

Collections Review, 2009

FAQ: CANCELLATION PROJECT 2009-10

WHY DOES THE LIBRARY NEED TO MAKE CUTS TO THE COLLECTIONS BUDGET?

Several factors dictate the need to reduce the collections budget. The cost of information resources continues to rise every year. Journal prices are expected to inflate between 8 and 10 percent in 2009-10, the average rate of inflation since the last serials cancellation project in 2004-05. Because the Library's overall budget increases at a much slower rate, augments to the materials budget are unable to cover these yearly increases (augments to the materials budget have ranged between 0 and 3 percent). Other research libraries are also facing serials reviews or have recently had to undergo significant cancellations. Among these are:

Washington State University: <http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/collections/CancelCover.html#topic4>
University of Nevada, Las Vegas: <http://www.library.unlv.edu/cd/sap2009/faq.html>
University of Rhode Island: http://www.uri.edu/library/serials/serials_cuts/serialscut2009.html
University of Nebraska, Lincoln: <http://www.unl.edu/libr/news/index.shtml#news015>
Oregon Health Sciences: <http://www.ohsu.edu/library/depts/colldevcomm/canceljournal.shtml>
University of Wisconsin, Madison: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/collections/cancelled.html>

For additional information, the following paper provides a thorough discussion of the overall problem facing libraries: The Serials Crisis: A White Paper for the UNC-Chapel Hill Scholarly Communications Convocation, by Judith M. Panitch, Research and Special Projects Librarian, and Sarah Michalak, University Librarian.

HOW MUCH WILL THE LIBRARIES NEED TO CUT?

The plan is to target \$1.2 million (27%) worth of databases and serials from the \$4.4 million portion of the collections budget devoted to these areas. The book budget was already trimmed by 25% (\$217,000) this year (2008-09) in an effort to forestall this larger project that will focus on licensed and continuing resources.

The Library expects that it will be necessary to decrease the materials budget in both years of the next biennium, hence the \$1.2 million target that will be taken over two fiscal years. For fiscal year 2009/10, a cut of \$842,000 will be needed. In 2010/11, another expected cut of \$350,000 will be required.

In order to avoid repeating the labor intensive process of identifying, reviewing and discussing cuts in both years, the work to identify the full \$1.2 million will proceed during the winter and spring terms of 2009.

The current economic climate and its associated problems pose an additional wild card at this point. The cuts above are needed to address the deleterious effects of inflation on the portion of the library's budget devoted to collections. If financial rescissions are required of campus units, they will exacerbate an already difficult situation. Any additional cuts to the library's overall budget will certainly result in a further erosion of content.

HOW WILL THE LIBRARIES DETERMINE THE AMOUNT THAT EACH DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM MUST TARGET FOR CANCELLATION?

Past cancellation projects did not employ an across the board reduction. The Library established targets based on inflation factors, costs of materials, and past expenditures. The science disciplines cancelled a slightly higher percentage of titles than the social sciences; and the humanities and arts disciplines reduced their percentage of titles by less than both the scientific and social scientific disciplines.

Current data on inflation across the various disciplines does not suggest that differential cuts are appropriate this time around. Materials in the humanities are currently inflating by amounts equal to or even greater than the social sciences and the sciences. Therefore, the target cuts for each fund line will be the same. The dollar amounts for journal cancellation will depend on the results of the database review that is currently underway.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE DIDN'T DO A CANCELLATION PROJECT FOCUSED ON DATABASES AND JOURNALS?

The Library's ability to balance its purchases of other library materials (new books, compact discs, videos, etc.) would be seriously compromised. We would have to reduce and eventually eliminate the fund lines dedicated to purchasing books. At eight percent serials inflation (or \$350,000), the monographic fund lines would disappear within several years.

MY RESEARCH DEPENDS UPON JOURNAL ACCESS. WHY ARE WE SACRIFICING IMPORTANT SERIAL TITLES TO PURCHASE BOOKS THAT MAY BE LESS IMPORTANT OR THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH ORBIS CASCADE ALLIANCE OR INTERLIBRARY LOAN?

Research libraries try to maintain an appropriate balance between serials and book expenditures. The benchmark that is often cited is 70/30. The UO Library average ratio is now closer to 74/26. This ratio is comparable to the balance maintained by our peers in FY 2007:

UO Peer Institutions	Ratio of Serials Expenditures/ Compared to Book Expenditures
California-Santa Barbara	72/28
Colorado	78/22
Indiana	61/39

Iowa	79/21
Michigan	69/31
North Carolina	75/25
Oregon	74/26
Virginia	78/22
Washington	72/28

The importance of books varies by discipline, but books tend to be heavily used by students across campus. New books are essential to keep pace with the demands of the teaching curriculum. Inflation is a wild card, and unless we purposely strive to maintain a balance between serials and books, a high inflationary year could seriously erode or even wipe out the book budget.

I AM AN AVID USER OF SCIENCE DIRECT AND HAVE HEARD THAT MANY TITLES WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE ACCESS IN FULL-TEXT?

Since 2005, the Library has been using savings from the last cancellation to provide full-text access to all the Elsevier journals available via Science Direct. This access was achieved through a combination of journal title subscriptions and a pay-per-view service. Unfortunately, the savings are depleted, and pay-per-view access will need to be eliminated. This means that information once available for purchase on an article by article basis will now need to be obtained through Interlibrary Loan. The Library will ensure that users get access to needed information, but the process will require more patience on the part of the user.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

The timing of our journal renewal process requires identifying titles to cut before the end of May 2009. The review of titles will commence immediately and extend, at the latest, through the end of spring term 2009.

THE LIBRARY HAS ALREADY CANCELLED HUNDREDS OF TITLES IN PAST CANCELLATION PROJECTS. HOW WILL WE PRIORITIZE TITLES FOR THIS REVIEW?

Our plan is to eliminate any remaining duplication among formats (electronic, print, or microform) across all libraries on campus. We hope to target titles that have regularly inflated above average. We will also target high cost/low use titles. In this way, we hope to reach target amounts more quickly, cut fewer titles, and retain the broadest possible access to unique intellectual content. To facilitate the review, lists of titles for faculty to scrutinize will be mounted on this website. We will also provide additional information that may be useful to faculty during the project.

WILL THE NEED FOR A REDUCTION AFFECT THE BOOK BUDGET?

Monographic allocations were permanently reduced by 25 percent in 2008-2009. We do not plan to decrease the book budget further, but increases in book prices mean the Libraries will buy fewer titles.

CAN THE LIBRARIES SAVE MONEY BY MOVING TO THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF A JOURNAL?

Most publishers do allow libraries to subscribe to the electronic version of a title for a reduced price. However, the Library has already moved most of its titles to electronic-only, including those titles from the major Scientific, Technical and Medical publishers like Elsevier and John Wiley. We will continue to migrate remaining print to e-only in the years to come.

WHY CAN'T THE LIBRARIES CANCEL THOSE TITLES THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN FULL-TEXT DATABASES LIKE ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER?

There are several reasons why this may not be in the best interests of the UO community.

Some evidence exists to suggest that serials publishers will actually pull their content from databases if they believe libraries are canceling subscriptions to rely on the content from databases.

Basically, because the Libraries license rather than purchase the content of these databases, we do not have the same type of control over the content in these databases as we do with print and even some electronic subscriptions. Titles may be included in a database one year, and then the following year, may disappear for multiple reasons (i.e., serial publishers and database vendors are not able to negotiate amenable terms for including the content).

Though the database providers for resources like Academic Search Premier describe their products as "fulltext," the fulltext of these products often does not provide cover to cover content. That is, the coverage may not include every article, letters to the editor, or book reviews in a given issue; it may not include graphics (illustrations or maps) nor will it include advertisements. More importantly, many of the serials included in these types of databases have "embargo periods." This means that the publisher of that title does not allow the database to release the full-text content for a predetermined length of time (typically 6, 8 or 12 months). After the embargo period is over, the fulltext will become available as it does for earlier issues of a serial. Print and most electronic subscriptions provide current and complete coverage.

CAN THE LIBRARY CUT OTHER EXPENSES SUCH AS SUPPLIES AND SERVICES (S&S) OR EQUIPMENT?

A modern research library cannot operate without the equipment and supplies necessary to provide public services and process a large volume of materials in diverse formats. The explosion of information technology adds pressure to update software and hardware and invest in ongoing maintenance of equipment for classroom support. Currently, almost all of these purchases are made using gift funds.

WHAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO EXPAND COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY OR WITH OTHER LIBRARIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST?

The UO Libraries and the OSU Library are discussing proposals to expand opportunities for resource sharing and document delivery beyond the benefits that Orbis Cascade (<http://www.orbiscascade.org/index/about-the-alliance>) participation provides. We are investigating easy methods for sharing journal content, perhaps similar to the process students and faculty use to borrow books from other libraries. We will also examine our respective holdings closely when decisions are made to cancel a title or to order a new journal. Though some duplication may be necessary, a single copy of a title could serve the needs of both institutions. In the long run, the two libraries could increase the overall number of titles held between us. Copyright and ownership issues must be considered when resource-sharing decisions are made, but there are many successful models of cooperative collection development that can benefit our two institutions.

HOW WILL THE JOURNAL TITLES BE SELECTED? WHAT INPUT WILL I HAVE IN THE DECISION PROCESS?

Working in collaboration with faculty, Library subject specialists will identify and prioritize databases and journal titles to cancel. Departments will be able to examine lists of titles allocated to their serial fund lines. The Library will provide electronic copies of these lists and will also post all of these lists on the Library's website.

HOW CAN I BE CERTAIN THAT SOME OTHER DEPARTMENT WON'T CUT A JOURNAL THAT I USE ALL THE TIME?

Before any final decisions are made, faculty from all UO departments will have an opportunity to review the entire list of proposed cuts. Differences of opinion about what titles to cut will be negotiated and a solution will be found.

WILL WE HAVE TO DO ANOTHER CANCELLATION PROJECT AFTER THIS ONE?

For the foreseeable future, inflation rates for journals are expected to remain high. As long as inflation rates go up and augments to the library materials budget do not match this inflation, serials cancellations will be inevitable. Additional rescissions to the library's overall budget will result in the further loss of content.

DOES THIS CANCELLATION MEAN THAT THERE IS NO MONEY TO PURCHASE NEW SERIALS?

This year, \$10,000 was set aside to address the demand for new serial purchases. We hope to continue this practice in the future and even increase the amount in order to provide for the acquisition of new database products. However, the tradeoff between maintaining existing resources and purchasing new resources requires a delicate balancing act. The Library must be vigilant about letting go underutilized resources to create the capacity for new expenditures.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM?

The scholarly publishing industry remains in transition. Libraries and universities have become more vocal on the issue of serials inflation, and those publishers with extraordinarily high priced increases have seen a much higher rate of cancellations.

Libraries and universities also continue to investigate alternatives to the traditional model of publishing: a faculty member writes an article and gives away rights to a commercial publisher, the publisher sells the article (via a journal) back to university at high prices. The SPARC initiative (www.arl.org/sparc) is one example of collaboration between research libraries and scholarly societies to develop lower cost journals that are equivalent in focus and content to some high-cost commercial publications. Universities and their libraries are also developing information repositories like MIT's DSpace (www.dspace.org), a project to develop a stable digital archive and store the intellectual output of MIT's faculty and researchers. At the UO, Scholar's Bank (<https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/>) provides an open access repository for University of Oregon research, publications, and supporting materials in digital form.

Faculty can also engage in activities that have an enormous impact on the fundamental circumstances underlying the serials crisis:

- Learn more about journal pricing and inflation;
- Stay aware of publisher policies regarding authors' retention of copyright;
- Examine the scholarly journals you publish in as well as your service on editorial boards;
- Support the efforts by professional associations, societies, and other organizations to develop alternative, less costly means of distributing scholarly information:
 - <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html>
- Become better informed about scholarly communication issues:

- <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/faculty/author.html>
- http://libweb.uoregon.edu/catdept/irg/SB_Role.html
- <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/scis/sc/index.html>

I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE CANCELLATION PROJECT. WHO DO I TALK TO?

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<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/colldev/review/faq.html>

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