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Serials Cancellations

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Serials Cancellation News From America's Premier Research Libraries

by **Tony Ferguson** (Columbia University)

Prior to the San Antonio meeting of the Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group, a survey was distributed to discover the breadth and depth of serials cancellation going on among these libraries. It asked whether a serials review project was underway, and, if so, what was being reviewed and the expected level of expenditures to be cut.

Seventy-four percent (28) of the 38 libraries responding indicated they were conducting a project. Of those (10) indicating no project, two said they were always reviewing titles, another indicated publishers which discriminated against it (a national library) because of its size would be reviewed, and another indicated it was too early to tell.

Interestingly, the cutting this year appears to be hitting both periodicals and monographic series. Seventy-nine percent of the libraries (22) indicated they were reviewing both types of series. Another seven percent (2), monographic se-

ries only. This seems significant since most book publishers do not acknowledge any deterioration in revenues as yet. Finally, fourteen percent (4) said they were reviewing periodicals only.

In general the cuts seem to be across the board in terms of subject. Most libraries, seventy-nine percent (22), indicated that they were reviewing all subjects, eleven percent (3) focusing on the sciences, and another seven percent (2) focusing on other subjects.

Irrespective of subject, only three other libraries besides Princeton have decided up to this point to target a specific publisher.

This survey allowed libraries to categorize their expected level of expenditures to be cut in \$50,000 increments. In terms of a worst case scenario, from three to four million dollars worth of serials will be cut this year. This will not only be lost publisher-vendor revenues but it also represents decreased access to information.

The question that many of those responding must have in their minds is, what will they do next year?

Range	No. Libraries Cutting	Percent Libraries Cutting
\$50,000 or less	8	29
\$50,000 to \$100,000	4	14
\$100,000 to \$150,000	6	21
\$150,000 to \$200,000	3	11
\$200,000 to \$250,000	2	7
\$250,000 and above	5	5

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