

FAU Libraries Collections Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meeting summary / April 10, 2019

In Attendance:

- Clifford Brown (Arts & Letters)
- Deanna Gray-Miceli (Nursing)
- Steven Lewis (Medicine)
- Don Neubaum (Business)
- Maris Hayashi (Library)
- Jeff Sundquist (Library)

Could not attend:

- Tiffany Briggs (Science)
- Rebel Cole (Business)
- Salvatore Lepore (Science)
- Jesse Saginor (Design and Social Inquiry)
- Cristobal Salinas (Education)
- Hongbo Su (Engineering)
- Tsung-Chow “Joe” Su (Engineering)

Summary by Jeff Sundquist (Chair):

1. **Dean Hixson’s February 2019 Senate visit:** In February, Dean Hixson presented our recommendation to the Senate that we cancel one of our big packages.ⁱ This generated almost no comments or responses. After the Senate meeting, Dean Hixson corresponded with President Wagner and expressed interest in faculty and Senate feedback, and the guidance and/or endorsement of the Senate. President Wagner said he would discuss with the Steering Committee.
2. **Recent developments outside FAU that are of interest to this group:** Sundquist presented other universities’ and institutions’ package cancellations to the group, via a list organized by SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition).ⁱⁱ We focused on 2019 developments, such as FSU’s cancellation of Elsevier, Max Planck Society’s cancellation of Elsevier, University of Oklahoma’s cancellation of Elsevier and Wiley, and West Virginia University’s cancellation of Elsevier and Springer (WVU following up a successful cancellation of Wiley). We also looked at some powerhouse consortia responses to these packages, such as Hungary and Norway cancelling Elsevier, Finland cancelling Taylor & Francis, and the University of California cancelling Elsevier. Sundquist noted that instead of cancelling, some places were using the terminology “unbundling,” and suggested we should use that as well since it not only more accurately describes our recommendation, but is more positive and less alarmist than cancellation terminology.

3. **Big Package Discussion:** Hayashi and Sundquist presented details regarding 5 of our big packages, including contract dates, costs, costs-per-use, number of titles in package, number of titles with few downloads in package, and download statistics for the top journals in each package. Members discussed these packages. There was a request for information for all titles in each package, and that information will be furnished to members. There was a reaffirmation that smaller departments/fields of research would likely not have their essential journals show up at the top of these download statistics, and that we must allow for their inclusion. There was an expression that decisions needed to be consistent, data driven, transparent, and made in as formal a way as possible, preferably using existing governance structure of university. There was a discussion of Interlibrary Loan as a way to supplement for lost journals, or aggregators such as EBSCO, ProQuest, and JSTOR, and that the Libraries know the economies involved. It was noted that the cost-per-use was high on four of the five packages, with Elsevier having a low cost-per-use. All packages had a high percentage of journals that were rarely used. No one package was marked for unbundling during this discussion, and all seemed to be a reasonable choice. After furnishing information to all CAC members, we must continue the discussion to identify which package to unbundle, in order to present that recommendation to Dean Hixson.

4. **Potential Timeline for Package Unbundling:** Sundquist presented a sample timeline for a FY20 unbundlingⁱⁱⁱ, and because of notification deadlines according to the contracts with these vendors coupled with Summer months approaching, we must move quickly.

ⁱ RECOMMENDATION

The Collections Advisory Committee recommends that FAU follow examples set nationally (including at other universities in Florida) and cancel one of our six most expensive journal package bundles for FY20, using a portion of the package's price to subscribe to only the most essential journals à la carte.

Faculty will be given time to respond, and a web page will be created with information including a list of journal titles in the package selected, a timeline, and a link to a feedback form. FAU Faculty and students can continue to rely on Interlibrary Loan for efficient access to articles they need from non-subscribed titles.

ⁱⁱ <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/big-deal-cancellation-tracking/>

ⁱⁱⁱ FAU: Unbundling of Package X Timeline

Stage 1 (Now-Summer 2019)

Advertise package to be unbundled (Package X). Provide lists of journal titles from Package X, and ask faculty for their input regarding which journals from Package X we need to subscribe to a la carte. Provide information regarding options for getting content to titles lost in the Package

X unbundling, such as Interlibrary Loan, legal open access, pay-per-article, other aggregators, etc.

Stage 2 (August-September 2019)

Continue Stage 1 after summer, with PR, open forum(s), library liaison communications, and online feedback. Final call for feedback mid-September.

Stage 3 (September-November 2019)

Share final results of the unbundling in late September, including finalized list of titles from Package X that we can afford to retain. The Libraries will continue to promote heavily alternative ways to access any lost content.

Unbundling to take effect January 2020.