

TO: All MUNFA Members

FROM: The MUNFA Executive Committee

DATE: August 2, 2018

SUBJECT: **Library Journal Subscriptions**

Last autumn, MUNFA shared our concerns about the impacts of cutbacks to the Library's journal collection in a [MUNFA's Take on the issue](#).

Also in November 2017, we filed an Association Grievance contending that, by cutting journal subscriptions, the administration had violated its Collective Agreement obligation to provide appropriate Library services required by ASMs for their University work. The administration provided the attached letter in response to our grievance.

MUNFA's Executive Committee still has questions about whether the administration's response adequately reflects the impact of journal cuts and is seeking our members' feedback. If you are concerned about this issue, please contact us at munfa@mun.ca.



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June 21, 2018

"WITHOUT PREJUDICE"

By Email & Mail

Dr. R. Whitaker
President
MUNFA
Alexander Murray Building

Dear Dr. Whitaker:

RE: Association Grievance A-17-22 (Library Journal Subscriptions)

This letter is in response to our step 2 meeting of April 19, 2018 concerning the above noted grievance.

Due to increases from vendors and issues around US exchange rates, the University was forced to look at its journal purchases in a more strategic manner. As a result, the University limited its practice of buying in bundles when purchasing journal subscriptions. In consultation with faculty members, the University Library through its librarians made decisions as to which journals were essential to teaching and research. These decisions resulted in the cancellation of some journal subscriptions.

The University remains committed to ensuring that faculty members and students have access to the subscriptions that they need. Faculty members can avail of document delivery which can normally provide faculty members with the requested material within two to four days. As discussed, here is the information outlining the document delivery requests for journals from the University's canceled packages for the three year period 2015-2018:

	# of Journals	# of DD Request
Cambridge	2	18
Springer-Nature	3	21
T & F	22	205
Wiley	27	341
Oxford	1	9
Sage	1	7

As you can see, the number of requests over a three year period is quite low given the total number of journals in these packages. The collections librarians are assessing these requests on an on-going basis.

We can assure you that the University Library collection is in a strong state and we can now focus on what can be added to our collections. To assist in this regard, we can advise that the University is a member of buying groups to ensure we are getting the most value for our money. We are also encouraging open access journals and are more than willing to work with ASMs in that capacity.

I trust the foregoing resolves the grievance. Please confirm your agreement in writing.

Sincerely yours,

Sean Cadigan
Associate Vice-President (Academic)

cc Mr. G. Williams, Director, Office of Faculty Relations
Ms. S. Cleyle, University Librarian