



Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC) January 2017 PAN Update Report

Collection Analysis Service

As of January 2017, Maine Shared Collections Librarian Matthew Revitt and the contracted MSCC Systems Librarian Sara Amato have worked with 37 Maine libraries on analyzing their print monograph collections. MSCC provides libraries with spreadsheet reports that can be used to identify both retention and withdrawal candidates. The libraries are charged a one-off fee to cover the costs of Sara extracting holdings data from OCLC WorldCat, local ILS systems, and MaineCat and compiling the spreadsheets.

On average, 37% of the print monograph collections of the libraries the MSCC have worked with so far already have MSCC retention commitments at another library, which means substantial withdrawal opportunities.

Identifying Additional Retention Commitments

Generally, the titles identified as retention candidates during the collection analysis process are those where there are less than ten holdings in OCLC, is not an existing MSCC retention commitment, and content of scholarly value and/or Maine related. While at public libraries this mostly means local history and genealogical titles and fiction with a local setting, at academic institutions there have been relatively large numbers of rare titles in the subject strength of these institutions. On average, the number of titles identified as potential retention candidates account for less than 1% of the library's print monograph collection, so even at small libraries this is not seen as being too onerous of a burdenⁱ. There's also the opportunity to transfer items to another MSCC member for retention.

Membership in the Maine Shared Collections Cooperative

MSCC membership has more than trebled over the past two years. Of the 37 libraries that the MSCC have worked with, 27 have so far formally joined the Cooperative, making 36 members across the state. The new members have collectively agreed to retain approximately 1,600 print monograph titlesⁱⁱ. Although the number of commitments are small, the analysis is highlighting titles both the local libraries and the state collection didn't realize were rare as they are. Also, it's significant in a state like Maine to work with these libraries who wouldn't otherwise be included in such analysis, since they are not in OCLC, and lack the resources to contract with a commercial collection analysis vendor.

Documenting Retention Commitments

All new retention commitments are added to the relevant local Innovative and Koha ILS systems. Most new members are also checking to ensure the items they agree to retain are not missing or damaged: a note is added in the MARC 583 field to indicate this checking has been carried out. New members are also physically labelling retained items to indicate they have a retention commitment and therefore shouldn't be pulled for withdrawal.

All MSCC retention commitments flow from local catalogs to the central union catalog, MaineCat, and are displayed in the catalog's OPACⁱⁱⁱ.

MSCC are in contact with OCLC regarding the "retro-fitting" of the 1.4 million commitments MSCC have already registered using Shared Print Symbols to the new shared print holding type.

MSCC Involvement in EAST

Since March 2016, Maine Shared Collection Librarian Matthew Revitt has also been the Shared Print Consultant for the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST).

Colby College is currently the only MSCC library that is a member of EAST, but other academic MSCC libraries have been contacted by EAST as part of their efforts to recruit new members. Having already made a commitment to retaining 265,246 titles for MSCC, Colby have agreed to retain an additional 43,131 titles on behalf of EAST. These commitments have been disclosed in both Colby's local catalog and MaineCat. Colby representatives have been actively involved on a number of the different EAST committees.

Planning for Group Collection Analysis

The MSCC Collections and Operations Committee continue its planning for the next group MSCC collection analysis in 2019. The analysis will include holdings from both the original grant libraries and new libraries that have joined since. New members were surveyed in the fall of 2016 and the vast majority indicated their willingness to participate in the 2019 analysis. MSCC are considering different collection analysis tools and support services to facilitate the group analysis, including working again with OCLC Sustainable Collection Services.

Thank you to Clem

Clem Guthro, Director of Colby College Libraries is leaving Colby in March 2016 to become Dean of the University Library at California State Fullerton. Clem has played a massive part in the success of Maine Shared Collections first as a PI for the original IMLS grant funded project and now as chair of the Maine Shared Collections Cooperative. Thank you Clem!

ⁱ "MSC Data Comparisons", <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/166pguY5D5GLSZH0XQzeYOOlujbRRVT7gS2jk7Dn4PB4/pubhtml?gid=1086627895&single=true>

ⁱⁱ "Members", <http://www.maineinonet.org/mscs/about/partners/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Example of MaineCat retention commitment display, <https://mainecat.maine.edu/record=b1039697~S0>