Western Regional Storage Trust WEST Archiving Language Change: What You Need to Know

What's changing?

WEST is transitioning away from using the terminology of 'archive type' - Bronze, Silver, and Gold - to plain language descriptions of the characteristics archive types historically communicated.



How did WEST come to this decision?

This decision was a multi-step process consisting of:

- OCC review
- Archive Builder review
- Rosemont Operations Committee
 engagement
- WEST member survey



Why are we making this change?

- Lays the foundation for simplifying the WEST collections and archiving models
- Focuses disclosure work on explicitly recording archiving activities and validation outcomes
- Simplifies interpretation of disclosure notes by end users



What actions do WEST archivers need to take?

- Follow the updated guidelines for disclosure, which omit archive types from WEST disclosure notes
- **No action** is requested in terms of previously disclosed commitments (legacy disclosures)

What are the archive type characteristics of Bronze, Silver, and Gold, and how are they communicated in plain language?

- **Then:** Bronze, Silver, and Gold have historically been used to communicate *both* a snapshot in time risk level (based on electronic availability) and what validation actions were taken during archiving (e.g. completeness and condition review).
- Now: Since risk level fluctuates as more titles are deposited with trusted digital repositories, it is best to compare the titles in question against the WEST or PAPR databases to discover if they have been digitally preserved in one of the trusted digital repositories (including, HathiTrust Digital Library, CLOCKSS, Portico, or JSTOR).
- Now: To determine what validation actions were taken when archiving titles, please see the MARC 583\$a which discloses whether completeness and condition were reviewed as part of the archiving process. While completeness and condition review are not required for all WEST titles, there are libraries who voluntarily do this work where it is not required.

Archiving Language Change Cheat Sheet

Then: Archive Type	Then and Now: Risk Profile	Now: Risk Level	Validation Requirements	Storage Requirement	Gap Filling	Actions to Disclose	Archiving Members
Bronze	Print and electronic full text in trusted digital repositories (e.g. CLOCKSS, JSTOR, Portico, HathiTrust Digital Library)	Low	None	None	Archivers accept gifts/ transfers but are not responsible for seeking out missing materials	583\$a committed to retain	Archive Holders / Builders
Silver	Print with selected full text access through databases	Medium	Basic condition check Completeness validation at the issue level Summary Holdings Updates	Materials housed in secure storage	Archivers seek out missing materials and accept gifts/transfers	583\$a committed to retain 583\$a completeness reviewed (with outcomes of validation) 583\$a condition reviewed(outcomes of validation optional)	Archive Builders
Gold	Print with electronic abstracting or indexing, or no electronic coverage at all	High	Basic condition check Completeness validation at the issue level Summary Holdings Updates	Materials housed in secure storage	Archivers seek out missing materials and accept gifts/transfers	583\$a committed to retain 583\$a completeness reviewed (with outcomes of validation) 583\$a condition reviewed(outcomes of validation optional)	Archive Builders