
**Final List of Subscription Cancellations
Effective January 1, 2017
Including a Summary of the Subscription Reduction Review Process**

SUMMARY

PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTION CANCELLATIONS: 3,614

(See [List of Proposed Cancellations](#))

TITLES REQUESTED FOR RETENTION: 579

(See [Prioritized List of Retention Requests](#))

RETENTIONS: 278; CANCELLATIONS: 3,336

(See [List of Retained and Cancelled Titles](#))

EFFECTIVE DATE: Subscription reductions will not go into effect until **January 1, 2017**.

Western's [Subscription Reduction Review](#) process spanned the 2015-2016 academic year. Throughout each stage of the process, the university sought transparency, collaboration, and methods to ensure a sustainable process in future years. Key stages included:

- creating a university-wide task force under the auspices of the Senate Library Committee
- writing, distributing, and implementing the task force report
- academic departments sending to Western Libraries requests to retain titles from a list of proposed cancellations
- faculty librarians prioritizing the list of departmental title retention requests
- a vendor negotiation team negotiating with publishers to retain as much content as possible

In October 2015 Western Libraries [projected deficits](#) in its resource access budget as high as \$440,000 in FY17, growing to \$1.1 million by FY21. The anticipated deficits were primarily the result of escalating subscription prices, compounded at an annual average of 6 percent. A flat annual base allocation for the resource access budget and a decline in the library's operational reserves exacerbated anticipated deficits. In early 2016 the library estimated it needed to reduce FY17 expenditures by \$315,000, or approximately 15 percent of the FY17 library resource access base budget.

The Dean of Libraries, Provost, and Chair of the Senate Library Committee discussed the anticipated budget shortfall with the Faculty Senate Executive Council in fall 2015. The Faculty Senate charged a [Sustainable Access Task Force \(SATF\)](#) to recommend a process and criteria for subscription reductions to the Senate Library Committee (SLC). The task force met multiple

times during Winter Quarter and completed its [SATF Report](#) in late February. SLC commented on the report and forwarded it to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate unanimously accepted the task force's report on March 7, 2016 and passed a resolution thanking the task force for its work.

Based on the task force's recommendations, Western Libraries produced a list of 3,614 [proposed cancellations](#). As per the task force's recommendation, the list included a 15 percent buffer to allow faculty to advocate for the retention of some of the library resources identified for cancellation. On March 10, 2016, the Faculty Senate president sent a [SATF memo](#) to department chairs requesting that they forward departmental retention requests, with justifications based on defensible criteria, to the library by April 29. The library received 579 titles for retention consideration (out of 3,614 titles initially proposed for cancellation) from 33 departments, programs or centers. Faculty librarians individually considered each retention request on the strength of its justification based on the defensible criteria identified by the task force. The prioritized list of titles shared with the vendor negotiation team served as the basis for negotiations with vendors.

Several journal packages were not reviewed this year for a variety of reasons: multiyear contracts, subscriptions less than three years old (i.e. not enough use data), and content owned outright (ex. JSTOR). See [Journal and Database Subscriptions: An Overview](#) for more information.

Consistent with the expectations of the task force, the vendor negotiating team employed several [principles](#) and strategies during its negotiations with vendors:

- In some cases, it was appropriate to retain a journal package in its entirety because the level of use, cost-per-use, and faculty retention request warranted this approach. Examples: ACM Digital Library and Duke University Press.
- In other cases, it was appropriate to negotiate a smaller package with the vendor in order to gain access to additional titles for a substantial savings. Examples: SAGE and Oxford University Press.
- In other cases, it was appropriate to abandon the package entirely and instead subscribe only to selected titles. Examples: American Physical Society Journals, Springer, and Taylor & Francis.

In early June, the university allocated a total of \$85,000 in one-time funds to the FY17 resource access budget: \$25,000 approved by the Provost and \$60,000 identified by Library Administration in anticipated, one-time carry forward. With this money, the vendor negotiation team used criteria put forward by the task force to retain, for an additional year, high-use subscriptions. These retained subscriptions should lessen disruption to students and faculty and reduce library staff time and fees associated with the expected increase in interlibrary loan activity.

Subscription cancellations will not take effect until January 1, 2017. There will be no disruption to cancelled subscriptions during summer and fall quarters. Western Libraries is committed to ensuring that students, faculty, and staff have access to resources that support their

teaching, learning, and research. To minimize disruption, Western Libraries will use the summer and fall quarters to prepare and educate the university community on alternate access to cancelled content. In fall quarter the Senate Library Committee will review the past year's subscription reduction review process with intent to improve it in future years.

If you have any questions about the subscription reduction review process, please contact [Mike Olson](#), Director of Scholarly Resources and Collection Services.