Shared Responsibility for Shared Collections

What can we learn from shared print programs?

Federal Depository Library Conference
October 22, 2024

Who we are

Valerie Glenn, Business and Public Affairs Collections Librarian, Virginia Commonwealth University

Shari Laster, Head of Open Collections Curation and Access, Arizona State University

Jesse Silva, Scholarly Resources Strategy and Federal Government Information Librarian, University of California, Berkeley

Rebecca Crist, Program Coordinator for Shared Collections Resources, ASERL/Scholars Trust

Session overview

1. What is shared print?
2. Why shared print?
3. Examples
   a. Scholars Trust
   b. Fed Doc Arc
4. National Collection Service Areas (NCSA) refresher
5. Shared print and the FDLP

What is shared print?

According to the Partnership for Shared Print: "Shared print is the practice whereby a group of libraries share responsibility for managing print materials."

- WWII era: Farmington Plan
  - Cooperative effort to ensure American libraries had at least one copy of any book of research interest
- 1949: Midwest Inter-Library Center (now the Center for Research Libraries)
  - Initial collaborative program to microfilm international newspapers

The early 2000s laid groundwork for modern programs with a series of reports, conferences, and grant-funded projects to build new models for these programs.
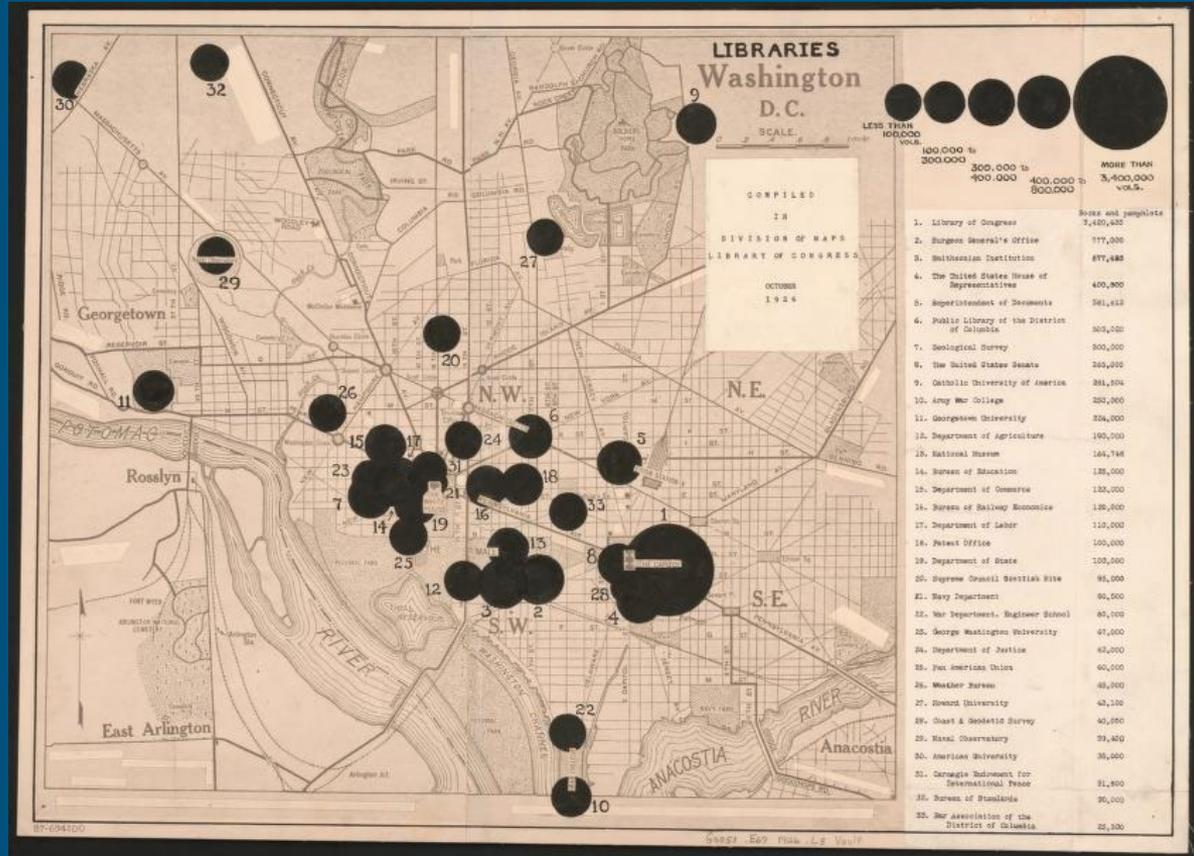
Why shared print?

Shared print programs make it possible for a group of libraries to collectively manage physical collections.

- Member libraries may make financial or in-kind contributions to support the program, and may also participate in directing the program's activities
- Some libraries also take responsibility for preservation and access of specified materials as part of their participation

At scale, these partnerships provide preservation and access services on behalf of the national library community.

Why shared print?

"The purpose of shared print programs has been nearly universal: to ensure the long-term retention and accessibility of print materials for future researchers. They have built relationships, technological systems, data standards, and services around this goal."
(Weltin, Wohlers & Wood, 2024b)

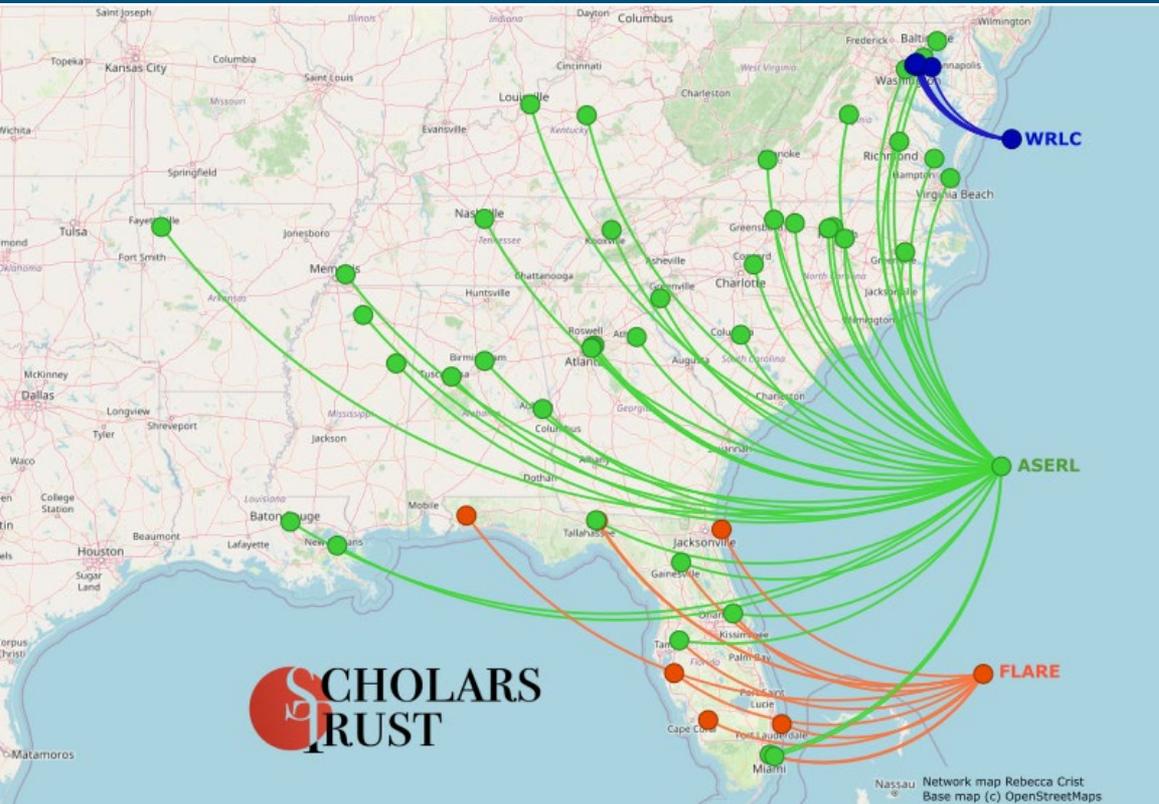Library of Congress. Map Division. *Libraries, Washington D.C.* [1926] Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/87694100/.

Shared print programs in North America

An incomplete list…

- Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared Print Repository (CICBTAA-SPR)
- Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI)
- Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust (EAST)
- Florida Academic Libraries Repository (FLARE)
- HathiTrust Shared Print Program
- North: The Canadian Shared Print Network / Nord: Réseau canadien de conservation partagée des documents imprimés (North/Nord)
- Scholars Trust
- The Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP)
- SCELC Shared Print Program
- University of California Libraries (UC Libraries)
- Virginia's Academic Library Consortium (VIVA)
- Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)
- Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST)

For more, see: http://papr.crl.edu/program/

Example 1: Scholars Trust

- 3 Consortia
  - ASERL
  - FLARE
  - WRLC
- 62 (mostly academic) Institutions
- About 51,400 serials titles
- Stored in 89 locations
- Focus on space savings and print preservation

Scholars Trust: Lessons Learned

- Your shared print program is only as good as your data

- Policies define the program

- People *make* the program

- Central coordination helps

- Collaborate–others are facing the same challenges

Scholars Trust: Lessons Learned

- Have a plan for when things go wrong, because they will

- Don't let perfection prevent the perfectly good from happening– things will never be perfect!

Example 2: UC's FedDocArc

- UC's Federal Documents Archive (FedDocArc) is a shared print collection of over 250K historical documents (mostly monographic print titles) within the University of California system.
- One print copy of every document from 6 campuses is included. Dupes were digitized for HathiTrust.
- Each campus decided what it retained and what it weeded. No campus was forced to weed, but local weeding projects did occur.

UC's FedDocArc: Lessons Learned

- When building FedDocArc, UC encountered a lot of fear from librarians within the FDLP community.
- We talked through each issue with several meetings with GPO, our regional, and others curious about what we were doing.
- Fears included:
  - Librarian identity with the potential loss of a print collection
  - UC losing/abandoning our FDLP collection

UC's FedDocArc: Lessons Learned

What we learned

- Fear is infectious. Rumors spread fast. Bring it to light and honestly talk about it.
- Large shared print projects can be done with very little budget with people giving bits of time. It can take a while to accomplish something big.
- Even with careful and thoughtful planning, surprises happen.
- Be flexible with ambitious projects. It's ok to scale back if needed.
- FedDocArc has helped UC manage our collective collection better.

NCSA model refresher

National Collection Service Areas (NCSAs) group Federal Depository Libraries into four areas as a means of:

- Ensuring geographically dispersed permanent public access to Federal Government Information products
- Sharing resources among depository libraries
- Receiving services from GPO

Each NCSA has a Steering Committee, which are in the process of developing plans to collaboratively manage FDLP collections.

Shared print and the FDLP

There are some obvious commonalities:

- Shared Housing Agreements (SHAs) are a long-standing feature within the FDLP
- Preservation stewards record commitments for preservation

"Fun fact" – many shared print programs have historically excluded government publications, in part under an assumption that the FDLP is shared print!

Shared print and the FDLP

We are facing many of the same challenges…

- Identifying who has what and determining who is willing to retain what
- Encouraging preservation commitments
- Improving data accuracy, including cataloging and holdings information
- Conducting condition assessments and validating retention commitments
- Responsibly addressing membership turnover

Shared print and the FDLP

… and many of the same opportunities:

- Using digital capabilities to provide the most materials to the greatest number of users
- Building capacity for innovative services and strengthening networks by moving away from siloized models
- Using data analysis to improve program outcomes

Thank you!
Questions?

Works consulted

Clement, Susanne K. "From Collaborative Purchasing Towards Collaborative Discarding: The Evolution of the Shared Print Repository." *Collection management*, 37.3-4 (2012): 153–167. https://doi.org/10.1080/01462679.2012.685413.

Kieft, Robert H. & Lizanne Payne. "Collective Collection, Collective Action." *Collection Management*, 37.3-4 (2012): 137–152. https://doi.org/10.1080/01462679.2012.685411.

Lavoie, Brian, Lorcan Dempsey, & Constance Malpas. "Reflections on Collective Collections." *College & Research Libraries*, 81.6 (2020): 981. https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.81.6.981.

Maiorana, Zachary, Ian Bogus, Mary Miller, Jacob Nadal, Katie Risseeuw, & Jennifer Hain Teper. "Everything Not Saved Will Be Lost: Preservation in the Age of Shared Print and Withdrawal Projects." *College & Research Libraries*, 80.7 (2019): 945. https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.80.7.945.

Partnership for Shared Print. "Shared Print Toolkit." *Shared Print Partnership.* https://toolkit.sharedprint.org/

U.S. Government Publishing Office. "National Collection Service Areas." https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/national-collection-service-areas

Weltin, Heather, Alison Wohlers, & Amy Wood. "Guest Post - Shared Print Down the Rabbit Hole." *The Scholarly Kitchen*, 6 Mar. 2024, https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2024/03/06/guest-post-shared-print-down-the-rabbit-hole/.

Weltin, Heather, Alison Wohlers, & Amy Wood. "Guest Post - Shared Print & Sustainability through the Looking Glass." *The Scholarly Kitchen*, 7 Mar. 2024, https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2024/03/07/guest-post-shared-print-sustainability-through-the-looking-glass/.