



COPPUL Shared Print Archive Network Report to Directors from SPAN Management Committee March 2014

Work on SPAN Phase 2 proceeded throughout spring and summer 2013 with analysis of consortial serial holdings. Lists of nominated titles were developed over the summer months and sent to 10 potential archive holders in late August, with a total of 2,003 titles nominated for archiving in Phase 2.

Phase 2 Archive Criteria

Phase 2 included serial backruns in the following categories:

- Journals with the same characteristics as Phase 1, but less widely held
- Serials widely held in print & electronically, but with no post-cancellation access
- Canadian serials with post cancellation access rights
- Canadian serials without post cancellation access rights
- Title changes of journals archived in Phase 1 (“continues” and “continued by”)

In all cases SPAN has continued with a retrospective focus and therefore only asks archive holders to retain volumes published to the end of 2013. Given the increased risk level of many of the proposed journal titles, physical validation for completeness at the volume level was added to the archive holder’s procedures, archive retention dates were extended from 10 to 25 years, and storage of such materials now requires environmental conditions beyond that of open stacks.

Based on feedback from participating libraries, Phase 2 also included a policy change by asking archive holders to identify continuing and preceding journal titles associated with the nominated titles. While this will result in a greater number of titles being archived in this phase, it has also meant substantially more work at local libraries. Because of this, we are still receiving final confirmation from the larger archive holders, and have begun the analysis to reassign titles that could not be archived by the initially nominated archive holder. We will also need to verify that the newly added continued and preceding titles fall into the same risk category as the main journal title. We forecast the completion of this Phase 2 work by the end of April 2014.

Project Impact

Through its first two years, the SPAN project has been driven by the goal of enabling libraries to reclaim collection space by ensuring permanent archiving of legacy collections, thereby allowing other members to weed their duplicate copies. The benefits of this approach include:

- freed space can be used for other local priorities
- creates a known, secured set of collections within the consortium

- reduces duplication and with it, the collective costs of collection storage across the region

By recent industry analysis the annual cost of storing a volume in public stacks is \$4.26 per volume per year (2009 US dollars)¹. Figures for SPAN Phase 1 shown in the table below indicate the total number of volumes that could potentially be weeded as a result. This represents an annualized storage cost ranging from \$1.5 to \$2.2million that could potentially be recovered or repurposed by members across the region.

Potential volumes reclaimed by SPAN Phase 1

| No of titles | Held by libraries | Total vol's (est at 20 vol/ title) | Total vol's (est at 20 vol/ title) |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 13 | 17 | 4,160 | 6,240 |
| 29 | 16 | 8,700 | 13,050 |
| 43 | 15 | 12,040 | 18,060 |
| 77 | 14 | 20,020 | 30,030 |
| 115 | 13 | 27,600 | 41,400 |
| 198 | 12 | 43,560 | 65,340 |
| 497 | 11 | 99,400 | 149,100 |
| 504 | 10 | 90,720 | 136,080 |
| 234 | 9 | 37,440 | 56,160 |
| 1,710 | | 343,640 | 515,460 |

The potential savings of staff time and infrastructure are not the only benefits. By effectively moving from local to collective management, participating libraries are creating a fundamental shift in how academic libraries can steward print legacy collections.

The Management Committee believes SPAN has met initial goal through Phases 1 & 2. We now look to the library directors for assessment of project outcomes to date, and for direction on how SPAN should evolve to meet needs going forward. To provide context for how other consortia are proceeding with shared print management, please see the attached briefing note.

Phase 3 Planning

The Committee has begun considering material that might be treated in Phase 3 for the 2014/15 year. Whereas SPAN's first two phases focused on print journals with an emphasis on widely held materials to facilitate maximum space clearing, the Committee is considering possible new directions for Phase 3, listed below and proposed for discussion by library directors:

- Widely held low-use monographs. Collection analysis would be based on a combination of holdings analysis and circulation records to develop a list of titles to archive. Rick Lugg from Sustainable Collection Services will provide examples of data driven monograph archiving projects from other jurisdictions
- Provincial government documents from the four COPPUL provinces

- Signature collections unique to the region. Further analysis would be required here; the committee has begun exploring a possible focus on Aboriginal materials from and about western Canada

Connections beyond SPAN

As part of SPAN's mandate to communicate our preservation efforts outside of COPPUL, we are pleased SPAN's archived titles are now recorded with the Print Archives Preservation Registry (PAPR): <http://papr.crl.edu/program/41/shared-print-archive-network>, along with general information about SPAN as a program. We continue discussions with OCLC, including monitoring their research on shared print collections, and their efforts to coordinate and expose retention commitments from shared print archiving projects throughout North America.

SPAN is also participating in discussions led by Library Archives Canada (LAC) with other regional consortia to develop a national strategy for shared print archives. A first in-person meeting of Canadian groups working on archiving projects is planned in association with the CLA conference in Victoria in May.

Membership and Budget

SPAN was pleased to welcome 21st member, Brandon University during 2013. We recommend that member fees remain the same as in Years 1 & 2, generating \$30,040 in revenue to support SPAN. This will be incorporated into COPPUL's operating budget and will provide support for the Project Officer's contract, teleconferences for Management Committee meetings, and limited contributions toward travel related to SPAN. Funds from 2013/14 have been fully expended [*GB verifying...will edit as needed if there is some carryover*]. The Management Committee has also begun identifying external sources for possible funding to prepare a grant application if expanded activity is approved by the membership.

SPAN Management Committee 2013/2014

The SPAN Management Committee met monthly by teleconference during the year to guide Phase 2 with policy decisions, link with counterpart groups, and to monitor the landscape of shared print projects in other jurisdictions.

Leonora Crema, UBC (chair) | Sharon Marshall, UAlberta | William Sgrazzutti, URegina | Ken Ladd, USask

1 Courant & Nielson, 2010. "On the cost of keeping a book." In *The Idea of Order: Transforming Research Collections for 21st century scholarship*, 81-105. Washington, DC: Council on Library & Information Resources. Available from www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub147/pub147.pdf