Many campus faculty are familiar with the ongoing struggles of research libraries to manage effectively the costs associated with the acquisition of scholarly and scientific publications. The experience at the University of Maryland has been no less challenging. I am pleased to announce that the Libraries have recently concluded a multi-year agreement with Elsevier, a major international publisher of scholarly and scientific literature, that will moderate the annual spike in the cost of publications received from them and also expand considerably access to content that has not previously been available to the campus community.

Despite escalating subscription costs, Elsevier journals have repeatedly been ranked highly by our faculty in periodic serials reviews. Rather than continue to cancel and pay increasingly more for remaining subscriptions, the agreement provides for a steady-state base of Elsevier titles subscribed to by the University. In return, there is a guaranteed annual cap on inflation for the five-year term of the agreement, plus access to more than 1,000 additional titles, with 15 years of backfile coverage (back to 1995 on nearly all titles). In terms of actual content, UM held 591 subscriptions on Science Direct in 2008. With the new agreement, our campus faculty, students, and staff now have access to approximately 1,700 titles. This represents nearly the complete inventory of current journals published by Elsevier.

Access to Elsevier’s Science Direct is available on or off campus through IP authentication. Bona fide campus faculty, students, and staff can login directly through www.sciencedirect.com, the Libraries’ Research Port, and Google Scholar.

Please refer access questions to the appropriate subject librarian as identified at http://ww.lib.umd/guides/specialists.html

For all other questions, contact Sue Baughman (mbaughma@umd.edu) or Gerri Foudy (gfoudy@umd.edu).

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