



Rosemont Alliance Open Session

ALA Midwinter 2020

On January 25, the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance hosted its first open session at ALA Midwinter, providing an introduction to the program, its composition, goals, and initiatives to staff from participating institutions and non-member organizations. The session, held at Temple University's Charles Library, began with a welcome and introductory remarks from Judy Russell, the Dean of University Libraries at the University of Florida and 2020 Rosemont Executive Committee chair, and a brief introductory video to the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance. Susan Stearns of EAST, the most recent program to join the Rosemont Alliance, offered some perspectives on why EAST decided to join and how the work Rosemont engages in, supplements, and enhances their local work. Members of the Operations Committee then provided an overview of the current work of the Rosemont Alliance, updates on progress in these areas, and a brief roadmap of 2020 activities and initiatives.

The discussion focused largely on the road ahead, and how to maximize the effectiveness of the Rosemont Alliance through strategic partnerships and by drawing on the deep expertise available in the member programs and participating libraries. Meeting attendees discussed the limitations of current collection analysis tools and processes, and the impacts of archiving partial vs. complete runs of journals. This led to a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of using non-print surrogates to re-create print journal backfiles (i.e., convert microform back into print), and more generally the precarious state of the print record. Meeting attendees also discussed at length the value of collaboration, noting other complementary programs and institutions that Rosemont may consider engaging with, either for information sharing or for more concrete partnership and coordination. Many of the Rosemont Alliance member programs have additional partnerships, and their participating libraries have even more alliances that Rosemont may be able to draw on to continue efforts toward coordination of priorities, alignment of policies, and pooling of resources to achieve common and shared goals. The launching of the Partnership for Shared Book Collections is particularly timely in this regard as it will serve as a national federation for monograph shared print programs, complementing the Rosemont Alliance's mission to bring together serials shared print programs.

In closing, the Rosemont Operations Committee highlighted the many ways to get involved in the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance. Senior library leaders and program staff may be able to join one of the two governance groups. Staff at participating libraries may be able to lend their expertise to one of the many initiatives the Rosemont Alliance is planning to take up or continue in the coming year. This includes providing input on decision support service development, resource sharing policies and procedures, and reviewing the Metadata Best Practices developed by the Partnership for Shared Book Collections with input from the Rosemont Alliance. Programs interested in joining the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance are encouraged to contact Alison Wohlers, Rosemont Operations Committee Chair for 2020, at alison.wohlers@ucop.edu to learn more.