



Rightsizing Open Access Journals in Academic Libraries: Enhancing the Discovery and Research Experience - by Barbara M. Pope, MALS

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Academic Library Challenges

- **Print Journals Collections Declining**
- **Journal Price Increases - 521% since 1986 (ARL)**
- **Flat or Cut Budgets**
- **Space Problems**
- **Never-ending need for access to timely and relevant peer reviewed journals**

PSU's Challenges & Goals

- **Flat budget, journal cost increases, space issues**
- **Increase availability of relevant online journals to support PSU's curriculum and research**
- **Remove unnecessary duplication of open access journals among databases**
- **Dead links of open access journals in ERM**
- **Irrelevant open access journals in ERM**

Goal: Rightsizing PSU journals collection, including open access journals

Overlap Between Collections

- **Do an overlap analysis to reveal overlap of journals between collections.**
- **Examine the URLs of different sources of open access journals.**
- **Delete duplicates.**



Bad URLs

- **Examine bad URLs reports.**
- **Determine if journals are needed.**
 - **Relevance to the university curriculum and research**
- **Fix URLs or delete journals.**

Usage Statistics

- Examine usage statistics for usage on journals which are not subscriptions.
- Are they open access titles? Titles in blue are subscriptions, while those in yellow are open journals.
- Are they relevant to the university curriculum and research needs? Are they peer reviewed?
- Since the open access journals are being used, that speaks to need for the content.

- The usage of all journals added at PSU has increased, and some cases, doubled.

ScienceDirect Journal Usage 2016	ISSN	Usage
Results in Physics		66
Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing	1552-6909	63
Applied Nursing Research		56
Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences		43
Chest	1931-3543	41
Historia Mathematica	1090-249X	32
Procedia Engineering		29
Nursing for Women's Health	1751-486X	27
Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry	1879-1123	25
Current Biology		21
Materials Today	1873-4103	21

Conclusion

- Open access journals are a great way to expand your library's access to peer reviewed journals
- Support university curriculum and research needs
- Save money by not duplicating journals in different databases
- Increase access to journals patrons need and may already be using
- Decrease confusion of patrons who are overwhelmed with links

Caution

- Open access journals should be subject to collection development analysis
- Beware of predatory open access journals and check peer review status
- Some open access journals have poorly designed websites, lack of open url compliance, and lack of indexing in databases and discovery tools.
- Value usage statistics

References and Tools to Help

Usage Statistics

Directory of Open Access Journals – (peer review status, ratings by Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing, author fees) <https://doaj.org/>

Scimago <https://www.scimagojr.com/>

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