

A Letter from Your Library Liaisons

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Zach S. Henderson Library | Georgia Southern University

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What to Know?:

Low-Use Library Subscriptions Review

The Zach S. Henderson Library is requesting that academic departments provide feedback by March 10, 2017, regarding whether subscriptions to the lowest use and/or lowest impact electronic journals and databases should be switched from immediate online access to our inter-library loan model, which provides offline access to manuscripts in an average of 4-5 days.

Rationale

- Subscriptions to online journals and databases represent the vast majority of the Library's discretionary budget.
- Scholarly journal subscription prices have increased annually by more than 6%, a trend that dates back to the 1970s.
- The Library and University budgets have NOT increased by 6% each year.
- The Library's current materials budget is over-extended by more than \$900,000.
- Year-end funding has helped cover the deficit in prior years, but it is not guaranteed and if we wait until final year-end allocations are made, it is too late to get faculty input.

Process

1. Copies of our spreadsheet listing the least used subscriptions have been sent to academic department chairs.
2. Each department is asked to review the list and identify any subscriptions that are critical to the academic mission of the University, in spite of being used infrequently.
3. Column J of the spreadsheet is where academic departments may indicate which, if any, titles they would prefer to see continued. The default in that column for each title is ABSTAIN, which means respondents only need to take the time to select another option from the drop-down box if they wish to express an opinion. Given the number of titles on the spreadsheet, we presumed many departments will have no opinions about many of the titles, so making ABSTAIN the default would minimize the time it will take to respond. Use Column L to enter a few brief sentences explaining why a low-use subscription should be kept.
4. **The completed spreadsheets should be forwarded to wbmitch@georgiasouthern.edu by March 10, 2017.** The results will be analyzed for "undefended" subscriptions (i.e. subscriptions that no one has asked to keep). Undefended subscriptions will be

Newsletter Editors

W. Bede Mitchell

Dean, Henderson Library

wbmitch@georgiasouthern.edu

Paolo P. Gujilde

Coordinator of Collection
Development/Asst. Professor

pgujilde@georgiasouthern.edu

canceled and switched from online access to the interlibrary loan process, thus reducing the budget shortfall.

5. The results of this process will be shared with the entire faculty via the GSFAC listserv and the individual college communication channels.

Key Points

- Faculty will still have access to materials, however, some materials will be switched from online access to the inter-library loan process which typically takes no more than 4-5 days to complete.
- As a taxpayer-funded institution, we have a mandate of fiscal responsibility.

For further information, email Dean Bede Mitchell at wbmitch@georgiasouthern.edu, or contact your Faculty Senate Library Committee representative, or contact the Library faculty member who is the liaison to your department.

Meet...Billy Glasco, Special Collections Librarian



The Zach S. Henderson Library would like to welcome its new faculty member, Billy R. Glasco, Jr. Billy's admiration for history and public service has allowed him to enjoy ten fulfilling years in the librarian profession. Billy joins us from the Houston Public Library where he served for four years as Lead Archivist at The African American Library at the Gregory School in Houston, TX.

Billy has also gained archival experience working in various types of academic and government libraries such as Prairie View A&M University, Florida State University, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Special Collections' role in the library is to protect the legacy of its community through the preservation and promotion of historical documents. Personal letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs offer researchers a guide to a community's authentic history. As Special Collections Librarian, Billy, along with the Special Collections team, will assure that materials housed in Special Collections are arranged, described, and preserved to current standards so the legacy of Georgia Southern University and Statesboro/Bulloch area will be protected for generations to come.

One of Billy's favorite quotes is "A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." As Special Collections Librarian at Henderson Library, Billy will support Special Collections to enhance the accessibility of its materials through community and academic partnership, outreach, and education.

