Serials collections are a costly but essential part of a library's periodicals holdings. Jacksonville State University Library's (JSUL) budgetary problems have forced librarians to examine their serials closely in terms of cost factors, indexing, expected usage, and curriculum and research support. The purpose of this project is to assess JSUL's periodical subscriptions for the period September 1, 1987 to August 31, 1988, in order to determine which titles merit renewal. JSUL conducted a 2-year use study as one indicator for a journal's usefulness to the collections. The evaluation process included only current, paid, non-essential JSUL periodical subscriptions—newspaper subscriptions were excluded. However, the results of the use studies are not to be the sole criteria for deselection. The serials will be deselected according to the following criteria: (1) whether the journal is indexed by services available in the library; (2) whether the title is in the English language (except on rare occasions); (3) the amount of curriculum support and the appropriateness of subject matter; (4) accuracy of content; (5) specific need; (6) appropriateness of cost relative to need; and (7) usage. Titles which exhibit extraordinary price increases will be subject to re-evaluation on a continuing basis. Certain essential titles will be automatically renewed (without use study analysis) if they are identified by subject specialists as an essential serials title. Tables of periodicals listings and memos and materials used in the JSUL are included, as well as lists of 52 references. (MAB)
An Assessment of Jacksonville State University Library's Periodical Subscriptions

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Serials Librarian

Houston Cole Library
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Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Definition of Key Terms 8
Limitations of the Study 9
Delimitations of the Study 10
Sources of Data and Research Procedures 10
Conclusion 26
References 28
Bibliography 29
Appendixes

Running head: Subscription Assessment
Building a serials collection for an academic library which meets the needs of its users is a difficult task. Each title that is selected must be carefully evaluated in areas of cost factors, indexing, expected usage, curriculum and research support, and accreditation requirements before it is placed on subscription, and re-evaluated on a regular basis to determine if it should be renewed. "The goal must be to provide a serials collection that supports the teaching and research needs of the academic institution — easy to say but much more difficult to effect when faced with decisions to be made about individual titles." (Ezzell, 1985)

There are many underlying and on-going cost factors related to subscription renewals other than the yearly subscription price. Some of these factors are: (a) a commitment to renew with an expected price increase, (b) handling fee charged by the subscription agent, (c) cataloging and processing time of library staff, (d) binding of paper issues or replacement in microform for permanent housing in the collection.

The purpose of this project is to assess Jacksonville State University (JSU) Library's periodical subscriptions for the period September 1, 1987 - August 31, 1988, in order to determine which titles merit renewal.

Jacksonville State University has a student enrollment of approximately 6,000 students. It is a four year teaching
institution with the Ed.S being the highest degree offered. The library houses a collection of 450,000 volumes, 1,400 periodical subscriptions, and has an operating budget of $1,385,801.00 (1986-87).

The 1986-87 fiscal year for JSU was one of severe budget cuts brought on by proration. The funds allocated for library materials purchases were cut by 38%. Because periodical acquisitions demand an on-going commitment of funds, a severe funding cut-back resulting in a high number of subscription cancellations would be disastrous for a library’s periodicals holdings. Therefore when budget cuts are necessary, a larger percentage of the library’s materials funds goes to the serials department, greatly depleting monies available for the purchase of monographs. Segal (1986) cites the following example of the University of Illinois: in 1977, the acquisitions department allocated 70% of its total budget for materials purchases to serials. When situations such as this occur, the serials librarian must be able to justify every dollar spent by that department.

The 1987-88 fiscal year for the JSU Library’s serials department has been characterized by level funding. There has been no supplemental budget increase, and none is expected.

In addition to budgetary problems, the serials librarian must also contend with problems of subscription price increases. Periodicals are notorious for their
In the last 10 years, they have been characterized by extremely high inflation rates. According to Knapp and Lenzini (1987), U.S. periodical prices (excluding Soviet translations) have increased 258.9% since 1978. The consumer price index (inflation rate) for the same period was 170% (see Figure 1).

The average subscription price for a U.S. periodical in 1987 was $71.41. (Knapp & Lenzini, 1987) According to figures obtained from Ebsco Subscription Services, the average subscription price for JSU for 1987 was $51.06.

Over a five year period our subscription expenditures have shown a 31.7% increase with the number of subscriptions remaining relatively unchanged. The fiscal limitations placed on subscription purchases demand that the periodicals collection be evaluated on a regular basis to assure support for curriculum and research. A complete evaluation of current subscriptions would help to determine which titles could be canceled. This in turn would free funds that could then be used to satisfy the inflation costs of essential titles or to add new titles in areas where holdings are weak in support of curriculum.

Segal (1986), in discussing the relationship of terminology and attitudes in choosing which titles to cancel, states that "deselection implies undoing a past action, one of selecting... On the other hand, weeding implies ridding an area of the undesirable" Therefore deselection is the more appropriate term to apply in a...
Figure 1. Comparison of increase in U. S. periodical average price and consumer price index: 1978-87. Index of 100.0 equivalent to average prices/CPI for 1978.

INDEX

100 125 150 175 200 225 250 275


situation of forced cutbacks because "in choosing to discontinue journals, [librarians] may feel regret and anxiety rather than victory over a nuisance."

Philosophical arguments debating the usefulness of use studies as a measure of journal worth can be found in abundance in the literature. Segal (1986) asks us to think about how librarians effect the outcome of use studies. If journals are not used, "is there a concurrent responsibility to increasing use in the library?" If a journal were to be discontinued because it is not used, perhaps libraries have to consider means and ways to increase use.

Despite the fallacies and inadequacies associated with the use study, it has been "an essential and objective way of gathering user information...and has been the backbone of journal cancellation projects since the early seventies." (Neame, 1986) This use study was originally planned for one year. Because of problems encountered in the first year and because, according to Alldredge (1983), "the advantages of such a long duration study are manifested in the confidence a librarian can have in discussing non-use of the periodical collection with the faculty", it was decided to continue for it for two years.

Neame (1986), Segal (1986), End Buzzard & Whaley (1986), all emphasize the importance of faculty involvement in the deselection process. Caution must be taken to consider evaluative criteria other than a use study since
faculty may not consider use of a journal as any indication of its usefulness to the collection. Price, indexing, curriculum and research support are all equally important in the final decision for deselection.

Definition of Key Terms

1. Essential title - a periodical title, chosen by a subject specialist librarian, which will not be a part of the study. It is the opinion of the librarian that this title (based on perceived past usage) is not in question as to whether or not it should be retained as a current subscription.

2. Monograph - a nonserial bibliographic item, i.e., an item either complete in one part or complete, or intended to be completed, in a finite number of separate parts. (AACR2) (American Library Association, 1983 p. 48).

3. Non-essential - a periodical title, chosen by a subject specialist librarian, which will be a part of the study. It is the opinion of the subject specialist librarian that this title (based on perceived past usage) is in question as to whether or not it should be retained as a current subscription.

4. Periodical - a serial appearing or intended to appear indefinitely at regular or stated intervals, generally more frequently than annually, each issue of which is numbered or dated consecutively and normally contains
Subscription Assessment

separate articles, stories, or other writings. (American Library Association, 1983, p. 166)

5. Serial - a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely (American Library Association, 1983, p. 203).

6. Serials librarian - the person administratively responsible for the acquisition and processing of serials.

7. Subject specialist librarian - The person responsible for maintaining and administering one of eight separate subject areas of the library. Each area includes reference and non-reference books, and periodicals.


Limitations of the Study

Because of the nature of the use study, specific need criteria, program mix, and budgetary factors, results of this study will only be relevant to Jacksonville State University Library.
Delimitations of the Study

Only current, paid, non-essential Jacksonville State University Library periodical subscriptions will be considered in the evaluation process. Newspaper subscriptions will not be included.

Government Publication periodicals will be considered for the use study only. Because JSU is a depository library, these publications are free. Several of these titles were selected by the reference librarians to be considered for the study. Data collected for these titles will be for in-house analysis and will not be presented to other faculty for consideration.

Sources of Data and Research Procedures

The primary sources of data for this study were JSU Library’s periodicals shelflist, Ebsco’s customized title information reports, use patterns of JSU Library’s patrons, and JSU subject specialist librarians.

The JSU Houston Cole Library Policy Manual states the following concerning periodical selection:

Selection: Because of the on-going costs and high inflationary characteristics associated with the purchase of serials subscriptions, selections will be
made with a high degree of discrimination.

Re-evaluation will be made on a continuing basis with special consideration given to titles which exhibit extraordinary price increases.

The serials will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. The journal is indexed by services available in our library.
2. The title is in the English language (except on rare occasions).
3. Curriculum support and appropriateness of subject matter.
4. Accuracy of content.
5. Specific need.
6. Appropriateness of cost relative to need.
7. Usage.

The same criteria applied to journal selection can also be applied to journal deselection. Lynn S. Smith, Serials Department Head, University of California, Riverside, states "not only will a collection development policy prove rewarding in years of plenty as a guide to expenditure of funds, it will be a strong support in a deselection effort should one be needed" (Wood and Coppel, 1979). Citation analysis, which sometimes is an effective and useful method for determining use in some instances, will not be considered. "[Citation analysis]... can provide valuable information, but that data, while perhaps necessary,
certainly i., not sufficient for making collection development decisions." (Buzzard & Whaley, 1985)

Accreditation requirements also will not be considered since this researcher could not locate any official statement concerning this criterion. According to Wood and Coppel (1979), accrediting agencies usually request information on total subscription costs and total bound volumes per discipline rather than specific titles.

This project consists of three phases. Phase one began with the writing of a proposal for the study as partial fulfillment for the requirements of a research seminar attended during the 1987 spring semester at Jacksonville State University. Phase two began in the summer of 1987, and continued until May, 1988. It is reported in this paper as a fulfillment of the requirements for six hours independent study credit. Phase three will be the continuation of the use study until summer, 1989, followed by the analysis of data and an execution of the methodology presented in this paper.

The purpose of this study is not a statistical analysis of total use patterns, but rather an assessment of the Library's subscriptions. Therefore, a core collection of essential titles will be identified by the subject specialists. These titles will automatically merit renewal without further analysis.

The library has a physical layout of eight separate subject areas with similar layouts housed in a twelve story
building as shown in Appendixes A and B. Each subject area
has its own periodicals section (see Appendixes A & B).
This presented the problem of having to enlist the
cooperation of eight subject specialist librarians.
Diplomacy was very important for keeping the project as
consistent as possible among the separate areas.

The project began with an announcement (May 1987) in a
library staff meeting. The reference librarians were told
that a periodicals use study would be in effect when they
returned for the following fall term, and that each one
would be contacted on an individual basis and given more
detailed information and an explanation of what would be
expected from them. A follow up letter was sent out the next
week to all of them. (see Appendix 3). The Library
administration had given complete support to the project.

A preliminary study was put into effect on the 9th
to the 9th
floor (medicine and science) during the Summer II term. The
subject specialist librarian was asked to choose periodical
titles housed on that floor which she felt would qualify for
cancellation because of little or no usage. It was also
explained that usage would not be the sole criteria for
cancellation, and that each academic department would have
input before cancellation.

A list of the selected titles with their call numbers
was typed in shelflist order (see Figure 2). This list was
used as a working copy of titles in the study and also as a
data collection sheet.
Preliminary study conducted Summer II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QA1/.A517</td>
<td>American Mathematical Society - Abstracts - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QA1/.A52</td>
<td>- Bulletin - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QA1/.A5216</td>
<td>- Notices - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QA1/.A5215</td>
<td>- Proceedings - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QA1/.A522</td>
<td>- Transactions - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC1/.A56</td>
<td>- Memoires - cancelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC1/.P42</td>
<td>American Physical Society - Bulletin - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC176/.A1P513</td>
<td>- Physical Review A - bound &amp; fiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC176/.P45</td>
<td>- Physical Review B - bound &amp; fiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC721/.P457</td>
<td>- Physical Review C - bound &amp; fiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC1/.P43</td>
<td>- Physical Review D -bound &amp; fiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC16/.A56</td>
<td>- Physical Review letters - ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC785/.A725</td>
<td>Animal learning &amp; behavior - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QI301/.A48</td>
<td>Annals of Applied biology - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC321/.A93x</td>
<td>Australia &amp; New Zealand Journal of Developmental Disabilities - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA790/.A1A5</td>
<td>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry - film &amp; bound - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1K/.C2</td>
<td>Canadian Journal of Botany - bound &amp; film - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1C/.N332</td>
<td>Canadian Journal of Physics - bound &amp; film - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QD1/.C285</td>
<td>Canadian Journal of Chemistry - bound &amp; film - UMI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QD1/.C48</td>
<td>Chemistry Society (London) - Chemical Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QD1/.C58</td>
<td>- Dalton trans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QD1/.C581 &amp; .C582</td>
<td>- Faraday I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QD1/.C59 &amp; .C6</td>
<td>- Perkins I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL671/.C7</td>
<td>Condor - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL301/.F37</td>
<td>Federation Proceedings - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL640/.I14</td>
<td>Herpetologica - bound &amp; film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QP1/.I64</td>
<td>Human Development - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1C/.J83</td>
<td>Journal of Applied Physics - bound &amp; film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QE701/.J6</td>
<td>Journal of Paleontology - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QL757/.J68</td>
<td>Journal of Parasitology - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QE701/.P77</td>
<td>Paleobiology - unbound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC176/.P5</td>
<td>Physics of Fluids - bound &amp; fiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QC1/.R4</td>
<td>Review of Modern Physics - bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QE993/.R4</td>
<td>Review of Palaeobotany &amp; Palynology - film &amp; bound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Data collection sheet - preliminary study.
The spines of the bound periodical volumes were marked with colored peel-off/stick-on dots. For extremely long runs of titles only 15 years backfiles were marked. Microfilm boxes were also marked with the dots, and microfiche envelopes were marked with a red "x".

Signs were posted among the shelves telling users that a use study was being conducted and requesting that they not reshelve used materials, but place them on the designated book trucks (see Appendixes D & E). A student worker added color to the signs to make them stand out better.

Before the periodicals were reshelved, a tally mark was made by that particular title on the data sheet. This was done either by the librarian or the student assistant.

The unbound and current issues are kept on shelves in an area not readily accessible to the patron. A tally sheet with the title and call number was taped next to each periodical in the study, requesting that the sheet be marked if an issue was used (see Appendix F). This was to be marked by the person in charge of the area when he/she removed the issue from the shelf. Some of the reference areas have sign-out sheets for users to write down their name, date, and periodical issue used. This could be used as a check for accuracy on the tally sheets.

During this time contact was made with the other librarians on an individual basis for a detailed explanation of the study. They were given their respective shelflists.
and asked to indicate with a clip which non-essential titles they chose for the study. It was imperative that each librarian be assured that cancellations would not be made in an indiscriminate fashion. Their full cooperation was extremely important for consistency among the different areas.

After each shelflist was returned, a list of chosen titles for that floor was typed. There were varying percentages of titles chosen per floor (see Table 1).

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLOOR/SUBJECT AREA BY LC CLASS #</th>
<th>TOTAL # TITLES PER FLOOR</th>
<th>TOTAL # TITLES CHosen / FLOOR</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE CHOSEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd/A, B, C, Z</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd/D, E, F, G (except GV)</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th/H, J</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th/GV, L</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th/P-PN, M, N</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th/PQ-PZ</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th/Q, R</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th/S, T, U, V, K</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1362</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of the Summer II semester, the data from the preliminary study was collected. The process and
results were discussed with the librarian. (see figure 2) Three of the 35 chosen titles were used in a four week period.

No major problems were encountered. One minor problem was that the dots used to mark the spines of the volumes began to curl in some instances. This problem was solved by replacing the dots with colored tape which has a firmer stick.

Before the Fall 1987 term began, each area was marked and signed in a manner similar to the one in the preliminary study. It was strongly suggested to each librarian that he/she inform the student assistants fully of the study and exactly what was expected of them. Because the turnover of student assistants is high and because it was later discovered that the floor librarians were not always reliable in informing the workers of the procedure, a typed list of instructions was posted on each floor (see Appendix G).

In addition to the non-essential titles chosen by the subject specialist, it was also requested that they choose two moderately used titles to be used as control titles. This assures the researcher that the study will measure what it is meant to measure.

Once the study was put into effect a periodic check with each librarian was made in order to discuss any problems and to make sure correct procedures were being
followed. By the end of the Fall Semester the study was proceeding well.

At the beginning of the Spring 1988 semester, all the data from the previous semester was collected and a new data sheet was put on each floor. After analyzing the data, two major problems became evident.

Two of the floors obviously filled in the data at the last minute. All the tally marks were written in the same pen or pencil and were out of proportion with the other data sheets. Both of these came from librarians who had initially shown resistance to the study. The second problem was the loss of a data sheet from one floor. It had not been secured in a notebook or by tape, so probably was used as scratch paper by a patron.

Because of these problems and the overall difficulty in control, it was decided to continue the study for one more year to try to obtain more accurate figures. One of the librarians who did not cooperate indicated that he would be more conscientious in the future.

For the purpose of this paper, data from the 4th floor (social sciences and political science) will be discussed (see Figure 3). Of the 58 titles from this floor chosen for the study, 18 were used (see Table 2).
Figure 3. Data collection sheet from 4th floor – Fall, 1987.
Subscription Assessment

HM1/.B75 British journal of sociology
HM1/.R45 Papers of the Regional Science Assn
HQ1101/.F46 Feminist studies
HQ1101/.S5 Signs - journal of women in culture and society
HQ1206/.P76 Psychology of women quarterly
HT401/.R8 Rural sociology
HV2469/.E5T42 Teaching English to deaf and second-language students
HV6001/.E9 Criminology and penology abstracts
HV7551/.L38 Law enforcement news
HV8073/.E692 Crime-laboratory digest - GPO
HX1/.P75 Problems of Communism
HX1/.S74 Studies in comparative communism
HX8/.P723 World Marxism review
JA1/.W4 Western political quarterly
JA3/.J65 Journal of comparative administration
JA26/.I57 Interpretation
JA36/.I5 International political science abstracts
JC599/.U45A25 New perspectives - GPO
JK1/.U45a Congressional research service review - GPO
JX1/.C6 Journal of international affairs
JX1/.I53 International affairs
JX1/.U542 State - GPO
JX1901/.I55 International organization
JX1901/.J6 Journal of conflict resolution

Figure 3, cont.
Table 2

Number of titles used and frequency of use from the Fall 1987 data sheets, (H and J classification)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF TITLES</th>
<th>FREQUENCY OF USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since none of the titles that were used are extremely expensive, none were included in the list for possible cancellation. All the titles that were not used were grouped by related disciplines and listed by call number, title, indexing, and historical price analysis (see Tables 3-6). These lists will be sent to each department head along with a letter of explanation and a copy of the library’s policy on criteria for serials selection (see Appendix H).

Positive responses and input from faculty and department heads will be welcomed. Negative responses will be met with compromise and further explanation of our dilemma. Substitute titles will be considered.

Some faculty may not be aware of the non-use of the journals in their particular field. In these instances, the threat of cancellation may entice them to increase library assignments and personal use of the library.
### Table 3

Indexing and historical price analysis of periodical titles - LC classification H.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1/.A48</td>
<td>American Journal of Economics and Sociology</td>
<td>SO,PU,SS,SA</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AS,BR,HA,LL,WS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/.C73</td>
<td>Comparative Studies in Society and History</td>
<td>HI,SS,SA,LL</td>
<td>49.50</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>57.00</td>
<td>58.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/.S55</td>
<td>International Social Science Review</td>
<td>HA</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>00.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H31/.S82</td>
<td>Studies in Comparative International Development</td>
<td>SA,SS,HA,LI.</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H62/.J65</td>
<td>Journal of Regional Science</td>
<td>SS,SO</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>45.00</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>51.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H62/.S477</td>
<td>Simulation and Games</td>
<td>PS,SS,SO,SA CJ,LL</td>
<td>52.00</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>63.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Index abbreviations:**
- **AS**: Social Work Research & Abstracts
- **BR**: Book Review Index
- **CJ**: Current Index to Journals in Education
- **HA**: Historical Abstracts
- **LL**: Language and Language Behavior Abstracts
- **PS**: Psychological Abstracts
- **SA**: Sociological Abstracts
- **SO**: Social Science Index
- **SS**: Social Science Citation Index
- **PU**: Public Affairs Information Bulletin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HA1/.R35</td>
<td>Review of Economics and Statistics</td>
<td>BP,MX,MR,PU,</td>
<td>68.00</td>
<td>73.46</td>
<td>77.89</td>
<td>103.53</td>
<td>110.00</td>
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Index abbreviations:
- BP - Business Periodicals Index
- CJ - Current Index to Journals In Education
- BI - Bibliographic Index
- BR - Book Review Index
- HA - Historical Abstracts
- LL - Language & Language Behavior Abstracts
- MX - Magazine Index
- PU - Public Affairs Info. Service Bulletin
- SA - Sociological Abstracts
- SO - Social Sciences Index
- SS - Social Sciences Citation Index
- WS - Women's Studies Abstracts
- YW - Year's Work in English Studies
Indexing and historical price analysis of periodical titles - LC classification HN-HX.
### Table 6

Indexing and historical price analysis of periodical titles - LC classification JA and JX.

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<td>JA1/.W4</td>
<td>Western Political Quarterly</td>
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<td>JX1/.I53</td>
<td>Journal of International Affairs</td>
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<td>JX1/.I53</td>
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Index abbreviations:
- HA - Historical Abstracts
- LL - Language & Language Behavior Abstracts
- PU - Public Affairs Info. Service Bulletin
- SS - Social Science Citation Index
- SO - Social Sciences Index
- SA - Sociological Abstracts
- BR - Book Review Index
No response from faculty in individual disciplines will be followed by an additional plea for input from them. If there is still no response, a consultation with the subject specialist librarian will be made before any cancellations are made (see Figure 4).

Conclusion

This project has been very enlightening, but was not without its problems. The most difficult aspect of it has been the lack of control in the use study because of the physical separation of the subject areas, each controlled by individual subject specialist librarians. Different personalities elicit different levels of cooperation. Confidence in the accuracy of data was varied.

Allowing the use study to continue for another year should result in more accurate data. A two year period of non-use could possibly be more impressive to faculty with regard to the title's lack of usefulness to our collection. Dealing with responses from faculty at the end of the study should prove challenging.

In spite of the difficulties and feelings of inadequacies the project will be helpful. A collection which is allowed to stagnate is a disservice to its users. Flawed as this assessment has been, it should prove very helpful in making JSU's Library's periodicals collection much more viable and dynamic.
Figure 4. Flowchart of Periodical Assessment Procedure.
References


Subscription Assessment

30


White, H. S. (1980). Factors in the decision by individuals and libraries to place or cancel subscriptions to scholarly and research journals. *Library Quarterly, 50*, 287-309.


Some floors may have differing layouts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Dewey Decimal Classification</th>
<th>Library of Congress Classification</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
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<td>12th floor</td>
<td>Observatio Deck</td>
<td>S, T, U, V, K</td>
<td>Applied science, home economics, military science, law</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th floor</td>
<td>Faculty Development Center</td>
<td>600's (Except 610-619)</td>
<td>Computer Science, Nursing, Medicine</td>
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<td>9th floor</td>
<td>Q, R</td>
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**Directory**

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<td>800's</td>
<td>Literature</td>
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<td>6th floor</td>
<td>P thru PN, M, N</td>
<td>400's</td>
<td>Art, Language &amp; Music, Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th floor</td>
<td>&quot;J&quot; - Juvenile GV, L TC-Textbook Collection</td>
<td>370's</td>
<td>Education, Juvenile, Physical education, Textbook collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th floor</td>
<td>H, J Info-Trac</td>
<td>300's (except 370)</td>
<td>Social sciences, Political Science, PHOTO COPY MACHINES</td>
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<td>3th floor</td>
<td>D, E, F, G (except GV)</td>
<td>900's</td>
<td>History, Geography, Biography</td>
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<td>2nd floor</td>
<td>A, B, C, Z</td>
<td>The News</td>
<td>General works, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, Library, Science, Genealogy</td>
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**Circulation Desk**

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<tr>
<td>Exit</td>
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MEMO

June 3, 1987

TO: Reference Librarians

FROM: Mary Bevis

RE: Periodicals Use Study

In reference to the brief announcement made at the Friday morning staff meeting, beginning in September we will be conducting a use study of periodicals. The purpose of this study is to identify little or non-used titles to be considered for deselection.

Only titles chosen by the reference librarians will be subject to the study. I will be meeting with you on an individual basis to explain criteria for selection.

A preliminary plan for control is as follows:

Current issues (unbound) will have a date due slip stapled to the front cover with instructions to date the item if it is used.

Bound periodicals and microforms will be marked on the spine with a stick-on dot. Signs will be posted on the shelves requesting that used periodicals not be reshelved, but placed on a designated book truck. You will be responsible for checking the periodicals before re-shelving. If there are any with dots, it should be noted on the list of titles that I will provide.

I have tried to devise a plan that will be as little trouble for you as possible. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to offer them.

Accuracy will be difficult to control due to open shelves and multiple access points. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Results of our joint effort will eventually be realized in a more cost efficient and useful periodicals collection.
Please do not reshelve microforms.

Place in designated box on counter.

The library is conducting a use study of these items.
Please leave bound periodicals here.

Thanks
If any of these unbound issues are used, please indicate on this sheet.
ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS ASSISTANTS!!!!

The library is conducting a use study of its periodicals (magazines and journals). Please note the following special instructions:

1. Before a bound volume is reshelved, check for colored tape on the spine. If you find a volume marked with tape, put a check mark next to its name on the tally sheet for this floor. (Ask the librarian where it is located)

2. Before reshelving microforms, follow the same instructions as in number one. Microfiche envelopes will be marked with a red "X".

3. Some of the current issues behind the desk have a tally sheet next to them with the name and call# on it. If any of these issues are used, indicate on the tally sheet with a check mark or date.

If you have any questions, ask the librarian. This is important to the library. Please help us out!!!
MEMO

DATE: April 9, 1988

TO: Dr. Adrian Aveni, Department Head - Sociology

FROM: Mary Bevis, Serials Librarian

RE: Periodical subscriptions

During the past two years the Library has been in the process of assessing its current periodical subscriptions. The purpose of this assessment is to identify titles for cancellation in order that we may make better use of our limited funds, thus making our collection much more viable and dynamic.

U.S. periodical prices have increased 258% since 1978. Along with subscription prices, we must continue to pay higher costs for binding and microfilm. The library has been very limited in honoring new title requests because of these factors. Cancellations of titles which are no longer beneficial to our users will allow us to be more liberal in purchasing new subscriptions.

The assessment has been partly in the form of a use study of periodical titles for which there has been in the past, according to observations of the subject specialist librarian, not much of a demand. Enclosed is a list of titles in your subject area which have not received any use in the past two years, or which are extremely expensive and have received very limited use. Each title is listed by call number, indexing, and an historical price analysis from the past five years.

Please look over this list and the policy statement for periodical selection and share it with your department. We welcome any comments from you and your faculty as to special need, curriculum support, or possible future need.

The library will certainly consider replacement subscriptions in your subject area. Also, any title which is canceled can easily be obtained through interlibrary loan if there is a request for it.

We appreciate your input and continued support of the library. The end result of this process should prove very beneficial to us all.