



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

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TO: Faculty and Staff

FROM: John Culshaw
University Librarian

DATE: January 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Shared Print Repository for Select Journal Titles

It isn't news that scholarly journals have largely moved into an online environment. Indeed, many no longer publish in a traditional paper format at all. Most publishers have also digitized their older journal content, so that full runs of a large number of journals are available to libraries in perpetuity in an electronic format. As a result, libraries often have complete runs of journals in paper and electronic versions. This is true for the UI Libraries, as well as for our CIC counterparts.

Despite the increase in electronically published materials, the Libraries remain critically short of space – both for materials and for study -- and the same is true for most of our peers. To help counter this, the CIC Office of Library Initiatives and CIC member libraries have established the CIC Shared Print Repository (SPR), a high density storage facility housed at Indiana University. The idea behind the SPR is simple: store one complete run of the paper version of journals owned in electronic format in this facility, rather than having each library house its own run of rarely-used paper journals. The CIC repository is just one example of this approach meaning there is further redundancy of these print titles elsewhere in the country as well.

The UI Libraries have identified over 500 Elsevier journal titles for which we own full back-file content in electronic form. We propose to withdraw these bound volumes housed in Main Library, the Sciences Library, Hardin Library, or the Heinz Rd. Annex and rely on the electronic copies backed up by the bound volumes at the Shared Print Repository. We will withdraw only those volumes for which the Libraries own all online content. In addition, our subject specialist librarians have identified some journals that won't be withdrawn despite having the electronic version because the print version is still heavily used. The space savings can be significant. For the initial batch of journals going into the SPR, UI Libraries could save up to 6,300 linear feet of shelving to house new materials or to recoup study space.

Usage data shows that the use of Iowa's bound volumes is virtually nil if there is an electronic version available. For example, we have yet to retrieve a bound volume of an Elsevier journal from Heinz Rd. if we have the electronic version. However, while the need would be rare, articles from the bound volumes housed at the SPR can be scanned and emailed to CIC researchers, or the bound volume itself could be sent to a CIC member library by courier. Finally, the CIC has invited me to

serve as a member of the SPR Steering Committee meaning that we will have a direct voice in the operation of the facility.

Because this is a substantial change in our collections policy, we want to hear your thoughts. Please send your comments on this matter to me at john-culshaw@uiowa.edu by February 7, 2014. Thank you for your attention.

JC/ka