



January 16, 2009

Subject: University Libraries' Subscriptions to Taylor and Francis Journals

Three years ago the University Libraries negotiated an agreement with the Taylor and Francis Group, a United Kingdom-based publishing company, to provide electronic access to a designated list of about 550 scholarly journals. In December, without prior notice, the publisher presented Penn State with a new agreement that had new terms that we considered unacceptable. Our attempts to reach a mutually-agreeable compromise with Taylor and Francis have been unsuccessful. As a consequence the University Libraries have chosen not to renew the agreement.

Why we made this decision

The University Libraries acquire electronic journals and databases only when we can provide access to all Penn State locations. This is a core principle of our collection development policy that we have adopted because we are "One University Geographically Dispersed." Unfortunately, we are unable to ensure all-campus electronic access directly from Taylor and Francis without a large package subscription. The publisher's most recent offers included unacceptable terms that would tie our hands by requiring us to maintain a "current spend" (over \$400,000 per year) and not pay them any less per year over the course of the next 5 years. The cost and the terms of the Taylor and Francis agreement are untenable in the current economic climate.

How this affects you

Electronic access to articles published in 2009 and beyond will no longer be available directly from Taylor and Francis. The publisher does make some of their journals available online from a variety of other sources, including Ebsco's *Professional Development Collection* and *Communication and Mass Media Complete*, though these databases often have embargoes of 1 to 2 years.

We will continue to have electronic access to 2007 and 2008 issues for all Taylor and Francis journals for which we had a subscription through their online site, InformaWorld. We have already paid for these titles and the publisher is obligated to provide us with electronic access perpetually.

In some instances, print subscriptions will be reinstated. For these decisions, subject librarians will rely on usage data gathered over several years and will work with departments to ensure that we have those journals pertinent to your teaching and research. For other titles not in our collection, you can request articles through our Interlibrary

Loan system, ILLiad, which will provide you an electronic copy directly to your workstation in a matter of days.

The Cat and the E-Journal list ([http://getit.libraries.psu.edu:9003/sfx\\_local/az](http://getit.libraries.psu.edu:9003/sfx_local/az)) will have up-to-date information on our holdings. For more specific details, please check with your subject librarian, who will be happy to assist you in getting the materials you need.

Looking ahead

We think that there will be other difficult negotiations with publishers in the future. The business models in the publishing industry have continued to trend towards consolidation and large package deals, much like the cable TV industry. These models have driven libraries to allocate more of their collection monies to fewer large publishers, threatening smaller publishers, including university presses.

Given the current national downturn in the economy, we expect that many libraries and publishers will be forced to re-evaluate their licensing agreements. Many research libraries will simply not be able to pay the same amounts, and pay in the same way, as we have in the past decade.

Please be assured that our Collection Development Council will be looking for opportunities to return electronic access to publications where we can. Penn State Libraries are committed to meeting your needs for high quality collections and we will continue to work with publishers on your behalf. If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to let us know by contacting the subject librarian assigned to your academic unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy L. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dean of Libraries and Scholarly Communications