Coping With A Runaway Train: Serials Inflation

To paraphrase the 2012 Library Journal *Periodicals Price Survey*, “libraries are stuck between the rock (stagnant budgets) and the hard place (steady serials price increases).” The Harrell Health Sciences Library is no exception. Difficult economic conditions and serial price increases challenge our ability to maintain existing and provide additional essential information resources. We in the library often get questions about journal availability. Sometimes the answer is simply a matter of understanding how to locate and access a particular title the library makes available via a subscription, but unfortunately this is not always the case. Other times we may not subscribe to the journal, and then it becomes a matter of cost and demand. In these lean times we strive to target resources critical to our goals related to our four missions: education, research, clinical care, and community outreach. When we make the decision to add a journal title to the collection, concomitantly we must cancel something else. With stagnant budgets, libraries simply cannot keep up with continuously rising costs and demand. We certainly encourage our faculty, staff, and students to make purchase recommendations, but we can’t guarantee we will always purchase a recommended title. After evaluating all the alternatives, it may prove to be more economically viable to acquire articles through Interlibrary Loan; at other times it may make economic sense to subscribe to a title.

“Data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) show that over the past 25 years expenditures for libraries as a percentage of all university expenses have dropped from a high of 3.7 percent in 1982 to less than 2 percent in 2008.” Translated, this is $3 billion dollars less for libraries. Quoting Bosch and Henderson, “That’s a lot of serials!”

At the same time, serial pricing has increased exponentially. Based on data from the Association of Research Libraries, during the 20 year period 1986-2006, serial expenditures in ARL libraries increased 321% while serials purchased increased by only 51%. These numbers reflect all serials purchased. Prices for science, technology, and medicine (STM) serials have historically been significantly higher and remain so. The average price of chemistry jour-
nals in 2013 was approximately $4215 while health sciences journals hovered in the $1500 range. It is difficult to predict exactly what will happen in the coming years. The Harrell HSL has budgeted for an average overall inflationary increase of between 8-9% for 2015. We base our projections on information from EBSCO, our serials vendor, the Library Journal annual periodical price survey, and the Harrell HSL’s historical serial expenditure data. Because of the volatility in world markets, currency exchange rates, publishing trends, technology, and a variety of other variables these percentages could change. At the present time serials prices are trending up. Unfortunately, library budgets have not kept up with inflation (CPI or serials inflation) and we may face the need to make difficult decisions in the coming years. Again quoting Bosch and Henderson, “inventiveness has limits, and many libraries [including Harrell HSL] are nearing the end of their ability to leverage shrinking buying power.”

So, what do you have access to? Currently, through our Journal A-Z List, the Harrell HSL has links to approximately 11,947 in-scope titles, i.e. those relevant to the health sciences. These include subscriptions paid for by the library, open access titles, and other relevant titles that are freely available. In addition, because the Harrell HSL partners with University Libraries to license a broad range of resources, faculty, staff and students have access to library collections across Penn State University. Our relationship with University Libraries has provided an opportunity to leverage Harrell HSL collection dollars to maximum effect and as a result this not only benefits Penn State Hershey but all of Penn State University.

Partnerships of all kinds, both internal and external, are critical for libraries going forward. Sustaining the library is a partnership. Librarians, faculty, students, administrators, publishers, funders, and government must all work together to ensure ongoing access and preservation of the knowledge base so critical to our ability to educate, engage in research, jump-start the economy, and in Penn State Hershey’s case, provide world-class clinical care. After all, isn’t this the information society so eloquently discussed by the likes of Peter Drucker and Alvin Toffler?


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**Library Subscription Usage for the first quarter of 2014 (January, February, and March)**

**Popular Point Of Care Tools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Searches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dynamed</td>
<td>6,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up-to-Date</td>
<td>117,102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top Five Journals At Penn State**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Article Downloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Virology</td>
<td>9,901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>9,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular &amp; Cellular Biology</td>
<td>7,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Bacteriology</td>
<td>7,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection and Immunity</td>
<td>7,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Resource Highlight: Psychiatry Online Premium Collection

By David Brennan, MLS

The Harrell Health Sciences Library (in cooperation with the campus libraries at Altoona, Brandywine, Greater Allegheny, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, and Worthington/Scranton) is pleased to make the Psychiatry Online Premium Collection available to faculty, students, and staff across Penn State.

The primary resource in this collection is the DSM-5, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th ed.; however, there are many additional resources in this database that are of value to students and practitioners. The site as a whole can be accessed in a number of ways: bookmark http://alias.libraries.psu.edu/ERESOURCES/PSU01859 or go to the Databases page through the library website for Psychiatry Online and many other tools and databases. This site is mobile-optimized, so there’s no need for a separate app.

Each individual journal title is in the library ejournal list, and the book titles are linked in the CAT.

Reference Books

- DSM-5™
- DSM-5™ Handbook of Differential Diagnosis
- DSM-5™ Clinical Cases
- American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidelines
- Textbook of Psychotherapeutic Treatments
- Gabbard’s Treatments of Psychiatric Disorders, 4th ed.
- Textbook of Traumatic Brain Injury, 2nd Ed.
- Dulcan’s Textbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

- Medications for Behavioral and Emotional Problems: A Resource Book of Medication Information Handouts
- What Your Patients Need to Know About Psychiatric Medications

Journals (with coverage from 1997 – present)

- The American Journal of Psychiatry
- Psychiatric Services
- Journal of Neuropsychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences
- Psychiatric News – The Official Newspaper of the American Psychiatric Association
Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv)

By Esther Dell, MLS

SciENcv is a new tool that has been developed to allow researchers to easily create, maintain and generate biosketch information to populate grant applications and progress reports. It was created by the NIH in partnership with six other federal agencies (DOD, DOE, EPA, NSF, USDA and the Smithsonian), the Federal Demonstration Partnership, and the extramural research community. A researcher can use SciENcv to link their biographical information and publication records in PubMed and MyBibliography, and then link to their ERA Commons Account to create an NIH-compliant biosketch in minutes. There is an additional option to share the profile with colleagues with a system generated public URL.

The goal for this voluntary researcher profile system is threefold: (1) Reduce administrative burden for researchers and government in federal grant submission and reporting requirements; (2) Enable discovery about researcher expertise, employment, education, and professional accomplishments, and; (3) Allow researchers to describe their contributions in their own language.

Researchers are encouraged to test SciENcv and provide feedback. Visit the SciENcv page on the NCBI website for more information or to try it out.

Leisure Reading Area
Take-a-Book Leave-a-Book

The new leisure reading collection features popular novels and more, donated by and for the Penn State Hershey community. Stop in to find a book to read or leave a book for others to enjoy. The leisure reading collection is located inside the library to the left of the Lion’s Eye.
**Bioinformatics Resource Training Available**

In The Harrell Health Sciences Library

The Harrell Health Sciences Library recently offered workshops on popular bioinformatics resources. Faculty, staff, student, and postdoc attendees learned about *NCBI BLAST* (National Center for Biotechnology Information, Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) which aligns DNA and protein sequences. Other workshop topics included:

- locating gene and protein information in NCBI databases
- the use of the *Entrez* system
- NCBI protein structure and conserved domain data
- gene sequence variation information

If you have questions on these topics or would like to arrange a personalized or small group instruction session, please contact Robyn Reed at rreed4@hmc.psu.edu.
Did you know there’s a button you can add to your web browser’s toolbar that will quickly open an EndNote library entry form and pull citation information from a webpage? This is a great feature if you stumble upon a citation, book, or webpage that doesn’t have an Import to EndNote option.

To learn more and install the Capture plug-in:

- Sign in to EndNote or EndNote Web
- Select the Options tab
- Follow the instructions for the “Capture Reference” button to install it on your toolbar.

Visit the HHSL EndNote Guide for more tips!
Xiaoyu Sun is the library’s new Information Technology Services and Systems Integration Specialist hired by the library in March 2014. Xiaoyu has been at the Hershey Medical Center since 2003 and formerly worked for the department of radiology supporting the Center for NMR Research. Since library users rely on our electronic services and resources, we need someone who can help us ensure that all of our library systems are interoperating optimally across systems and networks, here at Hershey and with the University as a whole. Xiaoyu is tasked with helping us do that. She has a master’s degree in computer science from Penn State University and enjoys the work environment and her colleagues at HMC. In her spare time, Xiaoyu enjoys being outdoors in her flower and vegetable garden, reading, and travel.

Welcome to Harrell HSL, Xiaoyu!

Visit us on the Web:  http://med.psu.edu/library
Feedback is welcome! Email the editor at lkime@hmc.psu.edu.

What We’re Doing . . .

Robyn Reed, and David Brennan presented posters during EdVenture 2014 at the Hershey Country Club on April 24th.

Robyn Reed served as a panelist for the most recent cohort of “Librarian’s Guide to NCBI,” a national training course for health sciences librarians to learn how to navigate bioinformatics resources.

Nancy Adams had two articles published:


Seamus Carmichael delivered a presentation on the late Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney at the Ware Center of Millersville University on April 16th.

Kathleen Zamietra will receive her Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in June. Congratulations Kathleen!

Publishing With BioMed Central?

Penn State University has an institutional membership for BioMed Central for 2014.

The current publication discount for BioMed Central is 15%.

Choose the Pennsylvania State University affiliation (UP PSU) when submitting your research to be eligible for the discounts.