

UMSL budget cuts, journal price increases force subscription cuts

The budget cuts facing both the UMSL campus and the entire UM system have combined to force the Libraries to cancel approximately 30% of our journal subscriptions. We had originally estimated that a 33% cut to the Library serials budget would be necessary, but due to consortia purchasing agreements and other savings efforts we were able to mitigate the amount somewhat.

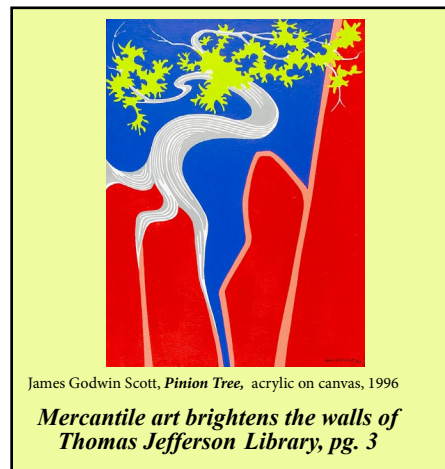
The lack of state funding, combined with annual journal price increases that are much higher than the annual general rate of inflation, means the Libraries must cancel enough current subscriptions to cover cost increases for at least the next three years. Faculty have overwhelmingly preferred to cut enough titles to cover multiple year increases, rather than be faced with cutting a smaller percentage each year for three or four years. According to 2016 *Library Journal* projections, the price for journals indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Premier will increase 6% in 2017, and the Libraries expect greater increases in the following years.⁽¹⁾ Publishers also continue to raise pricing in other ways, including purchasing titles previously published at lower cost by Associations and Societies then raising the price substantially, or basing online costs by Carnegie tier, rather than FTE as has previously been the common model. UMSL has a relatively low FTE cost compared to other research universities, but our Carnegie tier of “Research Intensive” ordinarily results in large price increases for journals moving to this model.

While these reductions to our subscriptions are necessary, the Libraries will work to insure that scholarship at UMSL continues to be well supported. Many of the journals needed by UMSL patrons will continue to be available online thanks to full-text

databases and publisher journal “packages” such as the Wiley Online Library. The Libraries currently subscribe to 2,301 journals, but we have online access to well over 100,000 full-text titles. We also offer user-friendly Interlibrary Loan options for articles that are not available here in print or online.

The current cancellations will be for the subscriptions starting January 2018 through 2020; decisions must be finalized by the middle of the Spring ‘17 Semester. We will be consulting with faculty to decide which journal titles to cancel. Each department has a librarian designated as its “selector.” The selectors will be contacting their departments’ liaisons in early Fall with a database of titles specific to that department from which cancellations will be chosen. This list of titles includes information useful to making the decision to keep or delete, such as price, inflation rate, impact factor when applicable, and online availability. Selectors will work with the department’s library liaison in making the cancellation decisions, and will be available to meet with the department as well as answer questions any individual faculty members may have about the database or deselection process. We encourage faculty members to contact their department liaisons or Chairs to provide input. Each department’s cut will be in proportion to its contribution to the overall increase in journal costs. Many of our print journals are duplicated as full text in online databases, and we believe that most departments will be able to minimize loss of access to journal content by choosing to cancel titles that are available online. The Libraries are planning to cancel some subscriptions which are full-text in Academic Search Complete or Business Source Premier databases for the

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PUBLIC SERVICE DESK

The Public Service Desk continues to be UMSL’s one stop shopping for the library needs of faculty, students and staff.

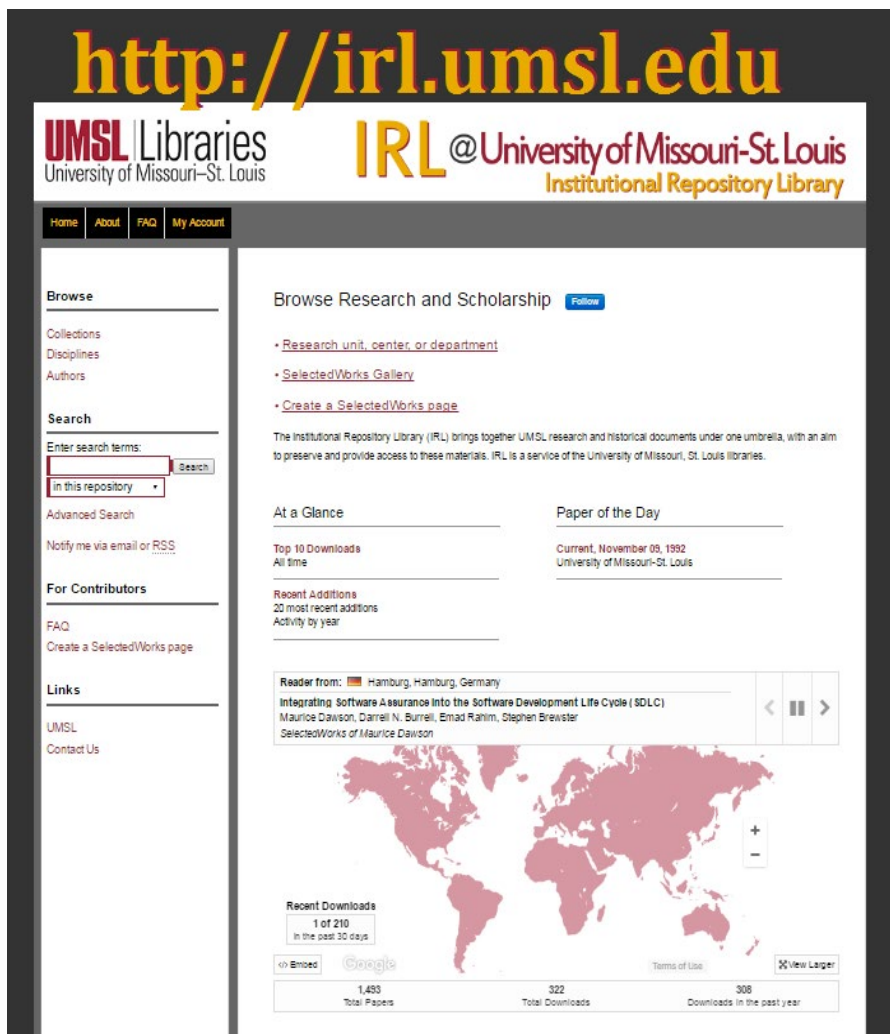
Where do you check out books? Where do you return books? Where can you ask a reference librarian for research assistance? The desk is located at the one and only entrance to the Thomas Jefferson Library. Just look for the neon lit curved desk (you CAN’T miss it!) and feel free to ask any question.

All reference, circulation, and directional inquiries about reserving library resources can be asked at the desk. As always, we continue to check out laptops and study rooms to students. No need to guess where to do that.

There is only one place more popular in the entire library. If you want to know where that is, just ask at the Public Service Desk!

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Become an IRLy Adopter!

Take the [IRLy Adopter Survey](#)

The Institutional Repository Library, IRL, is the newest virtual wing of the UMSL Libraries. IRL went live in March of 2016, and you can find it at irl.umsl.edu. IRL's mission is to gather, disseminate and preserve creative and scholarly works from the UMSL community. The initial materials originated from the UMSL archive and consist of nearly 1500 individual searchable and downloadable digital items including bulletins, yearbooks and student newspapers dating back to 1960.

- Share your research and creative works via IRL
- Distribute articles to colleagues locally and internationally
- IRL provides analytic reports about how often your work is viewed and downloaded
- Fill out the survey link under the headline above or create your own Selected Works profile
- Contact Lena Marvin--Institutional Repository Librarian--for help with this process.

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2017 subscriptions; in some cases these titles will give the department a good start on their cancellation lists while keeping access to the journals' content.

While this cut will provide a short-term solution for our materials budget, the problem of skyrocketing academic journal costs combined with lowered state funding will continue in the short term. The hoped-for shift in the model of academic publishing to Open Access journals, either through new peer-reviewed journals supported by grants or other fees, or by author-paid articles through major publishers, has not grown quickly enough to make an impact on journal costs.

The UMSL Libraries will continue to track new developments to access scholarship in all formats. While the upcoming serials cuts are a necessary evil, we remain pledged to provide the best service possible to our campus, and we ask for your help and understanding over the course of this project.

- 1) Bosch, Stephen, and Kittie Henderson. "Fracking The Ecosystem." *Library Journal* 141.7 (2016): 32-38.

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Summon 2.0 improves features

Summon, the search interface on the UMSL Library's home page, has undergone a new release, *Summon 2.0*, which improves features that have made *Summon* so popular with library users.

Like before, *Summon* can be used to collectively search library databases and the catalog for a mixture of peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and even newspapers and magazines. But search results can now be viewed in a more streamlined manner, one that doesn't involve switching to other screens or seeing glimpses of abstracts as was often the case with *Summon 1.0*. Users can more intuitively include and exclude subject keywords and material types because their choices leave clear traces on the screen that are easy to identify and change.

While *Summon 1.0* frequently used intrusive pop-up menus to provide search choices, the new *Summon* divides the screen into more accessible columns for this purpose. *Summon 2.0* is also better adapted for smartphones and tablets, an important development in an era of mobile devices.

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Picture this...Mercantile art enlivens Thomas Jefferson Library walls

Like nearly every cultural institution, the Mercantile Library has the majority of its collections in storage. If you walk through the Mercantile's areas on Levels 1 and 2, this may come as a surprise, since we make good use of all our space to display as much of our diverse collections as possible. Recently, the Mercantile collaborated with our "roommates" in the building to bring some wonderful artwork out of storage and onto the walls throughout the building. As a result, visitors to every floor of Thomas Jefferson Library can now encounter original artwork by Missouri and Midwestern artists. These works reflect themes in the Mercantile Library's historical collections, such as river and rail history, and visitors who enjoy the paintings can come down to the Mercantile to see more works like these or to do research on the subject.

Artwork was chosen by the Mercantile Library's Curator of Fine Art Collections, Julie Dunn-Morton, and locations were identified with input from the Thomas Jefferson Library's Projects Committee. Our goal was to enhance the experience of all library visitors and inform them of the broad range of subjects covered by Mercantile Library collections.

Tours of the artwork are available by contacting the Mercantile at 341-516-7248.

by Julie Dunn-Morton

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● **Level 3** stairwell to the Mercantile exhibits a landscape by Illinois artist Jackson Hensley, seen through the block glass

● **Level 3** shows dramatic landscapes by: Joe Jones, Vi Poth, and Hal Poth
Additional works by these artists are on view on Level 1 in the Fine Art galleries.

● **Level 4**, a quiet floor, displays small still life and landscape paintings.
Represented artists include:
Ed Karasek, Joseph Orr, and James Godwin Scott

● **Level 5**, a group study and conversations floor, includes vibrantly colored abstract landscapes of Arizona and Southwest landscapes.
Represented artists include:
James Godwin Scott and R. H. Dick



Jackson Hensley, *Illinois Landscape*, oil on canvas, 2015
Located on Level 3 behind the block wall at staircase to Mercantile Library



Joe Jones, *Urban Landscape*, oil on canvas, unknown date
Located on Level 3, Library Research Commons

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