The 8th annual South Asia Cooperative Collection Development workshop took place in Madison, WI, October 27, 2017.

The theme of the 2017 workshop was Print Retention. Building upon previous workshops, we sought to emphasize retention as a part of our cooperative efforts, both in terms of vision for our maturing collaborative and in terms of documentation of our collective work. We are compelled to support those who are charged to winnow as well as those who are enabled to retain. Furthermore, we need to guarantee the perpetuity of our collection development, documentation and preservation efforts—at the local and the national level. Beyond discussions of retention, we also continued to learn about and promote each other’s collections, strategies and successes through “niche collection” presentations.

**Print Retention**

The 2017 workshop advanced planning for a Shared Print Retention project for South Asian materials. Since the workshop of 2016, which introduced us to the topic, many of our libraries have considered and/or committed to large-scale initiatives, such as the HathiTrust’s Shared Print Program. Group homework for this year’s workshop had focused on two topics: Content to be prioritized for retention, and Agreements to formalize print retention plans. Aruna Magier presented the recommendations of the group that considered Content, and David Faust, recommendations of the Agreements group. Discussion led to consensus that our initial efforts should center on 3 sets of materials already identified in SACOOP’s recent activities: our declared niche collections; SALToC serials; likely-ceased serials from the LC database SCIMS. Taking the HathiTrust’s Shared Print Retention agreement as an already familiar and suitable model, we resolved to produce a Memorandum of Understanding for our project, hopefully by the end of December 2017.

This initiative depends on and follows from SACOOP’s founding principles, which are to acquire, provide access to, and preserve materials for South Asian studies.

**Niche collections**

Jeff Martin, of the University of Michigan, gave a presentation called Specialized Collection Development: Got a Niche? Jeff showed purchases from a recent acquisitions trip to India, including colorful ephemera around Jagannatha of Bhuvanesavara and assorted imprints in Oriya and South Indian languages. One bookshop “find” was the local digitization group Srujanika.org, which provoked considerable discussion. Richard LeSage, of Harvard, presented on the Vernacular Christian Literature of Bihar and Chota Nagpur. Richard has long experience with this region, enabling him to acquire some 275 recent publications from the local presses, primarily in Hindi and English. Richard provided scholarly and thorough backgrounding on the place, its peoples, their histories, and their missionary advocates.

**Next steps**

The group drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be shared with Collection Development Officers, Associate University Librarians for Collections, and/or other administrative decision-makers at their institutions by March 2018.
Next workshop
Based on input and comment from the group, we plan to revisit our patterns of subscription to monographic profiled acquisitions from the Library of Congress’ Field Office in New Delhi. We expect changes to continue through the years and want to make sure we are consistent in documenting and sharing decisions with each other. Furthermore, we expect to build our newly established print retention agreements into our active collection development work through LC (for example, vernacular language acquisitions).

2017 Participating Institutions
Center for Research Libraries
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University / TRLN
Emory University
Harvard University
Indiana University
Library of Congress Islamabad Field Office
Library of Congress New Delhi Field Office
New York University
Stanford University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin