

10-20-2020

## Walking Away from the "Big Deal": Where We are One Year after Crossing that Bridge

Susan Arnold

West Virginia University, [susan.arnold@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:susan.arnold@mail.wvu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/faculty\\_publications](https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/faculty_publications)



Part of the [Collection Development and Management Commons](#)

---

### Digital Commons Citation

Arnold, Susan, "Walking Away from the "Big Deal": Where We are One Year after Crossing that Bridge" (2020). *Faculty & Staff Scholarship*. 2944.

[https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/faculty\\_publications/2944](https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/faculty_publications/2944)

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by The Research Repository @ WVU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty & Staff Scholarship by an authorized administrator of The Research Repository @ WVU. For more information, please contact [ian.harmon@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ian.harmon@mail.wvu.edu).

Susan J. Arnold, MS, MLIS, RD, AHIP  
West Virginia University Health Sciences Library, Morgantown, WV

## Background

Budgetary constraints at West Virginia University (WVU) in combination with impending expiration/renewal of “big deal” contracts resulted in the unbundling of three major journal packages between 2017-2019: Wiley, Science Direct and Springer. Unbundling these packages saved the library system a total of \$1,441,450. This poster will describe longer-term results of these decisions and how we have continued to adapt to improve access to journals for our research community.

### Quicker Access to Full-Text Articles



### Top 100 Science Direct Health Sciences Journals

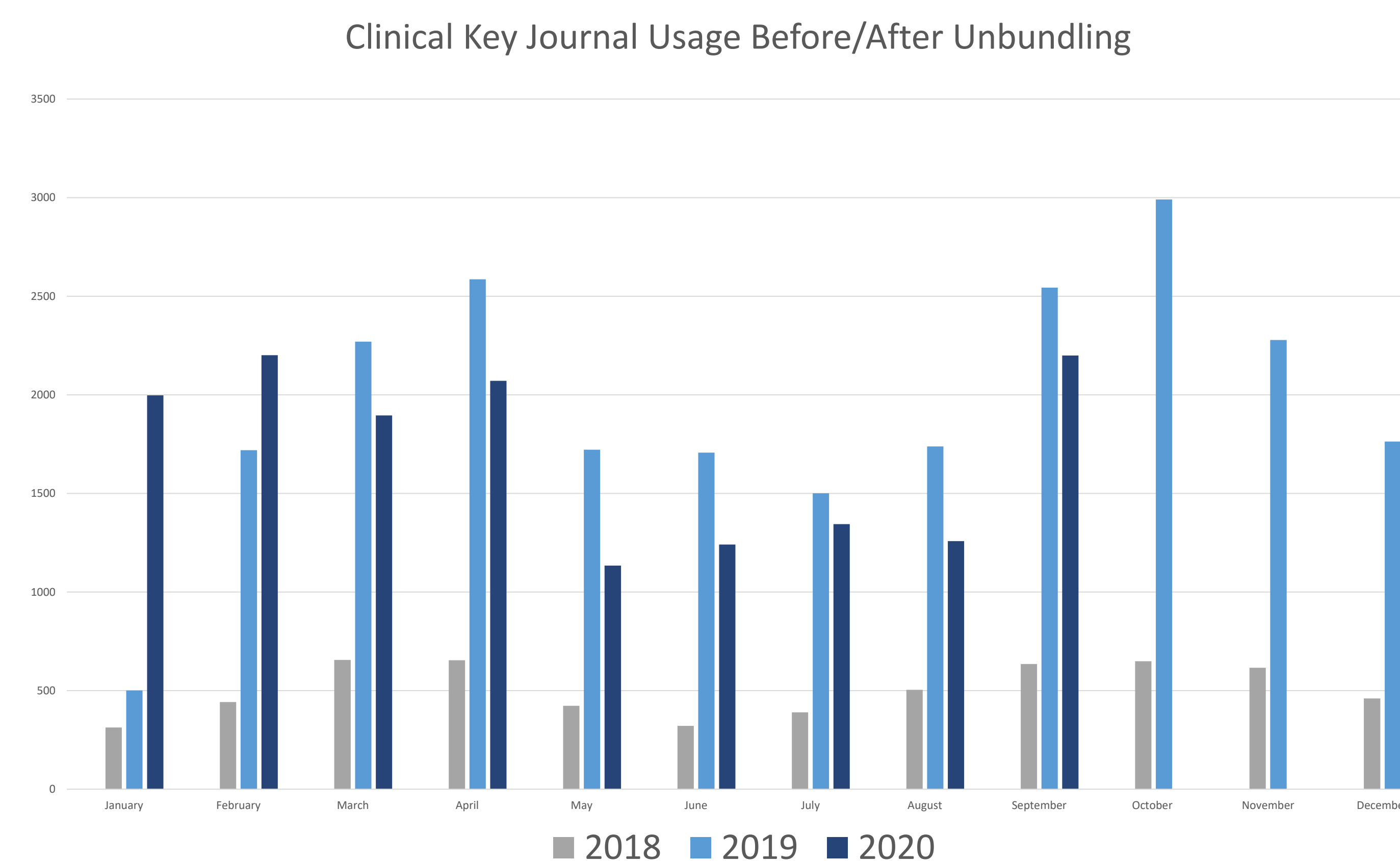
- Average usage ranged from 450 – 4,774/year (2016-2018)
- 70% of these titles overlapped with Clinical Key
- Due to contractual language, we were obligated to keep all Clinical Key titles
- Of the 30 titles that were not Clinical Key, we only lost total access to 6 after unbundling
  - Two other titles were brought back using our criteria
  - One other title had significant overlap with another database, so only lost access to the most recent 60 days
- Those 6 titles had a combined 2017 list price of \$47,288
- In the last year, these 6 titles were requested between 2-23 times via interlibrary loan, and due to reciprocal and consortial agreements, WVU did not have to pay any fees

## Methods

- Since the unbundling, the WVU Libraries’ Collections Advisory Committee has closely monitored ILL usage and costs for canceled titles, as well as faculty requests and complaints
- An interactive session was held with key department chairs at the Health Sciences Center in early 2020 to obtain their feedback regarding journal access and the publishing landscape
- Criteria were established to consider adding back journal titles:
  - Usage prior to cancellation
  - Number of ILL and faculty requests received after cancellation
  - Overlapping coverage with other resources
  - Journal price
- New services were introduced to improve rapid access to journal articles:
  - Staff were cross-trained to place ILL requests during weekends
  - Implementation of an unmediated ordering feature through Reprints Desk for 552 ISSNs
  - Implementation/marketing of LibKey Nomad and LibKey.io

## Results

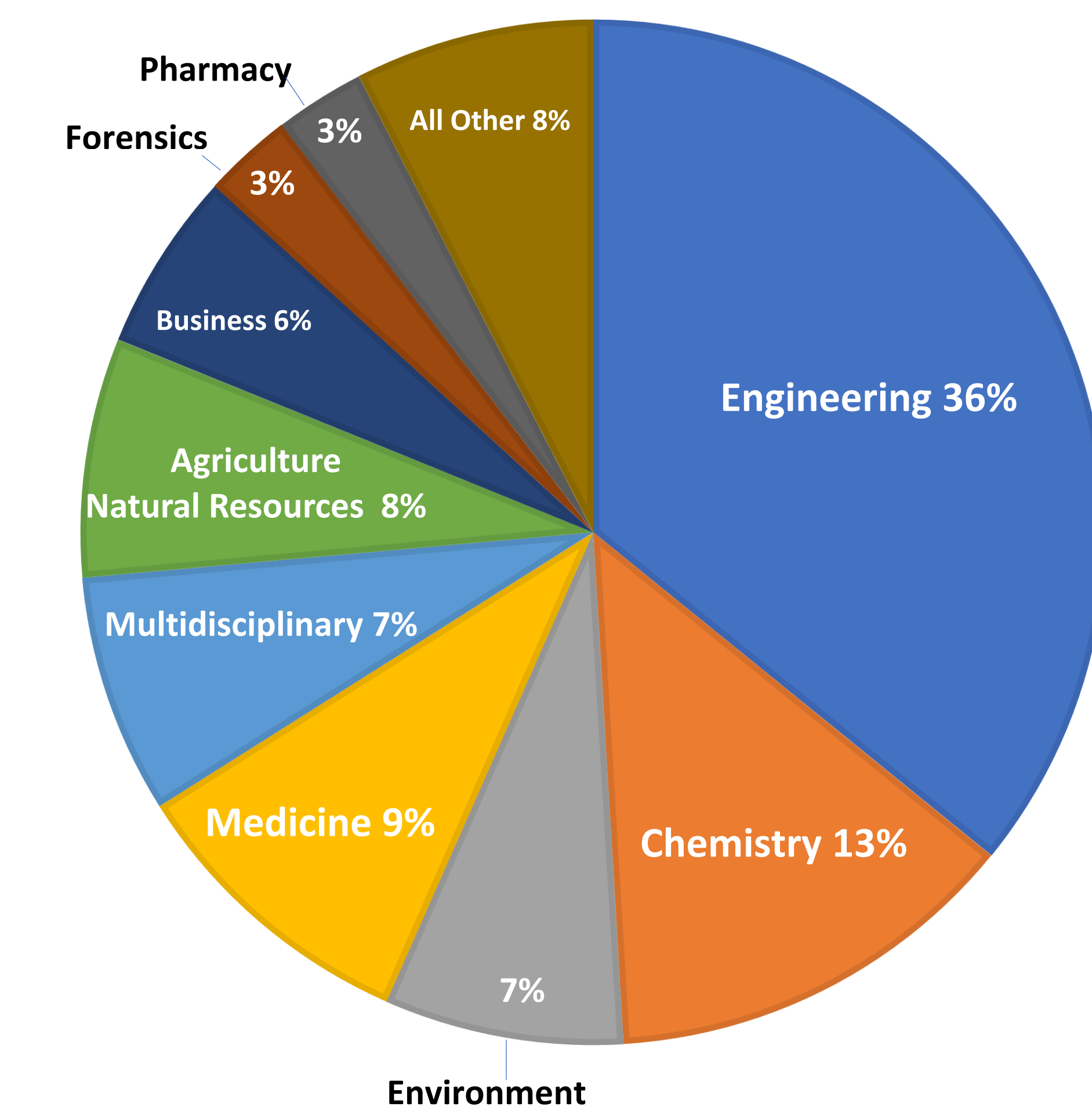
- Usage of Science Direct titles automatically retained in Clinical Key has more than tripled since the unbundling, increasing from an average of 505 uses/month in 2018 to 1,943/month in 2019 and 1,757/month this year.



### Interlibrary Loan Requests for “The Big 3” (July 2019-June 2020) Titles with 15 or More Requests

	Science Direct	Springer	Wiley
# of Titles Requested	95	4	7
# of Article Requests	2,440	88	187
# of Articles Paid For	205	0	10
Cost of These Articles	\$4,892.35	0	\$354.87
Price of Titles Requested	\$590,014.00	\$12,153.00	\$79,636.00

### Subjects Most Frequently Requested via ILL from Unbundled Titles



### ILL through Reprints Desk for Unbundled Titles

2019-2020 Total Cost	\$34,510
# of Total Requests	853
# of Unmediated ISSNs	522

## Conclusions

Journal unbundling implemented by necessity has had positive results. Besides the obvious financial benefits, rapid access to journal articles has improved with adaptations to our ILL service and implementation of new ways to connect to articles.

## Contact

Susan J. Arnold, MS, MLIS, RD, AHIP  
West Virginia University Health Sciences Library  
P.O. Box 9801, Morgantown, WV, 26506-9801  
susan.arnold@mail.wvu.edu  
304-293-2105

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to express her appreciation to Hilary Fredette, Director of Operations and Resource Sharing, for her assistance in obtaining and analyzing the ILL statistics used for this poster, and to Megan Heady, Head of Acquisitions, and her staff for their assistance in gathering journal prices used for this poster.