

University Libraries Newsletter

http://www.umsi.edu/library

New Listserv for Faculty interested in Library updates

To receive the latest news from the Libraries, email e-ref@umsi.edu and state that you want to be added to the **Libraries Update listserv**. Occasional emails will keep you informed of new products and services.

NetLibrary

UMSL Libraries now have access to over 180 electronic books via NetLibrary, as well as to over 3,000 open access titles. These books have a 4-hour circulation, and can be re-checked out if no one else has requested them. The links to these books may be found in the Library Catalog, or by going to NetLibrary in the alphabetical database list on the Libraries' home page.

Feedback is invited to Jan Peach, ext. 5076, or peachj@umsi.edu

New micro scanning machine

A microfilm/fiche scanning machine is available to the public now in CPM and at Barnes.

You can easily save images to a memory stick or e-mail them. You no longer have to print what you want from our micro collections.

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Reporters:

Jan Peach, Chris Niemeyer, Sue Mallioux, Mary Doran, & Chris Dames

Journal price increases force subscription cuts

Libraries across the country continue to struggle with rising costs of scholarly journals, and UMSL is no exception. According to a recent *Library Journal* study, between 2002-2006, the average price increase for journals listed in the ISI citation indexes was 39%, while journals indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Premier have averaged a rise of over 49%. In this 4-year time period, the UMSL libraries have seen no budget increase to offset the rising materials costs. While cuts 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 increased full text databases. The libraries currently subscribe to 2,990 journals in print, but have access to over 44,500 online full text titles. We also offer user-friendly Interlibrary Loan options for journals that are not available here in print or online.

The previous serials cancellation took place in Fall 2001 (for subscriptions starting January 2003), and was designed to absorb price increases through 2005. By joining with consortia to obtain the best pricing, using cost savings from the University of Missouri Libraries Electronic Resources Initiative, and temporarily shifting some other costs, the libraries were able to stave off the reduction for an additional two years. But now we must face the hard decisions. The journal budget for 2003 subscriptions was \$1.3 million; the cost for our current subscriptions is projected to be \$1.8 million in 2008. Without a major reduction in serials expenses, the libraries' materials budget would be put in serious deficit.

The current cancellations will be for the subscriptions starting January 2008 through 2010; decisions must be made by the end of the Fall '06 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' library 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, the cost per use, and availability online. 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.

While this cut will provide a short-term solution for our materials budget, the problem of skyrocketing academic journal costs will continue, fuelled by ongoing publisher mergers and commercial buyouts of academic press titles. This will only be solved by a shift in the model of academic publishing. A ray of hope that has been gaining momentum is Open Access publishing, where journals rely on advertising, grants, or author fees to publish articles. Some major publishers are also beginning to allow authors to post articles to a freely available website for a fee.

The UMSL libraries will continue to track new developments to access scholarship in all formats. While the upcoming serials cut is 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.

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REACCREDITATION EFFORT

Libraries Survey Committee to create outcomes-based online assessment tool

"...the Winter 2007 semester will use a still-to-be-developed outcomes-based assessment instrument. English 3100 and 3120 classes have been selected for...these initiatives."

In 2008 the University will undergo a reaccreditation review and the UMSL Libraries participate in this process. As part of the review, the quality of the UMSL Libraries' collections (e. g., books, journals, and online resources) will be put under scrutiny. Also, the instruction efforts of the libraries will be examined to measure actual student learning.

In the Winter of 2003, the Libraries' Survey Committee distributed a questionnaire to students who had attended library instruction sessions for their classes. The number of students who responded to this voluntary survey was large (over 625). Among other things, the survey showed that students came away from the instruction sessions with very positive feelings about what they had learned. This survey gauged feelings and impressions, though, and not the actual amount of learning.

For 2006-07, the Survey Committee will attempt to quantify the extent of what has been learned at forthcoming library sessions using outcomes-based assessments. This will involve a process of pre-and-post session testing to see if

students have actually grasped specific, measurable points of information literacy.

The 2006 Fall Semester will see a repeat of the 2003 survey. But the Winter 2007 semester will use a still-to-be-developed outcomes-based assessment instrument. English 3100 and 3120 classes have been selected for both of these initiatives. These classes were chosen because they frequently require library instruction sessions. The pre-testing and post-testing will be done using an online survey-management service that the University has subscribed to. When finished, the results of the two surveys will be compiled and become part of the University's final accreditation report. This entire process will provide the Libraries with much insight into an important part of their services.

The UMSL Libraries look forward to being active participants in the University's reaccreditation process. The review offers a great opportunity for the Libraries to assess themselves, and to also help maintain the academic standing of the University.

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DISCIPLINES & SELECTORS

Some collection development responsibilities have been reassigned. Please see the list below.

✿Anthropology, Mary Doran,

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✿Art/BFA, Clinton Berry,

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✿Biology, Mary Zettwoch,

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✿African American Studies, Mary Doran,

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✿Business, Jan Peach,

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✿Chemistry, Chris Dames,

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✿Communication, Karen Robinson,

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✿Criminology, Frances Piesbergen,

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✿Economics, Jan Peach,

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✿Education, Helen Shaw,

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✿Gerontology, Betsy Richie,

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✿Religion, Betsy Richie,

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✿Social Work, Mary Doran,

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