

# Assessment Annual Report

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**Oregon State University**  
**Libraries and Press**

## **Collection Development**

Collection Development focuses on the management of the general collection in the Valley Library and off-site storage. This collection consists of both print and electronic resources that are either owned or leased through a variety of subscription models. The Collection Council has general oversight of the decisions made with input from stakeholders.

## **Fiscal Year**

2021-2022

## **Overview**

As in recent years, OSU Libraries & Press (OSULP) saw support from the provost office through the one-time addition of \$550,000 to bridge the gap we have in our collections budget. This money allowed the collection council to focus on a plan to gradually and methodically align spending in collections to our current E&G budget allocation. Along with the financial support, we saw improved data analysis support through our new collection assessment librarian. The expertise brought by this librarian to pull and correct data and then present the data in a meaningful way has allowed us to refine our processes and look towards new data to collect in order to make more well-informed decisions.

In an effort to have broader understanding of the decisions collections council makes, we embarked on collaborative collection development policy writing. We have found the collaborative nature of this work to improve engagement across the library while supporting our value of transparency. Additional principles outlined by the [Open and Sustainable Scholarly Communication](#) group were approved by faculty senate and have immediate impacts on our negotiations with Elsevier and how we look to organize and do our work in the future.

## **Strategic Significance:**

The OSULP strategic goal that the collection council aligns with most closely is to “practice active and respectful stewardship” (Strategic Goal 4). The stewardship extends to all formats maintained in general collections and supports our intention of getting stakeholder input to support decision making. External priorities that connect with the work in the collection council are: “optimizing the library experience...” through the reduction of barriers to access content; “strengthen equity, diversity and inclusion...” by ensuring underrepresented voices are seen and heard; “pursue solutions that will support publishing, distribution and collection models...” by working with publishers and vendors to ensure our values of privacy and accessibility are reflected in the platforms and content we subscribe; and, “use direct and indirect strategies to help make college more affordable...” by building collections that support the teaching and learning of OSULP.

## **Takeaways:**

- Meaningful discussions in the library and across campus regarding the values and principles we want to uphold in how we support research, teaching and learning with access to library content and services have already begun to change the way in which we work.

- OSSC principles are guiding how we approach contract negotiations. We are now beginning a process to actively pursue our preferred contract terms as we renew contracts. Due to the number of contracts we have in place and limited staffing, this work will need to occur over the next 3-5 years. It is also possible that we may not be successful in negotiating preferred terms and may decide to conclude contracts and find alternative ways to access content for our community.
- The collection council has embarked on a collaborative policy writing process to update and add policies related to our work in collections. This process has fostered cross-department connections, established greater transparency in collections work across the library, and with added points of view has helped us question the existing bias in past policies and where policies might no longer be needed or need to be as restrictive.
- The “bridge money” from the provost office has allowed the collection council to create a plan on how to evaluate current spending on collections with the OSU community. The money also allowed us the time to focus on getting support for our principles from OSU faculty instead of focusing time on cutting access to content without input or buy-in.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Although the collaborative CD policy writing is important work, it is also very slow work to ensure as many people as possible can contribute to the process. We expect to continue with this work through the upcoming fiscal year (add possibly beyond). The policies that get established could change how we decide to spend our money to get access to needed content.
- The policies will change processes and procedures including supporting better transparency across OSULP and OSU for the work we do in collections.
- The steps we are taking to align to open and sustainable scholarship are requiring exploration not only of the products we subscribe to for access but also for managing our resource sharing and on-demand article purchasing. We also are beginning to see the need to explore the skills and qualifications we need in positions to support this work. We expect to begin by reorganizing existing positions to better support our work and our people and then explore options for gaps in the services we need to provide.

#### **Assessment:**

This summer Oregon State University Libraries, in conjunction with Portland State University Library and the University of Oregon Libraries, entered contract negotiations with Elsevier for journal access in 2023, and for up to three years beyond that. The desired outcome is to reduce spend with Elsevier by half of the current amounts paid by each institution. In addition to a cost reduction, we are asking for removal of lending restrictions, changes in license language concerning researcher privacy and authorized user access, and a stronger commitment to open access. With our current focus on building transparency in relation to collection decisions and information sharing, we are seeking a justification for journal subscription cost based on journal usage. Journal usage statistics, OSU authorship activity, percentages of open access content, and content overlap analysis are some of the data points being considered during the negotiation process.

The collection council is updating the process to review active serial subscriptions for cancellation. A new year-long timeline will allow for a more thorough analysis of usage and

overlap data and provide more space to solicit feedback from stakeholders. We plan to update the OSU community on major collection development decisions through our website and are currently exploring options to share that information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Goergen-Doll

Signature of the person (or persons) who prepared this report

September 1, 2022

Date submitted