

Resolution on Journals, Databases, and Threats to Scholarly Publication
Presented to the Indiana University South Bend Academic Senate
by the Library Affairs Committee
Passed, April 16, 2004

The Challenge to Scholarly Communication

The Indiana University South Bend Library will spend about \$650,000 in 2003/04 for materials allocations. More than 75 percent of this expenditure is for serials and databases. The continuing escalation of serial prices, which have more than doubled in the past 10 years and greatly exceeds the Consumer Price Index, is unsustainable in the long run. The increase is due to a number of factors: the information explosion, the expansion of electronic capabilities by publishing groups, as well as the growth of mega-publishers whose profit margins exceed most other publishers. Our libraries have weathered this period but at the expense of severely restricting the number of new serials and by a reduction of the budget for monographs. Indiana University is not unique—all universities are dealing with similar situations.

It is important that Indiana University take steps now to address both the budgetary and journal access problems we anticipate in the near future. These steps will require a university-wide approach, including such actions as detailed reviews of serial subscriptions and their use, tougher negotiations with publishers, and collective action to move toward electronic-only access for most serials. The IU Libraries need continuous input and support from faculty, staff, and students as these processes take place.

Additional steps should be taken by individuals in the course of their scholarly activities to support publishers whose business practices tend to make the products of scholarly activity more widely available and affordable. Faculty and staff may wish to separate themselves from publishers whose business practices do not support open access. This could be done by withholding publications from their journals or choosing not to sit on their editorial boards.

Such a change in our university and departmental perspective will have many ramifications in our scholarly culture, since publication is a core value in our research and creative activities. In tenure and promotion decisions faculty and staff must be confident that there is departmental and university support for their decisions to publish in refereed journals with more open access.

The Resolution:

Scholars and their professional associations share a common interest in the broadest possible dissemination of peer-reviewed contributions. Unfortunately, it is the business practices of a few large journals and journal publishers that threaten to limit the promise of increased access inherent in digital technologies. Therefore, the Indiana University South Bend Faculty Senate

- A) calls on all faculty, staff, students, and university administrators of Indiana University South Bend to work toward a more open publishing system by increasing their support of existing refereed journals and publishers whose practices are consistent with open access to scholarly communication and to support those who make such choices when considering tenure and promotion;
- B) encourages faculty and staff to separate themselves from publishers with a narrow focus on profits at the expense of open scholarly publication;
- C) calls on the university Libraries to educate faculty, staff, students, and university administrators on the business practices of different journals and journal publishers and their impact on the health of scholarly communication and on our Libraries at Indiana University South Bend.

Rising cost of journals and electronic databases are constraining the development of our library collections. Because access to the scholarly literature is vital to all members of our academic community, the Indiana University South Bend Faculty Senate

- D) encourages all faculty, staff, students, and university administrators to work closely with our librarians to find effective ways to maintain the excellence of our collections;
- E) calls on librarians on all IU campuses to work together to provide the campuses with a rich and coherent array of electronic journals and databases at the most cost effective prices;
- F) expects librarians to be aggressive in their negotiations with vendors and even to withdraw from negotiations where excessive price increases are demanded
- G) expects librarians to reduce significantly duplicate print/online subscriptions and to review and cancel subscriptions judiciously;
- H) supports Indiana University libraries in efforts to join with the libraries of other academic institutions to promote open scholarly communication.

Background Reading

Websites:

- Create Change: A resource for faculty and librarian action to reclaim scholarly communication. <http://www.createchange.org/home.html>
- SPARC. <http://www.arl.org/sparc/core/index.asp?page=a0>

Articles:

- The Academic Publishing Industry: A Story of Merger and Acquisition. by Mary H. Munroe. <http://www.niulib.niu.edu/publishers/>
- "A Crisis in Scholarly Publishing." <http://www.theaha.org/perspectives/issues/2003/0310/0310pre1.cfm>
- Faculty Pressure Helps U. of California Cut a Deal With Major Journal Publisher. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. (1/23/04) <http://chronicle.com/cgi2-bin/printable.cgi?article=http://chronicle.com/prm/weekly/v50/i20/20a03402.htm>
- Just Say No to Exploitive Publishers of Science Journals. *Chronicle of Higher Education* (2/20/04) <http://chronicle.com/temp/email.php?id=7wqx4qmzp20k79hn87gztprve9wv01tg>.
- Libraries With Tight Budgets Renew Complaints About Elsevier's Online Pricing. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. (12/19/03) <http://chronicle.com/cgi2-bin/printable.cgi?article=http://chronicle.com/prm/weekly/v50/i17/17a03302.htm>
- *Open Access Now: Campaigning for Freedom of Research Information*. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/openaccess/>
- Public Knowledge. <http://www.publicknowledge.org/about-us/mission-statement>
- To Publish and Perish. *Policy Perspectives*, March 1998, Volume 7, No. 4. <http://www.arl.org/scomm/pew/pewrept.html>
- [Reforming Scholarly Publishing in the Sciences: A Librarian Perspective](#). *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*, April 1998, Volume 45, No. 4 <http://www.ams.org/notices/199804/branin.pdf>
- Second Thoughts on "Bundled" E-Journals. *Chronicle of Higher Education* (9/20/02) <http://chronicle.com/cgi2-bin/printable.cgi?article=http://chronicle.com/prm/weekly/v49/i04/04a03101.htm>
- "Principles for Emerging Systems of Scholarly Publishing." <http://www.arl.org/scomm/tempe.html>

What's Happening at Other Universities:

- California Digital Library: <http://www.slp.ucop.edu/consultation/slasiac/>
- Cornell University: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/> and <http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/resolution.html>
- Georgia State University: <http://www.library.gsu.edu/news/index.asp?typeID=62>
- Iowa State University: <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/libinfo/reptempl/scholcomm.html>
- Rutgers University Libraries: <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/about/rusci/rusci.shtml>
- University of California at Santa Cruz: <http://senate.ucsc.edu/col/res.1405.pdf>
- University of California: <http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/scholarly/>
- University of California Academic Senate (system) (October 15, 2003) <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/committees/ucol/aclibrarians1003.pdf>
- University of Kansas Libraries: <http://www2.lib.ukans.edu/scholcomm/>
- University of Tennessee Libraries: <http://www.lib.utk.edu/admin/symposium/> and <http://www.lib.utk.edu/%7Ecolldev/issues.html>
- University of Washington: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/ScholComm/>
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/issues/ulc-ipr.htm