



“Dealing With Journal Cuts – When the Sky’s *Not* the Limit”



**Judy Woodburn, Head, Serials; Beverly Murphy, Assistant Director, Marketing and Publications;
Richard A. Peterson, Deputy Director, Duke University Medical Center Library, Durham, NC**

The Duke Medical Center Library has taken advantage of budget cuts to increase collaboration with old and new partners as we planned for reducing journal subscriptions. While budget cuts and escalating subscription costs prompted journal reviews in 1980 and 1993, the \$1.2 million reduction in the Library’s total budget during 2002 – 2005 necessitated increased external involvement in the review process. We anticipated that one of the long-range outcomes of the current journal review would be a strengthening of both ongoing and new partnerships.

The first step was to develop a comprehensive journal database with criteria such as ISI impact factor, number of times a University author published in or cited a title, number of ILL requests, and cost. The Library actively solicited involvement from Medical Center departments to serve as external reviewers; the response was quite good with contacts established for 58 of 62 departments. Printouts were prepared by discipline for ranking of titles by the appropriate departmental contacts. The rankings were used to help decide which titles were candidates for cancellation. The list of potential cancellations was posted on the Library’s Website to solicit additional input prior to making final decisions.

In addition to increased faculty involvement, the Library worked closely with other campus and area academic libraries to coordinate the deselection process. We also used the budget cuts as an opportunity to leverage the influence of our consortium for development of new models for licensing of electronic journals.

Background

Journal Cancellations

- Necessitated by 1.1 million dollar budget cut: proposed 37% decrease in funding over 3-yr period
- Most foreign language and shared campus titles cut in 2002-03
- More significant cuts required in 2003-04

Faculty Input

- Sent letters to department heads requesting assistance in reviewing titles
- Received good response with contacts established for 58 of 62 departments

Subject Groups

- Created 69 subject groups according to Duke interests and departments
- Categorized 1,757 journal titles by groups
- Used subject groups to categorize e-journals on the Website



Data Gathering & Analysis

Comprehensive Excel Database

- Fields included: title, cost, publisher, subscription agent, availability online, ISSN, order number, subjects, interlibrary loans per year, impact factor, # Duke articles published per year, # Duke cites per year

Order No.	ISSN	ISSN-E	Journal Title	Frequency	Year	Cost	Order Number	Subjects	Impact Factor	Duke Articles	Duke Cites
8199	0001-9027		ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Quarterly	2003	\$18,000.00	1000000000	Medicine	1.7	14	1
8200	0001-9027		ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Quarterly	2003	\$18,000.00	1000000000	Medicine	1.7	14	1
8201	0001-9027		ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Quarterly	2003	\$18,000.00	1000000000	Medicine	1.7	14	1

Review Lists

- Arranged by subject groups extracted from database
- Included relevant database elements with a grid for ranking titles on a 1 to 5 scale
- Sent to reviewers in paper and digital formats

Journal Title	Cost	ISSN	Order Number	Availability	Subjects	Impact Factor	Duke Articles	Duke Cites
ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	\$18,000.00	0001-9027	1000000000	X	Medicine	1.7	14	1
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Titles Cancellation List

- Faculty rankings added to database
- Titles examined by 5-member Journal Review Committee
- Cancellations based on this input and that from other Duke and neighboring academic libraries



Publicity and Outcomes

Publicizing Potential Cancellations

- List of cancellations
 - Included in Library newsletter
 - Posted on Library Website
 - Distributed via flyers in Library



Outcomes

Bad News ☹️

Cancelled 532 journals (30% of total titles; 32% of budgeted funds)

Received some complaints from vocal minority about the cuts

Coping with inflation in addition to cuts

Good News 😊

Reinstated some titles based on patron response

Built ongoing relationships with many faculty, who are now more aware of publication issues and costs

We survived and avoided a potential third year of cuts!