



LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 19-05

LSU Elsevier Subscription Package

Sponsored by LSU Libraries, Brooks Ellwood, Judith Schiebout, and Paul Hrycaj

Whereas the cost of academic journals has increased 521% between 1986 and 2015, threatening the scholarly communication system in every disciplineⁱ; and

Whereas journal expenses at the LSU Libraries currently consume 48% of its total budget, up from just 24% 10 years ago, which has resulted in an unacceptable decrease in library support for books, databases and other collections, staffing, and services; and

Whereas LSU's current 5-year contract with the commercial publisher Elsevier expires at the end of 2019, at which point it will cost at least \$2M/year; and

Whereas new document delivery technologies have become available, giving LSU alternatives to subscriptions that are fast, convenient, and free to users; and

Whereas limiting expenditures for Elsevier journals will free up funding that will allow the Libraries to address long-standing collection deficiencies; and

Whereas similar initiatives are in progress this year at research institutions around the worldⁱⁱ,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University supports the LSU Libraries' effort to reduce Elsevier expenditures, subscribe to the most important Elsevier journals and replace cancelled journal subscriptions with expedited document delivery services.

ⁱ <https://www.arl.org/storage/documents/expenditure-trends.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Selected institutions currently engaged in abandoning one or more "big deal" journal package:

Electronic Information Service National Programme (Hungary)

University of Alabama

University of California System institutions

Florida State University

University of Virginia

Virginia Tech

Virginia Commonwealth

West Carolina University

Max Planck Society (Germany)

University of Oklahoma-Norman

Le Consortium Couperin (250 French institutions)

University de Lorraine