

Prospective Shared Print Assessment Report & Recommendations [Public Version]

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Introduction

Prospective shared print, also referred to as collaborative collection development, decision-making takes place at the point of selection and acquisitions. This is in contrast to retrospective shared print, for which decision-making takes place toward the end of the lifecycle of collections at the point of program assessment, collection management, and preservation.

UC Libraries have a rich history of experimenting in prospective shared print initiatives. In the early 2000's, UC established pilots and small-scale projects that centered on specific subject areas or publishers - examples include the Canadian Literature monographs pilot and Shared Print for Licensed Content (SPLC) journals initiative.

In 2006, an early assessment of the UC's shared print program, including the early prospective experiments, reported that,

To a large extent, the prospective program does not need strong advocacy any more; it needs analysis, cost-modeling, and coordination, functions which can either be centralized in one person or—more in the spirit of the collective, distributed and/or rotated.

Following that assessment, the UC Libraries shared print staff and shared print leadership groups launched a collaborative collection development toolkit¹ and series of policies and practices to undergird prospective shared print activities, including the Shared Print in Place for Prospective Collections and the Common Access Policy for Shared Print in Place Collections.²

The launch of the toolkit and supporting resources resulted in a burst of activity during which more than 15 prospective shared print agreements were established by subject specialists with the oversight of a central systemwide team - originally the Collection Development Committee (CDC) and later the Shared Print Strategy Team (SPST).

¹ <https://cdlib.org/services/collections/sharedprint/toolkit/>

² <https://cdlib.org/services/collections/sharedprint/models/policies/>

However, by 2022 the establishment of new agreements had stopped and the maintenance of the previously established agreements had stagnated. The Shared Print Strategy Team received a number of inquiries in 2022 from campuses who discovered retention notes made in catalog records, but were uncertain of their continuing obligations. The SPST provided initial guidance to campuses to maintain previously made commitments and prepared to assess UC's prospective shared print efforts overall.

Summary Findings

Learning from previously established UC prospective shared print initiatives

- The basic structures of shared print, including setting up intercampus agreements, inserting identifying notes into the metadata, and regular tracking have served previously established prospective initiatives well
- Moving forward, UC prospective initiatives need more documentation and monitoring, with centralized management of these two aspects of the work maintenance
- Previously established initiatives leveraged a range of criteria for selecting content for prospective shared print including the subject specialist prioritization, lack of digital copies, and the existence of a system wide license for journal titles; new guidance is needed on what the priorities of prospective shared print should be

Lessons from current prospective models external to UC

There are not many robust, existing prospective shared print models external to UC for reference. However, the examples that were examined as part of this assessment surfaced several **strategies** that could work well for UC Libraries, including:

- Intensive documentation and communication
- Informal and formal 'rules' that trigger certain actions
- Balancing the risk of a shared strategy with impact for individual libraries

Models external to UC also demonstrate shared **challenges** that are likely to continue to manifest as UC moves forward, including:

- Limitations of vendor infrastructure
- Achieving seamless discovery
- Shifting campus culture
- Coming to consensus on the criteria that guide what a group of libraries continues to collect in print

Present needs and opportunities according to systemwide UC collections experts

The Shared Print Strategy Team (SPST) engaged in a Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results exercise to surface present needs and opportunities. SPST's outcomes were reviewed by and commented on by the Shared Content Leadership Group (SCLG). Between the two, several important themes emerged:

- The print we collect through new prospective initiatives must serve a clear need (e.g. is demand-driven, not available in an e-format, and/or reduces ongoing collecting redundancy across UC campuses)
- The initiatives we create should improve user experience (e.g. provide access to more content)

- We must regularly assess the initiatives to clearly demonstrate their performance in key areas of need including: repurposing space, increasing the diversity of the collection users have access to, and improving user experience
 - Regular assessment should feed into communication pipelines that supports campus libraries to demonstrate the value proposition of library collective collections and the targeted acquisition of print
- The UC campuses are actively grappling with significant collection budget cuts and reallocations that are calling into question what degree of *collection building* continues to be possible; or, given the constraints, if the focus of available resources must be on demonstrated user needs
- Resourcing for prospective shared print initiatives remains a major question that requires further investigation and discussion
 - The newly centralized funding for the Systemwide Library Facilities (formerly, the Regional Library Facilities) reflects the increasing priority in the UC Libraries system for shared services and resources

Recommendations

1. Harmonize documentation and guidance for past initiatives

- a. Draft and affirm a decision memo detailing the previously established prospective agreements that have lapsed; affirm that while campuses should continue to retain previously committed items collected as part of these agreements, they are no longer obligated to continue to collect the content
- b. Update the [CDL shared print agreements page](#) to reclassify previously established prospective agreements as inactive; establish a standalone archive of documentation and agreements in the CDL Shared Print documentation structure; update links to connect to CDL Shared Print documentation

2. Develop and launch a pilot for shared acquisition of print books that are not available in electronic format (i.e., titles excluded from ebook packages as identified by the eBook Strategy Team)

- a. The Shared Print Strategy Team considered a range of pilot opportunities, and through discussion and voting this pilot scope rose to the top
- b. A pilot prospectus is included in [Appendix 3](#) - please note that the timeline for the pilot will depend on the capacity and prioritization of the groups involved

3. Observe best practices in the development of the pilot and any future prospective shared print pilots or initiatives

- a. Establish new prospective initiatives in alignment with established shared print best practices (e.g., document the agreement, insert shared print notes into the metadata, disclose in national registries)
- b. Articulate metrics of success, as well as assessment and communication plans at the outset of any new prospective shared print initiative
- c. Create a robust documentation strategy for new prospective agreements and their related policies
 - i. documentation should be stewarded by the CDL Shared Print Team in a central location that is easily accessible by all campuses
 - ii. documentation should be backed up in a permanent location stewarded by the CDL Shared Print Team

Appendix 3. Pilot Prospectus

Filling Gaps in eBook Packages with Print

While prospective shared print has been a goal of UC Libraries, the rapidly changing academic library landscape and resource constraints have made it all the more essential to target print collective collecting efforts with precision. Prospective shared print initiatives must serve a clear user need, expand access to content, and/or improve user experience.

The UC Libraries collaborate closely on the assessment and acquisition of eBook packages. In the course of evaluating eBook packages, the [eBook Strategy Team \(EBST\)](#) identifies gaps in eBook packages that are purchased as systemwide resources. SPST proposes collaborating on this existing work by coordinating the purchase of print copies to fill gaps in eBook packages already prioritized for their teaching and research value by expert groups such as the EBST and the Shared Content Leadership Group (SCLG).

The pilot would involve defining and testing:

- criteria and a decision-making workflow for when gaps in eBook packages are advanced for print monograph purchase;
- the opportunity to resource this prospective shared print initiative through the augmentation funds process; and
- operational workflows including the cataloging and processing of print monographs purchased to fill gaps in eBook packages.

The end goal would be to set up a prospective shared print initiative and workflow that has a real impact on equitable user access while being low maintenance and aligned with existing electronic purchase workflows.