

Mathematics library news 8 September 2011

Monograph purchases

Your mathematics librarian has a small budget for book (monograph) purchases in mathematics and statistics. Your requests will be the first books purchased, and then purchases will be guided by the research output of mathematics and experimental statistics department members.

Please send any requests to Aaron Lercher at alerche1@lsu.edu*

*No rush. Purchases will be made over the 2011-2012 academic year.

Springerlink

LSU Libraries already purchases many monographs in electronic format from Springer. These books appear in Springerlink. Records for these books are also in the LSU Libraries catalog (as are records for mathematics journals and books from all publishers, in both electronic and print formats).

Springerlink has two features worth calling attention to:

- **MyCopy** - When viewing an electronic book in Springer link, you can purchase a print copy of the same book for \$24.95. Click "BUY A PRINT COPY (USD 24.95)" just above the picture of the book cover.
- **LaTeX Search** (<http://latexsearch.com/>) - Searches Springerlink by LaTeX symbol string. Springer claims to have built in some matching of synonymous symbol strings to get the same output for different ways of writing the same LaTeX equation. Your mathematics librarian is curious to know whether this works for you. Please let me know.

Fun with citation analysis!

Maybe not fun, but at least oddly interesting. On the next page is a graph of the citations per year in Web of Science for Einstein's nine top-cited papers. The citation counts for the original 1906 and the revised 1911 versions of "New Determination of the Molecular Dimensions" were summed.

The most cited paper is the coauthored 1935 "EPR" (Einstein-Poldolsky-Rosen) paper, which is famously based on the mistaken assumption that quantum reality is local. This paper led eventually to Aspect's equally famous empirical test of the locality premise in 1982. The citation count per year rises sharply above that for Einstein's other papers only *after* 1982, when this paper was shown to be mistaken. It might be that the unique significance of this paper was understood only after 1982. Also a citation to Einstein has symbolic ("halo") value beyond the value of the content of any of his papers.

The spike in 1924 seems to reflect the activity in developing quantum theory at that time. Other spikes in 1972, 1974, 1981, and 1987 are due to Web Science errors.

Citations per year in Web of Science for Einstein's nine top-cited papers*

*Scale is different for each chart. Spikes in 1972, 1974, 1981, and 1987 are Web of Science errors.

