

HathiTrust Libraries Propose to Retain More Than 16 Million Volumes in Shared Print Program

June 29, 2017

Fifty HathiTrust member libraries have proposed to retain more than 16 million volumes for 25 years under the HathiTrust Shared Print Program. These volumes correspond to more than 4.8 million individual book titles held in the HathiTrust Digital Library (about 65% of all HathiTrust digital monographs). This is a significant step toward the primary goal of the program: to ensure that print copies of all HathiTrust digital holdings remain available to scholars for many years to come. The Shared Print Program is a core program of HathiTrust, supported by and benefiting all of the more than 120 HathiTrust members.

This milestone marks the fruition of a goal that began in 2011 when HathiTrust members voted to “establish a distributed print monograph archiving program”. In 2014-2015, a task force developed detailed planning recommendations and, beginning in 2016, the Shared Print Advisory Committee and Retention Libraries built on these recommendations to propose a program agreement (MOU) and associated operating policies. The HathiTrust Board of Governors approved the MOU and policies in June 2017 with a goal to have the Retention Libraries execute the MOU by September 30, 2017.

Major policies

Retention Libraries agree to these major policies:

- Retain shared print volumes through December 31, 2042 (25 years from the beginning of the HathiTrust Shared Print Program in 2017)
- Record shared print commitments in the HathiTrust Shared Print Registry
- Lend shared print volumes to other HathiTrust member libraries using their existing resource-sharing policies, systems, and procedures (including lending fees if any)
- Take all reasonable steps to replace lost or damaged volumes.

Related policies include:

- Shelving in a storage facility is preferred, but campus shelving is acceptable
- Verification of holdings and item condition are encouraged but not required.

Characteristics of the proposed retention commitments

In this first phase of the Shared Print Program, HathiTrust asked participating libraries to propose retention commitments primarily using their own criteria, in order to achieve a quick launch of the program. HathiTrust required only that proposed volumes be monographs that match HathiTrust digital monographs and that the library be willing to lend the physical volumes to other HathiTrust member libraries.

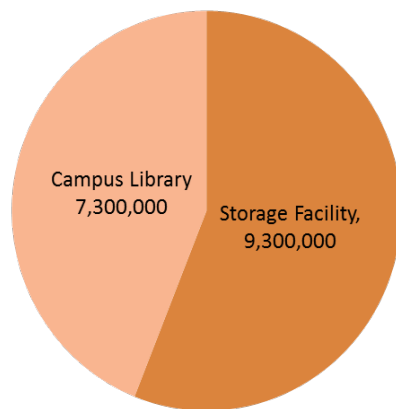
HathiTrust provided each prospective participant with a report of its print monographs corresponding to HathiTrust digital monographs. HathiTrust’s analysis drew upon the print holding data that member libraries already provide each year to support HathiTrust services and fee calculations.

In addition to the three required characteristics (monographs that match HathiTrust and are lendable), HathiTrust suggested additional criteria that libraries may wish to consider:

- Shelved in a storage facility (presumably better environment and access control, more likely to be retained indefinitely)
- Already committed to another shared print program
- Unique or rare in HathiTrust member collections (HathiTrust provided holdings overlap data)

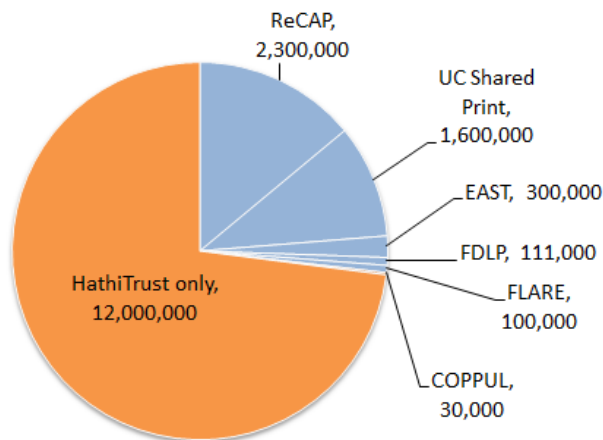
Prospective Retention Libraries were free to propose any quantity to retain using any additional local criteria to select volumes. We expected that the results would include unplanned duplicate commitments, but to simplify the process we avoided setting limits in this first round. A desired number of retained copies may be established for future cohorts, however.

We have analyzed the proposed commitments to describe some of their characteristics.



16.6 million committed volumes

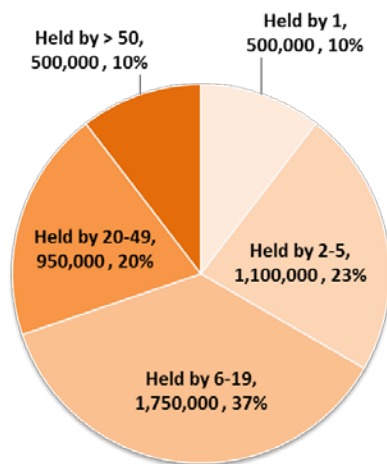
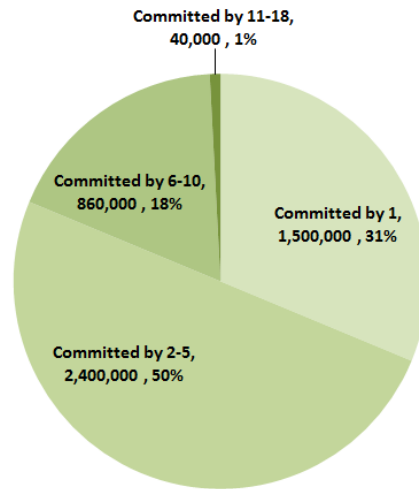
Almost 60% of the proposed 16.6 million volumes are held in a library storage facility



About 25% of the proposed 16.6 million volumes were already committed to another shared print program

Of the 4.8 million titles (matched by OCLC record numbers) committed by 50 Retention Libraries:

- About 30% of the proposed titles were committed by only 1 Retention Library
- About 50% of the proposed titles were committed by 2 – 5 Retention Libraries



Of the 4.8 million committed titles held among the >120 HathiTrust member collections:

- About 10% are unique throughout HathiTrust library collections
- About 23% are rare, held in only 2 to 5 HathiTrust library collections
- about 57% are moderately common, held in 6 to 49 HathiTrust library collections
- About 10% are very common, held in more than 50 of the 120 HathiTrust library collections

We have not yet compared these data with the holdings of non-HathiTrust members.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, we will work with the Retention Libraries to execute the Shared Print MOU.

In Phase 2, HathiTrust will focus on enhancing the program:

- Secure retention commitments for the remaining ~3 million HathiTrust digital monographs
- Plan and adopt tools for collection analysis, collection management, discovery and resource-sharing
- Keep pace with new digital content in HathiTrust
- Coordinate with the HathiTrust Federal Documents program
- Collaborate with other shared print programs.

With completion of Phase 1, the HathiTrust program will constitute the largest shared print monograph retention agreement in the world. The fact that 50 libraries -- almost half of all HathiTrust members -- have offered to retain more than 16 million volumes is an important vote of confidence: these libraries trust HathiTrust's ability to achieve success at scale and they value collaboration with their HathiTrust partners.

For more information, contact HathiTrust Shared Print Program Officer Lizanne Payne at elpayne@hathitrust.org