



Assessment of Departmental Journal Requests and Impact on an Academic Health Sciences Library Collection: An Unanticipated Benefit

Anne Linton, MS (Director, Library Services) and Kathe Obrig, MLS (Associate Director, Collections and Access Services)

Paul Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University Medical Center

Background

- Decision made for SY2005 to convert to predominantly electronic journal collection (conversion completed 2007)
- Requirement established that all converted titles be available by site license and with intent to provide content back to 1995 whenever possible
- Intent for increased collaboration with Main Campus Library to take advantage of site license discounts and to improve access to interdisciplinary materials
- Library operating under Medical Center budget constraints

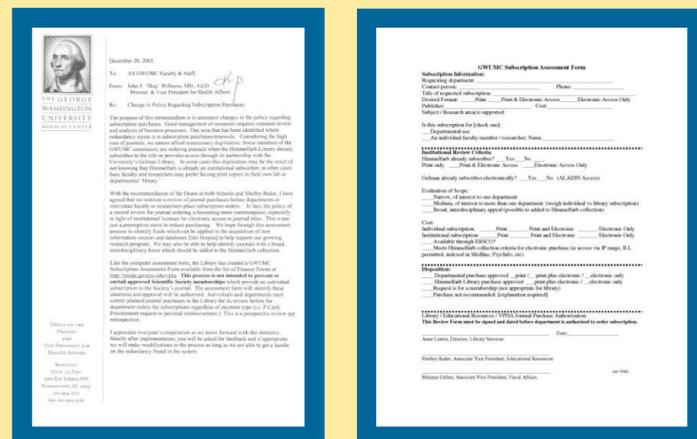
Objectives

- To reduce spending on duplicate purchases by departments through
 - Identification of journal titles already held by Himmelfarb or Gelman (Main Campus Library)
 - Assessment of availability of titles at the desktop
- To evaluate and fine-tune the Himmelfarb journal collection in light of departmental requests
- To identify funds for new resources if possible

Guidelines

- Promise made not to cancel subscriptions included in society memberships
- Requests for duplicate purchases were denied if
 - Table of contents was easily available at the desktop
 - No embargoes/time delays were in effect
 - Online content equaled or exceeded print content
 - Titles were of broad interest to Medical Center community, i.e. supported major programs

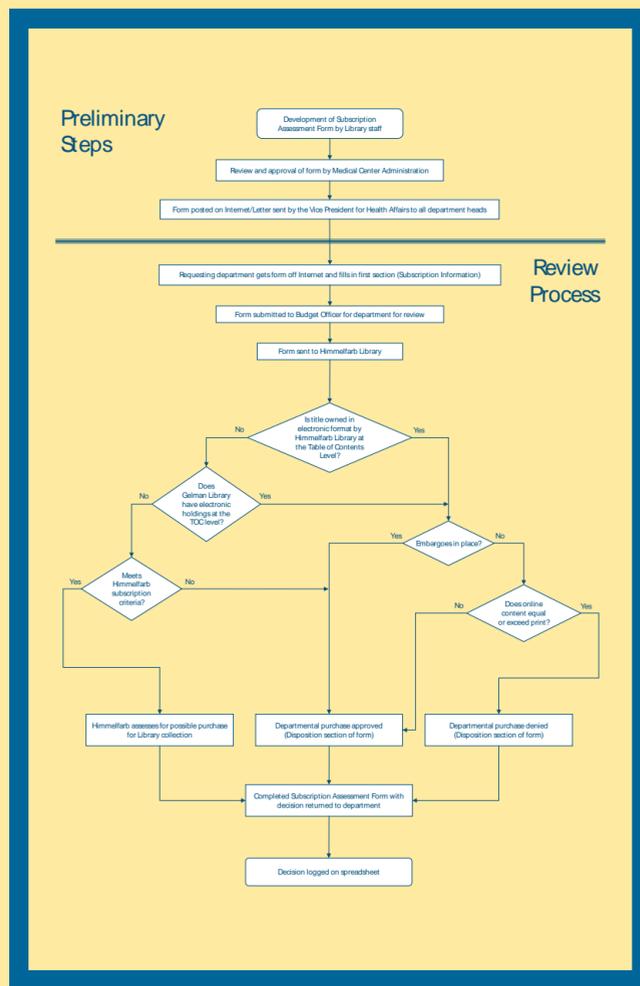
Subscription Assessment Policy and Form



Subscription Assessment Spreadsheet

Department	Journal	Dept purchase approved	Titles already available	Cost	Notes
Prevention & Community Health	Lancet	no	accessible	\$200	
MITM	Lancet	no	accessible	\$1611	
Office of Homeland Security	Leadership directories	yes		\$243	
MCCM	Leadership directory	yes		\$1,176	
Biomedical Communications	MacWorld	no	accessible	\$25	
	Medical Research Law & Policy				
Office of Health Research	Paper	yes		\$1,195	
Health Services Mgm & Leadership	Modern Healthcare	no	accessible	\$149	
Provost & VP	Modern Healthcare	no	accessible	\$149	
Biochemistry	Molecular Cell	no	accessible	\$182	
Biochemistry	Molecular Cell	no	accessible	\$182	
	National Academy of Social insurance membership	yes		\$150	membership
Health Policy	National Law Journal	yes		\$210	
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Nature	no	accessible	\$199	
Biochemistry	Nature	no	accessible	\$99	
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Nature Medicine	no	accessible	\$159	
Biochemistry	New England Journal of Medicine	no	accessible	\$149	request withdrawn
Medical School Admissions	New Physician	yes		\$38	
Dean's Office	New Physician	yes		\$26	
SPHHS	New York Times	yes		\$120	
VPHA	New York Times	yes		\$250	
Health Policy	New York Times Online	yes		\$50	
Health Services Mgm & Leadership	New York Times Online	yes		\$130	
Office of Homeland Security	Newsweek	yes		\$42	
VPHA	Newsweek	yes		\$24	
MC General Safety	NFPA code Directory	yes		\$650	
Medical Center Advancement	Non-profit Times	yes		\$65	

Subscription Assessment Process



Results

- 93 forms from 39 departments received
- 50% of journal titles requested were fully available in electronic format; requests were denied
- Additional areas for growth identified especially in nursing, education, health policy areas, and business of health
- Departments with changing needs identified
- Need for additional education about electronic journals became painfully apparent

Ongoing Impact

- Three new nursing titles added to collection
- Major indexing tool purchased with money saved from use of process
- Major changes made to electronic journals page: interdisciplinary titles added; aggregator titles dropped; subject headings under revision
- Opened ongoing conversation with faculty regarding nature of Library's collection
- Plans made to meet with faculty over summer to assess Himmelfarb collection further
- Began discussions with GWU Law Library for sharing health policy/legislative policy materials
 - One electronic health law compilation selected and implemented
 - Other products still in discussion
- Over five educational sessions scheduled as a direct result of subscription assessment discussions
- Initiated Electronic Journals Month: flyers, contests, luncheons
- Plans made to increase number of training sessions for accessing e-collection
- Forms continue to be submitted and the process will be repeated in the upcoming budget cycle
- Maintain spreadsheet of requests for collection assessment:
 - Which departments submitted the most requests?
 - Which are the most requested titles?
 - Which are the most requested subjects?