COPPUL Shared Print Archive Network (SPAN) Report
COPPUL Directors’ Meeting, September 2020

Executive Summary
Since our last report in February 2020, and despite the massive disruptions in our sector caused by the COVID pandemic, the SPAN Management Committee has carried on with our work as best we can. The Committee welcomed Cindy Sjoberg from the University of Saskatchewan in August and said goodbye to Jean Blackburn (VIU). Doug Brigham has begun his second three-year term as SPAN Coordinator and Matt Kaufhold will remain working with us until December. We completed Phase 4 in April and conducted feedback sessions with SPAN Monograph Project participants in May and June. The extended response deadline for Phase 5 has come and gone with a complete response rate. Phases 6 and 7 are beginning to take shape in very exciting ways, and we are planning consultations with the COPPUL Collections Community and subject matter experts within our network. Doug continues to represent SPAN at various national and international tables and to situate our work within the larger shared print landscape.

Management Committee and Staff Updates
The SPAN Management Committee welcomed a new member in August: Cindy Sjoberg, Operations Manager of Collection Services from the University of Saskatchewan. Cindy has been in this role since 2018, and has many years of Technical Services experience from her time with the Saskatoon Public Library. Jean Blackburn (Vancouver Island University) finished her double term on the committee in August. Trish Chatterley (University of Alberta) is beginning her second term and is serving as Chair. The Management Committee meets monthly via teleconference and members engage in project work in smaller teams between meetings, as required.

The Committee is extremely pleased that Doug Brigham has agreed to renew his appointment as SPAN Coordinator for another three years - thank you and congratulations, Doug! We’re also fortunate to have our student assistant Matt Kaufhold continue his work with SPAN, focusing on data management and presentation, until December 2020.

General updates
Matt completed his work reconciling SPAN retentions from phases 1 through 3 in PAPR earlier this spring - well done on this significant undertaking, Matt! Matt has also been doing some invaluable work assembling our consolidated list of Archived Titles. The Archived Titles page ([https://coppul.ca/programs/span/archived-titles](https://coppul.ca/programs/span/archived-titles)) now includes sections for “Titles Archived by each Archive Holder.” Following these links results in a view of the consolidated title list on Google Drive, filtered to the Archive Holder in question. Members can also view the data for each phase.

The committee sees a need to better arrange and format the materials on our COPPUL SPAN website. We have done some initial work on recommended approaches and are awaiting the
results of the current comprehensive COPPUL website review before moving forward with improvements.

Vivian has engaged the SPAN Management Committee around questions of budgeting and overall committee membership, roles and functioning, as well as how the committee might support digitization coordination within COPPUL. As we move toward SPAN phases targeting more specialized materials, it’s increasingly clear to the committee that we need to engage subject matter experts (for example, government document, map, special collections and digitization librarians) in our work, in addition to the COPPUL Collections Community. With the help of Vivian and the other COPPUL staff coordinators, we look forward to building relationships with other COPPUL committees and following COPPUL-supported pathways to engagement with library experts within our network. A good example of this work can be seen in the meetings that Doug, Rebecca and Vivian have been holding with all COPPUL institutions to gather information about COPPUL’s potential role in digitization activities.

SPAN Phase updates

Monographs Project #1
Doug and Jean held Zoom feedback calls with representatives from all 10 participating libraries this spring. Vivian was also able to attend several of these calls. Themes emerging from these calls included:

- the project’s goal of establishing a “print safety net” for the COPPUL region was met;
- retentions, which focus on rarely-held and local-interest materials, are appropriate;
- the project was worthwhile and an overall success;
- no access problems were reported, although it was noted that larger libraries who are HathiTrust members may not be able to loan retained items while participating in Hathi’s emergency controlled digital lending program;
- some libraries have done a lot of local collections management work, including weeding, based on the project data, but others have not;
- communicating about the project brings some comfort to faculty who have anxieties about weeding;
- many libraries have undergone an ILS migration since the project began;
- most have not uploaded their retentions into OCLC’s shared print registry yet, but will endeavour to do so by December 31, 2020;
- COVID-related increased reliance on e-resources highlights certain benefits of shared print, including rights to access and use content under fair dealing rather than license terms, and the ability to remediate poor quality digitization from retained print sources;
- we didn’t gauge any interest in a 2\textsuperscript{nd} or expanded retrospective project, but other ideas for further shared print monograph work include:
  - Concerted push to identify missing titles and recruit other SPAN members to fill gaps if possible (beyond 10 project participants).
  - “commit as you go” progressive SPAN monograph phase with criteria, term and processes to be determined. NB it will be important to distinguish such a SPAN phase from cooperative collection development, which is much more complex, though related.
possibly a small “clean-up” retrospective project to identify those titles acquired between original SPAN Monograph extracts in late 2016, and the beginning of a “commit as you go” project.

- if member demand warrants, investigate a COPPUL-negotiated deal for member libraries to engage with OCLC for GreenGlass collections analyses at discounted rates, with SPAN retentions included as a data point (this would be more of a licensing project than a SPAN project)

A new version of the OCLC Shared Print registry has been released. We are pleased to note that the new version supports registration of multi-volume works. It also includes a new “Agent” role, which might allow COPPUL to register confirmed commitments on behalf of Archive Holders.

Some SPAN Monograph participants have transferred a small number of retentions into Special Collections for safekeeping. We understand that questions about circulating materials from Special Collections are still in discussion within COPPUL, and that these complex issues may not be resolved for some time.

**SPAN Phase 4: Statistics Canada Publications**

This project was completed in April and the final report is available on the COPPUL website at https://coppul.ca/programs/shared-print#phase4. Doug and the committee thank everyone for their hard work on this large, long and complex project! Through this phase, we have collectively made a significant contribution to shared print retention in Canada.

**SPAN Phase 5: At-Risk Western Canadian Serials**

COPPUL SPAN Phase 5 is progressing despite COVID-related disruptions. We extended the response deadline from 29 February to 31 May, and all institutions responded by the deadline. Retentions are currently being allocated. We will be asking institutions to confirm their commitments by December and update their records by March. Timelines for moving materials into closed stack locations will be flexible and based on whatever the return to campus situations are at the various institutions. Our original timeline for wrapping up this phase in July 2020 was not met; given the circumstances we expect to wrap up before the spring of 2021.

**SPAN Phases 6 and 7**

Of the possibilities described in our February 2020 report, two have emerged as the most favourable: Canadian topographic maps and Western Canadian newspapers (we also looked at CIHM fiche, but learned from CRKN/Canadiana that the collection has been digitized in full and Canadiana is storing a copy of the microfiche masters.) Trish, Doug and Matt are drafting “blueprints” for these options, and planning a webinar with the COPPUL Collections group in October to get feedback. Matt has already retrieved some OCLC results for Western Canadian newspapers.

We can imagine corollary digitization streams for both these options. Although digitization is outside SPAN’s scope, these possible future phases could serve as useful test cases for coordinating digitization work at the COPPUL network level, in concert with SPAN work (i.e. working toward bridging the shared print and digitization silos that Gwen and Doug spoke of in their recent CCPSWG webinar.) We are awaiting with interest the results of the COPPUL
newspaper digitization environmental scan survey, since that may also shed light on local newspaper preservation priorities among COPPUL libraries.

**SPAN Phase 1 Commitment Review**
The commitment end date for Phase 1 is 31 December 2022. The Management Committee is planning to design a program evaluation / review for Phase 1 in the coming months.

**Collaborations and Advocacy**

**Partnership for Shared Book Collections**
Vivian has reported that, unfortunately, COPPUL does not have the money to commit to a 3 year membership in PBSC at the proposed rate ($3,000 USD/year). Vivian has been in touch with Susan Stearns about negotiating a lower membership fee. She is waiting to hear back from the Partnership and anticipates an answer in the fall. In the meantime, the Partnership is still welcoming Doug to its events. Doug attended a recent webinar on Best Practices for Shared Print Programs and indeed has been a significant contributor to the Partnership’s work on best practices.

Together with the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance, the PSBC released a short video in June on the importance of shared print archiving programs: [https://youtu.be/Ie8qm_idkDU](https://youtu.be/Ie8qm_idkDU).

**Canadian Collaborative Print Stewardship Working Group**
Doug continues his work with the CCPSWG. The working group’s final report is complete and is in the final stages of editing and translation. Doug and Gwen Bird presented the results of the National Overlap Study as a CARL public webinar on 25 June. There were about 95 attendees, many of them government information professionals from Canada and the US. The presentation affirmed several experiences within SPAN such as:

- engagement of subject matter experts is crucial
- the idea of shared print is an easy sell, but actual retention commitments are much harder to achieve
- metadata is at once the chief enabler and biggest hurdle in shared print projects

**OCLC Shared Print Working Groups**
Doug continues to participate in the work of both the Shared Print Advisory Group and the Shared Print Metadata Working Group. The major announcement is that the latest version of OCLC’s shared print registry went live in late May. Doug will look at the new functionality the registry offers and see how SPAN participants might take advantage of it. In particular, the registry will offer a more comprehensive solution for registering our commitments from Monographs Project #1.

**Meeting with Jeff Kosokoff**
Doug and Jean met with Jeff Kosokoff from Duke and the Triangle Research Libraries Network to talk about the concept of a “commit as you go” monographs retention mechanism.

**Print Archive Network (CRL)**
Doug submitted the SPAN update for the CRL PAN Virtual Forum in late June. At the Post-PAN Water Cooler meeting, Doug and colleagues from WEST, EAST and the Partnership for Shared Book collections discussed having an informal meeting time for shared print program
colleagues around North America. The PAN Virtual Forum format doesn’t lend itself to this sort of discussion / information exchange. Doug volunteered COPPUL to host the inaugural meeting which was held July 2. Going forward, CRL will coordinate quarterly meetings.