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Judith C. Russell

*University of Florida*, [jcrussell@ufl.edu](mailto:jcrussell@ufl.edu)

Benjamin F. Walker

*University of Florida*, [benwalk@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:benwalk@uflib.ufl.edu)

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## JRNL: Journal Retention and Needs Listing – A Software Tool for Managing Print Journal Archives

Judith C. Russell ([jcrussell@ufl.edu](mailto:jcrussell@ufl.edu))

Dean of University Libraries, University of Florida

Benjamin F. Walker ([benwalk@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:benwalk@uflib.ufl.edu))

Assistant Dean for Digital Services and Shared Collections, University of Florida

### Abstract

The Journal Retention and Needs Listing (JRNL) program: 1) allows libraries to expose lists of print journals for which they have made retention commitments; 2) express needs (or gaps) in their holdings; and 3) communicate offers to fill the gaps in other participating libraries' holdings. Multiple library consortia and their member libraries use JRNL to facilitate communication between library staff to identify holding commitments, fill gaps, and guide deselection decisions. JRNL is commonly developed and governed by the participating consortia. Currently, those consortia are the Florida Academic Repository (FLARE), the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)/Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC), and the Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST).

### Background on Journal Archiving

Shared Print has been a burgeoning topic of discussion among libraries for at least the last seven years. The Print Archive Network Forum (PAN) began holding meetings coinciding with the American Library Association's (ALA) semi-annual conferences in 2009. Development of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) PAPR Registry, which provides a listing of current archiving programs, with details about programs, memoranda of understanding (MOUs,) status, selection policies, and statistics about holdings, was completed in 2012.<sup>1</sup> The OCLC Shared Print Management program started in 2010, and provided detailed metadata guidelines for shared print programs (<https://www.oclc.org/services/projects/shared-print-management.en.html>). In 2011, coinciding with these national discussions, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) approved a collaborative Journal Retention Program (<http://tinyurl.com/z5am9ab>). Because of this developing priority, the University of Florida (UF), in collaboration with ASERL, began development of the Journal Retention and Needs Listing (JRNL) program.

JRNL, which was completed in 2013, allows participating libraries to:

- Expose lists of print journals for which they have made retention commitments;
- Express needs (or gaps) in their holdings; and
- Communicate offers to fill the gaps in other participating libraries' holdings.

Multiple library consortia and their member libraries use JRNL to facilitate communication between library staff about holding commitments and gaps. Holding commitments indicate the specific titles that individual libraries are committed to retain, usually specified in year increments (all of the consortia in JRNL have committed to retain titles for 25 years). For example, this allows other libraries to have confidence that title "X" can be deselected from their own library because library "Y" has made a 25-year retention commitment for that title. Libraries can use JRNL to inform deselection decisions and help coordinate offers to library partners. It is open source software, available for modification and use by others. A LibGuide providing detailed information about JRNL, including screen shots, is available at: <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/JRNL>.

The Smathers Libraries at UF developed JRNL in 2013. At that time, UF was participating in



two print journal archiving programs, the Florida Academic Repository (FLARE) and the ASERL Print Journal Archiving Program, which later evolved into Scholars Trust. To avoid duplicative entry into databases for these two programs, UF developed JRNL to serve member libraries in both Scholars Trust and FLARE. The Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST) evaluated the software and in 2015 decided to use JRNL primarily for filling gaps in its archival collections.

### Florida Academic Repository (FLARE)

Libraries in the State University System (SUS) of Florida and the University of Miami are building a shared collection called FLARE: **FL**orida **A**cademic **RE**pository. FLARE provides centralized, offsite storage in Gainesville, managed by UF. The collection includes journals, monographs, and government documents, as well as microforms, maps and audio-visual materials. The Statewide Storage Task Force, in existence since 2008, creates policies for FLARE, and participating institutions share funding. Additional information about FLARE is available at: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/flare/Index.aspx>.

All journals retained in the FLARE collection are also contributed to the Scholars Trust print journal archiving program, which is described below. These journals have updated holdings records in OCLC WorldCat and include documentation of these retention commitments in the MARC 583 field.

### Scholars Trust

Since 2013, ASERL and the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) have had a collaborative print journal archiving program, Scholars Trust. Scholars Trust currently has 29 ASERL participants (including UF and Miami, which also participate in FLARE) and 9 WRLC participants. ASERL members maintain their archived journals in multiple locations with varying conditions of storage and use, while WRLC members maintain their archived journals at a central high-density facility in Maryland.

ASERL and WRLC synchronized their archiving policies for print journals when Scholars Trust was formed. Libraries participating in Scholars

Trust make retention commitments through December 31, 2035. They also provide no-fee, priority service for resource sharing requests from participating libraries. Scholars Trust provides opportunities for participating libraries to make long-term collection decisions based on the combined archival holdings. Additional information about Scholars Trust is available at: <http://www.aserl.org/programs/j-retain/>.

### Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST)

WEST is a distributed retrospective print journal repository program serving research libraries, college and university libraries, and library consortia in the Western Region of the United States. WEST was established in 2011 and is currently supported by 109 academic libraries in 18 states. 30 institutions are WEST Archive Holders. WEST utilizes the AGUA Decision Support Center<sup>2</sup> on top of the CRL PAPR Collections Analysis system, to make selection/retention decisions.

In 2015, WEST adopted JRNL to facilitate gap filling (needs and offers) in many-to-many library relationships. WEST Archive Holders export pre-formatted title and gap reports from AGUA to JRNL. This facilitates more efficient transfer of information, with less manual data entry. Essentially, the data is imported directly from the AGUA system into JRNL. Other consortia within JRNL approach this data transfer in a similar fashion, exporting directly from their local library management system. Additional information about WEST is available at: <http://www.cdlib.org/services/west/>.

### JRNL Oversight Committee

As a result of WEST's decision to utilize JRNL, representatives from FLARE, Scholars Trust and WEST formed an Oversight Committee to develop policies and guide the development of and participation in JRNL. The role of that committee is to discuss and prioritize proposed changes to JRNL, which includes consulting with the programmer about costs and timelines for substantive changes. Changes of this nature are referred to the member consortia governance groups for final approval.<sup>3</sup> The JRNL Oversight Committee consists of:



1. Two (2) representatives from each consortium (Voting);
2. The Dean of the University Libraries at the University of Florida (Convener, Voting);
3. One or two developers of the JRNL (Non-Voting); and
4. Administrative staff from each participating consortium (Observers; Non-Voting).

### Characteristics and Functions of JRNL

The JRNL database records the ISSN, title, holdings, circumstances of storage, and conditions of use for archived journals. Missing volumes (gaps) are identified. For example, a library can indicate that the title is publicly accessible (e.g., on open shelves), that it is “in building use only” (indicating it must be used on-site), or that electronic document delivery is preferred (see Screen Shot A below). Libraries offering to fill gaps can communicate their offers through the database, using the “Fill Gaps” function, which allows a library to indicate directly in JRNL that they can supply the missing volumes (see Screen Shot B below). However, the gap record is not removed from the gap listing until the volume is received by the library that needs it and their holdings are updated. This precludes the need to create new records for gaps if the promised volume is not received.

JRNL supports journal weeding projects in several ways. A participating library can upload a list of titles that may be weeded and receive a report on the libraries, if any, that have committed to retention of those titles and their holdings. The report can be customized to limit it based on circumstances of storage, state or consortial membership, and other parameters. So a report could be limited to journals held in only FLARE or in both FLARE and Scholars Trust. It could be limited to journals held in offsite storage. This allows the weeding library to make an informed judgment based on the number of copies retained, the proximity of the institutions retaining those titles and the conditions of storage and use. If a library decides to proceed with weeding, JRNL can generate a list of identified gaps

in collections at other libraries so the weeding library can review its own holdings and offer to fill gaps before discarding the journals.

### Current Status of JRNL (January 2016):

There are 61 libraries currently enrolled in JRNL, spanning the FLARE, ASERL, WRLC, and WEST consortia.

JRNL currently contains records for 21,933 unique ISSNs/titles. 8,739 are held by two or more libraries.

As of January 2016, 58% of the records in JRNL are from FLARE; 22% from other participants in Scholars Trust; and 21% are from WEST.

There are currently 7,059 active gap records from 3,783 unique titles, but only 315 gaps have been documented as filled since JRNL’s inception (2013).

### Recent and Planned Software Enhancements

Fields for subject headings were recently added at the request of JRNL users. This should facilitate analysis and expansion of subcollections based on discipline.

The next major software enhancement is for use of an OCLC number to identify journals without an ISSN. There are already over 400 titles in Scholars Trust without ISSN numbers, and those titles cannot be recorded in the JRNL database until the addition of the OCLC number is permitted as an alternative unique identifier.

Changes in the identification and filling of gaps are being discussed. The addition of WEST has significantly expanded the number of participating institutions that may be reporting gaps and the Oversight Committee is considering ways to make identification gaps and fulfillment of needs easier for both weeding libraries and receiving libraries.

### Subject Oriented Collections

For several years, UF has led an initiative to obtain archiving commitments for agriculture journals in Scholars Trust and record them in JRNL. All 10 Land Grant Universities in ASERL and



the National Agricultural Library are collaborating to establish these commitments. Over 1,000 journals in agriculture and related fields were identified, and to date commitments for 747 agricultural titles entered into JRNL. 228 titles have retention commitments from only one library; 524 have retention commitments from two or more libraries. It is encouraging to note that these commitments include some agricultural titles from libraries in WEST and WRLC as well as several from non-Land Grant Universities from ASERL. This project was never intended to exclude participation by non-Land Grant institutions, but it was assumed that the Land Grant Universities would have the strongest collections in agriculture and related disciplines and the mission to preserve journals in these fields.

This subject-based approach to seeking expanded print journal archiving commitments seems to be an effective way to engage a subset of libraries, and the librarians who are specialists in the field, in the identification and assessment of their holdings and also allows effective and focused communication, where necessary, with faculty who use those journals in their teaching, research and scholarship. 18 ASERL members are collaborating to establish archiving commitments for architecture and related disciplines for inclusion in Scholars Trust. Approximately 100 initial titles were identified and being assessed by participants. FLARE is pursuing other discipline-specific collections (with expected expansion to Scholars Trust) in law and health care/medicine. Interest has been expressed for projects in music and marine sciences as well.

Suggestions (and leadership) for other topical collections are welcome. The methodology is relatively easy to implement, but it is important to obtain the institutional commitments to participate from the dean or director, who then assigns a subject specialist to make the assessment and recommend the institution's archival commitments. Project leadership is usually provided by one of the subject specialists, who organizes the group, works with them to identify the initial titles for review, and follows up with the participants to encourage them to complete the process and record their commitments in JRNL.

## JRNL Challenges & Opportunities

The JRNL Oversight Committee is considering allowing access to JRNL for libraries outside the participating consortia so these external libraries could use the information in the JRNL database for their own collection development and weeding projects. This access, if permitted, would allow external libraries to pull reports for their own weeding/collection analysis and could include acceptance of volumes from external libraries to fill gaps in the collections of participating libraries. Several libraries in Florida that are not participants in FLARE or Scholars Trust are weeding their print journal collections based on the holdings disclosed in OCLC WorldCat, and this may be occurring with other external libraries without our knowledge. Use of JRNL would be more effective for these external libraries because of the reports that JRNL generates.

The JRNL Oversight Committee and JRNL participants acknowledge the important role that CRL has played in convening the Print Archive Network (PAN)<sup>4</sup> and by establishing and managing the PAPER Collections Analysis system, which documents and supports a variety of print archiving projects. As noted above, PAPER is already an integral part of the WEST print journal archiving program, and it is to the benefit of the larger print archiving community to share the information in JRNL through PAPER as well as in other ways. CRL has successfully extracted records from JRNL and imported them to PAPER, reporting back on records that were not successfully imported. JRNL participants are reviewing the records and will correct the records that need to be modified. Participants will also identify changes to PAPER that may be necessary to accommodate the information provided by JRNL that needs to be retained, but is not currently accepted by PAPER.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to all print archiving programs is the level of individual commitment, which can differ among archiving programs and participating libraries. Data in JRNL is only as good as the records used to create the database. Staff time available to work with JRNL at each institution varies significantly, as does the commitment to verify and update holdings.



Similarly, commitment to funding JRNL software enhancement and expanded efforts to identify and record retention commitments in JRNL varies significantly. Engagement with the deans and directors at the participating libraries is essential to obtaining these commitments and the related resource allocations, and each of the participating consortia is addressing that with its members. .

**Additional Information**

For additional information about JRNL and its application to these three print journal archiving programs, please contact:

- Judy Russell, Dean of University Libraries, University of Florida [jcrussell@ufl.edu](mailto:jcrussell@ufl.edu); 352-273-2505
- John Burger, ASERL Executive Director [jburger@ASERL.org](mailto:jburger@ASERL.org); 404-218-4207
- Mark Jacobs, WRLC Executive Director [jacobs@wrlc.org](mailto:jacobs@wrlc.org); 301-390-2031
- Emily Stambaugh, WEST Program Manager [emily.stambaugh@ucop.edu](mailto:emily.stambaugh@ucop.edu); 510-987-9673
- Ben Walker, FLARE Program Manager [bfwalker@ufl.edu](mailto:bfwalker@ufl.edu); 352-273-2545

**Screen Shot A:**

**JOURNAL RETENTION AND NEEDS LISTING (JRNL)** Ben Walker (UF)

Import Title List Manage My Gaps Fill Gaps Administration Reports

Search

PSAP:  Title:  Publisher:

Institution:  ISSN:  OCLC:

Location:  ISSN File:  No file chosen LCCN:

Include Archive Status Information:  Include Related ISSNs:

Journal Titles ( Page 5 of 489 )

[Export To File](#)

ISSN	Title	Location	Holdings	Confirmation Type	Complete Run	Publicly Accessible	Circulation Status	Electronic Document Delivery	Subject Classification
0001-706X	<a href="#">Acta Tropica</a>	LSU - General Stacks	v.1 (1944)-v.51 (1991)	Physical		Yes	Non-Circulating		
0001-706X	<a href="#">Acta Tropica</a>	Florida High Density Facility	v.46(1989)-v.61(1996)	Physical		No	In Building Use Only	EDD Preferred	
0001-7132	<a href="#">Acta Universitatis Carolinae</a>	Florida High Density Facility	1958:2-3, 1959-1989; Suppl. 1(1961)-2(1965), 4(1967), 6(1973)	Physical		No	In Building Use Only	EDD Preferred	
0001-7213	<a href="#">Acta veterinaria Brno</a>	UK - Remote Storage Facility	1960-1964, 1966-1992; supplements: 1965:1-1965:2, 1965:4, v.38:2(1969)-v.38:4(1969), v.40:2(1971)-v.40:3(1971), v.46:4(1977), v.51:5(1982), v.60(1991), v.61:1(1992)	Physical		Yes	Circulating	EDD Preferred	
0001-723X	<a href="#">Acta virologica</a>	Florida High Density Facility	v.7(1963), v.10(1966)-v.12(1968), v.15(1971), v.22(1978)-v.28:5(1984:Sept), v.29:2(1985:Mar)-v.33(1989)	Physical		No	In Building Use Only	EDD Preferred	
0001-723X	<a href="#">Acta virologica</a>	WRLC - Shared Collections Facility	v.1 (1957), v.3 (1959), v.5 (1961)-v.47 (2003)	Bibliographic			In Building Use Only	EDD Preferred	



Screen Shot B:

Journal Gaps ( Page 1 of 51 )

ISSN	Title	Location	Volume	Chronology	
0001-0782	Communications of the ACM	GaTech Remote Storage	v.44:no.10-12	2001	Fill
0001-0782	Communications of the ACM	GaTech Remote Storage	v.45:no.1-6	2002	Fill
0001-1452	AIAA Journal	GaTech Remote Storage	v.34:no.1	1996	Fill
0001-3072	Abacus	WakeForest - Remote Storage Facility	41		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	174		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	175		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	98		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	99		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	105		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	119		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	157		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	159		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	92		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	93		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	94		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	95		Fill
0001-4036	Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires Des Seances De L'Academie Des Sciences	Tulane - Offsite Storage Facility	96		Fill

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The Print Archives and Preservation Registry (PAPR) system is designed to support archiving and management of serials collections by providing comprehensive information about titles, holdings, and the terms and conditions of archiving of the major print archiving and shared print programs. Additional information about PAPR is available at: <http://www.crl.edu/archiving-preservation/print-preservation/papr-database>.

<sup>2</sup> Print Archive Network (PAN) American Library Association (ALA) 2015 Annual "Updates from Archives" report, accessed February 18,

2016, <https://www.crl.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/pages/PANALAAAnnual2015.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> JRNL - Journal Retention and Needs Listing: JRNL Oversight Committee LibGuide, last updated December 6, 2015, <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=147804&p=2507671>

<sup>4</sup> The Center for Research Libraries promotes opportunities for libraries and consortia to share information, expertise and best practices for the cooperative, strategic management of major



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print holdings. One such venue for this kind of information-sharing is the Print Archive Network (PAN). Additional information about PAN

is available at: <http://www.crl.edu/programs/print-archive-network-forum-pan>.

