

Alliance Summer Meeting, July 15 2016
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HathiTrust Information Sheet – Shared Content Team presentation to Council

Our Central Question for Council

Should the Shared Content Team pursue a more formal investigation of an Alliance Hathi Trust membership, including a cost model?

HathiTrust FAQ

1. What is HathiTrust?

HathiTrust (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>) is a partnership of academic and research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world.

2. Why was HathiTrust created?

HathiTrust was created to contribute to research, scholarship and the common good by collaboratively collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating and sharing the record of human knowledge. The project began in 2008 as a collaboration among universities within the Committee of Institutional Cooperation (CIC) and the University of California System to develop a repository to archive and share their digitized collections. HathiTrust has now grown to include additional library partnerships and has developed processes for the partners to archive their digital content.

3. What are the benefits of being part of HathiTrust?

The primary benefits of partnership are cost-effective long-term preservation and access services for digitized content. In general, institutions gain the most from membership when they have significant amounts of content to deposit, or when there is significant overlap between the institutions' print collections and the digital collections in HathiTrust. More detail about benefits can be found here:

https://www.hathitrust.org/features_benefits

4. Which institutions are HathiTrust partners?

Partners include (but are not limited to) many ARL member libraries, the Library of Congress, the Getty Research Institute and other research libraries. HathiTrust includes four consortia: CIC and State systems in California, Florida and Texas. Two Orbis Cascade Alliance member libraries are HathiTrust partners: University of Washington and Washington State University. All current HathiTrust partners are listed here: <https://www.hathitrust.org/community>.

5. What is HathiTrust's fee structure?

HathiTrust members pay for the basic infrastructure costs of content preservation in the repository. These costs include the storage of content, backup, data centers, servers and staff. The fee structure is distributed among the partners. Fees are comprised of two elements: an evenly distributed share of the

costs that support content in the public domain and the cost of in-copyright volumes that overlap with print volumes held within the partnership print collections. Membership fees are billed on a calendar cycle starting January each year. HathiTrust's pricing model is described here:

<https://www.hathitrust.org/cost>.

6. Can institutions join as a consortium?

There are two options for consortial membership: *Single Entity* and *Collective of Institutions*:

https://www.hathitrust.org/help_partnership#Consortia

Single Entity –

If a consortium can be represented as a single entity (must be single legal entity, have single legal counsel and insurance) through its holdings contracts and authentication, then it can join HathiTrust as a single entity. HathiTrust benefits from the efficiencies that come with dealing one rather than many entities. The consortium benefits by having a lower cost (as a result of being treated as a single entity) and gaining access benefits, as all institutions are considered to have the collective holdings of the consortium.

Collective of Institutions –

In this scenario, the partnership fee for each institution is calculated separately. The fee is paid by each institution, either directly or through the consortium, and all holdings are considered separately. Because the costs to HathiTrust are the same as if it were dealing with many separate institutions, there is no cost benefit given to consortia that join in as a collective. Nevertheless, institutions in this scenario may derive other benefits from acting as a collective. For instance, they might pool their votes in partnership dealings to have more impact, or consolidate work in ways that they gain efficiencies (such as preparing holdings data or digital content for submission to HathiTrust).

7. What are some HathiTrust initiatives?

In 2011, HathiTrust partners began the HathiTrust US Federal Government Documents Initiative, a coordinated and collective project that expands and enhances access to US federal publications, including those issued by GPO and other federal agencies. This initiative also created an authoritative registry of US Federal Government Documents. In addition, HathiTrust helped to develop and launch in 2013 a Metadata Management System (Zephir) that includes a range of back-end services. HathiTrust has also received an IMLS National Leadership Grant for copyright determinations work for the Copyright Review Management System. This toolkit is intended for use worldwide. Also, HathiTrust partners are currently developing a print monographs archive plan, scheduled for launch soon.