

Governing Scholars Trust

*Approved by ASERL's Board of Directors and
WRLC's Library Directors Council -- August 2015.*

*Approved by the Scholars Trust Steering
Committee -- October 2015.*



Scholars Trust is a collaborative organization that brings together consortia that wish to share the effort of the long term retention of and access to print materials held by academic libraries in support of learning and scholarship. Scholars Trust was founded in 2013 by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) and the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) to combine the contents of their respective shared print journal collections under a single retention and access agreement. These items are pledged for retention until December 31, 2035. Program reviews are scheduled for 2020 and 2030 to consider whether technology and other changes in the higher education ecosystem continue to warrant this investment of resources. The relationship between the participants is established by a Program Agreement that is approved and signed by each participating consortium.

Scholars Trust is governed through a two-tiered structure to foster the growth of the partnership, create strategic directions, and provide support and management for long-term, efficient and effective operations.

1) Scholars Trust Governing Council

The Scholars Trust Governing Council has responsibility for developing the overall strategy for Scholars Trust and ensures it has resources needed to achieve those goals. The Governing Council is responsible for considering new Scholars Trust partners, identifying long-term support needs of the organization, determining the equitable distribution of costs and staff resources among the participating consortia, and setting policy, priorities, and annual activities/initiatives. The Governing Council meets as necessary, but at least once per year.

- Each consortium has one library representative for every 10 libraries represented in Scholars Trust, drawn from the top leadership position in each participating library (dean/director/University Librarian). If a consortium has fewer than 10 libraries, it will have one representative.
- The Executive Director of each participating consortium is a non-voting member of the Governing Council.
- The chairperson of the Scholars Trust Steering Committee (see below) is a non-voting member of the Governing Council and serves as the liaison between the groups.

2) Scholars Trust Steering Committee

The Scholars Trust Steering Committee manages and oversees the initiatives, activities and operations of Scholars Trust. The Steering Committee is empowered to create and charge any committees or task forces they deem necessary to accomplish the initiatives set by the

Scholars Trust Governing Council, and regularly reports progress on initiatives and activities to the Governing Council.

- Each participating consortium has three representatives on the Steering Committee, two representatives from the participating libraries and one consortium staff person.
- Steering Committee members are responsible for ensuring regular communication with the librarians who manage the operational needs of participating programs via program listservs and other electronic forms of communication.
- The Steering Committee chairperson is elected from one of the participating libraries and is not included as a representative of any consortium.
- Each consortial delegation has one vote. Each consortium's delegation will need to come to consensus before casting their vote. Any tie votes will be broken by the Steering Committee chairperson.
- The Steering Committee will also conduct two town hall-style meetings each year to explain the progress on current initiatives and operations and elicit further feedback from all participating libraries.