Mathematics library news 19 April 2019

Special issue on proposed Elsevier journal package cuts

There is no good plan for dealing with the LSU Library's journal costs and providing access to the journal articles LSU researchers need. Some plans are less bad than others.
LSU Library proposes to cut spending on the Elsevier journal package by about half, from an anticipated $2 million to $1 million, and then to fill demand using a combination of the existing and relatively inexpensive interlibrary loan service, together with a new, more expensive and faster, expedited article delivery service.

Why cut Elsevier?

* Other cuts have already been made, including Taylor & Francis journals and the Springer ebook package.
* Elsevier journal package costs are rising to anticipated total roughly $2 million almost one-third of all journal costs, which means there is enough to make a difference as costs for other packages also are increasing.

Preview of the New Expedited Article Delivery

* Search in MathSciNet for an article in a journal LSU Library does not subscribe to. For example, *Communications in Partial Differential Equations*, which many in the Mathematics Department use and cite, but for which there is no Library subscription.
* Click on the link, "Find other full-text options in LSU Libraries." If you are logged in to the Library's page, then you are directed to a screen with a second link, "Request this item through interlibrary loan." Click on this second link. Then the interlibrary loan form appears, *automatically* filled out, including an ISSN number.
* If the Library cuts Elsevier subscriptions, then the interlibrary loan form will have a new checkbox to request the expedited service instead of ordinary interlibrary loan. There will be a note saying that the new service costs the Library more than interlibrary loan.
* An example of an expedited article provider is Reprints Desk.

Method for Selecting Journals for Continuing Subsciptions

Use (by download) is highly concentrated (skewed) in few journals. So publisher ("big deal") contracts are standardly written so that spending half as much will get far fewer than half as many journal subscriptions. For Elsevier, this may be as few as 150 journals, depending on how the selection is made.

Next two pages compare two ways of selecting Elsevier journals for continued subscription:

* Highest use
* Lowest cost per download

This is preliminary and only a rough indication of the proposal.

For comments, questions, or requests, contact Aaron Lercher at alerche1@lsu.edu

Mathematics citations from LSU co-authored articles to articles in Elsevier journals, LSU co-authored articles in Elsevier journals, and whether subscriptions would continue after deep cuts to Elsevier subscriptions. (WoS=Web of Science, citation data from an earlier study in 2017)

Elsevier Journals with greatest number of articles cited by LSU co-authored articles	Articles cited by "Mathematics" WoS category articles with LSU coauthors, 2015-2017	LSU-coauthored articles, WoS, 2015-2019	2020 subscription, most-used ranking	2020 Subscription, cost-per-download ranking
ADV MATH	41	12	No	No
J FUNCT ANALYSIS	28	4	No	No
J ALGEBRA	26	1	No	No
J COMB THEO B	26	5	No	**Yes**
J PURE APP ALGEBRA	19	3	No	No
J MATH ANAL APP	13	5	No	No
J NUM THEO	12	3	No	No
ADV APP MATH	11	8	No	No
TOP AND APP	10	3	No	No
J COMB THEO A	9	2	No	No
J GEOM AND PHYS	8	1	No	No
J COMPUT PHYSICS	8	6	No, but close	No, but close
J DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS	6	2	No	No
DISCRETE MATH	6	0	No	No

Probability and Statistics citations from LSU co-authored articles to articles in Elsevier journals

Elsevier Journals with greatest number of articles cited by LSU co-authored articles	Articles cited by "Probability & Statistics" WoS category articles with LSU coauthors, 2015-2017	LSU-coauthored articles, WoS, 2015-2019	2020 subscription, most-used ranking	2020 Subscription, cost-per-download ranking
COMPUT STAT DATA ANAL	20	0	No	No
J STAT PLAN & INFER	5	0	No	No
CHEMOMET INTEL LAB SYS	4	1	No	No
J WIND ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL AERODYNAMICS	3	4	**Yes**	No

Applied Mathematics citations from LSU co-authored articles to articles in Elsevier journals, LSU co-authored articles in Elsevier journals, and whether subscriptions would continue after deep cuts to Elsevier subscriptions. (WoS=Web of Science, citation data from an earlier study in 2017)

Elsevier Journals with greatest number of articles cited by LSU co-authored articles	Articles cited by "Mathematics, Applied" NOT "Mathematics" WoS category articles with LSU coauthors, 2015-2017	LSU-coauthored articles, WoS, 2015-2019	2020 subscription, most-used ranking	2020 Subscription, cost-per-download ranking
J COMB THEO S B	39	5	No	**Yes**
AUTOMATICA	24	9	**Yes**	No
J COMPUT PHYS	16	6	No, but close	No, but close
COMPUT METH APP MECH ENG	13	3	No	No
J MATH ANAL APP	12	5	No	No
J MECH PHYS SOLIDS	11	3	**Yes**	**Yes**
J COMPUT APP MATH	9	2	No	No
DISCRETE MATH	9	0	No	No
ADV APP MATH	8	8	No	No
APP NUM MATH	7	3	No	No
INTL J SOLIDS STRUCT	7	5	**Yes**	No
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PLASTICITY	6	2	**Yes**	**Yes**
THEORETICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE	6	4	**Yes**	**Yes**

Note that the number of articles in each journal cited by LSU-coauthored articles is not exactly the same as the number of citations to those journals. The Web of Science data collection method resulted only in a list of articles. So the number of citations to these journals would be greater than or equal to the numbers shown.