



Library Administrators & WEST

Library administrators play an important role in understanding and providing input on the strategic objectives of the program, as well as communicating those strategic objectives and the reasons for participating to other stakeholders at their institutions. Library administrators act as advocates for WEST and shared print within and beyond their institutions, and provide leadership in advancing the goals of shared print locally and in the wider community.

Shared responsibility and investment of resources

Membership in WEST means contributing resources and sharing responsibility, but also sharing the rewards of collaborative action. By dividing the work, each member can focus on the priorities that are most important to them while still retaining access to the broader collection.

Rethinking collections

Libraries are faced with constant, and, at times, contradictory pressures to make a comprehensive print collection available to their communities and also support many other services in their physical spaces. WEST aims to alleviate that pressure by distributing the responsibility and costs of print management across the collaboration. A distributed WEST collection reduces the need to maintain duplicative collections locally and creates opportunities for libraries to reallocate space and resources to support other key services and the development of particular collection strengths.

Top 5 things a Library Administrator should know about WEST

1. WEST Archivers are committed to the integrity of the scholarly record. Their work ensures that vital research materials are available when scholars need them, wherever they are located.
2. The WEST collection can be relied on to supplement or stand in for local collections; they are, in essence, a “just in case” collection that can provide “just in time access” for users.
3. WEST provides additional value back to members by creating and distributing resources, reports, and documentation to support local workflows and collection management decision making.
4. WEST’s regional collaboration and national partnerships create a network of collaborative collection management, facilitating strategic management of local resources.
5. WEST and its partners in the [Shared Print Partnership](#) advocate for shared print at the national level, partnering with vendors and service providers to enhance the shared print infrastructure and provide clear and consistent guidance to the library community for retaining, disclosing, and accessing shared print materials.

Ways that Library Administrators can get involved in WEST

WEST is governed by an Executive Committee that includes library directors, deans, and university librarians. The Executive Committee welcomes nominations for open positions every fall and new appointees are affirmed through membership-wide elections at the end of the calendar year. The Executive Committee’s purview includes establishing strategic directions, overseeing program resources, and shaping WEST’s collaborations with other peer organizations and service providers. To read more about the WEST Executive Committee, please see [program governance documentation](#).

Library Administrators are also encouraged to attend WEST member meetings, which occur biannually in the summer and midwinter, and may address questions or feedback at any time to WEST’s program manager, Alison Wohlers at alison.wohlers@ucop.edu.