to Shared Print Materials

WEST is one of four regional shared print programs to found the national [Rosemont Shared Print Alliance](#). Since its founding, the Rosemont Alliance has expanded to include the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust, as of 2018, and the Center for Research Libraries, at the end of 2020. By moving shared print to the national level WEST members gain:

- Accelerated growth in the collective collection
- Access to material held by six other regional shared print programs (approximately 178,000 holdings)
- Common, predictable behaviors achieved through alignment of retention and access policies
- More distributed collections across regions (reducing risk by geographic diversity)
- Ability to prioritize what to archive next based on a national landscape of shared print retentions
- Pathway to address scarce copies through a last known copy initiative and agreement
- Influence over next-generation shared print infrastructure
- National leverage in the advocacy for shared print priorities with service providers and national partners

### Ongoing Development of a WEST Community and WEST Resources

Support for local journal review projects, through access to:

- *Upcoming:* Rosemont Alliance Last Known Copy Initiative Reports
- AGUA Annual Collection Comparison Reports (full members)
- AGUA On Demand Collection Comparison Reports (point-of-need reports available to all members)
- AGUA WEST Archived Titles Report
- Journal Retention and Needs Listing tool (JRNL) to fill gaps in archived holdings

WEST webinars keep the membership informed and refresh local expertise for shared print. Examples of recent webinars:

- [WEST Assessment](#)
- [Unarchived Holdings File Preparation](#)
- [On Demand Collection Comparison Report](#)
- [Rosemont Shared Print Alliance](#)

Additional member support and engagement activities include:

- WEST and CRL PAPER Metadata error reports
- WEST panels at biannual WEST member meetings to discuss topics relevant to members (past topics have included: local journal review and the impact of shared print; WEST's archive builders and the call for holdings; and the value of shared print)

### **Ongoing Systems Development and Refinement**

WEST seeks to respond to the needs of its community through regular systems development for the AGUA decision support tool. The WEST Executive Committee and Operations and Collections Council actively work with the project management team to prioritize development projects. Any WEST member may get involved in this aspect of the program by [proposing enhancements](#) or testing new features.

WEST also supports and participates on the Oversight Committee for the [Journal Retention and Needs Listing tool \(JRNL\)](#) developed and maintained at the University of Florida, which supports holdings exchange and gap filling among shared journal archiving programs.