



Western Regional Storage Trust

Cycles 16 & 17 Collections Analysis Report

Prepared for the WEST Operations and Collections Council

Prepared by the WEST Project Team

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WEST Operations and Collections Council

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1. Context

A. Cycles 16 & 17 Collection Characteristics

The Operations and Collections Council analyzes the regional journal holdings submitted by WEST members every other year. The purpose of the analysis is to prioritize approximately two-years' worth of archiving proposals for WEST members.

In the fall of 2025, all WEST member institutions were invited to submit files of unarchived serials holdings and bibliographic records to AGUA, which were used as the foundation of the 2026 collections analysis for Archive Cycles 16 & 17.¹

WEST received files of unarchived print journal and serial holdings from 53 OCLC institution symbols, representing 47 WEST member institutions. In total five members contributed in analysis for the first time this cycle; four new WEST members submitted data for analysis (Colorado College, The Illinois Institute of Technology Galvin Library, The Newberry Library, and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine) in addition to one continuing member who contributed to unarchived holdings for the first time (Colorado Mesa University). 1,369,723 records were loaded into AGUA. 733,947 records matched to a journal family. This is a 53% match rate, which is consistent with the last analysis.

B. Cycles 16 & 17 collections analysis priorities and scope

The WEST OCC sets priorities for and oversees each WEST collections analysis. In consultation with the OCC, the WEST analyst applies collections criteria in the AGUA Decision Support System to redistribute backfiles, identify journal families with desired characteristics, and further winnow down title lists through prioritized criteria.

- a. Overarching priorities:
 - i. National collaboration - what is retained in shared print collections across the U.S. and Canada
 - ii. Diversify and broaden the WEST shared print collection
- b. Areas of focus include serials and journals that are:
 - i. Relatively scarcely held in WEST and the U.S.
 - ii. Not widely retained in the Print Archives Preservation Registry (PAPR)²
 - iii. Relatively complete at the proposed archiving location
 - iv. Published in the Global South and/or characterized by a publication language other than English
- c. Pre-analysis Exclusions

The following exclusion criteria were applied automatically for all categories during the member holdings ingest period:

 - i. Journals in holdings location codes excluded by WEST libraries
 - ii. Government documents (as cataloged in the source record or in Ulrich's)
 - iii. LC classifications K (as assigned in Ulrich's)
 - iv. Grandfathered UC (IEEE)

¹ Member archiving work for the next two cycles will extend from fall 2026—when members submit their archiving commitments—to spring 2028—when members submit disclosures for Cycle 17. Please see [WEST Current Work and Future Milestones](#) for more details.

² [PAPR](#) is the most comprehensive database of serial and journal holdings archived by print archiving and shared print programs in North America.

- v. Title keywords “monograph” and “online”
- vi. Library holdings matching "micro"
- vii. Library holdings matching "online"
- viii. Titles already archived by WEST
- ix. In-progress WEST archiving commitments (from Cycles 14 & 15)

2. Cycles 16 & 17 Archiving Proposals

A. Archive Holder Proposals

Any WEST member may serve as an Archive Holder. Archive Holders are not required to perform any physical validation or transfer archived titles to storage facilities. However, if a Holder chooses to voluntarily validate titles they archive, WEST encourages those actions to be recorded in the disclosure record.³

a. *Prioritized Criteria for Archive Holder Proposals*

During the Cycles 16 & 17 collections analysis, the OCC prioritized the following criteria for Archive Holder proposals:

- i. *National collaboration* - prioritize content with 0-2 archived copies disclosed by other shared print programs through the Print Archives Preservation Registry (PAPR)⁴
- ii. *Scarcity* - prioritize content with 10 or fewer WEST holdings and 35 or fewer OCLC US holdings
- iii. *Expand the breadth of the archived collection* - prioritize titles with less commonly represented languages (first publication language is NOT English) and publication countries (located in the Global South)⁵
- iv. *Completeness* - when not in conflict with expanding the breadth of archived content and protecting high-risk content, prioritize titles for which archivers have relatively complete holdings (75% or greater)⁶

b. *Characteristics of Final Archive Holder Proposals*

The majority of Archive Holder proposals have not been archived by other shared print programs that disclose their commitments in PAPR. Archive Holders will be contributing to broadening the national collection of retained content.

# of Other Archived Copies	Percent of Proposals
No Other Archived Copies	72%
1 Other Archived Copy	23%
2 Other Archived Copies	5%

Table 1. Percent of Archive Holder proposals by presence of other archived copies in PAPR.

³ Please see [Voluntary Validation Guidelines for WEST Low Risk Materials](#).

⁴ JSTOR content (Title Category 6) is a common target for journal review and strategic deselection. Based on that and the relatively small number of JSTOR titles left to archive in the WEST universe of content, the OCC opted to exclude only JSTOR titles with 3 or more archived copies in PAPR.

⁵ Source: http://www.fc-ssc.org/en/partnership_program/south_south_countries. Note that for higher-risk, more scarce content—specifically Title Category 2—WEST lifted language and country parameters.

⁶ For journal families with less than 75% of published volumes, propose all those with a publication country in the Global South and 3+ estimated volumes, as well as all those in Title Category 2 (high-risk/no builder) with 3+ estimated volumes due to that Title Category's higher risk level and higher scarcity as a whole.

Actively prioritizing less common languages and publication countries located in the Global South also made a significant impact on the diversity of WEST’s proposals, continuing the work started in Cycles 14 & 15, where these criteria were first leveraged to expand the breadth of the collection. 43% of titles proposed for Cycle 16 & 17 have a primary publication language other than English. Additionally, 54% of Cycle 16 & 17 Archive Holder proposals are published by a country in the Global South. This is an 18% increase from Cycle 14 & 15, when these criteria were first introduced. In total, there are well over 100 countries of publication represented in this year’s set of Archive Holder proposals.

Overall, Archive Holders have the opportunity to broaden the WEST collection by targeting less common languages and publication countries in the Global South.

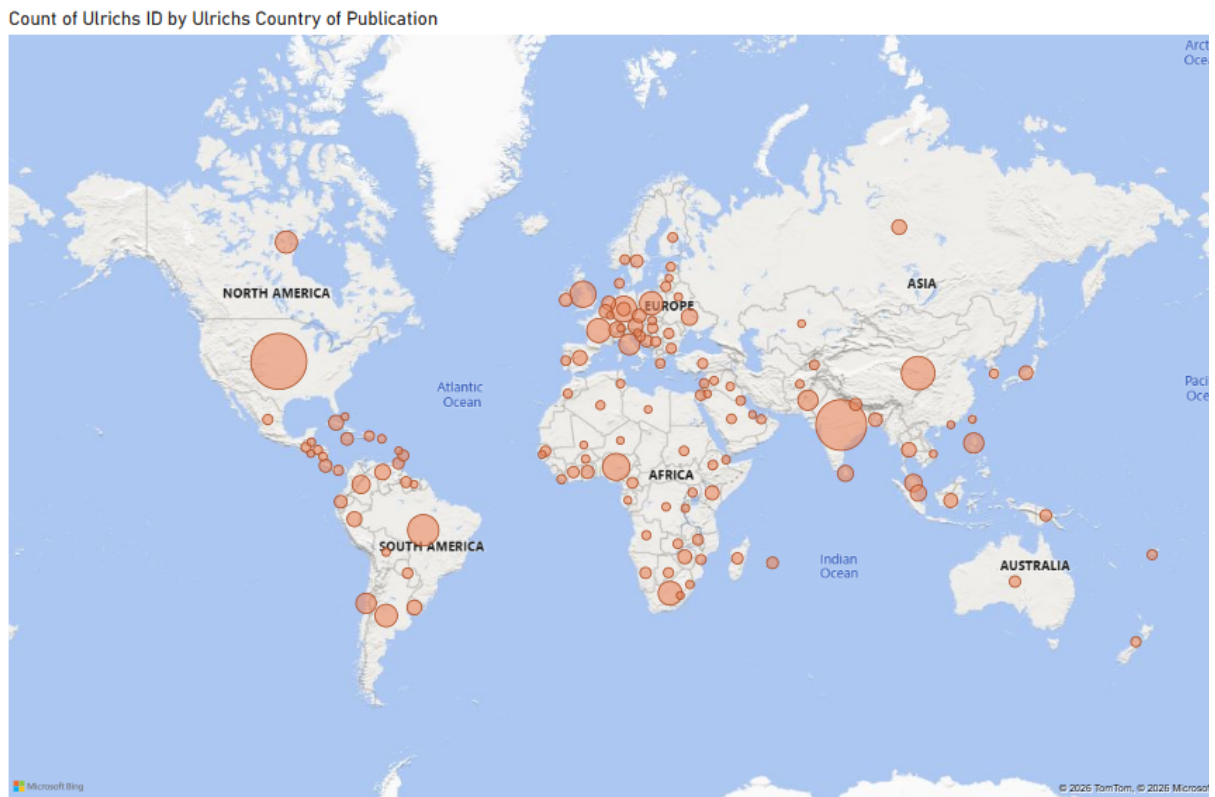


Figure 1. Archive Holder proposals grouped by country of publication.

Finally, while the Cycles 14 & 15 proposals to Archive Holders differed from the previous cycles in that WEST proposed almost twice as many journal families, Cycle 16 & 17 proposals will be a return to the previous average volume of proposals per Archive Holder. However, it is worth noting that during the last Archive Cycle, despite the higher than usual volume of proposals, the OCC found that the rate of commitment remained stable and Archive Holders committed to, on average, 60% of the journal families proposed.

Category	# Proposed Journal Families
HTDL, Portico, CLOCKSS (TC1)	1,756
High-risk, No-builder (TC2)	1,702
JSTOR (TC6)	33
Grand Total	3,491

Table 2. Final Count of Archive Holder Proposals

See the [Appendix](#) for proposals per Archive Holder.

B. Archive Builder Proposals

During Cycles 16 & 17, three WEST institutions continue as Archive Builders. Archive Builders undertake more intensive archiving work for higher risk content. Builders physically validate and transfer committed content to storage facilities that meet WEST’s environmental standards, and proactively call for holdings in order to fill gaps in the archived titles.

a. Cycles 16 & 17 Archive Building Budget Allocations

Setting the budget for archive cycles involves consultation with the OCC and Project Team on projected volume of content, consultation with Builders to understand their capacity for the following two years, and final decision-making by the WEST Executive Committee considering those consultations and the available funds. The WEST Executive Committee endorsed an archive creation budget not to exceed \$190,000 for Cycles 16 & 17.⁷

Archive Builder	FY26-27 (Cycle 16)	FY27-28 (Cycle 17)	Total Budget
MU	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
UC SLF-N	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
UC SLF-S	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$70,000
Total	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$190,000

Table 3. Cycles 16 & 17 Archive Building Budget

⁷ The Archiving Building budget supports a per volume subsidy of \$7 per volume to support the Builders work in transferring the holdings into storage, physically validating the holdings, and calling for volumes to fill gaps.

b. Prioritized Criteria for Archive Builder Proposals

During the Cycles 16 & 17 collections analysis, the OCC prioritized the following criteria for Archive Builder proposals:

- i. *National collaboration* - prioritize content with 0-2 archived copies disclosed by other national shared print program through the Print Archives Preservation Registry (PAPR)
- ii. *Builder-specific criteria* - for the University of California Systemwide Library Facilities (SLFs), prioritize journal families where the SLFs have local holdings

c. Other priority criteria not applied for Archive Builder Proposals

The priority of archiving content that lacks other archived copies met the available capacity of the Builders. Therefore, the following criteria were not applied:

- i. *Scarcity* - prioritize content with 10 or fewer WEST holdings and 35 or fewer OCLC US holdings
- ii. *Expand the breadth of the archived collection* - prioritize titles with less commonly represented languages and publication countries
- iii. *Completeness* - when not in conflict with expanding the breadth of archived content, prioritize titles for which archivers have relatively complete holdings (75% or greater)

d. Characteristics of Final Archive Builder Proposals

The majority of Archive Builder proposals have not been archived by other shared print programs that disclose their commitments in PAPR. Like Archive Holders, Archive Builders will be contributing to broadening the national collection of retained content.

# of Other Archived Copies	Percent of Proposals
No Other Archived Copies	85%
1 Other Archived Copy	12%
2 Other Archived Copies	3%

Table 4. Percentage of Proposed Journal Families with other Archived Copies in PAPR.

The Archive Builder proposals align strongly with the priority to center national collaboration in WEST's archiving strategy. While the Archive Builder proposals were not shaped to prioritize less common languages and specific countries of publication, they are generally less common titles. The average number of WEST holdings for the Builder proposals is 2.5 and the average number of OCLC US holdings is 24. Furthermore, even though completeness was not specifically prioritized, these titles are also relatively complete with 50% of the published run held on average.

Archive Builder	Select full-text in commercial databases (TC3)	Electronic abstracting & indexing (TC4)	No electronic access points (TC5)	Total estimated volumes
MU	1,262	542	772	2,576
UC SLF-N	6,920	3,260	7,206	17,386
UC SLF-S	1,089	2,161	6,415	9,665
Grand Total	9,271	5,963	14,393	29,627

Table 5. Final Count of Archive Builder Proposals

Appendix: Summary of Cycles 16 & 17 Proposals to Archive Holders

Proposed Archiver Name	OCLC Symbol	Count of Journal Families	Estimated # of Volumes
Stanford University	STF, S7Z	1209	22948
University of Washington	WAU	391	8503
UC Berkeley	CUY	317	9027
UCLA	CLU	214	5334
SLF-North	ZAP	185	5828
Iowa State University	IWA	167	3325
Newberry Library	IBV	134	4006
Colorado State University, Fort Collins	COF	125	1672
The Getty Research Institute	JPG	95	1825
Baylor University	IYU	85	1422
UC San Diego	CUS	74	1812
Oklahoma State University	OKS	72	892
University of Arizona	AZU, AZL	54	1067
UC Davis	CUV	38	889
Illinois Institute of Technology, Galvin Library	IAH	34	457
University of Denver	DVP	33	484
Kansas State University	KKS	31	446
University of Missouri	MUU, MMU	44	1220
Claremont Colleges	HDC	25	786
Southern Methodist University	ISB	23	484
UC Santa Barbara	CUT	16	325
Oregon State University	ORE	16	249
Portland State University	ORZ	15	301
UC Riverside	CRU	14	318
Utah State University	UUS	14	199
University of Oklahoma	OKU	13	140
University of Wyoming	WYU	10	188
University of San Francisco	CUF	8	103

Colorado Mesa University	COM	5	37
Southern Illinois University Medical Library	IAV	5	31
Southern Methodist University	ISM	5	78
UC Santa Cruz	CUZ	3	61
Southern Methodist University	IUF	3	66
University of San Diego	CDU	2	28
Mount Saint Mary's University	CMM	2	23
Colorado College	COC	2	17
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus	COU	2	20
San Jose State University	CSJ	2	12
UC Irvine	CUI	2	37
UC San Francisco	CUN	1	22
St. Mary's College of California	GH0	1	25