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Shared Print Repository Programme For Least Used Library Materials: An Overview

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Today's libraries are facing lots of problems owing to the shortage of finance, staff and space. Although libraries store a large number of items, many of these are not used for a long time. The present researchers found that many academic libraries overcome these problems to conduct the Shared Print Repository programme. The researchers very carefully studied the procedures, policies, and MoUs of the shared print repositories globally. It was found out that to overcome these problems there is a need of collaboration among libraries, to develop a centralised collection development policy, regularly evaluate the collection weed out, and conduct the shared print repository programme for the least used library materials. The current practice of shared print repository shows the future of opportunity, growth and development. It is clear that in order to keep libraries active and serviceable in the future, libraries must collaboratively conduct the shared print repository programme for the least used print materials on regional, state, country and continent level.

Keywords: *Collection management, Collection development policy, shared print repository, weeding out.*

0 INTRODUCTION

In the twenty-first century, most libraries face issues such as shortage of space, problems of acquisition, material maintenance problems, staff shortage problems, lack of finance, presence of lots of damaged or irreparable books in the library, non - circulated multiple copies, presence of materials in support of cancelled programmes or courses, non - circulated books, old publications, obsolete, unwanted or outdated documents etc.

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These difficulties exert enormous pressure on library services and new collections. Initially, some libraries weed unnecessary duplicates or old edition books and establish their archives for low used collections to solve these problems. Regular weeding out and archiving of less used collections resolves some of these problems but cannot not solve them completely. Within a few decades, library collection and also the archives face the same problem. No library is self-sufficient, whether in the service of information or the collection of libraries, space, staff, or funds in the library. Libraries feel at this time that one library cannot solve these problems in an isolated way. In an attempt to solve the problem collectively, the shared print repository programme emerged.

1 OBJECTIVES

- (1) To examine the objective of the shared print repository programme on a global basis.
- (2) To find out which libraries practice the shared print repository programme for less used library materials.
- (3) To find out the geographical location of the libraries participating in the shared print repository programme.
- (4) To observe the collection evaluation procedure of participating libraries in the shared print repository programme.
- (5) To find out how many copies of the same title are stored in the shared print repository programme.

2 METHODOLOGY

At first, the researchers carefully conducted a literature review of the shared print repositories programme for the least used library materials. The researchers selected 17 shared print repositories and conducted a web-based study on a global basis. Most of the shared print repositories have provided their mission, strategy, process, memorandum of agreement (MoU) on the institutional website. Then the researchers prepared a questionnaire through Google form on the shared print repositories programme and distributed it to the professionals associated with the programme. The researchers tabulated all the data and interpreted them. They carefully had observed all information and tried to prepare a summary of that project, and prepared finding based on the objectives.

3 LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of the shared print repository developed two or three decades earlier, but the study of the difficulties of library space, staff, and the fund had

been started long time before. Lawrence¹ evaluated the space, and as the budget problem intensified, it would be mandatory to consider storage and weed out as more academic libraries replace new construction. Streit² has described that transfer of materials from the general section to the special collection is the part of collection management and says that the success and fruitfulness of this type of programme depend on the carefully developed collection development policy and its proper application. Large Libraries have lots of collection, and all materials are not used in the same way; all collection does not get used, so transferring all the collection in a special section is not the proper solution. Therefore, we need to properly evaluate and build a proper policy and maintain weeding out, binding, etc. This type of programme is an ongoing process, so it needs proper planning and hard work for the success of this Programme.

De Jager³ has analysed the library collection of Cape Town University Library during the period 1991-1992. The analysis result shows that some books in the library have high demand, but more than 40% of books on its shelves have not been used in six years and interestingly, 16% of all the books never been used.

Walker et al⁴ submitted a report to the Collection Development Executive Committee Task Force on Print Collection use in Cornell University Library during the year 2010. The report highlighted that approximately 45% of print monographs in the CUL collection published before 1990 had been circulated at least once. Approximately 55% of these books have never been circulated.

Demas⁵ have discussed that the emergence of shared print repositories allows libraries to provide a cost-effective environment through collaborative management. The authors have also discussed the challenges, funding, policy, and leadership of collaborative weeding out management in this paper. Gillies, & Stephenson⁶ have described the three collaborative weeding out projects. They described the scope, procedures, methodologies, success, and challenges involved in weeding out Programme.

The researchers have found some literature which elaborately described the various shared print projects. Wright⁷ has described CAVAL Archive and Research Materials Centre developed by CAVAL during the year 1996. The group of university libraries in Victoria, Australia cooperatively performs shared print repository programme for storing single copy title of the least used materials.

Minihan⁸ has discussed the eight academic libraries' collaborative management program of Hong Kong. These eight academic libraries have developed the Joint University Library Advisory Committee (JULAC). These

libraries have the same collection management policy. JULAC has also developed the Joint University Research Archive (JURA) for shared print collection drawn from all eight universities.

Stearns⁹ described that 40 eastern academic libraries in USA conduct a large scale collection analysis programme. This analysis provides surprising results such as overlapping holding, multiple copies, unique collection etc. After the result, the participating libraries have signed an agreement to develop a shared print repository for the least used materials. EAST was developed by the eastern academic libraries in 2011.

The above literature review shows that 40% to 90% of the collection is not used for a long time in the library. Libraries collaborate among themselves to conduct the shared print repository programme for the least used library materials.

4 SHARED PRINT REPOSITORY

A library repository means a place where materials are acquired, managed, stored and makes the books accessible systematically, scientifically and securely. Shared print repository for the least used materials means, repository developed by more than one library collaboratively; only print format of the least used materials should be stored; participating libraries evaluate their print collection and select the least used materials; only single copy of the title is stored in the repository and participating libraries may weed titles from their collection; so that in future, the materials can be accessed by the members or the library user securely. Shared print repository developed by more than one participating library collaboratively stores single copy title of the least used print materials. The goals of the shared print repository are to acquire, secure and preserve the least used materials; ensuring future access of participating library users; and enable the space for new collection and services, reduce the managing staff and cost.

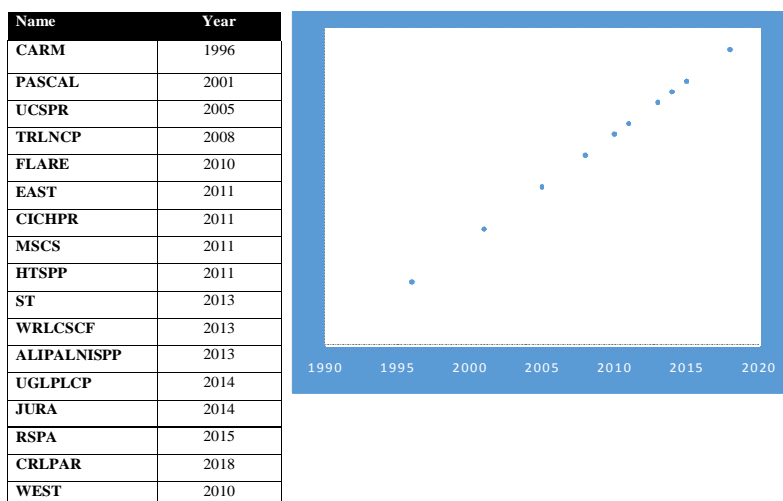
5 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data analysis and interpretations is the most vital part of any research work. In this study the researchers collect data from seventeen shared print repository for the least use of the materials. Table 1 highlights the shared print repositories (SPR) giving their names, short names and URLs.

Table 1 – Basic Information of Shared Print Repository

SPR NAME	Short Name	URL
The University of California Shared Print Program	UCSPR	https://cdlib.org/cdlinfo/2020/05/01/uc-libraries-shared-print-program-joins-the-partnership-for-shared-book-collections/
Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust	EAST	https://eastlibraries.org/purpose-history
The Rosemont Shared Print Alliance	RSPA	https://rosemontsharedprintalliance.org/
The Committee on Institutional Cooperation Shared Print Repository	CICHPR	https://www.btaa.org/about/news-and-publications/news/2011/06/22/committee-on-institutional-cooperation-initiates-a-shared-print-repository
The Florida Academic Repository	FLARE	https://flare.uflib.ufl.edu/
Scholars Trust	ST	https://scholarstrust.org/press-release
The Western Regional Storage Trust	WEST	https://cdlib.org/west/about-west/
The Triangle Research Libraries Network Collaborative Print Retention	TRLNCP	https://trln.org/activities/working-groups/cooperative-print-retention/
Maine Shared Collections Strategy	MSCS	http://www.maineinonet.org/mscs/
Center for Research Libraries (CRL) Print Archives Registry	CRLPAR	https://www.crl.edu/archiving-preservation/print-preservation
CAVAL Archival and Research Materials (CARM) Centre	CARM	https://www.caval.edu.au/solutions/storage-and-archives
Preservation and Access Service Center for Colorado Academic Libraries	PASCAL	http://pascal.ucdenver.edu/location1.html
Washington Research Library Consortium Shared Collections Facility	WRLCSCF	https://www.wrlc.org/collections
Tri-University Group of Libraries Preservation of Last Copy Program	UGLPLCP	https://lib.uwaterloo.ca/staff/irmc/last_copy_agreement_sept06.html
HathiTrust Shared Print Program	HTSPP	https://www.hathitrust.org/shared_print_program
Joint Universities Research Archive	JURA	https://www.julac.org/?page_id=258
Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI): ALI-PALNI Shared Print Project	ALIPALNISPP	https://academiclibrariesofindiana.org/home/shared_print_project

Development of shared print repositories for the least used materials is not a very old concept. Most of the SPRs have been developed in the second decade of the 21st century. Figure 1 given below focuses upon the development of shared print repositories for the least used materials. CARM was established in 1996. PASSCAL, UCSPR and TRLNCP started Shared Print Repository programme in 1st decade of the 21st century. FLARE, EAST, CICHPR, MSCS, HTSPP, ST, WRLCSCF, ALIPALNISPP, UGLPLCP, JURA, RSPA and CRLPAR started Shared Print Repository programme in 2nd decade of the 21st century.

Figure 1 – Development of Shared Print Repository**Figure 2 – Goals of Shared Print Repository**

The Figure 3 below shows the print collection of the shared print repositories for the least used materials. In this examination, the researchers find that CICHPR is the highest collection (approx. 85 million) holder of shared print repositories for the least used materials. UCSPR, HTSPP and JURA also store a large number of the least used print materials and their positions are second, third and fourth respectively.

Figure 3 – Total Print Collection of Shared Print Repositories



The Figure - 4 below shows how many libraries participate in the Shared Print Repository programme for the least used print materials. In this study the researchers show that over 100 member libraries participated in three shared print repository programmes, i.e. 212 members participate in CRLPAR and 178 members participated in RSPA and 100 members participate in UCSPR. 50 to 100 members participated in four shared print repository programmes i.e. EAST(80), ST(51), WEST (66), and HTSPP (79). Less than 50 members participated in eight shared print repository programme i.e. CICHPR (13), FLARE(11), TRLNCP(3), MSCS(42), CARM(9), PASCAL(4), WRLCSCF(9), UGLPLCP(3), JURA(8) and ALIPALNISPP(38).

Figure 4 – Total Participating Libraries of Shared Print Repository



Figure 5 shows the geographical location of the shared print repository programmes for the least used materials. Most of the SPR are located in USA (82%). Moreover, Australia, Canada and China have also conducted a shared print repository programmes for the least used materials.

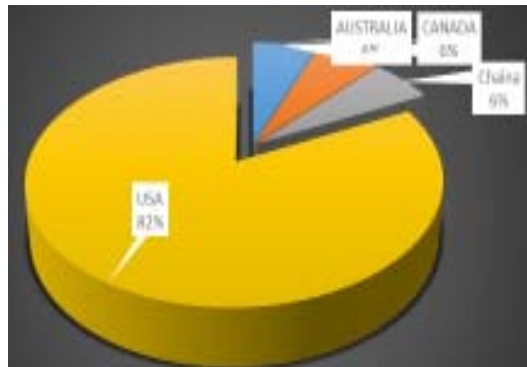
Figure 5 – Location wise distribution of Shared Print Repository

Figure 6 below shows how many libraries have evaluated their collection through green-glass collection evaluation technique and how many have evaluated their collection through won technique. It was found that 53 % of the libraries have evaluated their collection through green-glass analysis technology and 47 % have evaluated their collection through won analysis technology.

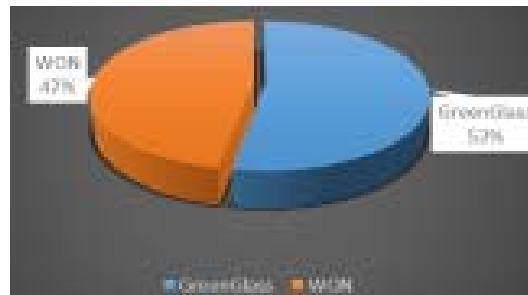
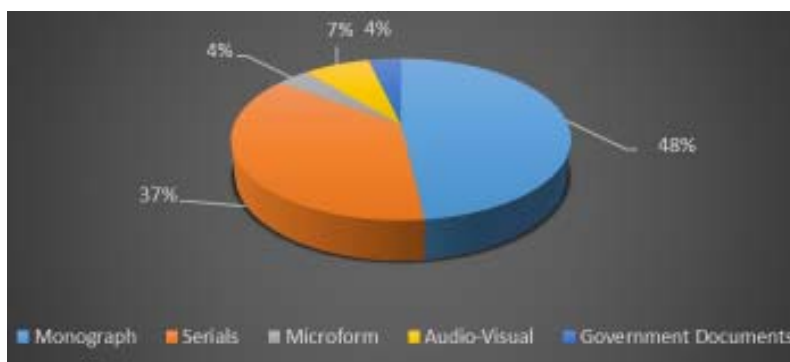
Figure 6 – Evaluation Techniques of Shared Print Repository

Figure 7 shows what types of materials are stored in the shared print repository programmes. It was found that 48% SPR store single copy of the least used monograph and 37 % SPR store serials. Moreover 7% SPR store audio-visual materials, 4% SPR store microforms and 4% store government materials.

Figure 7 – Items type of Shared Print Repository

6 FINDINGS

1. After an elaborate discussion on the global overview of SPR programme and data analysis of the programme for the least used materials, the researchers found that the primary objectives of the shared print collection are reducing the least used library materials, reducing unnecessary duplication, reducing collection management cost, developing sufficient space for library users and other services.
2. The researchers also found that two types of SPR programmes exist for the least used materials. Firstly, single copy of the least used materials gets stored in a particular place. Libraries have evaluated their collections and found out low used materials and send them to the shared print repository library which has been built by the libraries participating in it. Secondly, all participating libraries are responsible for preserving a particular collection. Participating libraries have evaluated their collections, have found out the least used materials and sent them to the libraries responsible for preserving this particular collection.
3. Collection evaluation procedures are also of two types. Some libraries have evaluated their collection through third-party evaluation tools (OCLC's Sustainable Collection Services Green Glass) and most of the libraries evaluate their own collection using their own techniques.
4. After an elaborate discussion on the global overview of shared print repositories, it was found some standard features of every SPR such as a standard collection development policy, a standard weeding out guideline, a standard acquisition policy for shared print monographs, a standard library collection evaluation guideline, and a common access policy for shared print collections and metadata standards for shared print monographs.

5. Only one copy of the least used library material should be stored in the SPR. Members' libraries can weed out all duplicate items which were stored in SPR.
6. All SPRs develop union catalogue. Member libraries' users can access through this union catalogue and also borrow those items through interlibrary loan.
7. Development of SPR for the least used materials had not been started much earlier. Most of the SPR have been developed in the second decade of the 21st century.
8. Over 100 memberslibraries participatd in three SPRprogrammes and 50 to 100 members participate in four SPRs.
9. In the USA, the practice of the SPR for the least used materials is very high. China, Australia and Canada also conductSPRprogramme for the least used materials.

7 CONCLUSION

The most common barrier for the libraries of the present time is unnecessary duplication, least used materials, maintenance cost and space problems. We must remember that the primary goals of the shared print collection are to reduce unnecessary duplication, reduce the least used materials, reduce collection development cost and developing sufficient space for library users and other facilities. The current practice of the SPR shows the future of opportunity, expansion and development. It is clear that in order to keep libraries active and serviceable in the future, they must collaboratively conduct the SPR programme for the least used print materials on regional, state, country and continental basis. It should be remembered that this is a continuous programme, not a one-time project. Libraries have designed organisational models, collection development models for the smoothly running of this programme. The shared print programmes have been built upon standard acquisition practices among libraries, common access policies for shared print collections and metadata standards for shared print materials.

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