Shared Print Report to CSU Council of Library Deans

November 2018

**Background**

Shared Print is a “formal program in which multiple libraries coordinate long-term retention of print materials and provide services for them.” (SCELC 2015) In February 2018, COLD appointed SPIRIT (Shared Print Investigation Reconnaissance and Implementation Team) to “develop a shared print plan for the CSU libraries.”

After surveying COLD members and conducting an environmental scan of existing shared print programs, SPIRIT gave COLD an [overview](https://calstate.atlassian.net/wiki/download/attachments/610566145/Shared%20Print%20Overview%20COLD%20SPIRIT.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1536601776195&cacheVersion=1&api=v2) of their research at the September 2018 COLD meeting. They recommended that a shared *monograph* program would best serve the interests of CSU because the need for shared journals is covered by the [Western Regional Storage Trust](https://www.cdlib.org/services/west/) (WEST). SPIRIT identified two viable options for a CSU shared monographs strategy:

* Developing a standalone CSU program
* Joining the [SCELC program](https://www.scelc.org/libraries/shared-print)

Although there are several other shared monograph consortiums, SCELC is the only logical partner for the CSU because it is the only existing shared monograph program on the West Coast of the United States. Furthermore, SCELC has already reached out to COLD to invite the CSUs to participate in their program.

At the September meeting, COLD asked SPIRIT to investigate these options in more detail and to recommend a preferred approach:

“Resolved, that the CSU Libraries commit to investigating the feasibility of joining the SCELC Shared Print Program or establishing a standalone CSU Libraries shared print program, with a recommendation to COLD by November 9, 2018.”

**Review of Options**

After the meeting, SPIRIT determined that the analytics system that would be used to develop retention criteria was a key factor in the decision. If CSU were to join the SCELC program, it would have to use OCLC’s [GreenGlass](https://www.oclc.org/en/sustainable-collections.html). If CSU were to develop a standalone program, it could use either GreenGlass or [Alma Analytics](https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/Alma/Product_Documentation/010Alma_Online_Help_%28English%29/080Analytics).

Thus, there were three possible paths to evaluate:

1. Develop a standalone program with Alma Analytics
2. Develop a standalone program with GreenGlass
3. Join SCELC’s program

**Research**

In September and October, SPIRIT evaluated the options by:

* reviewing SCELC’s [Shared Print Documentation](https://scelc.org/libraries/shared-print/documentation) including its MOU, policies, procedures, and training materials
* meeting with SCELC management to negotiate costs and governance for joining SCELC’s Shared print program
* attending a webinar with GreenGlass to see how its system supports Shared Print
* consulting with the ULMS Alma Analytics Functional Committee to investigate the feasibility of using Alma for Shared Print management

**Evaluation**

Although there were pros and cons of each option as outlined in Appendix A, SPIRIT unanimously agreed that joining the SCELC shared print program was the best choice for the CSU Libraries. By joining with SCELC, the CSU Libraries take advantage of an existing program with a strong management team with shared print experience and 25 participating libraries. We benefit from sharing our shared collection with a much larger group of libraries, and we don’t have to re-invent the wheel by developing a governance structure, policies, and procedures. The CSU Libraries gain the opportunity to purchase GreenGlass -- a powerful collection analysis tool -- at the reduced price negotiated by SCELC. After paying for GreenGlass over two years, there are no ongoing costs for participating in SCELC’s shared print program unless the library chooses on its own to extend its subscription to GreenGlass (see Appendix C for the cost formula).

By developing a standalone shared print program with Alma Analytics, the CSU libraries could avoid the cost of purchasing GreenGlass. However, significant staff resources would have to be devoted to using Alma for analysis, and the CSU Libraries would not have access to data about non-CSU collections that are available through GreenGlass. When combined with the start-up costs of developing a governance structure, SPIRIT believes that trying to develop a CSU-only shared print program would significantly delay the adoption of Shared Print for our libraries.

**Recommendation**SPIRIT recommends that the CSU Libraries join the SCELC Shared Print Consortium starting with a cohort of the willing and adding additional cohorts when and if additional libraries are prepared to join.

The first cohort will agree to join by January 30, 2019 and will start participation by July 1, 2019. Between January and July, the details of governance will be determined by SPIRIT and SCELC (see appendix B).

**Resolutions**

In light of the issues set forth above, COLD’s recommendation is embodied in the following proposed motion:

Resolved, that the CSU Council of Library Deans commit to pursuing participation in the SCELC Shared Print Program; and be it also

Resolved, that the CSU Council of Library deans and Chancellor’s Office provide mutual aid and support in establishing a CSU Libraries Shared Print Monograph Initiative, and be it also

Resolved, that the CSU Council of Library deans establish a COLD liaison to the SCELC Shared Print Organizing Group.

Resolved, that CSU Libraries wishing to participate in the first cohort notify the COLD Chair of their intention to do so by January 30, 2019

**Appendix A: Pro & Con Matrix**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Option** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
| **Standalone with Alma** | * Doesn't require purchasing additional GreenGlass analysis from OCLC
* Using Alma for data analysis means that our data stays up-to-date as items are added and removed from CSU collections
 | * Alma Analytics doesn't give us information about non-CSU collections, which is important for establishing retention criteria
* Using Alma Analytics for data analysis would require significant programming effort from CSU staff -- reducing the resources available to other important analytics projects such as the Dean's Dashboard and the Collection Development Dashboard
* Developing CSU-only retention criteria, writing MOUs, and establishing a governing body would require a significant amount of time and effort for COLD members
* The value of Shared Print increases with the size of the coalition. Creating a CSU-only island of Shared Print using different software than other Shared Print consortia reduces our ability to collaborate beyond the CSU
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| **Standalone with GreenGlass** | * If we really want to do CSU-only Shared print, this reduces the required programming effort and gives all participating libraries access to GreenGlass
 | * Need to negotiate a CSU contract with GreenGlass (SCELC has already negotiated a reduced price for SCELC participants)
* Requires initial costs for all participating libraries to purchase GreenGlass
* Developing CSU-only retention criteria, writing MOUs, and establishing a governing body would require a significant amount of time and effort for COLD members
* The value of Shared Print increases with the size of the coalition. Creating a CSU-only island of Shared Print reduces our ability to collaborate beyond the CSU
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| **SCELC** | * SCELC has already developed a governing body that we can join, rather than starting from scratch
* SCELC has developed internal expertise with shared print adoption and management and has increased systems office staffing to accommodate ongoing support for shared print
* SCELC Shared Print already has 25 participants. We would be joining a much larger and more comprehensive consortium
* SCELC already has negotiated significantly reduced costs for GreenGlass and subsidizes reduced fees for SCELC members and affiliates
* After paying for GreenGlass analysis, which benefits local campuses in their collection management efforts, there are no ongoing costs for participation in SCELC shared print. Libraries can choose (but are not required) to extend their GreenGlass contracts at a reduced rate
* GreenGlass is much easier for library faculty and staff to use than Alma analytics. No initial programming effort required to set it up as with Alma Analytics
 | * Higher initial costs may reduce the number of CSUs that want to participate
* Data in GreenGlass does not stay up-to-date and has to be refreshed periodically
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**Appendix B: Governance Considerations & Future Directions**

SPIRIT concluded from its investigation that participation in SCELC’s program would require first some agreement among participating CSU Libraries and SCELC regarding logistics and governance. For example, under the terms of the SCELC MOU a participating institution holding a unique item agrees to retain it for 15 years. Similar constraints apply to volumes for which only 2 or 3 copies exist. SPIRIT concluded that the agreement with SCELC would include a “prenup” model in which in the case where the CSU-SCELC trust includes more than one copy and one copy is in the CSU Libraries, the CSU libraries would retain its copy. A further issue to be resolved is that SCELC Libraries have not committed to consistently exposing retention status in their public bib data, a current best practice SPIRIT advises the CSU Libraries use. Lending periods and methods will also require clarification and possibly negotiation before signing an MOU. SPIRIT also agreed that even though the CSUs, as public institutions, are ineligible to be full members of SCELC, that the participants should nevertheless have a seat at the table for governance purposes and participate in the SCELC Shared Print Operating Group (SPOG). Arriving at resolution on these matters and actual implementation of participation in SCELC also will require some time. With respect to technical implementation, Pete Zeimat from OCLC will create a timeline based on a 7/1/19 start of a cohort.

Looking past the establishment of a shared print monograph program, SPIRIT envisions future discussions on several issues. The SCELC Shared Print Program has an intentionally limited scope that does not include materials such as ebooks, microfilm, or government documents, and COLD may at some point wish to consider asking SCELC to include these materials, seek a consortium that includes these materials, or establish its own program(s). SPIRIT also agreed that COLD would need to consider the terms by which subsequent cohorts would join the initial CSU cohort. COLD participants in the SCELC Shared Print Program may also form their own CSU internal Community of Practice to communicate concerns, conduct assessment, and recommend future directions.

**Appendix C: Cost Model for SCELC Participation**

See attached spreadsheet.