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Cal Poly's Kennedy Library Joins Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST)

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's Robert E. Kennedy Library announced it is a planning partner in the Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST), a collaborative and sustainable journal archiving program of the California Digital Library.

The first CSU library to join, Kennedy Library is committed to investing in e-access to current scholarship and maintaining access to the print record. Michael Miller, Cal Poly's Vice Provost for Information Services and CIO, serves on the WEST Executive Committee, the governing body that oversees the development and operations of the WEST program.

Because of the changing nature of information resource collecting and the expense in archiving and preserving large print collections, libraries around the world are developing new ways to collaborate and share resources. Cal Poly's library is taking a proactive stance to ensure that during this transitional time and into the future, access to resources is protected. Funded by a three-year grant (2011-13) from the Mellon Foundation, Cal Poly and other WEST partners will establish the administrative and operational infrastructure to support the distributed journal archive.

"Membership in WEST and the inter-institutional cooperation for the preservation of a vast amount of literature that membership offers is the best way forward for Cal Poly," said Tim Strawn, director of information resources and archives at Kennedy Library. "We can cooperate to preserve the scholarly record by contributing our print back-files to the archiving program and maintain access to that literature for our users via existing article delivery methods."

WEST provides a networked approach to preserving and providing access to the scholarly record while offering individual institutions the opportunity to re-claim or re-purpose space to meet evolving user needs. "As the mission of our library evolves to meet user needs, and those needs are increasingly informed by a networked environment, decisions on legacy print archives must be collaborative," said Strawn.

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