

The Centennial Library launches a new journal collection strategy including the addition of a major electronic journal resource

JOURNAL COLLECTION STRATEGY

Cedarville University, with its focus on liberal arts, professional programs, and a biblical studies minor for every student, is committed to providing a journal collection which effectively and efficiently supports its undergraduate and graduate programs, faculty research, and the leisure interests of students. Currently, the Centennial Library journals collection is in a state of transition. Electronic full-text journals make up the largest percentage of the collection and future growth is anticipated. In forecasting the composition of the journal collection for the 2010-2020 time period, it seems clear that on-line full-text journals are the growing wave of the future, provide the broadest points of remote and continuous access, and are usually the most preferred format by students and faculty. This transition period also speaks to a matter of stewardship, not paying for a subscription in multiple formats [print and electronic], when one will generally provide the most effective access.

Statement of Philosophy

Therefore, for the Centennial Library, electronic on-line full-text will be the **priority** format for the delivery of journal collection resources to our patrons.

The Priority of Electronic Subscriptions

The obvious immediate impact will be that the Library will place a preference on electronic subscriptions for both new and continuing journal titles whenever possible. Thus, new titles which are recommended by faculty for the library collection will be purchased in electronic format if that is an option. The bulk of the electronic subscriptions will continue to be provided by OhioLINK, specifically through the Electronic Journal Center and the full text databases to which the Centennial Library subscribes through OhioLINK, but other database sources are also used for electronic access. Journal subscriptions which are currently held in print may be dropped if they are available electronically through these databases. Subscriptions which are currently held in print and are not available through databases (or are embargoed) may be switched from print to electronic versions purchased directly from the publishers. A small number of subscriptions may be held concurrently in print and electronic format.

The Role of Print Subscriptions

The number of print subscriptions, currently just below 1,000 titles, will gradually decrease. We also expect that the number of non-active titles (ceased or discontinued) and print journal backfiles which are housed in the bound and microfilm collections will gradually shrink as access to electronic version backfiles is expanded. Some subscriptions, however, due to their format, content, use patterns, or other criteria, may be retained in print guided by the following circumstances:

- print is the only option.
- the **subject matter** lends itself to user preference for a hard copy (current news,

- creative writing, popular/leisure topics, book reviews, graphic design).
- the **graphic content** lends itself to user preference for a hard copy (heavily illustrated).
- other content lends itself to user preference for a hard copy (high percentage of conference information, editorials, ads or other features which might be difficult to search online).
- the electronic subscription is **incomplete** or **embargoed** [electronic access is delayed].
- the print subscription demonstrated reasonable **use** in recent usage studies.
- the subscription is a **gift**.

The Curriculum Materials Center periodicals collection, due to its unique nature and use, will continue to be maintained in print format under the management of the Curriculum Materials Center Librarian.

Preservation

Physical copy holdings (bound, boxed, microfilm or microfiche) of journals will be retained under the following circumstances:

- electronic full text access is not available or is embargoed [electronic access is delayed]. For embargoed titles, the print version will be kept in the Current Periodicals section or boxed in the Bound Periodicals section until the Library has accumulated at least one full volume previous to the embargoed volume. (For example, if there is a six-month embargo, the Library will retain the current volume and the complete previous volume until a third volume starts. At that time the earliest volume will be discarded.)
- the journal is indexed in the Christian Periodical Index.
- a faculty member has made a convincing case for the retention of print copies for class assignments.
- the Centennial Library is the only OhioLINK library with print holdings for the years/volumes in question.

JSTOR COLLECTION ACCESS PURCHASED

To advance the new journal collection strategy, the Library has recently contracted with JSTOR to make available on-line their complete set of electronic journal archive collections. This comes as an addition to the significant collections of e-journals already available to the University community through the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center and the EBSCO database services. The JSTOR archives include scholarship published in over 1,000 of the highest-quality academic journals across the humanities, social sciences, and science disciplines. Titles in the JSTOR collections will be available to Cedarville faculty and students in the same way that current e-journal titles are provided.

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January 2010