Developing UT’s Scholarly Publishing Action Agenda

A Discussion Among Library Representatives and Subject Librarians
November 19, 2002

On September 25-26, 2002 the Libraries, along with the Office of the Provost, the School of Information Sciences, and the Association of Distinguished Service Professors, hosted SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING & THE COMMON GOOD: CHANGING OUR CULTURE, a symposium for the UT academic community. The Symposium web site (http://www.lib.utk.edu/admin/symposium/) will remain active to support UT scholarly publishing initiatives.

Key points from the Symposium:

- The cost of scholarly journals increased 207% from 1986-1998. During the same period, the number of scholarly journals increased 55%. Scholars are generating important research that is unavailable to the rest of the academic community. The price of journals from many commercial publishers increases nearly 10% every year. This situation is UNSUSTAINABLE.

- Faculty make choices that affect the cost of publications. See the Create Change web pages (www.createchange.org/home.html) and the Putting You Back in Control flier distributed at the November 19 Library Representatives meeting for actions you can take.

- University policies on information and intellectual property can assert rights to work created by faculty; faculty can retain access to certain rights when signing contracts with publishers.

- Among potential UT actions for changing the scholarly publishing culture are:
  - support scholarly society projects such as digitization of association journals
  - create an institutional repository (where UT scholars submit conference papers, technical reports, etc. to a UT web space)
  - enhance services that help faculty keep scholarship in the academy

UT has provided library funding to offset journals inflation for 2003, with the expectation that the campus community will develop an agenda for sustaining access to the scholarly information needed for teaching and research. Cost of UT periodicals over the last three years:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Over</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$3,162,974</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$409,384 over 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$3,594,192</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>$431,218 over 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$3,917,576</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$323,384 over 2001</td>
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What options do we have for sustaining access to scholarly information?

Some libraries, such as our Information Alliance partner, Vanderbilt University, are selecting electronic-only subscription options whenever possible, both for the convenience of users and to address space shortage. Advantages of electronic journals
include convenience, access to increased numbers of titles, and ability to collect use data. One concern is long-term access to the information purchased. Some journal aggregators (such as Elsevier, but not JSTOR) promise perpetual access to the electronic files for subscribed titles for the years in which payment was made.

Following are some models for acquiring journals. All except #9 and #10 include a link to the journal from the online catalog. From your perspective as teacher and researcher, what are benefits and liabilities of these approaches?

1. Print journal annual subscription; issues bound and shelved in stacks; price increases average of 8-12% annually.

2. Electronic access included free with print subscription (this option declining)

3. Electronic access included at additional cost to print subscription

4. Electronic-only access subscription; price is sometimes 90% of print, sometimes considerably more than print cost (e.g. Nature print=$845; Nature Online=$5,200)

5. Electronic access free via web site

6. Electronic backfiles available for fixed fee ($25,000 to JSTOR per year; $30,000 for Elsevier Chemistry backfiles)

7. Subscription to popular periodicals database with selected articles from hundreds of journals (LexisNexis Academic =$36,000 for 2002; ProQuest=$40,000; TEL=$750,000 paid with federal funding by state library for statewide access)

8. Journal aggregators provide access to all the journals of a given publisher, at varying costs and license terms. Pricing is complex, usually based on print subscription as the base amount. Has included "platform access fee" along and "transactions" that are used each time an article in a non-subscribed journal is selected by the user. Provides access to more titles than print subscriptions.
   
   • In the last three years UT paid $2,087,762 to Elsevier for print subscriptions to 400 journals, plus an additional $216,610 for electronic access (ScienceDirect) to all 1,200 titles they publish. We agreed not to cancel Elsevier print subscriptions during this period.
   
   • We paid $7,000 in 2002 for 167 titles included in the Johns Hopkins University Press Project Muse. We subscribed to 41 JHP print titles for $3,600.
   
   • ScienceDirect data for 2001 shows that of 351 titles with greatest use at UT, we had print subscriptions for 199 and did not have print subscriptions for 152. Of 429 titles used 5 times or less, we had print subscriptions to 43.

9. Cost per article access; available from some aggregators at $20-25 per article

10. Interlibrary loan, now uses electronic request form and user retrieves articles received from secure web page; usually only print titles available for borrowing
What strategies will work best for UT?

1. Because journal subscriptions are paid from the previous year's base budget, internal allocations for the past three years have protected journals subscriptions by dipping into book funds and forcing increased reliance on endowed funds. The approvals budget of $500,000 was reduced to $219,000 to accommodate journals inflation for FY 03. Book funds were restored when UT provided money to cover inflation. Without annual recurring new money, continued protection of journals will result in no state funding for books by 2007.

2. Subject librarians, in consultation with Library Representatives, maintain lower priority lists of journal titles that could be cancelled if new base funding is not received or if higher priority new titles are needed. However, some of the titles form the cost basis for journal aggregators. If we build the FY 04 materials budget with no cost inflation for periodicals, lower priority lists will have to be updated to reflect a minimum price inflation amount (8-10% of total journals allocation) with titles that can be cancelled.

3. If journal aggregators are considered high priority and UT continues to provide additional funding, we could cancel lower priorities to generate funds for aggregator subscriptions.

4. We could propose a "fair deal" to publishers of the journals we want to use. What would the terms be?

5. We could increasingly pay by the article, although demand can generate more cost than a journal subscription.

6. We are currently experimenting with creation of digital archives for scholarly association journals so that they will not be "taken over" by commercial publishers.

7. Some universities are experimenting with “institutional repositories” where faculty and students can post theses, dissertations, technical reports, conference proceedings, and even referred articles to university websites created to change the scholarly publishing culture.

8. What solutions do you propose?

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