

Friday, October 24, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

In an effort to address the inflationary cost of rising journal prices as well as to add new titles requested by many faculty, in May 2008 the Library asked for feedback on a list of 350 journal titles that had 15 or fewer uses in their print or electronic format. These titles were identified for possible cancellation. The Library received 317 responses commenting about one or more specific titles on the proposed journal cancellation list. As a result of this feedback, the list of titles to be eliminated was reduced from 350 to 121. The Library has been working since July to implement these cancellations. Due to contractual and/or vendor restrictions, 101 of the 121 identified titles will be cancelled beginning in January, 2009. The remaining 20 titles will be targeted for cancellation in 2010. A title list can be viewed [here](#).

The Library also receives a number of new journal title requests each year. The Library is aware of the need to add new titles to the collection especially in areas that cover new research initiatives for the UMass Academic Health Sciences Center. However, with the average cost of a medical journal being \$1,200 per year, it is difficult for the Library to commit to those costs on an ongoing basis in these challenging economic times. The Library was able to add a small number of new titles this year as a direct result of the above journal cancellations. These titles will be in an electronic-only format and can be viewed [here](#).

Users of the Library's print collection will notice another change to the journal collection in 2009. In an effort to reduce cost, the library has begun to transition journal subscriptions from both print and online formats to online only. Of the 1,350 journal subscriptions to be available in 2009, 212 will be electronic-only. The paper equivalent of these 212 titles will no longer be purchased by the Library. You can view the title list [here](#). The Library will be working with departmental representatives serving on the Library and Learning Resources Committee to identify more titles for electronic-only purchase for 2010.

The Library appreciates the feedback we received with respect to our journal use study. We encourage your engagement in the ongoing discussions about print versus electronic-only formats that will take place over the next year. The Library strives to meet the needs of the faculty, staff and students of the University of Massachusetts Academic Health Sciences Center community. We remain committed to providing our users with quality health information to support your education, research, and patient care needs through access to an excellent and well-balanced journal collection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Elaine.Martin@umassmed.edu](mailto:Elaine.Martin@umassmed.edu).

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