

TRUST LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES: PRINT-JOURNALS USAGE SURVEY 2012/2013

1. Summary

- Observations by Library staff suggested that print-journals have not been used as extensively in recent years as was previously the case.
- To ensure best use of available funding and inform subscriptions to print journals for 2014, Library staff monitored current patterns of print-journals usage.
- A sheet was attached to the front of all incoming journals explaining the purpose of the survey; new users were shown these sheets e.g. at inductions.
- The sheets asked users to record their usage of journals held in the Library throughout the academic year 2012/13.
- Results identified several print-journal titles that were not used at all in this period.
- We concluded that some print-journals subscriptions can no longer be justified, and cancelled these subscriptions accordingly.
- We have identified opportunities for more effective use of the Library's budget in 2014.

2. Background

- The Library spent approximately £55,000 on print-journal subscriptions for 2013. This local collection complements the collections purchased electronically – both nationally and regionally, which are available to all staff via NHS Open Athens.
- 125 print titles were taken in 2013, through Library-funded subscriptions and departmental donations. Publishing-house costs increase each year, so savings are required simply to remain within budget.
- Departments are consulted during summer months to inform subscriptions placed in September for the following year. In most cases, those that reply tend to request that subscriptions are maintained.
- Since the previous journals survey in 2007/08, observations by Library staff suggest that print-journals have not been used as extensively in recent years as was previously the case. Library users referring to the journals have decreased, and numbers of journals left out overnight for re-shelving by staff in the mornings have fallen.
- To ensure that the Library's budget is used in the most effective way, usage of print-journals was monitored for the duration of the academic year October 2012 – June 2013.
- Several titles were not read at all during that period of monitoring – there is no justification for retaining these titles so cancellations were implemented from January 2014.

3. Method

Survey: asking users to record their usage, at point of use

NHS library managers across the South West were consulted, and their methods of monitoring usage were considered. The method used recently by RD&E Library was chosen; their Library Manager shared her form and it was adapted for local purposes.

The resulting form (Appendix 1) stated the purpose of the survey, and asked each individual using the journal to sign the form. A copy of this form was attached to every issue of all print journals received and stored in the Library, throughout the academic year from 1st October 2012 until 30th June 2013.

To determine potential titles to cancel, the following categories of journal were removed from the master list:

- Titles for which the subscription includes print *and* internet access
- Titles held in Radiology (historic arrangement).

Library staff removed all forms from all issues during week commencing 8th July 2013.

Library staff collated data from the forms during week commencing 15th July 2013.

4. Findings

Results varied for different titles, ranging from thirty titles with no signatures - indicating no use throughout the academic year monitored, to some which were regularly used. These titles are listed in Appendix 2.

A spreadsheet showing the full, anonymised, details can be provided on request.

5. Discussion

Journal subscriptions use the largest part of the Library's budget other than staff costs, and historically have been allocated proportionally more of the budget than by many other NHS libraries across the region. Spending on journals by libraries across SW Region for 2012/13 ranged from £4,500 to £82,400 with an average allocation of £25,850 for print-journals.

Our perception was that print journals have not been used as extensively in recent years as was previously the case. The previous full survey of print journals usage was done in 2008, using different methods.

This recent survey has been resource-intensive:

i. Library staff time (various grades):

- Attaching forms to each issue – daily throughout duration of review (Oct-June)
- Removing forms from journal issues: 28 hours
- Collating data from forms: 3.5 hours

ii. Paper and toner for forms.

Monitoring print-journal use is difficult. Problems with monitoring use by asking users to sign issues:

- It is hard to compare numbers of signatures against titles varying from weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.
- Some users may not have wanted to indicate use e.g. for confidentiality reasons.

- Some users may not have had time to sign the sheet.
- Some users, being aware of why we were monitoring use, may have signed sheets on 'favourite' titles even if they did not read any content.

However results from the current survey, indicating that thirty titles remained unused throughout this survey-period, cannot be ignored.

6. Opportunities

Much of the £18,000 saved through cancelling these titles will be absorbed by increasing prices imposed by publishing companies. However, cancelling thirty print-journal subscriptions offers the opportunity to re-design services by providing one or more of:

1. Core collection of electronic text-books e.g. covering long-term conditions and/or dementia, to support integrated care work across health and care in Torbay and South Devon, selected to complement national and regional collections.
2. A small collection of locally purchased electronic journals, selected to complement national and regional collections.
3. Subscriptions to electronic resources such as Clinical Skills (currently being piloted).
4. Funding to cover potential increase in requests for British Library ILLs from users wishing to consult cancelled titles.
5. Trialling a pay-per-download service (piloted in Salisbury DGH Library).

Outcomes will be publicised on the Library's website at: www.sdhl.nhs.uk/

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Appendix 1

Survey form template

South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust LIBRARY JOURNALS SURVEY				
<p><i>The Library is trying to establish what use is being made of this journal. Please could you fill in the box below every time you read this journal:</i></p>				
	NAME	Department / placement	Date	Do you read it for Clinical work, Education, Research, CPD?
1				Clin / Ed / Res/CPD
2				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
3				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
4				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
5				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
6				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
7				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
8				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
9				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
10				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
11				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
12				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
13				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
14				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD
15				Clin / Ed /Res/CPD

Thank you for your help

Appendix 2

Journals which were not used Oct 2012-June 2013

Title Name	issues	signatures	individuals	costs (2013)	costs (2014)
American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics	9	0	0	485.36	490.75
Annals of Emergency Medicine	10	0	0	448.71	453.69
Best Practice and Research in Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism	5	0	0	621.05	643.42
Best Practice and Research in Clinical Rheumatology	6	0	0	558.09	578.19
British Journal of Hospital Medicine	10	0	0	603.88	596.5
Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy	5	0	0	153.67	134.66
Circulation	34	0	0	1150.61	1163.37
Clinical Endocrinology - Oxford	10	0	0	1536.96	1518.19
Clinical Psychology Review	7	0	0	1440.49	1492.38
Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology & Supplements	10	0	0	355.46	351.12
Diagnostic Histopathology - Kidlington	11	0	0	708.17	748.87
Diseases of the Colon and Rectum	9	0	0	847.86	857.26
Education for Primary Care	6	0	0	521.25	497.75
Gastroenterology Nursing & GI Buyer's Guide	4	0	0	333.3	337
Intensive Care Medicine	12	0	0	1185.57	1209
International Emergency Nursing	4	0	0	474.42	488.82
International Journal of Developmental Disabilities	4	0	0	152.66	133.66
Journal of Adolescence	5	0	0	665.91	689.89
Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities	5	0	0	450.38	444.88
Journal of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery	6	0	0	715.08	740.82
Journal of Family Therapy	5	0	0	337.28	333.16
Journal of Pain and Symptom Management	10	0	0	955.11	965.71
Journal of Perioperative Practice	8	0	0	272.11	269.32
Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry	10	0	0	555.29	561.44
Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	8	0	0	517.26	523
Journal of the American College of Cardiology	39	0	0	902.17	912.17
Journal of Wound Care	11	0	0	240.77	430.92
Oncology Nursing Forum - Oncology Nursing Society	6	0	0	224.33	181.88
Orthopaedic Nursing	5	0	0	248.44	244.35
Orthopedic Clinics of North America	4	0	0	467.71	472.9
				18129.35	18465.07