RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' STRATEGY
FOR RESPONDING TO THE RAPIDLY RISING COST OF SOME
SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

WHEREAS it is the mission of the Ohio State University Libraries, within the scope of its budget, to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the most relevant information resources in support of learning, teaching, and research for students, faculty, and staff at The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS these resources in all formats, but particularly scholarly and scientific journals and databases, continue to inflate at an annual rate far above the Libraries’ acquisitions budget; and

WHEREAS consolidation resulting in decreased competition among a few of the largest scientific and commercial publishers has resulted in unsustainably high prices for some scholarly and scientific journals and databases; and

WHEREAS the Libraries’ ability to provide access to resources from other publishers is increasingly compromised by the disproportionate percentage of the budget required to maintain access to this selected group of highly priced journals and databases; and

WHEREAS the resolution was discussed and approved by the full Council on Libraries and Information Technology on May 18, 2005,

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the University Senate commends the leadership of the Libraries in local, regional, national, and international cooperative resource sharing to maximize access to information resources, within the scope of its budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages the Libraries and faculty to work actively to improve the fundamental economy of scholarly communications through initiatives such as the Knowledge Bank and the Association of Research Libraries’ SPARC Program, of which the Libraries is a founding member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate strongly advises the Libraries to develop their budgets and funding priorities in collaboration with the departments they serve. These priorities would include canceling journal subscriptions and databases that are duplicative, low priority, involve predatory pricing, or are too expensive per use to maintain within the Libraries’ budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate supports the Libraries' request for reasonable annual increases to its acquisitions budget, not to fund predatory price increases by a few publishers but to acquire the greatest number of relevant information resources in a fiscally responsible manner to support the University’s teaching and research mission.