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But we made the easy cuts last year

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"But we made the easy cuts last year!"
Maintaining a Quality Journal Collection in Tough Budget Times

Introduction: After dealing with three major budget cuts in FY03, the Lamar Soutter Library faced additional reductions for FY04. After brainstorming, the Management Team realized that drastic journal and staffing cuts were on the horizon. Concerns for the collection and continued customer service called for creative solutions. This poster examines the measures taken to preserve a quality journals collection.

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Results and Conclusions: The results of this process were unexpected. The faculty had been involved in the process and understood the ramifications of massive journal cuts. As a group, the Faculty Council appealed to the School Administration -- and the Administration gave the necessary funds to the Library to pay for the journals slated to be cut. Although a "happy ending" is not always possible, a carefully planned review process, utilizing as much hard data as possible, and keeping the users informed at each stage, can benefit the library as it seeks to provide quality resources in support of the school's mission.


Sept: LSL starts to collect usage data for print journals by scanning barcodes.
March: LSL starts to collect usage data for electronic journals using Cold Fusion
Summer: LSL Management Team compiles data for making decisions about journal cuts for 2003.
Sept: Final decisions made on journal cuts for 2003; 113 titles cut with fewer than 5 uses.
Winter: LSL Management Team compiles data on titles with fewer than 50 uses.
Feb 12: LSL submits budget request for FY04: Working FY03 Budget plus an increase to cover inflation.
Feb 13: LSL is asked to trim 10% from Approved FY03 Budget and submit new budget for FY04.
March 1: LSL is asked to trim the 10% from Working FY03 Budget and submit a 3rd budget for FY04.
June 5: Library Director Elaine Martin discusses possible journal cuts with Faculty Council and Academic Department Heads.
June 17: Martin discusses Journal Cancellation Project with UUMS Library Committee.
June 18: Martin sends e-mail and journal lists to Faculty asking for their input to cut $100,000 (about 200 titles) from Journal Line by Sept. 1 (Journal Cancellation Project). Her message and the list of titles slated for cancellation are posted on the LSL web page under "What's New?"
July 7: Martin sends comments to Associate Director for Technical Services.
August 7: Martin updates Faculty Council.
August 19: Martin calls special meeting of Library Committee.
August: Faculty Council appeals to UUMS Administration for funds to avoid drastic journal cuts.

Comments were received from 52 Faculty about 106 Titles.
- I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the journal titles that are scheduled for elimination by the Library.
- I would like to comment on the Journal Cancellation Project. I find it very surprising ... academic periodicals.
- A periodical may not be as useful to me as it is to others; however, it is still valuable for those who would like access to the information.
- I would like to add that you consider adding titles.

Letter from Library Director

Alphabetical Title List With Date

Used by LSL Management Team for Journal Cancellation Project

Table 1: 371 Titles Used Less Than 50 Times

Print Subscriptions are Decreasing due to Budget Cuts

Total Journal Subscriptions:
- Fiscal Year 2001: 1,181
- Fiscal Year 2002: 1,090
- Fiscal Year 2003: 1,120