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):

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print and electronic</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print only</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic only</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
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- 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.

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