

ACTION ITEMS FOR ALL NELLCO AND LIPA MEMBERS:

- **Review the attached announcement**
 - **Complete the [survey located here](#)**
 - **Sign up to attend an [informational webinar here](#)**
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PALMPrint

Preserving America's Legal Materials in Print

The Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA) and NELLCO announce the formation of a shared print repository for federal and state primary materials.

THE PROJECT

- Recognizes that the digital environment is growing in influence but concludes that historical primary materials have inherent value and need to be collected and retained into the foreseeable future.
- Asserts that individual law libraries do not need to maintain what are essentially duplicate collections all over the country.
- Believes that the community of law libraries should shoulder the responsibility of maintaining historical primary authority for the community at large.
- Anticipates the cost of the project will be shared by the two organizations as well as the participating libraries.
- Encompasses a three year pilot plan that will be re-evaluated at the end of that time period.

THE FACILITY ...

This shared collection will be held at the W.B. Meyer high density storage facility in Connecticut. The collection will be a centralized, collectively owned print collection, and will circulate to participating libraries upon request. Delivery of items will be provided through commercial carriers, as well as digital delivery options where appropriate.

WHY CREATE A REPOSITORY?

- Many law libraries are supportive of transitioning to digital collections but are reticent about discarding their print collections given the unstable challenges of licensing, impermanence in the information industry and impact on budgets.
- Law libraries are experiencing the loss of space to other functions, or wish to repurpose their own space for other student services.
- Law libraries are experiencing economic challenges associated with depleted budgets, multiplicity of formats and a swiftly changing technological environment.

- Law libraries share a professional commitment to the preservation of materials in their original print format.
- Benefits accrue to many university and/or state law libraries that do not have access to remote storage facilities.

WHAT WILL IT INCLUDE?

Priority collections will include:

- Federal materials - statutes, codes, reports, congressional records, administrative codes and executive orders/presidential papers.
- State materials - session laws, codes, administrative codes and registers, court reports, national reporters, specialty reporters that are not duplicative, attorneys general reports and opinions.

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES...

- Ability to free up space in own libraries for other purposes or collections.
- Off-site storage for an accessible historical print collection of American primary materials.
- Knowledge that a secure print collection exists while the library continues transitioning to a completely digital environment if desired.
- Ability to participate in a collaborative project preserving American primary materials at a discounted price.
- **The law library community will benefit by collaborating in a meaningful effort to preserve and protect a comprehensive primary source repository of American Law.**

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE PROJECT?

LIPA and NELLCO do not know what the information landscape will look like in five years, but everyone is pretty sure it's going to look different than today. In 3 years, we may be comfortable that the digital environment is robust enough to allow the project to come to an end. We may determine that the digital environment is still relatively unstable and retaining the print repository for another term of years would be in our collective best interests. The exact amount of continuing assessed fees for project participants cannot be determined at this time, because we may have more participants or we may have fewer. We do know that the fees to continue the project after the third year are going to be less than the initial three year period, due to the costs of starting up the project. Moreover, the proposed budget for the pilot includes funds for disbanding the repository, if that is the ultimate decision.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

The cost of the 3-year pilot project is estimated at \$360, 749.00 for the ingestion and storage of 150,000 items. This covers both the upfront costs of retrieving, processing and ingesting the materials (amortized over the life of the pilot), as well as the annual storage costs. Retrievals will be billed upon use. The project cost also anticipates deaccessioning costs, set aside in a restricted fund, in the event that the participants dissolve the collection at the end of its useful life.

Both LIPA and NELLCO will jointly underwrite a portion of the project costs each year. The remaining \$240,749.00 of the three year pilot project cost will be amortized among the participating libraries over the life of the pilot. The costs here represent three equal payments. At the end of the three years, the status of digital collections will be reviewed and the success and necessity of the repository will be re-evaluated. If the pilot continues, the ongoing costs of the project will decrease, by an amount to be determined. Participating libraries will be committing to the entire three year pilot project.

- If 100 libraries commit, the cost per library for the life of the project will be \$2,407.00 or \$802.00 per year.
- If 75 libraries commit, the cost per library for the life of the project will be \$3,209.00 or \$1,069.00 per year.
- If 50 libraries commit, the cost per library for the life of the project will be \$4,814.00 or \$1,604.00 per year.
- If 25 libraries commit, the cost per library for the life of the project will be \$9,629.00 or \$3,209.00 per year.

HOW WILL POTENTIAL FLUCTUATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES BE HANDLED?

Because the project needs a minimum number of participating libraries to make the project economically viable, member libraries must commit to PALMPrint at the outset. We require a three year commitment from at least 25 libraries before the project can proceed. At the conclusion of the pilot period the project may be opened up to non-participating member libraries.

WHAT ARE THE BORROWING COSTS FOR PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES? Materials in the repository can be accessed by participating libraries in three ways: shipped via commercial shipper; used in an onsite reading room; provided digitally when feasible. The costs of borrowing will be billed to the borrowing library.

WILL THE REPOSITORY PROJECT INCLUDE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ALL SERIAL TITLES HELD IN THE PRINT REPOSITORY GOING FORWARD?

No, the goal of the PALMPrint pilot is to collect a retrospective collection of federal and state primary materials only. The proposal costs only cover acquiring and processing a retrospective collection.

WILL THERE BE A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION FORMED TO ADMINISTER THE PALMPRINT REPOSITORY?

The planning group considered whether it would be cost effective and useful to create a separate oversight organization during its deliberations. The pilot project will be administered by representatives of the two organizations. During the assessment phase following the pilot it may be determined that a separate organization will need to be formed.