

Hello Health Deans, Department Chairs and the Health Sciences Library Advisory Council:

You very likely took note of Rabia Gregory's e-mail sent out last Friday regarding a journal review that must take place this semester. I want to follow-up on Dr. Gregory's email below, with attention to how health-related and biomedical resources may be affected.

#### Overview:

- For FY2017, our total MU Libraries projected expenses for collections are \$7.3 million; our expected budget for collections is \$6.3 million. This projected \$1 million shortfall represents a 14% collections cut.
- ]80% of our collections budget is spent on scholarly journals, database subscriptions, and other continuing obligations. Average annual price increases on these subscriptions is 6 – 7%.
- Acting Director of Libraries Ann Riley is actively seeking additional funding, but we need to get input from faculty this semester if we do have to cancel journal subscriptions for January 2017.

#### Journal Review Process:

- We are starting with a review of the journals in our Elsevier and Wiley packages. Within the next week or so, a list of journals with cost and usage information will be available for review by faculty on a library web site set up for that purpose.
- The journals listed for review are journals in the Elsevier and Wiley packages that have been used less often than other journals in those packages, plus some additional high cost / low use journals from other publishers.
- Many health-related, biomedical, and science journals within the Elsevier and Wiley packages are very highly used and will not be on the list for review. Low-use titles will be listed, and the following information will be provided.
  - Journal title
  - Number of uses by MU library users in 2013-2014
  - Cost of the title
  - Cost per use, as determined by usage above

- An example of a journal that will be on the list for faculty comment:
  - American Journal of Industrial Medicine costs \$7549 per year. Average cost per use in 2013-2014 was \$61 per article viewed.

Any and all feedback from faculty is welcome, especially on overall priorities for the library. For the journal review process, the librarians will be looking for feedback on journals essential to teaching, clinical care, and research.

We enter into this process knowing that all disciplines will be affected, and our intention is to cut the titles that will have the lowest impact on our clients. We will, of course, continue to obtain articles through interlibrary loan channels, but please be aware that the libraries also pay for articles received in this way.

Please let me know what questions you have, and your suggestions on how we can best encourage your faculty to participate in the process. I'm happy to come to a faculty meeting or meet with people individually.

Thank you for sharing the journey with us.

*Deb Ward*

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**From:** "Gregory, Rabia" <[gregoryra@missouri.edu](mailto:gregoryra@missouri.edu)>  
**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2016 at 12:47 PM  
**To:** MU PROVOST Dept Chairs <[UMCPROVOSTDeptChairs@missouri.edu](mailto:UMCPROVOSTDeptChairs@missouri.edu)>  
**Subject:** important information for your departments about likely upcoming cuts to library subscriptions and services

Dear Department Chairs:

As Chair of the Campus Library Committee, I am writing to request your assistance in encouraging all faculty, students, and staff in your department to participate in upcoming conversations about likely cuts to periodical and database subscriptions. I want to ensure each academic unit on campus will have the opportunity to make sure their needs are clearly communicated while we develop purchasing and collection priorities for the campus library system. As you may already be aware, the library system faces a budget shortfall of over \$1,300,000 this year and, although final budget numbers are not yet available, recent projections anticipate an additional \$1,000,000 shortfall in Fiscal Year 2017. The Library Committee is working with campus administration and the Library's staff to identify one-time funding solutions to meet this year's budget shortfall, but there will almost certainly need to be cuts to journal subscriptions, online services such as databases, and book purchasing in the near future. I am committed to ensuring that every member of the campus community will have the opportunity to be involved in the process of determining where we should spend our limited resources. Unfortunately, the final budget numbers for 2017 may not be available until late April or May, meaning we will have a very short window to gather feedback from the University community before the library must begin renewing or canceling journal and database subscriptions. Because many of us will be traveling when the final budget numbers are available, it is essential that we begin establishing a ranked list of priorities for each department and academic unit during the spring semester so that our librarians will be able to protect resources most essential to our teaching and research.

I ask that you please help me by inviting the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate majors in your own department to determine which journals, book purchasing areas, and databases absolutely must not be cut. If you have an upcoming faculty meeting, please consider adding this to your agenda. Subject librarians are willing to come to department meetings to explain the process. A list of subject librarians is available here:

<http://library.missouri.edu/contactus/?target=subject-librarians>

We will need have ranked lists from academic programs and units by April 1st, 2016, so that we can make informed decisions when the University's budget situation clarifies.

If you have not already designated a departmental library liaison, you may wish to consider doing so. This person will collect comments and concerns from members of your department and relay them to your subject librarian, then work with the subject librarian to set up purchasing priorities for your specialty. Ideally the person you designate as liaison would also be present in Columbia in

the early summer when anticipated budget-driven cuts begin. Shortly, all members of the campus community will be sent an e-mail message inviting them to provide feedback on the ranked importance of journal titles in two high-cost packages we must renew this year. This will be the first of a series of time-sensitive opportunities this spring and into the Fall semester for us all to be active participants in prioritizing library purchasing. Because these packages contain bundled journals—that is, like your cable television service, the library buys access to a list of journal titles, even if we only want some of the items on the list—we cannot simply set a price limit and then cut titles until we hit it. Our negotiating team will need as much input as possible about which titles are essential before they begin this process. The negotiation process will begin over the summer and probably conclude in the fall semester. Please encourage your departments to participate in this survey so that our librarians can win the best possible deal for this campus.

If you have any questions about this process or if you would like to share your suggestions or concerns with the campus library committee, feel free to get in touch. You may also contact representatives of the library committee directly. The full list of members is available here:

<http://committees.missouri.edu/library/members.php>

Thank you for assisting me in explaining the importance of this situation to your department.

Best wishes,  
-Rabia

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