

FAQs ABOUT SUBSCRIPTION CANCELLATIONS

Can't the library find the money from elsewhere in its budget?

No - the Marriott Library has already committed its entire budget to handling operational costs, providing services and paying the salaries of its staff.

Why doesn't the library just go to electronic journals? Aren't they less expensive?

Major publishers usually consider the electronic version to be the basic subscription and costs for such subscriptions have not gone down. This is understandable since much of the effort is in editorial work (which is independent of the format). Any savings in paper and postage appears to be countered by the cost of servers and IT support.

Some proposed cuts are inexpensive titles. Why bother?

Beyond the cost of the subscription, it costs money to process and store material. We also get requests to start new inexpensive subscriptions. We'd like to say yes to things which people say they would use and we can do that by canceling things which it appears people don't use much.

Can I help by bringing issues from my personal subscription to the library?

We appreciate the good intentions of people who are thoughtful enough to consider donating materials to us, but such gifts have limited practical value because publishers may impose legal or contractual restrictions on their content. Most readers prefer online editions and these are never transferable. Having paper copies delivered directly to the library from the publisher saves processing effort and makes material available in a timely and consistent manner.

How will I get the articles I need from journals the library canceled?

Interlibrary Loan ([ILL](#)) can provide you with copies of articles from journals which are not held at the Marriott Library. Average delivery time for articles is 1.29 business days.

Will we still have access to older issues of canceled journals?

The library will still own any paper copies it has received and online access will generally continue for issues already paid for. Canceling databases usually ends access entirely.

Is there anything faculty members can do to help?

There are several ways in which faculty and other scholars can assist libraries in addressing this problem:

1. Get involved with your library. Work with your subject librarian to make sure that the journals we subscribe to or purchase are a good investment.
2. Give extra consideration to where you publish your papers. Look at the cost of the journals when you submit your papers for publication, are asked to review or serve on an editorial board. By retaining your copyright or putting your prepublication version in [USpace](#), our institutional repository, you can provide broad access to your work. Check the scholarly communication [advice](#) for U of U authors.