

## University of Sussex: Library

### Moving to electronic-only for journals

#### Background

- Moving to electronic-only for journals can mean:
  - Relegation and disposal of print back copies while retaining current print subscriptions
  - Relegation and disposal of print back copies, and cancellation of current print subscriptions
  - Cancellation of current print subscriptions but retain print back copies
  - A combination of the above rather than one model for all journals, often on a collection-by-collection or title-by-title basis
- Move to electronic-only offers savings in:
  - Space
  - Binding costs (£23K spent on binding journals in 2005/06)
  - Staff time (check-in, claiming missing parts, processing, boxing/binding related tasks, and shelving)
- Savings in subscription costs through cancelling print usually offset by:
  - VAT due on entire subscription (print subscriptions are not liable for VAT)
  - Many titles are only available electronically in the University of Sussex Library by subscribing to publishers' bundled deals

#### Current situation

- Of 1,646 titles in list of current journal subscriptions (excluding titles in bundled deals and databases):

Print and electronic	859	52.2%
Print only	785	47.7%
Electronic only	2	0.1%

- For 2006/07 we have cancelled 15 print titles that are available electronically in e-journal bundles, following consultation with appropriate Departments
- For 2006/07 changed from print only to print and electronic for titles where difference in subscription cost less than 10%
- Relegated to store print back copies of journals available in the JSTOR database and currently monitoring usage with a view to recommending retention or disposal

#### Future plans

- Relegation of print back copies of journals available in other databases or bundled deals already subscribed to
- Evaluation of e-journal bundled deals we do not subscribe to which could increase the number of back copies of print titles that could be relegated to store and then considered for disposal

## **Key issues**

- Access to and stability of electronic archive
- Reliability of access
- Commitment to significant recurrent costs for the University
- User preferences, e.g.
  - Limitations of reading on screen
  - Browsing/serendipity
  - Printing costs

## **Proposals**

- Relegate print back copies of journals to store where reliable archives are available electronically and assess if appropriate for disposal
- Increase the number of bundled deals subscribed to
- Cancel or do not subscribe to print where current issues available electronically if
  - Savings can be made in overall cost
  - Access to back copies is not likely to be compromised

***The ISC is invited to endorse this policy.***

**Adrian Hale  
Head of Technical Services, Library  
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