Declining Budgets Impact Journal Subscriptions

The recent economic downturn and declining state budget have forced cuts in the Library's budget. One area impacted by these cuts is journal subscriptions. In the last 20 years, journal subscription prices have risen by 8 to 11% annually, much faster than the Consumer Price Index. Therefore, the Library has found it necessary to cancel 678 journal subscriptions, resulting in approximately $320,000 in cost savings.

Fortunately, many of the titles that are being canceled, effective January 2010, are available electronically using the “Find It® GT” or “Check for availability” links. Other canceled titles can be requested from the Library’s ILLiad service with most articles available through Rapid ILL, an expedited interlibrary loan service (one to two business days turnaround is typical). Only those journal articles published after 2009 are affected by the cuts. The Library will continue to review ILLiad requests and resubscribe to heavily used journals when the collection budget permits and it’s cost effective to do so.

For more information about the “serials crisis” in academic libraries, visit the Library’s Crisis in Scholarly Information page.

The 678 titles were selected from a carefully prepared list of 1,343 journals. From mid-March to April 30, 2009, GT faculty and students provided invaluable input with over 1,600 comments related to the research and teaching value of the journal titles. These comments and other data were essential in making informed decisions about the Library’s journal subscriptions. The Library appreciates faculty assistance on this project and continuing support for the Library.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Simons, Head, Collection Services, planning strategically for the Library’s future in alignment with the Institute, and securing grant funds for new initiatives like the Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR).

The GKR is a grant-funded project based at the Georgia Tech Library and designed to benefit institutional repositories across the state. On the minus side, we have been forced to cancel almost 700 journal subscriptions as a consequence of declining state budgets and increasing prices from publishers. In preparation for this challenge, the Library surveyed faculty and students across campus to learn how they use journals in their research and teaching. Whenever possible the Library canceled only those journals in paper form. In many cases, however, students and faculty will have to rely on the generosity of other libraries for journal content through interlibrary loan. Like so many hard financial choices being made by units across campus, we would gladly have avoided them. The Library reform will be a feature of the Library’s exhibit.

Catherine Murray-Rust

From Scientific Romances to Religious Controversy: H.G. Wells Books

Since January 2010, a selection of H.G. Wells books from the Edwin B. Feldman Collection of the Georgia Tech Library has been on exhibit in the Library’s Neely Rare Book Room. Donated to the Library in 1980, the Feldman collection includes over fifty early edition Wells novels and non-fiction works as well as other books about Wells. Best known for his “scientific romances” such as The Time Machine, The Invisible Man, and The War of the Worlds, Wells also wrote to educate the masses and promote social reform. One of his most notable works of popular education is The Outline of History, which was published serially during the winter of 1919/1920 in twenty-four parts in boldly illustrated paper wrappers. A complete first edition of The Outline as well as other works related to Wells’ interests in education and social reform will be a feature of the Library’s exhibit.

For more information contact the archives@library.gatech.edu.
New Library Faculty - Ameet Doshi
Improving Everyone’s GT Library Experience

The Georgia Tech Library has a new User Engagement and Assessment Coordinator, Ameet Doshi. As Head of the User Experience Department, Doshi works with library users to improve services, spaces, and resources. “We want everyone who interacts with the library to feel like a ‘VIP,’ and it’s important that we work directly with the Tech community to make that happen,” Doshi says. In his new role, Doshi helps coordinate the Library’s internal assessment efforts and works as the Subject Liaison for the School of Economics.

Before his appointment at Tech, Doshi served as the Circulation Librarian at Georgia Perimeter College and as a Public Services Librarian and Lecturer at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, where he chaired the One Book One Community and Public Programming committees. Doshi earned a Masters in Information Science and Bachelors from the Scholars Interdisciplinary program from the University of Tennessee. He also holds a Masters of Public Administration (University of North Carolina, Wilmington) and recently became a LEED Accredited Professional for Operations and Maintenance by the U.S. Green Building Council.

If you have questions for Ameet or are interested in helping to improve the Tech Library, you can contact him at ameet.doshi@gatech.edu.

Subject Librarian Spotlight—Bing Wang

Bing Wang is a Reference Librarian and Subject Liaison for the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, the School of Materials and Science Engineering, and the School of Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering. Wang develops and delivers curriculum-integrated instruction and is responsible for collection development and promotion of information services for faculty, staff, and students in these three schools.

In addition to her liaison and research activities, Wang developed two intellectual property workshops: “Searching Patents for Scientists and Engineers” and “Copyright and Fair Use Basics,” both offered several times throughout the semester. She also teaches Library Orientation classes for Chinese students in Mandarin and is the Library liaison for the Georgia Tech Chinese Friendship Association. In 2008, Wang won the Special Library Association Diversity Leadership Development Program Award as well as the IEEE Continuing Education Travel Stipend Award. She is an active member of the Special Libraries Association and currently serves as chair of their Engineering Division’s Awards Committee.

Prior to her arrival at Tech in 2004, Wang interned at the Swain Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Library at Stanford University. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Jilin University, China, an M.S. in Chemistry from the University of California, Riverside, and an M.S. in Library Science from San Jose State University.

Library/Faculty Advisory Board

Created in Fall 2007 by Dr. Gary Schuster, the Library/Faculty Advisory Board (LFAB) is an essential sounding board for the Library, particularly to enhance faculty engagement. Board Members facilitate faculty/Library communications, partner with the Library in areas of common concern including—scholarly communications, author rights, information policy—and serve as Library advocates and counselors. Topics discussed at recent meetings were scholarly communications, open access, the Library’s institutional repository - SMARTech, the Library commons areas, and Library and LFAB strategic planning.

The LFAB is comprised of 21 members with Ellen Zegura (College of Computing) as Chair. The Board meets six times annually.

The current Advisory Board members are:

Ellen Zegura, LFAB Chair (College of Computing)
Haskell Beckham (School of Polymer, Textile & Fiber Engineering)
Nate Bennett (College of Management)
Michael Best (College of Computing and School of International Affairs)
Fredda Blanchard-Fields (School of Psychology)
Larry Bottomley (School of Chemistry)
Amy Bruckman (College of Computing)
Benjamin Flowers (College of Architecture)
Martha Grover (School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering)
Marli Hayslett (Georgia Tech Research Institute)
Dewey Hodges (School of Aerospace Engineering)
Haizheng Li (School of Economics)
Harvey Lipkin (School of Mechanical Engineering)
Yingjie Liu (School of Mathematics)
Nick Lurie (College of Management)
Renato Monteiro (School of Industrial and Systems Engineering)
Bob Pikowsky (School of Public Policy)
Carol Senf (School of Literature, Communication and Culture)
Bruce Stiftel (College of Architecture)
Bill Underwood (Georgia Tech Research Institute)
Andrew Zangwill (School of Physics)

Upcoming Spring 2010 meetings are scheduled for March 1 and April 6. If you’re interested in serving on the Board in the future, please contact Kathy Tomajko, kathy.tomajko@library.gatech.edu, the LFAB coordinator.
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If you have questions, please contact Nancy Simons, Head, Collection Development, or your school’s subject librarian.

Declining Budgets Impact Journal Subscriptions

A Note from the Dean

This issue of the View from the Library is filled with news, both good and bad. On the plus side, energetic faculty and staff are improving services, planning strategically for the Library’s future in alignment with the Institute, and securing grant funds for new initiatives like the Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR). The GKR is a grant-funded project based at the Georgia Tech Library and designed to benefit institutional repositories across the state. On the minus side, we have been forced to cancel almost 700 journal subscriptions as a consequence of declining state budgets and increasing prices from publishers. In preparation for this challenge, the Library surveyed faculty and students across campus to learn how they use journals in their research and teaching. Whenever possible the Library canceled only those journals in paper form. In many cases, however, students and faculty will have to rely on the generosity of other libraries for journal content through interlibrary loan. Like so many hard financial choices being made by units across campus, we would gladly have avoided any and all journal cancellations. We are, however, fortunate that so far at least we are able to protect the core of the collection that faculty and students need to be successful in their academic work.

Catherine Murray-Rust

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