# CREATING AND USING AN ACCESS DATABASE TO ENHANCE SUBJECT ANALYSIS AND OBTAIN FACULTY INPUT ABOUT THE JOURNALS COLLECTION

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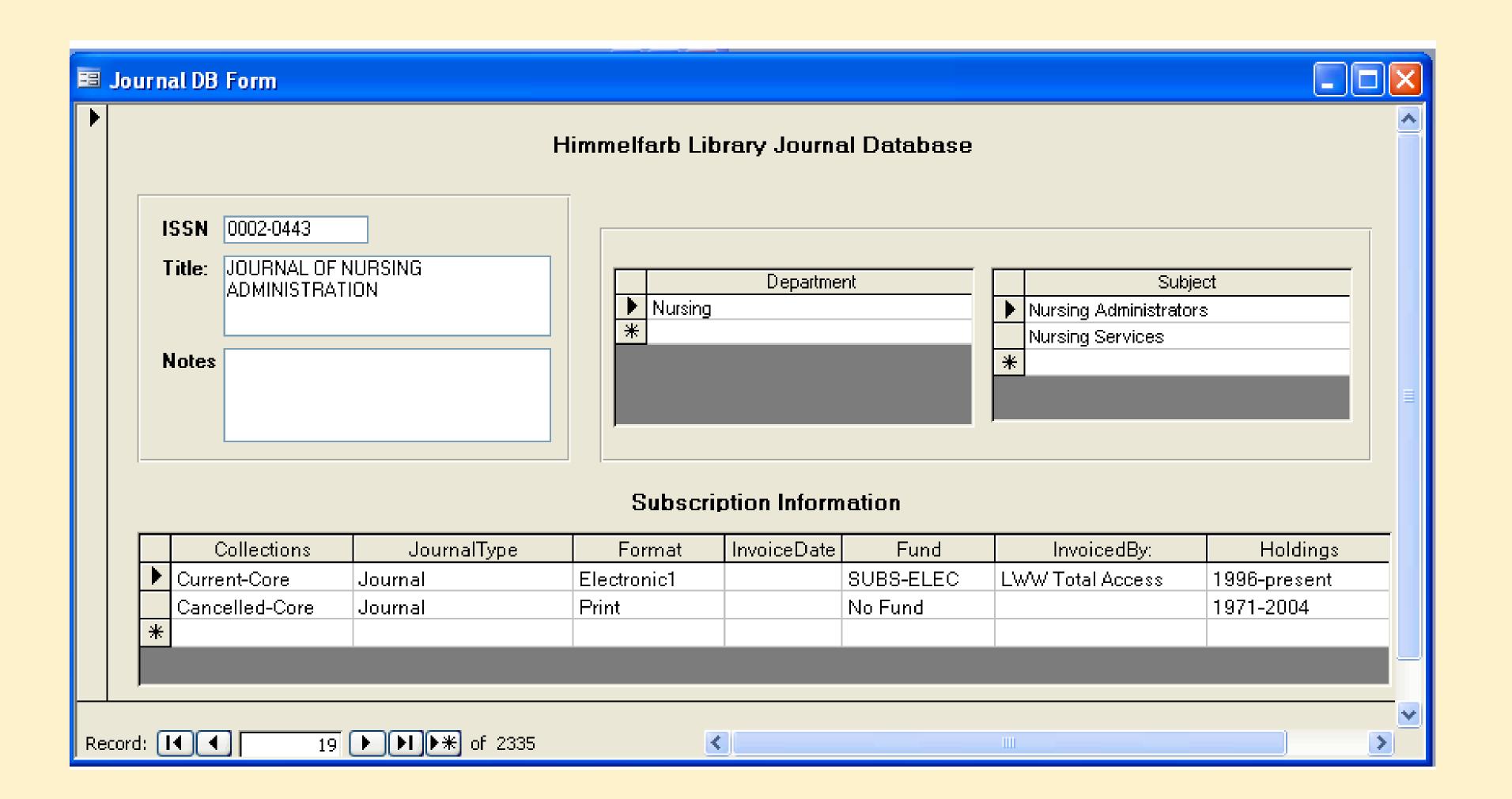HIMMELFARB HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

## OBJECTIVES

- To develop an in-house database of title-level journal information that supports collection development
- To combine faculty input with various subject and statistical data within the database to maximize the knowledge base for subscription renewal
- To analyze database data to further develop a cost-effective journal collection that supports the mission of The George Washington University Medical Center's educational, research and clinical activities and programs
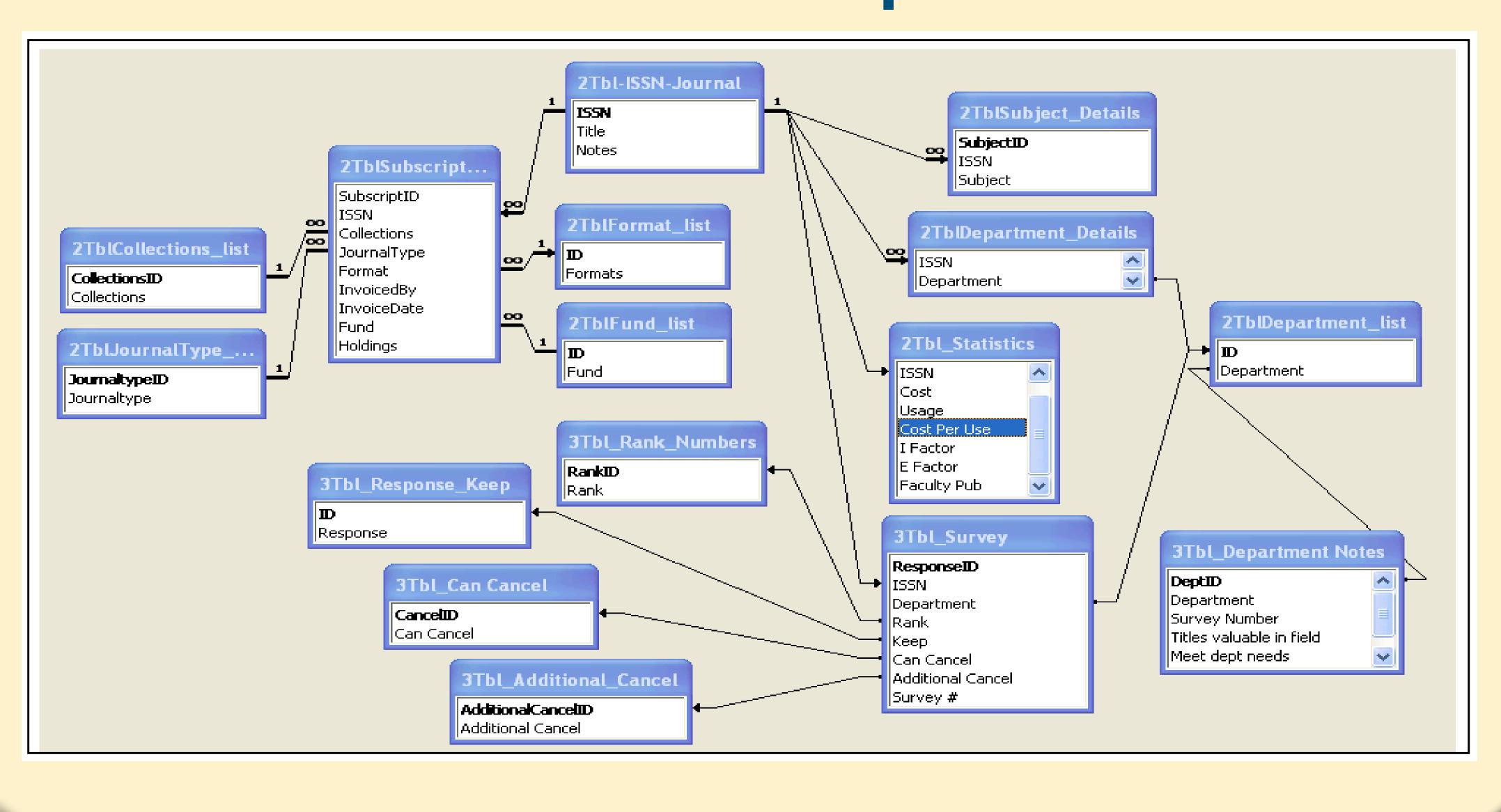
## TECHNOLOGY

- Microsoft Access was chosen to collect, organize, query and evaluate data.
- The database was designed to combine titles with MeSH, department and title-specific information
- Microsoft Excel was used to transfer data into MS Access and format survey layout

## Initial Database Form



## Database Relationship Structure



## Sample Survey



## Sample Response Report



## METHODOLOGY

- Once project team was formed and roles assigned, the initial database was created coupling journal title with subjects, departments and subscription information
- Data was gathered by project team members for 990 core subscription titles (2009 cost information, cost per use, electronic usage statistics, Impact and Eigen factors, in-house publication statistics)
- All data was imported into MS Access database and customized surveys generated by department
- Trial run was conducted with 6 departments by management team visits to department heads informing them of the project and distributing sample surveys. Necessary changes resulting from their input were made.
- Surveys were distributed to full-time faculty with 2 weeks for requested returns. Collection box was set up and electronic returns accepted.
- Surveys were resent to departments with less than 15% response rate.
- All survey responses were entered into Access database and compiled. Reports were generated for analysis

## RESULTS

- 518 surveys were sent out with a return rate of 184 (36%)
- Review of analyses of aggregate responses allowed for further compilation of:
  - Listing of titles designated as most valuable by the department
  - Full listing of titles recommended for retention in the collection
- Full listing of titles recommended for cancellation in the collection
- Additional titles recommended for cancellation in situations of budget constraint
- Faculty's free-text comments and recommendations
- Resulting aggregate reports were then used for renewal decisions

## CONCLUSION

- Microsoft Access facilitated collection of title-specific information internally and could also be used for creation of questionnaire to elicit faculty input
- Although use of the database made accomplishment of each stage easier, the project was still time-intensive and required the collaboration of multiple committee members at different times
- The recording of evaluative data for future use makes it an invaluable aid in ongoing collection efforts
- The faculty became more knowledgeable about the many factors contributing to the journal collection