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Back to the Issue-What Do You Do With Your Duplicate Journals?

Don Jaeger
Alfred Jaeger, Inc.

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Back to the Issue — What Do You Do With Your Duplicate Journals

Column Editor: Don Jaeger (Alfred Jaeger, Inc.) <jaeger@ajaeger.com>

This is a new concept for a column. We will answer your questions regarding back volume periodical collection development. We are also interested in your opinion on any relevant topics. We want to hear from librarians, but also from publishers and vendors. I invite you to send your questions to me at Alfred Jaeger, Inc., 66 Austin Blvd., Commack, New York 11725-9009 or email me at <jaeger@ajaeger.com>.

Q: How do I go about selling journals that our library is discarding?
A: What a vendor requires is a list of the actual holdings that the library wishes to discard and the basic condition of the material; basically good to excellent condition is best. Vendors will make an offer for individual items or for the entire lot if preferred and usually we will pay the freight, UPS, parcel post, or motor freight.

Q: We are a state institution and cannot sell material for cash payment. What do you suggest?
A: In cases where libraries cannot sell for payment, a common solution is for the vendor to issue a credit which can be applied to any future purchases.

Q: Our library receives gifts of journals from professors and alumni. We really don’t need them. Should we let them go if they don’t require a value for the journals?

A: Many times we are contacted by libraries in this situation and, of course, the journals are a duplication of the library’s existing collection. In that case, we ask the library to refer the individual directly to us so that we may ascertain if the journals are of value. Many times they are not, but this relieves the librarian of any responsibility of disposing of the journals. It is also unnecessary for the librarian to provide the individual donating the material with any valuation of the journals.

Q: What happens if I request an appraisal from several vendors and the values differ drastically?
A: There are two types of appraisals for journals. The first and most common is the “fair market” evaluation which is used for donation purposes and is somewhere between wholesale and scrap value. The second type of appraisal is called “replacement” value which means what would the cost in today’s dollars be to replace the collection if it were destroyed or damaged by fire, flood, etc. The replacement value appraisal obviously would be higher.

ADVERTISERS’ INDEX

21  ACADEMIC PRESS  63  COUTTS
36  ACCENTS  79  DE GruYTER
77  AIP  10  EASTERN BOOK
76  ALPER  73  EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES
7  AMBASSADOR  16  IB
83  AMERITECH  45  INPUT CULTURE
47  AMIGOS  2  JAEGER
25  ANNUAL REVIEWS  66  MAJORS
23  ASCE  37  McGRAW-HILL
48  ASHGATE  84  MIDWEST LIBRARY SERVICE
41  ASME  72  NETPUBS
5  ATG  17  PRIMARY SOURCE MEDIA
28  AUBREY BOOKS  31  PUVILL
75  AUX AMATEURS DE LIVRES  71  READMORE
55  BAKER & TAYLOR  11,35  REED REFERENCE
59  BLACKWELL ENG  78  ROWECOM
3  BLACKWELL NA  9  SWETS
57  BOOK HOUSE  80  UnCOVER
19  BRODART  50,51  VAN NOSTRAND REINHOLD
82  CASALINI  13,39  WILEY
65  CHAPMAN & HALL  15  YBP
53,61  COLUMBIA U PRESS

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from page 75

years posed a few questions which have ranged from the value they add to the asset and what happens when a CD-ROM subscription is canceled, to the impact which the price of the very expensive CD-ROMs have on the average price of an item.

Despite the move to the WWW, CD-ROMs will still be around for awhile longer, but with more opportunities for wider access to documents and databases via the Web, we must now gear our minds to dealing with the many questions which come with it. As Librarians involved in collection development and management begin to incorporate Internet resources into the collections, the asset valuation of library collections is going to be further complicated. In this ever-changing world of CD-ROMs, Online, and Web access, “challenge” is one thing that is certain, and in the future it will become more a part of life than it ever has been.

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>

December 1996-January 1997 / Against the Grain