



# "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.

2001

2002

Winter 2003

Spring 2003

Summer 2003

Fall 2003

**Sept:** LSL starts to collect usage data for print journals by scanning barcodes.

Usage Data is Collected by Scanning Barcodes at the Time of Re-Shelving



Each Title has One Barcode Per Decade



Use OBSERVER software for Endeavor ILS on a PDA with a built in laser barcode scanner.

See: <http://paulasay.indstate.edu/observer>

**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 UMMS 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 Journals 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?"

**Letter from Library Director Elaine Martin to Faculty**

June 18, 2003

Dear Lamar Soutter Library Patrons:

We need your help!

The Library is committed to providing quality health information through access to its resources and services. Unfortunately, the phenomenal rise in journal subscription costs and state budget problems, especially the elimination of a special line item in the state budget earmarked for the 29 Massachusetts College and University Libraries (including the Medical School), have had a negative impact on the Lamar Soutter Library's budget. These unfortunate events have made it necessary to reduce Library staff, reduce Library hours, and reevaluate our book, journal and electronic subscription purchases.

For the past two years, we have been gathering statistics on in-house journal usage of paper journals and electronic access to online journals. The results of this study are provided on a website developed to encourage you to help us reevaluate our print and electronic journal collection. Please visit <http://library.umassmed.edu/journaldata.htm> or visit the "What's New" section of the Library's website to view a list of all journal titles, their usage and cost. The website allows you to provide us with your feedback and help us identify journals for cancellation. We need your input by September 1, 2003. Please note that all cancellations will take effect in January 2004.

Thank you,

Elaine R. Martin  
Director of Library Services

**Summer:** Faculty send comments to Associate Director for Technical Services.

**July 7:** Martin discusses Journal Cancellation Project with curriculum-related Educational Policy Committee.

**Information Posted on LSL Website for Journal Cancellation Project**



**Table 1: 371 Titles Used Less Than 50 Times**

Table One: Total Project Usage (June to Sept)			
TITLE	COST FY 03	FY 03 USE	FY 04 USE
1. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
2. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
3. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
4. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
5. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
6. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
7. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
8. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
9. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
10. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
11. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0
12. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	200	0	0

**Print Subscriptions are Decreasing due to Budget Cuts**

Fiscal Year	Print Journal Subscriptions
2001	1681
2002	1580
2003	1470
2004	1430

**Alphabetical Title List With Data**

JOURNALS TARGETED FOR CANCELLATION - SUMMER 2003

TITLE	ISSN	LAST YEAR'S COST	LAST YEAR'S USE	THIS YEAR'S COST	THIS YEAR'S USE	REASON FOR CANCELLATION
1. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
2. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
3. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
4. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
5. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
6. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
7. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
8. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
9. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
10. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
11. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use
12. Addison-Wesley, Computer systems	0000-0000	200	0	200	0	Low use

Used by LSL Management Team for Journal Cancellation Project