But we made the easy cuts last year

Barbara C. Ingrassia

*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

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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.

Barbara Combes Ingrassia, MLS, AHP
Associate Director for Technical Services
Elaine R. Martin, MLS, MA, AHP
Director of Library Services
The Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical School

2001

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
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 a new budget for FY04.
March 1: LSL is asked to trim the 10% from Working FY03 Budget and submit a 3rd budget for FY04.

2002

Winter 2003

Winter: LSL Management Team

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 UMass 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?”

Spring 2003

Summer: Faculty send comments to Associate Director for Technical Services.
July 7: Martin discusses Journal Cancellation Project with curriculum-related Educational Policy Committee.

Sept 1: Deadline for Faculty comments.
Sept 2: Martin thanks Administration for increased funds; only 40 titles to be cut.
Sept. 8: LSL informs journal vendors of titles to be cut.

Fall 2003

Letter from Elaine Martin with GOOD NEWS

Letter from Library Director Elaine Martin to Faculty

Table 1: 371 Titles Used Less Than 50 Times

Print Subscriptions are Decreasing due to Budget Cuts

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