**WEST Proposal**

**What is WEST and why does our membership matter?**

In 2009/2010, a group of 22 university and college research libraries in the Western U.S. received a grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop a vision for a shared print archiving program. The primary goals were to:

* Preserve and provide access to the scholarly print record
* Facilitate space reclamation in WEST libraries and storage facilities[[1]](#footnote-1)

The founding members opened membership to supporting members in 2011, and since then the membership has grown to today’s 71 members.

WEST’s unique model establishes libraries as:

* Archive Holders (libraries that have agreed to “hold” or retain a print backfile for a specified period of time)
* Archive Builders (libraries that collect print holdings from members, “validates” the holdings, and discloses these holdings; these libraries are also Archive Holders, and agree to retain these print titles for a specified period of time) Archive Builders receive special compensation for serving as a holding facility.
* Non-Archive Holders/Builders (libraries that contribute print collections to Archive Holders

WEST is currently hosted out of the California Digital Library offices and all 10 UC libraries are members. As of this fall, the following CSU libraries are also members:

* CSU Fullerton
* CSU Northridge
* San Diego State University
* San Francisco State University
* San Jose State University
* California Polytechnic State University
* CSU Channel Islands

Originally, many of the members of WEST joined to be able to remove print journals that were available electronically from their libraries to repurpose space for the changing needs of users. While this is still an important goal, WEST members have also expressed an increasing commitment to preserve access to the scholarly print record.

In the CSU Libraries Strategic Plan, COLD has made a commitment to “strive to

acquire, preserve, and provide equitable access to shared information resources for all students and faculty regardless of campus.” Membership in WEST for all CSU libraries would signify this commitment in a meaningful, concrete way. Membership would also enable meaningful collection analysis both within and beyond the CSU.

**WEST costs and pricing Formula**

The WEST price model relies on IPEDS data to calculate the average of total library expenditures reported. In reviewing the WEST membership pricing model, I estimate that the breakdown by tier is:

Tier 1 ($2,269 in 2018): CSU Maritime

Tier 2 ($3,142 in 2018): CSU Monterey Bay; CSU Stanislaus

Tier 3 ($4,712 in 2018): California Polytechnic, Pomona; CSU Bakersfield; CSU Chico; CSU Dominguez Hills; CSU East Bay; CSULA; Sonoma State; CSU San Bernardino; CSU San Marcos; CSU Humboldt

Tier 4 ($8,377 in 2018): CSU Fresno; CSU Long Beach; CSU Sacramento

Adding membership for these CSU libraries is estimated to cost $76,092 in 2018.

1. [www.cdlib.org/services/west/](http://www.cdlib.org/services/west/)

   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)