Different Methods to Achieve a Common Goal

Four Libraries’ Experiences in Assessing Journal Collections

2022 GIL Users Group Meeting (GUGM), May 19, 2022
Presented by the GALILEO Portfolio Analysis Committee

- Jackie Blanton-Watkins - Kennesaw State University
- Tricia Clayton - Georgia State University
- Jay Forrest - Georgia Tech
- Jessica Rigg - Georgia Southern University

Other members of the committee include Lee Cline (Dalton State), Dana Johnson (Georgia Gwinnett College), Melissa Lockaby (University of North Georgia), Allison Reuter (Georgia College & State University), and John Stephens (GALILEO)
About Kennesaw State University

- Kennesaw State University
  - Comprehensive R2 university
  - 2 campuses in Cobb County
  - ~43,000 undergraduate and graduate students

- KSU Library System
  - 2 libraries:
    - Horace W. Sturgis Library, Kennesaw campus
    - Lawrence V. Johnson Library, Marietta campus
  - 60 faculty and staff
  - Collection:
    - 474 databases
    - ~370,000 physical volumes, ~768,000 eBooks
    - ~83,000 physical and electronic journals
Assessment at Kennesaw State University

Timeline:

- **2018: Everything’s new**
  - New positions: Electronic Resources Librarian and Electronic Resources Assistant in Collection Development Unit
  - Learning about usage: deep dive into usage reports, Alma Analytics, COUNTER, and non-COUNTER
  - Usage report foundation: Microsoft SharePoint
- **2019: Uh oh**
  - Alma SUSHI harvester broken: retrieving reports manually
- **2020: Everything’s fixed**
  - Identifying usage to be retrieved outside of Analytics
  - Calculating cost-per-use: current and historical
- **2021: The future**
  - Training the new Resources Management Librarian
Assessment at Kennesaw State University, cont.

Where we started (2018):

- Regular usage assessment
  - Usage reports and payment histories: what do we have and where does it live?
  - Conducting cost/use analysis: current and historical
  - Creating the Usage Report Calendar spreadsheet
- Driving renewal/cancellation recommendations
  - Internal and external feedback
  - Combining quantitative and qualitative feedback

Where we’re at (2021):

- Does it make sense to use usage as a driving metric to determine a renewal recommendation?
- What makes good or bad cost/use for a given subscription?
About Georgia State University

● Very big
  ○ ~53,000 enrolled and ~44,000 FTE
  ○ 12 schools and colleges, over 300 degree and certificate programs
  ○ 6 metro Atlanta campuses
  ○ 2 libraries, and the University Library has a location on each campus

● For an R1 library, very poorly funded
  ○ Flat budget (= decreasing once adjusted for inflation)
  ○ Materials expenditures ÷ FTE = $170
  ○ For the other 3 R1s in GA: $1680, $426, and $340
    ■ From the IPEDS data center - [https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data)
Journal Assessment at Georgia State University


- What’s left? Major packages
- Our primary tool = Unsub (https://unsub.org/)
  - Evaluated 3 packages in 2020-2021
  - Currently reviewing 2 packages
Package and Scenario Inputs

Package data:
- COUNTER Reports
- Currency
- Big Deal annual cost and % increase
- Post Termination Access dates (optional)
- Journal prices (optional)

Scenario parameters:
- **Costs**: title by title subscription cost growth; content fee
- **ILL**: transaction cost; request rate
- **Fulfillment sources**: Bronze OA; non-peer-reviewed versions; ResearchGate
- **Institutional weighting**: citation; authorship
5 Year Forecast View in Unsub
Example scenarios

- titles with more than 90 paywall uses
- less than $50 CPU
- under 100 CPU but over 50 paywall use
- highly cited
GSU Journal Assessment: Outcomes & Up Next

Unsub Outcomes

- Publishers 1 & 2: unbundled packages
  - switched to much smaller title-by-title lists
  - overall package spending reduced by 40%
- Publisher 3: made a large cut to our core subscription list

What’s next:

- Assessment of impact
- Continue using Unsub
About Georgia Tech

- R1 - Very High Research
- ARL Library
- 48 PhD Fields

Enrollment
- 32.2k FTE
- 43.8k Total
- 24.2% OMS

Institute Budget: $2.33B
- $891M - Sponsored
- $376M - State Funds

Library Base Budget: $17.6M
- Content $10.35M
- Endowment Income ~$70k

Faculty/Staff
- 21 Librarian/Archivist
  - 5 Active Searches
  - 1 Emerita
- 58 Staff

Resources
- 668 Databases / Collections
- ~10k Subscribed Journals
- 2.2M eBooks
- 307k Journals
- 25k on-campus titles
Journal Assessment at Georgia Tech: CMG

Content Management Group

Voting Members

- 4 subject liaisons
- Chair, AD for Content Strategy

Non-Voting Members

- Acquisitions Librarian
- Collection Assessment Librarian
- Electronic Resources Librarian
- Representative from Public Services
- Representative from Technical Services

Charge: CMG is the decision-making body charged with the review of new Library Resources, Continuations and Renewals.
Journal Assessment at Georgia Tech: Renewals

Quantitative Measures
- Cost/Use (3-year average use)
- GT Citation Rate (Web of Science)
- GT Authorship Rate (Web of Science)
- Weighted Cost/Use
  - Multiply Use by the Ratio of department size to the largest department (faculty headcount)

Qualitative Measures
- Essential to GT or a GT College/School (e.g. IEEE xPlore, ACM)
- Alternatives (availability via aggregators or archives, e.g. JSTOR)
- Implications of cancellation (e.g. loss of a leased backfile)
- PI/Requestor no longer with GT
- Read and Publish

Modified MoSCoW Scoring
- 0 – Less than $5/use
- 1 – Must Have
- 2 – Should Have (High)
- 3 – Should Have (Low)
- 4 – Could Have
- 5 – Won’t Have / Why do we have?
Journal Assessment at Georgia Tech: Special Cases

Packages
- Score each component title
- Compare cumulative a la carte cost to package
- Package < a la carte (Tier 0-3): Renew
- Package > a la carte move to individual titles

New Subscriptions
- Pull turnaway data
  - Apply a cutoff (10/turnaways year)
- Score using turnaways instead of use
  - C5 Unique Item Investigations
  - 1 - Next Year
  - 2 - Next 2 years
  - 3 - Next 3 years
  - 4 - ...

Journal Archives
10-year cost-use:
Cost/(3-year avg * 10)
Decision Threshold: ~$15/use
About Georgia Southern University

- **Georgia Southern University**
  - Public R2 in southeast Georgia
  - 26,000 students (+/-)
  - 141 degree programs
  - 3 campuses

- **University Libraries**
  - 2 libraries (Savannah & Statesboro)
  - 70 FT & PT personnel
  - 25 faculty librarians
  - 860,000 volumes
  - 95,000 journals
  - 296 databases
  - Member of GALILEO
Journal Assessment at Georgia Southern University

- Charge from President: to reduce library expenditures by $300,000 for FY22
- Timeline: Spring 2021 to Spring 2022

- Phase 1: Determine which resources are “safe”
  - Print and other one time purchases
  - Software, services, and platforms necessary for library functions
  - Resources not funded by library budget
Journal Assessment at Georgia Southern University

● Phase 2: Evaluate all other resources internally
  ○ Updated Dossiers for all electronic resources
  ○ Overlap analyses
  ○ Annual Cost per use (calculated over FY19 and FY20)
  ○ CSD Narratives
  ○ S21 Collection Analysis Sheets
  ○ Liaison Rubrics

Final (Phase 2) Decision: to break up and renegotiate 11 “Big Deal” journal packages

  ● ASCE
  ● Cambridge University Press
  ● Duke University Press
  ● IOP Science

  ● Oxford University Press
  ● Project MUSE
  ● Sage
  ● Taylor & Francis
  ● Wiley
Journal Assessment at Georgia Southern University

- **Phase 3: Collect feedback from departmental faculty**
  - Ranked list of all of the e-journals included in the journal packages under consideration sent to departmental faculty
  - Each list includes the title, cost, usage information, and the liaison librarians’ recommendation for each title in the package.
  - Departmental faculty are asked to select “renew” or “discontinue” for each title
  - Departmental faculty are asked to rank the title as Essential, Important, or Desirable
  - Departmental faculty can submit Comments via the form, too.
# Sample form sent to Faculty

## Cambridge University Press - Departmental Feedback Form

Click here for form instructions, including definitions for departmental assessment options (i.e., Essential, Important, Desirable). To edit this form, log in using your Georgia Southern email account.

By providing feedback on behalf of your department, you and your colleagues consent to the library faculty's potential use of this data for future scholarly and research purposes. Please see this study's Informed Consent document before proceeding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSN</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Avg. Annual Full Text Views</th>
<th>Estimated Single Title Subscription</th>
<th>Library Faculty Recommendation</th>
<th>Departmental Recommendation</th>
<th>Departmental Assessment</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1469-7645</td>
<td>Journal of Fluid Mechanics</td>
<td>1241</td>
<td>$7,950.00</td>
<td>Renew</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1469-8064</td>
<td>Mathematical Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>$1,119.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1469-1825</td>
<td>Behavioral and Brain Sciences</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$1,620.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1537-5943</td>
<td>American Political Science Review</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>Renew</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475-2727</td>
<td>Public Health Nutrition</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>$1,909.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1469-8978</td>
<td>Psychological Medicine</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$1,865.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1745-1744</td>
<td>Antiquity</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$651.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1469-4409</td>
<td>Epidemiology &amp; Infection</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1472-1465</td>
<td>The British Journal of Psychiatry</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$740.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1537-5935</td>
<td>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475-2662</td>
<td>British Journal of Nutrition</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$2,271.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2165-6509</td>
<td>CNS Spectraans</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$718.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1756-6916</td>
<td>Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$671.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938-1425</td>
<td>MRS Bulletin</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$603.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
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<tr>
<td>1754-9434</td>
<td>Industrial and Organizational Psychology</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$762.00</td>
<td>Discontinue</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Journal Assessment at Georgia Southern University

● Phase 4: Interpreting the faculty feedback
  ○ Titles ranked by “use adjusted score” \((E*2+R)*V\)
    ■ E is the total number of votes for Essential
    ■ R is the total number of votes to Renew
    ■ V is the average number of Views per year
  ○ Written Comments were retained for each title

● Phase 5: Final renewal decisions made by the Dean of the Libraries
  ○ A “real time” running total of renewal costs was calculated to ensure savings
  ○ Based on how this running total changed over time, the original decision to cancel 11 journal packages was altered.
  ○ Renewed: University of Chicago Press, Duke University Press, & Project MUSE
  ○ Cancelled without individual titles added: American Society of Microbiology (ASM) journals

● Phase 6: Communication and Vendor Notification
Welcome

Financial Stewardship
Assessment Process
FY22 - Renewed Resources
Departmental Review
Liaison Information
Informed Consent
FAQs

Update from the Dean of Libraries on the Educational Resources Usage Assessment

Dear Faculty,

I would like to update you on the educational resource's usage assessment project that the University Libraries have been engaged in since spring 2021. We have concluded our assessment and I want to share the results with you. You may recall that we conducted an exhaustive review of over 90 databases and electronic journal collections to identify the best approach to reducing educational resource expenditures by $300,000 for FY22. After considering various options, we concluded that the most effective way to meet this reduction is to break up and renegotiate 11 'big deal' journal packages that cost a total of $515,927. The extraordinary cost of these packages combined average annual increase of 7% for journal subscriptions has made it increasingly difficult for the University to sustain journal subscriptions.

Our goal throughout this assessment project was to continue to subscribe to journals that you identify as essential, that is reasonable, desirable, and affordable. To this end, we have assessed the impact that the removal of specific products will have on the existing collection. We have also considered the cost of these resources. The Libraries will continue to provide a wide array of resources to the community. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact us.

During the fall 2021 semester, we asked department chairs to work with you to identify journals you considered essential, important, or desirable for your research and instruction and to provide comments to help us better understand how specific titles should be prioritized for renewal. We received 140 completed feedback forms from a total of 252 forms were sent to 40 departments and programs. The method we used to rank the priority of incoming titles consisted of a 'use adjusted score,' which combined the departments' feedback with the average number of times the title was cited per year. To obtain this score, we used E = (2 x N) x (V - 1) where E is the total number of votes for Essential status. R is the total number of reference votes to [journal], and V is the average number of articles [journal] per year. We then sorted individual titles from highest to lowest based on ranking of the 11 journal packages. We balanced departmental feedback with usage data to ensure that we renewed titles with sufficient usage to cost of subscription while safeguarding lower-use titles of unique value to your teaching and research, and student's learning.

 FY22 Usage Assessment Process

As outlined on the Financial Stewardship page, since FY2019 the University Libraries have taken numerous steps to reduce expenditures for educational resources. Although we have made a concerted effort over the years to protect the materials allocation, we now find it necessary to reassess some of the resources that we subscribe to on your behalf.

The following provides a brief overview of the assessment process followed by the library faculty during late spring and all summer 2021, and continues through the end of 2021.

March - April
Following the Dean of Libraries' communication that the Libraries would reduce educational resource expenditures for FY22, Libraries personnel developed a process for some of the Libraries' databases and electronic journal packages. These processes included an array of information about each resource, including annual subscription costs, collection and title-level usage statistics, and cost-per-use statistics. Completed databases are provided on the Renewed Resources page and the Departmental Review page.

May - June
As Librarians personnel worked to complete preparation of the resource databases, Library Liaisons from several departments worked together to develop a rubric for use by the Liaisons to evaluate each resource for renewal, renegotiation, or discontinuation for FY22. These rubrics evaluate each resource for relevance to teaching and learning; progressive research, program accreditation; and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Completed rubrics are provided on the Renewed Resources page and the Departmental Review page.

June - August
Throughout the summer months, the Liaisons used these databases and rubrics to research and review each title. The Liaisons then use the results of the assessment to make decisions about the resources that will be renewed or discontinued for FY22.

FAQs

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.
Thank you!

Any Questions?
Contact Information

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