

discussed at the
4-24 mtg.

March 9, 2001

To: Deans, Department Chairs, Joyner Library Representatives, Library Faculty

From: Dr. Carroll Varner, Director, Academic Library Services; 328-6514

RE: Journal Realignment

Summary

Due to continuing double-digit inflation in journal costs and to reduced materials budget support from the state legislature, significant cuts in the printed journal subscriptions will be made this fiscal year. The cuts will take effect January 1, 2002, with the start of a new journal volume year.

We hope to reduce the impact of the printed journal cuts by subscribing to electronic journal access at significant savings on a per journal basis. In addition, we will increase the frequency and efficiency of document delivery so that single articles can be obtained more easily. The result will be a realignment of the way we access information from ownership of a limited number of printed journals to greatly expanded electronic access to journal literature. Most of the library faculty has been working on the plans for journal realignment that follow. Please give the process your attention and be aware that we must take these steps if we are to stay within our allocated budget. It is most important that the next two months be spent in consultation between library faculty and teaching faculty so that the best decisions possible can be made.

I will visit, or have already visited, the science departments personally to discuss this project.

Purpose and Rationale

The purpose of this communication is to involve you in the process of preparing for the cancellation of print journals in 2001/2002. The rationale for the print journal cancellation is three-fold: (1) the cost of library materials has increased more rapidly than the materials budget, especially since the state no longer gives the libraries an inflationary increase, (2) the inflation rate for print journals, particularly those in the sciences, is disproportionately high in comparison to other library materials, and (3) the library, and the library profession in general, has made a conscious effort to move toward more electronic access to resources. This is becoming increasingly more important as we attempt to provide reliable and unrestricted access for distance education students and on-campus remote users. These factors will make print journal cancellations necessary, and in order to realize savings in the next fiscal year, we must begin now to identify cancellations that will be effective with the 2002 subscriptions.

As you are probably aware, the state of North Carolina is confronting a budget deficit of at least \$700 million, and the universities in the UNC system must comply with a budget reversion. The libraries did not get any funding to cover serials inflation for FY 2000/2001 and it is unlikely that next year's materials budget will be any better. Furthermore, the serials inflation rate for the current year is higher than expected - an increase of up to 20% for some disciplines rather than the 8-10% that had been projected. In addition, there is the inevitable movement toward electronic access to journals. This movement is a result of the continuous technological change and innovation that have become an integral part of library operations, and the increased expectations by academic library patrons that full articles be delivered quickly through the utilization of full-text databases, linked full-text, or immediate document delivery services.

The Plan

With these factors in mind, the library will start a process of print journal cancellations. As Department Chair and Library Representative, your participation is essential as the link between your department or school and the library. The emphasis of the Journal Realignment Project will be in three areas:

- (1) The sciences. Science journals take a disproportionate amount of the serials budget (the journals for the six science areas consume approximately 1/3 of our library's serials budget), and they fall into the category of the highest inflation rate for all journals. Simply stated, the library cannot sustain the expenditures for these titles.
- (2) Duplication between print and electronic journals. Here too, the library cannot afford to continue to pay for both the print and electronic versions of the same title.
- (3) Shift from print to electronic journal packages. Paradoxically, this will more than compensate for the losses that will result from the print cancellations, by making a wider universe of titles available and deliverable to the desktops of East Carolina University's academic community.

The Process

The journal cancellation process will involve the following steps:

(1) Your Subject Librarian will send out a departmental journal list to each Library Representative and Department Chair.

(2) Faculty in your department should:

● Note which print journals are duplicated electronically. These titles will be automatically cancelled unless there is strong justification requiring maintaining the print version.

-Departments in the sciences will each have a targeted dollar amount to cancel, which your subject librarian will discuss with you.

-Your list of cancellations should be returned to the Library by April 9, 2001.

-The library will compile a revised journal cancellation list based on your feedback. The revised list will be sent to you again for final review in late April.

-Schools with multiple departments spending from the same library materials budget have only one list. The various Library Representatives should confer and facilitate the reviewing process for all departments in the school.

-In the shift toward electronic access, you may be asked to cut print titles that are available through electronic journal packages, even if these are not yet available electronically in Joyner Library.

Please make every effort to comply with the April 9th deadline. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Subject Librarian who is a valuable resource person and who is ready to assist you in any way possible.

● Broad participation by the faculty in this process is crucial to its effective completion. On behalf of the library's faculty and staff, I want to thank you in advance for your participation in this project.