Modifying Acquisitions Practices (MAP) Pilot
Questions & Answers

1. *What's changing?*
   The library will continue to provide needed content for teaching, learning and research. The method of providing journal articles for a small subset of 2019 journal articles published by Springer will change as the library pilots a new desktop delivery system. The impact on faculty, students and staff is expected to be low. The pilot step is in accordance with the library's Information Resources Strategies, a multi-year priority begun in 2016 to address the recognized systemic challenges with academic journal publishers' cost models.

2. *Why is this change necessary?*
   The scholarly publishing marketplace is dominated by an oligopoly of commercial entities publishing publicly-funded research at profit margins as high as 37% through journal bundles ("Big Deals"). Data analysis at Queen's has demonstrated that these Big Deals are not providing value for money as 80% of Queen's usage and value are met with only 17% of journals in these packages. Almost half of the library's acquisitions budget is spent on these bundled packages, to the exclusion of other information resources required for teaching and research at Queen's.

   The U15 has issued a Statement on Sustainable Publishing due to concerns that "the business model that is prevalent among for-profit book and journal publishers may impose undue financial pressure on the research and education ecosystem".

3. *How was the decision made to move forward with a pilot project?*
   The library has been consulting broadly with Queen's faculty and graduate students, gathering data through the Canada-wide Journal Usage Project, and working with peer institutions and consortia on solutions. Based on these extensive consultations with the Queen's community, the library is taking a cautious approach by piloting new access methods for a small subset of Springer journal articles published in 2019. The library's Information Resources Strategies are strongly supported by the Senate Library Committee, and have been well received at Senate, with Faculty Boards, library advisory committees, and other groups through regular consultations. The pilot will be continually assessed to determine any adjustments required.

4. *How do I access materials?*
   The majority of library materials will continue to be accessible via the library's website as it is now. A small subset of Springer 2019 articles will be available through a pilot desktop delivery system. The user will be guided to the delivery system directly from the article citation in our discovery systems.

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library.queensu.ca

5. *How much money will the library save?*

   During the pilot phase, the goal is to test new models of article-level delivery for a subset of Springer 2019 content. Cost data generated from the pilot will inform the feasibility of re-allocating funds to other identified information resources for teaching and research.

6. *How can I provide feedback?*

   The library continues to welcome feedback from the Queen's community on the pilot project as we move forward with accountable and innovative solutions to the challenges in the global scholarly publishing environment. Please contact Ian Robson, Head of Information Resources (613 533-6000 x 74530).