

HSL Advisory Council
Fall 2017 Meeting
November 29, 2017

Meeting began at 2:00

Present: Karen Cox, Denise Atkins, Angela Story, Evan Prost, Deidre Wipke-Tevis, Dongsheng Duan, Diane Johnson, Deb Ward, and Gayle Mooney

Deb Ward welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Everyone introduced themselves.

The topic for the meeting is collections and Deb said that staff has agonized over possible cuts to our collections for FY18. We cut in 2017 and were dreading doing it again for 2018. Fortunately, in October, the provost told us we did not have to cut and that they will find the money we need. It would have been about a 60% cut to journals due to the impact it would have on the volume discounts. She is very grateful that the provost and chancellor recognize the importance of the collection.

She wanted to use the time in this meeting to explain the process for determining what is cut from collections. She said we get volume discounts but have very complicated contracts with the various publishers and the deals are very fluid until we sign each contract. She said she asked Diane Jonson to join the meeting today because Diane is very knowledgeable about the collections and has the collection development responsibility for the Health Sciences Library. The basic challenge is to be constantly aware of our users and what they want as we see changes in pricing by our vendors. We try not to pay for something we do not use at all or just infrequently, yet we want to make sure we subscribe to journals that we use all the time. It is a constant balancing act. Deb said she also wants to know of any concerns or questions anyone might have.

Diane said the first thing she would like to clarify is that the need to cut journal titles is not just due to the fiscal situation at university; it is mainly due to skyrocketing prices from the publishers. Publishers attribute the cost rise to inflation but it is her experience it goes way beyond inflation. For example in the 1980s Nature, one of the premier scientific journals, cost \$220 a year. Now, with annual increases of 5-7%, the list price is \$21,000 for a year's subscription. The American Journal of Gastroenterology has increased its price by over 126% since 2012, well over the 4.6% rate of inflation in U.S. for that same period. This is a worldwide problem. German universities stand to lose access to current issues from thousands of journals after walking away from publisher negotiations with Elsevier. We will be able to assess the total effect this has on the universities after January 1 when they will be completely out of their Elsevier agreement.

Deidre Wipke Tevis commented that theoretically cost should have gone down because it is all electronic now. Diane agreed. There is a definite disconnect between cost of doing business and the price they are charging for a subscription. She added that 80% of the library collections budget is for journals.

Diane said we have to cut just to stay even each year. The library has already trimmed as much fat out of the collection that we could a long time ago. Another problem is that some of the more prestigious journals are launching new titles and because they are associated with the better-known title, their costs automatically start high. This year we used one-time gift money to add JAMA Oncology, but we have not been able to find money to add JAMA Cardiology.

Diane said that many journals associated with professional societies are now contracted out to commercial publishers like Wiley, Lippincott, Springer, Elsevier and Sage. It might be beneficial for members in the various societies to look at their journal subscription rate over the last five years and try to leverage article and peer reviews from the society's members to get publishers to agree to lower rates.

Another example of challenges we face dealing with a publisher is JOVE - – the Journal of Visualized Experiments. They want us to rent their entire video catalog and will not sell videos on an individual basis. Fortunately, the videos are free after two years and authors can provide the videos as soon as they are published as long as they are being used for educational purposes.

Diane said that the libraries have covered some of the journal subscription increases by buying fewer books. A good resource is R2, which allows us to provide online access to many more books than we can afford and make purchase decisions based on usage. A book could be looked at three times before we have to buy it. We have about 1000 titles out there. One book we have got over 4,000 uses so we knew we had to purchase that one.

Diane said she is very excited about President Choi's new Open Educational Resource (OER) initiative and said that grants are available for faculty to adapt, adopt or create open access textbooks. The deadline to apply for a grant for spring semester is Dec 8. She said one thing to keep in mind is that often we have only one or a few copies of a resource. As long as students are flexible in when they use it, it usually works. She cautioned that any faculty member should check with the library to see what is available before having an open book exam. There might not be enough licenses for to all the whole class to use it at the same time. Deidre said she ran into some problems with locked down browsers and had students who could not work with open access during an exam. Diane said that was good to know. Deirdre asked if there has been any discussion on sharing resources across the system to save money.

Diane said that question brought up the three ways we fund the collections. The first is through the UM System with the Merlin Consortium. The advantage of it is volume pricing. The budget has been flat for 10 years and to address the increases in costs we have had to cut about a million dollars in content. Deb said one of the problems they encounter is that vendors will change how they offer a product, or they will sell a product to another vendor, which means we have to adapt. Denice asked if once we are under contract, can the vendor change things around. Deb said they are locked in for a year, but after that, we may not get the same deal. Diane said that she had an issue with one of the big vendors, who would not provide a list of journals and books covered by contract. They then tried to change and substitute titles after we signed. For one key book, Diane was able to hold them to what we had agreed upon for the remainder of the contract period.

Dongsheng Duan asked how we determined what journals we need. Is it based on impact or on actual need? He said if no one needs the journal, we should forget about it. Diane stated that

sometimes it is in the package and we have to take it because we need other titles in the package. She said we look at use first and then impact. We also look at where our people publish and how often they are cited in a journal. Dongsheng said that sometimes to publish and have open access he has to pay a fee to the publishers. He would gladly give some of the money he has to pay back to the library if he did not have to pay the publisher. Deb said the libraries have asked administration to help with open access costs. The paradigm needs to change. The question is how to enable this – do we do it by discipline, by university? It is, however, a needed conversation.

Diane said two other ways we fund collections are the big central Mizzou packages such as with Elsevier, Spinger, Wiley, and a health sciences allocation funding. She said that we if had not gotten help from campus leaders to fund these central packages, we would have had to cancel them and buy back titles individually until we ran out of money. We would have run out way before we ran out of needs. The health sciences allocation funding is the only one we have total control over – the other two we can have influence but there are other parties involved. Our health sciences allocation took a 20% cut last year, and that cut continues into this year. Even before the reduction, our university was below the spending of other peer universities.

Diane said that we also track interlibrary loan requests and user requests to gauge demand. Cost per article in ILL is often way less than if we had to buy/rent a journal outright. Evan Prost asked for clarification for ILL. It seems to him that for a little inconvenience (it might take 24-48 hours to get a title), it seemed a good economical alternative. Deirdre said sometimes she needs the article and cannot wait. Deb said ILL is a way to get lesser used titles cheaper. Diane said they track the number of ILL requests to help in deciding which journals to add. To decide which journals to cancel, they track the number of full text views, as well as the cost per use.

Dongsheng said he has had much success in writing the author direct for a copy of the article (instead of using ILL). Most are happy to send him a copy of their work. The librarians would prefer to provide the need items.

Even so, it is very important to hang onto your copyright if possible. It is always worth a conversation with the publishers. Sometimes in the electronic “click here, click there” age, it is easy to do sign away your rights if you are not aware. Dongsheng wondered if we could create a template to send to authors for them to use so they do not sign it away. Angela Story asked if we could put something on the website about that. Diane said that was a good suggestion and there is already a link on the site about publishing articles. She also said that some of the big research funding agencies like NIH have already had this conversation with the publishers on behalf of their investigators by stipulating that any publications coming out of their funded research must be available to the public, usually after an embargo period. The thinking is that if the government puts money toward the research then the results should be free to the public. Some universities such as Harvard also do it. If their people publish something, it is supposed to be free after a certain period. Diane would like to see the University of Missouri do something similar – maybe after a year, the article would be posted in our MOspace campus digital repository.

Dongsheng said that if faculty knew how much we pay for subscriptions to the different journals, it might help them decide where they publish. Diane said you would think that you could go to a

publisher and say: “Since we are such a valued customer and subscribe to the journal for such a long time, can you waive the open access fee? ‘ Right? Wrong! Still, your professional societies provide another way to get leverage. Ask your professional society if they will waive or reduce open access publishing fees for their members. Diane said sometimes it is difficult with the big packages to get a cost per journal breakdown, but if you have a question about the subscription cost of a particular journal, do not hesitate to ask.

Diane said the library website has tips to identify sketchy publishers, encouraged everyone to look at it before they publish. Even if we have to pay for open access we still benefit over the long term – she just hates that there are now double revenue streams for the publishers.

Currently, with most publishers we own what we have already paid for so if we cancel going forward we still keep access to the past issues for the years we subscribed. However, more and more journals are going to rentals. Deb said change is definitely coming – it is a dynamic landscape. Diane referenced a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education that dealt with open access for scientific papers.

Angela asked how the board could help the Health Sciences Library. Deb said open access evangelization and getting the word out about retaining copyright for articles. She said also supporting and working with the OER initiative will help.

Deidre reminded everyone that it is better if professors used links to electronic resources in their course work rather than embedding a pdf of the article in Canvas; we get a more accurate count of how many people are using the resource. She said that the problem with some of the collaborations with UMSL is that UMSL does not have an e-reserves system. Since President Choi wants more collaborations between campuses, perhaps this is one of the things that could be addressed. Deb said that she really does not want to rely solely on statistics as basis for cuts because it does not reflect situations like the ones Deidre is talking about. We will continue to talk about this and spread the word to more users.

Adjourned 3:15

ADDENDUM: After the meeting, Diane provided the following links:

<http://libraryguides.missouri.edu/WhereToPublish/AuthorRights>

[Open Access](#)

[SPARC author addendum template](#)

Noticed this portion of the template text; apparently, silence denotes consent:

7. For record keeping purposes, Author requests that Publisher sign a copy of this Addendum and return it to Author. However, if Publisher publishes the Article in the journal or in any other form without signing a copy of this Addendum, such publication manifests Publisher’s assent to the terms of this Addendum.

Recent article on open access published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*: “[The Fallacy of Open-Access Publication](#)” by Andrew V. Suarez and Terry McGlynn.