

The Value of SHARES

What is SHARES?

SHARES is the **resource sharing consortium** of the OCLC Research Library Partnership, where trusted partners provide each other with low-cost access to their rich and diverse collections. SHARES also generates resource sharing innovation and best practices.

Why SHARES, among so many other consortia?

SHARES is a unique collaborative cohort that works to share knowledge, expertise, and ideas as well as research materials. Being a SHARES member unlocks a suite of distinctive benefits for your library staff and patrons.

- **Exceptional access:** Receive preferential service and loans of special items from academic, independent and art research libraries in five countries.
- **Special connection to OCLC Research:** The SHARES cohort is led by a dedicated program officer embedded within OCLC's Membership and Research Division.
- **Cost savings:** The below-market pricing for filled requests is easy on the budget, and most participants balance borrows with loans.
- **Professional Development:** Library staff actively participate in developing consortial policy and procedures, serve on advisory groups and task forces, and help scope and execute innovative projects that expand access to the world's knowledge.

The SHARES community came together throughout the COVID-19 pandemic crisis to share information, navigate unprecedented disruption, experiment with new strategies for service provision, and plan for when staff and patrons return to the physical library.

Many of our innovations will outlast the pandemic and are already becoming our new standard way of sharing collections, giving us fresh possibilities for getting even more research materials into the hands of scholars everywhere.

SHARES has been going strong for over 40 years.

Contact Dennis Massie at massied@oclc.org to discuss more ways of getting the most value out of SHARES benefits and opportunities.

The value of SHARES as told by members:

“Participating in SHARES has allowed me to grow as a librarian through networking, mentorship, and professional development. SHARES is a great platform to serve on committees, present at conferences, and connect with colleagues from around the world.”

—**Travis Goode, University of Texas at Dallas**

“Many of our faculty work in specialized research fields, and the SHARES libraries have proven invaluable in providing ILL access to exclusive collections. SHARES libraries are helpful in providing non-book materials, such as video, microfilm/microfiche, music scores, CDs, etc., as well as lending rare or typically non-circulating material. SHARES libraries are more likely to prioritize and go the extra mile to fill requests per our consortial agreement and the general good will among members.”

—**Kerry Kristine McElrone, Swarthmore College**

“The value of belonging to SHARES lies in the discussions on lists and town halls that provide us with access to our expert colleagues in the field of library resource sharing. These venues offer a way to find answers and solutions that help us make informed and beneficial policy, workflow, and service decisions.”

—**Beth Posner, The Graduate Center, City University of New York**

“I found myself working alongside peers that were not only leaders within the SHARES consortium but leaders in the interlibrary lending field. I could not have asked for a better learning opportunity.

—**Ralph Baylor, Frick Art Reference Library**

“The simplest justification for SHARES is the cost. Annual membership in SHARES is more than outweighed by a reduced, standardized fee structure. Haverford would, without SHARES, pay a fee of \$15-\$25 for domestic requests. As SHARES members, we pay \$10. That request cost is balanced by an increased visibility of—and requests from—our own collections from large universities who are SHARES members.”

—**Rob Haley, Haverford College**