WEST leverages collaborative action for the collective good, preserving print journals and serials across the western region of the US to support the library and scholarly communities' current and future teaching, learning, and research needs.

1 preservation

WEST’s collection model allows members to retain materials according to local needs. Institutions can choose to participate by archiving low-risk/low-effort Bronze materials, archiving higher-risk/higher-effort Silver and Gold, or contributing materials to complete retained backfiles. Together, WEST members are protecting over 830,000 volumes across nearly 33,000 titles, ensuring they’re available into the future.

2 access

WEST collections are only useful if they are usable. WEST provides national leadership promoting better discovery of shared print, including advocating with OCLC, dedicating in-house development time to enhancing local discovery of shared collections, and collaborating with peers, vendors, and service providers to build robust and comprehensive registries of shared print commitments.

3 physical space

When WEST Archivers make commitments to retain materials, other WEST members can rest assured that those materials will be available for the long-term. They can then choose to deselect their local copy and instead rely on the retained copy for access, freeing up library space for new materials or other uses.
preservation

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 members have retained over 830,000 volumes from nearly 33,000 titles covering a broad range of subjects and disciplines.** The collections are held in nearly 50 libraries and storage facilities across the western region of the US, with new collections added every year.

Participation in WEST assures stakeholders that journal deselection projects operate within a **strategic decision-making framework.** WEST is a founding member of the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance, a federation of shared print programs that **amplifies and contextualizes WEST’s work at the national level.** Expanding the **network of institutions and programs collaborating together** to preserve and protect the scholarly record allows WEST to **strategically deploy program and member resources** and broadens the **collections** for everyone.

The WEST collections analysis sorts journals according to **risk categories** based on electronic availability. High risk materials undergo **physical validation** work and are stored in secure, **environmentally regulated facilities.** This guarantees the **integrity and completeness** of these collections. 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.
access

When WEST Archivers agree to hold materials for the group, they also agree to make the retained materials available to members. **This guarantee supports continuity of access to content** for users, regardless of any decisions member institutions make about their local collections. This is especially important for the titles with little to no electronic availability.

In order for people to use the collections, they must be able to discover them. If students and scholars can't find materials, they may as well not exist. To support user access to the collective collection, **WEST is developing solutions for improved local discovery**.

WEST also prioritizes broader **advocacy for improved discovery of collective collections through vendors and service providers**. WEST partners with peer organizations to surface needs, find solutions, and **advocate for improvements** to the national shared print infrastructure.
One of the major benefits WEST offers its members is access to trusted archives of scholarly print journals, which in turn is used as a reference point to support local projects to reduce the footprint of their on-campus print collections. These projects allow member institutions to reallocate space in their libraries to support new collections and other, non-collection library and campus priorities.

Members weigh several factors when making these decisions. Bronze titles with reliable electronic access are typically preferred for major space reclamation projects. Silver and Gold have historically seen lower rates of deselection, likely due to the lower levels of electronic availability. As libraries grapple with managing the competing demands on their spaces, shared print offers a path forward for reclaiming and repurposing space while still retaining access to the materials students and scholars need.

WEST members have reported deselecting over 367,000 volumes from titles archived by WEST, but the true number is likely much higher. The library space reclaimed through these projects represent, new study spaces, new collections to support cutting-edge research, and new services to support user needs.

WEST members have reclaimed over 29,300 square feet of library space.