



As a result of continued inflation for books, journals, and other electronic resources, the UNLV Libraries must make plans to adjust spending for library acquisitions to remain within budget this fiscal year (2008-09). To remain within the budget, UNLV Libraries will need to identify for cancellation about \$100,000 in recurring commitments (journals, databases and other resources) and make plans to purchase fewer books (\$260,000). During the current academic year, librarians will work with faculty and students to identify resources for cancellation with the least impact on users.

UNLV Libraries must make these cuts because of a flat acquisitions budget (due to the state's budget crisis) and due to the fact that most library materials are recurring costs with high inflation rates. As a result of favorable consortial agreements for purchasing electronic resources, and continuing administrative support of new monies to match inflation, UNLV Libraries has been able to avoid a cancellation project for five years. UNLV Libraries has exhausted all alternatives and the cumulative effects of inflation require that we take action this year.

The marketplace for scholarly publishing continues to be marked by high costs and high rates of inflation. According to data from the Association for Research Libraries, between 1986 and 2005:

- The average cost of serials increased 186%
- The average cost of monographs increased 81%
- The consumer price index for this period increased 78%

In 2007, UNLV Libraries rate of inflation for serials was 10%. Due to the fact that journals and databases are recurring costs, library budgets have not been able to keep up with this rate of inflation and high costs. While a number of efforts like SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and the Open Access movement have gotten underway and begun to effect change, a small number of commercial publishers still control a large part of the market, especially in scientific publishing. UNLV Libraries has entered into contractual arrangements with these and other publishers and purchase journals from them bundled as a package. These bundles provide significantly greater access to journals and provide a cap on price increases, but require that we maintain a specified level of spending over the life of the contract, thus limiting our flexibility. The electronic journals supplied by these and other publishers have become highly valued resources for faculty and students, as usage data for online access indicates.

Because the nature of the literature supporting different disciplines varies widely, the impact of reduced spending power will play out in different ways depending on the subject. The UNLV Libraries will make every effort to consult with faculty and other users regarding the proposed cancellations. Data on the cost and use of journals, gathered by the collection management department,

will be critical in the decision making process. The library believes that shifting high cost-per-use journals from subscriptions to document delivery is the most responsible way to manage our resources. Using document delivery continues to be a more cost effective way to provide our users with the information they need.

With the implementation of ILLIAD, our document delivery service, most journal articles are delivered full-text electronically within 24-48 hours.

In regards to books, the UNLV Libraries participation in the LINK+ system provides access to books from over 40 libraries in California and Nevada and the books are delivered within 2-4 days. In addition to journals (electronic and print) and books, we expect to scrutinize closely other ongoing commitments, especially databases where cost per use indicates low value.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration as we make these difficult decisions. Questions about the cancellation process for this project may be directed to Cory Tucker, Head, Collection Management, by phone at 895-2133, or by email at [cory.tucker@unlv.edu](mailto:cory.tucker@unlv.edu).