**American Chemical Society E-Journal License**

**Issue:**

The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) has decided to terminate the national e-journal license agreement with the American Chemical Society. CRKN has had an agreement with ACS since 2001. The termination of the license will take effect at the end of 2013. The current agreement covers the period 2010-2012 and ends Dec 31, 2012. Sixty six Canadian universities participate in the current e-journal “Web editions”. This is fulltext access to 36 ACS journals from 1996 to present. Fifty seven Canadian institutions participate in the e-journal archive product “Legacy Archives”. The coverage for the “Legacy Archive” is from 1879 to 1995. The discussions for the renewal for 2013-2015, were not fruitful and ACS was only willing to freeze pricing within the new proposed usage bands for 2013-15.

**New Pricing Model based on Usage:**

The ACS Board of Directors has mandated for international (non-US consortia) a new pricing model. Under this new model coasts for participant institutions will be determined solely on usage, using the average number of fulltext downloads from most recent 3 years, which is organized into usage bands. This pricing model introduces significant unpredictability in pricing with the risk that any increase in usage that moves a participant into a higher usage band could result in a huge price increase and would be unsustainable for that institution. New bands can be created as usage changes. No other international consortia have successfully implemented ACS’s new pricing model.

**Content and Cost (Past and Future):**

For 2012-2013, there was a 5 % increase for both products. There are additional costs for ACS titles that are excluded. These titles include: ACS Catalysis, ACS Medical Chemistry Letters, Journal of Chemical Education and Chemical & Engineering News.

The transition year will be administered and billed through CRKN.  UBC Library will commit to this final year renewal. The increase will be 5%, for a cost of $94,690.23 for Web Editions and $5,560.30 for the Legacy Archives.  A decision will need to be discussed and agreed upon for future access.

**Cost History 2009-2012**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Resource | Research metric | Market price | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | total |
| Legacy | 6.34% | $6,004.00 | $5,704.68 | $4,803.20 | $5,043.36 | $5,295.53 | $15,142.09 |
| Web  | 6.34% | $141,392.10 | $99,809.00 | $85,835.74 | $87,981.63 | $90,181.17 | $263,954.83 |

**Usage Based Pricing Model Constraints**

* Precedent setting situation, may influence actions of other publishers/vendors and weaken UBC’s ability to negotiate for other e-resource content
* Opposes fundamental mission of increasing access to scholarly content
* Does not provide stable predictable pricing
* Cost increase could be from 10 to 300%
* Deter rather than promote use of these resources
* Penalize institutions who are successful at promoting resource and promulgating use thru discovery tools, link resolvers.
* Force institutions into multi-year all content agreement without adequate mechanisms to anticipate and control costs
* If agree, removed any motivation for ACS to revisit pricing policies
* Different pricing scheme than applied in US (includes Carnegie classification banding)

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