Group Therapy -- Moving Fully to Electronic Journals

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GRIPE: Submitted by **Patricia A. Kreitz** (Director, Technical Information Services, **Stanford Linear Accelerator Center**, **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA)

We are thinking of moving to fully electronic journals — eliminating even current issues. I would like any advice about how to involve faculty in this decision-making. Have other libraries which have done this used surveys, relied just on the **Library Committee's** input, or used some other mechanism to identify which journals can be e-only and which titles faculty still need to see the current issues of in a physical form?

RESPONSE: Submitted by **Jenica P. Rogers-Urbanek** (Collection Development Coordinator and Technical Services Librarian, College Libraries, **State University of New York at Potsdam**)

We've been shifting our focus to online periodical content slowly, through a coordinated interview model in which, with the support of the departmental leadership, we speak with each faculty member in a department in turn. We ask them what journals they need in order to support student learning in their courses, and ask them to base these answers on the assignments that they give. This linkage of journal subscriptions to student learning outcomes gives us the opportunity to cull out any requests that are based on an unfocused and unsupported sense that "libraries should have that journal." We then ask which of the identified titles need to be in print for browsing or specific print-based assignments, and which simply need to be "available" to students. By collating these responses from across the department, we can identify trends in highly desirable content, and understand the teaching and learning needs of the subject area as they relate to periodical subscriptions. We've been able to cancel our print subscriptions to many journals through this process, and use the savings to subscribe to other needed titles, either in print or online. The added benefits have been increasing faculty awareness of what's currently available online (because the number of times I've been able to answer "Why don't we have this?" with "We do!" is amazing), and building a much more congenial relationship with our teaching colleagues through the simple practice of asking "what do we need access to?" rather than "what can we cancel in print?"

RESPONSE: Submitted by **Martha Tucker** (Librarian, **Mathematics Research Library**, **University of Washington**, Seattle, Washington)

Every other year or so, the **University of Washington Libraries** conduct a serial review project. We are usually given a percentage cut as our goal. In our system if a title is cancelled the first year of the biennium, we earn two years of credit towards our goal. I've worked on these projects many times. I usually work up a draft list myself based on various parameters which vary every time. This year I worked on identifying print + electronic titles to switch to online only and those for which print + electronic are still deemed desirable (and are still affordable). This year's project was easier in that we did not have to cancel unique content. I send this draft list to my library liaisons or committees (three departments) for their review and comments. Sometimes we meet in person for a discussion. A final list is determined and sent to all faculty by email and posted on the Web. Comments are encouraged.

This past year I also attended a faculty meeting a few days after posting the list. After some discussion, the list was put to a vote. By now, faculty members have had enough experience with online and the majority agreed to switch the proposed titles to online only.

In mathematics libraries, faculty members like to browse new materials every week. We've always posted (email and Web) a weekly list of new books and journal issues *(http://www.lib.washington.edu/Math/newbks.html.)* Once we started switching journals to online only, I began to include new online issues in our weekly list. This helps to keep the browsing tradition intact and faculty are less worried about losing the paper version. I also suggest ways that they can set up their own alerts.

RESPONSE: Submitted by **Marilyn Carney** (Serials Services Librarian, **Bruce I. Howell Library**, **Wake Technical Community College**, Raleigh, North Carolina)

We're trying to do the same thing. I've emailed department heads letting them know that their journals were available in e-format and asked their cooperation. In most cases, they were very agreeable. Our popular journals have nearly been discontinued.

A recent change was the opening of a new campus. We have added a few popular journals to their library

print collection at the request of the librarian for that campus. We still have a few die-hard faculty members who refuse to give up print versions no matter what we say. In some of those cases, we've <u>had</u> to purchase the print version. We've used surveys to get a feel for which version our faculty want, but in many cases we've not gotten the number of responses we'd like. So we work with what we get.

I believe emailing department heads to be the best way for us to find out what faculty want. We have a statewide electronic resource containing searchable collections of magazine, newspaper, and journal articles, electronic books, historical materials, maps, and much more — covering a wide range of topics; it's called **NC LIVE**. If the journals faculty want are in this resource, I emphasize the advantages of using this resource and I include a diagram of the navigations they should use to get to the electronic journals they need. Many have appreciated this. We're always on a budget so we let faculty know that we're trying to reduce print costs so that we can use funds for purchasing electronic resources.

Right now we have approximately 1/3 the print journals we had when we started this project of print reduction three years ago. Each year, at renewal time we try to order fewer print serials. It's a slow process and at this point, I'm not sure when we will be fully electronic.

RESPONSE: Submitted by **June Schmidt** (Associate Dean for Technical Services, **Mitchell Memorial Library**, **Mississippi State University**)

The **Mississippi State University Libraries** conducted a journal evaluation project with our faculty in March 2007. Faculty members were asked to rate journals in their discipline as a, b, c, or d in terms of usefulness and to state a preference for print or electronic format. Information provided to help faculty members make an informed decision included: 1) Whether the Libraries already provide online access and if that access was tied to the print subscription or provided through a journal aggregator and 2) the number of times the journal was used in print, as well as online use when available, provided the usage data from the supplier was COUNTER-compliant. Our Serials Department investigated the journals for which a majority of faculty completing the survey preferred electronic format. They compared cost differences of print versus online and also considered issues of perpetual access. We plan to convert from print to electronic when both those factors are favorable. 🌿