

DATE: July 28, 2009
TO: Department Chairs
FROM: John McGinty, Director
RE: FY 2010 Database Subscription Cuts

As you know, the recession has caused innumerable changes related to budget constraints at academic institutions everywhere, and the situation at the Loyola/Notre Dame Library is no different. With the beginning of the new fiscal year, the library has embarked on a second round of budget cuts. Between these two cuts—the first of which occurred in January--the library's budget is down by 15% from the beginning of the last fiscal year. We have tightened our belt across the board, with a special focus toward areas where a budget cut will not directly affect our patrons. Despite these measures, the budget cuts have impacted our collections, from databases to videos and everything in between.

This spring, librarians spent several weeks compiling statistics on database costs and usage, comparing them to enrollment statistics and looking for instances where content was duplicated between two databases. As we reviewed this information, we spoke with academic administrators, including deans and department chairs, to solicit feedback. In addition, we negotiated with several of our database vendors for lower pricing. Ultimately, we were left with a list of databases which will not be renewed when our contracts end (please see the attached list at the end of this memo). We did our best to ensure that each academic discipline was left with adequate resources for study and research, though it may not be immediately apparent.

While we will continue to look at every possible cost-savings option, our budget constraints are likely to get worse before they improve. The one thing we can be sure of is that our commitment to service will not suffer. In addition to the improvement in speed that you may have experienced with our new interlibrary loan system, we are looking to improve access to our document delivery services. We will continue to look for additional ways to deliver material you need for your research as quickly and as seamlessly as possible. Our commitment to excellent service will remain as one of our essential core values.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at x6811 or Jack Ray at x6812. If you would like, we can arrange a meeting with the library liaison to your department and myself to answer any questions you or your faculty may have.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we weather this difficult economic climate.

Current List of Non-Renewals:

The date in parentheses notes the end of our contract. Many of our contracts are up for renewal at the start of each fiscal year; as a result, we are already seeing the impact of some of these non-renewals.

ABI/INFORM (7/09)

American Bibliographic of Slavic and East European Studies (7/09)

Aluka (paid version) (7/09)

American Physical Society (1/10)

Biography & Genealogy Master Index (7/09)

BioOne (1/10)

Book Review Index Online (7/09)

Books in Print (7/09)

Catholic Periodical & Literature Index (7/09)

Children's Literature Comprehensive Database (8/09)

CollegeSource Online (7/09)

Communication and Mass Media Complete (7/09)

CQ Researcher (1/10)

Encyclopaedia Britannica (7/09)

IEEE All Society Periodical Package (7/09)

Inter-University Consortium for Political & Social Research (7/09)

Journal Citation Reports (12/09)

Journal of Applied Physics Online (1/10)

Journal of Chemical Physics Online (1/10)

Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (1/10)

JSTOR: Business Collection II (1/10)

JSTOR: Ireland (1/10)

Literature Online (7/09)

New Testament Abstracts (7/09)

Old Testament Abstracts (7/09)

Oxford/Grove Art Online (7/09)

Oxford/Grove Music Online (7/09)

PEPweb (7/09)

Political Risk Yearbook Online (1/10)

Review of Scientific Instruments Online (1/10)

RIA Checkpoint Academic Advantage (10/09)

Springer Online Journals (1/10)

STAT-USA (7/09)

Testing and Education Resource Center (7/09)

Ulrich's Web (1/10)

World Development Indicators Online (7/09)