

**Working Group Summary:  
Libraries present Faculty Senate with  
Three Large Collections Issues  
/ Spring 2020**



## **Executive Summary**

On November 8, 2019, the Libraries had 30 minutes to engage with members of the Faculty Senate around three major decision points we find ourselves in the midst of with regard to providing access to scholarly content for the campus. The three issues included journal criteria, library contracts, and open access publishing. While these three topics are distinct, they often become intermingled in our decision-making processes.

The primary goal of the exercise was to introduce new conversations regarding what type of input the library needs from faculty in shaping the collections. A secondary goal was to get preliminary feedback to help us determine how to move forward with faculty input on our work.

Firstly, we found commonalities between the ways in which Faculty Senate and the Libraries rank journals for purchase. Secondly, faculty are interested in having wider conversations about publishing practices as related to tenure and promotion. Thirdly, the Libraries must do more advocacy and engagement about topics such as open access and library contracts with the larger campus community.

## **Contact**

For more information about this summary or if your academic unit is holding conversations about these topics, please contact:

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# COLLECTIONS ISSUE 1

## How do we determine the criteria by which we prioritize journal purchases?

Due to steep increases in the costs of journal subscriptions and reductions in the libraries' materials budget, the library cannot subscribe to everything that scholars request. We can almost always get access to materials as requested, but how do we prioritize what we purchase?

The Libraries' Collections Advisory Committee (CAC) is an internal committee which advises the Libraries on resource allocations based on analyses of the materials budget and/or academic needs. CAC ranked an original list of 16 criteria. We asked participants at Faculty Senate to rank 13 criteria, which were refined for the time-limited nature of the working group exercise.

<b>Faculty Senate</b>	<b>Collections Advisory Committee</b>
Usage	Cost Per Use
Audience	Audience
Number of Faculty Requests	Number of ILL Requests
Number of Interlibrary loan Requests	New Academic Program Need
Cost	Number of Faculty Requests
Journal Metrics	Overlap
Interlibrary Loan Availability	Interlibrary Loan Availability
New Academic Program Need	Discoverability
Overlap	Usability
Faculty Request (Quality)	Previously Cut/Complaint
Accessibility	WVU Author/Editor
WVU Faculty Affiliation	Timeliness
WVU Affiliated Citations	Indexing
	Contractual Obligation
	Accessibility
	Review of the Item

*Table: Comparison of journal selection rankings by Faculty Senate and Collections Advisory Committee rankings*

Based on the exercise we found:

- Both groups ranked audience, cost, number of faculty requests, and number of Interlibrary Loan requests highly. Participants at Faculty Senate ranked usage the highest, where the definition provided was “the number of times articles from the journal have been downloaded by WVU users” (Appendix A). For the CAC, the criteria of usage was a combination of usage and cost. Essentially we found that the two groups are largely in sync.
- Participants at Faculty Senate ranked Faculty Request(Quality), WVU Faculty Affiliation, and WVU Affiliated Citations at the bottom or near the bottom of the list, much lower than the CAC or Library Administration expected. This information is helpful in validating some of the Libraries’ unarticulated practices.

## COLLECTIONS ISSUE 2

### Should the Libraries be negotiating new types of library contracts?

The landscape in which we negotiate contracts with publishers is changing quickly. Big Deal contracts that offer large amounts of content for one price are inflating at rates that have put them out of reach for WVU along with many other institutions across the U.S. and Europe. In response, many libraries are working to flip the model of scholarly publishing toward open access to ensure that all scholars have access to materials they need. This flip involves a variety of complex economic concerns.

Participants in this exercise:

- in large part, but with some exception, did not think that how the libraries work with these contracts will affect their research;
- did not have a strong opinion in any one direction as to whether the library should be engaging in these new types of contracts – both as that question relates to cost as well as direct access to content.

Based on this exercise we found:

- a need for more information if faculty are to have a strong opinion around this issue and for the libraries to gain faculty support;
- a sense that such work would be better done by WVU in partnership with consortial partners;

- concerns that there are likely to be academic disciplinary differences around the issue;
- recognition that this could have impact on P&T issues. Any action needs to be careful to avoid dictating any P&T requirements.

## COLLECTIONS ISSUE 3

### Is WVU engaged in conversation about Open Access publishing as it relates to individual practice and P&T requirements?

If scholarly publishing is going to flip towards open access, there needs to be conversation around where WVU researchers stand on this issue as it relates to individual practices, P&T requirements, and culture.

Participants in this exercise:

- noted that their departments are not having conversations about publishing in open access journals;
- agree that there is value in having wider conversations about publishing practices as they relate to promotion and tenure;
- most frequently mentioned topical fit, prestige, and promotion and tenure when deciding where to publish their work;
- most frequently mentioned audience, impact factor, and prestige (in that order) when listing what factors OUGHT to determine the value of a publication in terms of promotion and tenure;
- most frequently mentioned impact factor, prestige, and audience (in that order) when listing what factors ACTUALLY determine the value of a publication in terms of promotion and tenure.

Based on this exercise we found:

- Reasons in favor of having conversations about publishing in OA journals include:
  - accessibility
  - demonstrating value of scholarship to the public
  - funding
  - increased leverage
  - parity between campuses
  - perceptions of open access

## **Appendix A**

### **Topic 1 Criteria Description Provided to Faculty Senate**

**Accessibility:** ADA compliance or web accessibility

**Audience:** How many potential faculty and students will be impacted by the purchase

**Cost:** Includes the cumulative cost and cost per usage

**Faculty Request (Quality):** When one faculty member says that the resource is critical to their research

**Faculty Request (Quantity):** The cumulative number of faculty requests

**Interlibrary Loan Availability:** The availability of an item to be requested via Interlibrary Loan. Articles requests are typically filled within 24 hours

**Interlibrary Loan Requests:** The number of times the articles for the journal have been requested through Interlibrary Loan

**Journal Metrics:** Impact Factor, for example

**New Academic Program Need:** In order to support a new academic program, WVU Libraries purchase or subscribe to relevant journals in the field

**Overlap:** When the same journal article can be found in multiple databases

**Usage:** The number of times articles from the journal have been downloaded by WVU users

**WVU Affiliated Citations:** The number of times WVU authors are cited in the journal

**WVU Faculty Affiliation:** If WVU faculty frequently publish in or are editors of a journal

## Appendix B

### Individual Questions

1. The terms of the Libraries' contracts with publishers significantly affect my ability to do research.

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Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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2. The Libraries should negotiate for new contract models in place of traditional contracts, regardless of cost.

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Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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3. The Libraries should hold out for new contract models with publishers, even if it means losing direct access to content.

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Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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### Group Questions

1. As a group, how would you characterize the alignment of individual practices, departmental practices, and ideal practices regarding publishing practices at WVU?

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All three are not at all aligned						All three are well aligned

2. Based on your alignment, do you think there is value in having wider conversations about publishing practices as they relate to promotion and tenure?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
3. As a group decide which ONE of the following statements is true. If there were campus conversations about better aligning publishing practices, should the role of open access be part of that conversation?
  - a. There is no need to include open access publishing in conversations regarding priorities in the P&T process.
  - b. There is value in including open access publishing in conversations regarding priorities in the P&T process.
  - c. We should prioritize open access publishing in conversations regarding priorities in the P&T process.
  
4. Please list reasons for including or not including OA as part of conversations regarding P&T requirements.