

## **FAQs on Migration from Print to E-Journal Access**

### **Background**

The Wellington Medical & Health Sciences Library subscribes to approximately 500 individual journal titles, plus a number of e-journal packages. Due to a range of considerations including space and wider access, we are progressively shifting print to e-only subscriptions (please see the *Policy for Migration from Print to Electronic Journals, Wellington Medical & Health Sciences Library*).

The Library recognises the need to retain some journals in print format, and offer its users the opportunity to submit a case for the retention of print titles (see *Submission for retention of print journal title* template).

We are greatly limited by the license terms of all of our subscriptions, in relation to which network may have access to any particular title. Wherever possible we endeavour to extend licensed access to include the University of Otago, Wellington (UOW) and the Capital & Coast District Health Board (CCDHB), however this may be at a substantial financial cost.

### **Can the Library subscribe to *abcxyz* journal?**

A decision on whether the Library will take up a new journal subscription is generally to be made by the Library Committee which meets twice per year.

All requests will be considered but should provide details as to the value of the particular title to the Medical Library collection, and its primary purpose e.g. medical teaching, clinical, continuing medical education, etc.

Consideration will be given to its relevance, what other journals in a similar subject area are available, and access limitations.

Availability via other sources will also be taken into account e.g. held by other New Zealand Libraries, available via interlibrary loan, etc.

### **Why is access only available on one network? How is the network access determined?**

Access to the journal is determined by the license agreement. To provide access to both organisations requires multisite licensing. The cost of this may be determined by a variety of means including fte staff/student numbers, hospital beds, publisher, existing subscriptions, geographical location... [et al].

Where access is limited to one organisation over the other consideration will be given to the main purpose of the journal e.g. teaching or clinical use, and which network, the population most likely to require access, is on.

Some subscriptions are paid for by one organisation with a stipulation they be made available to that organisation only.

### **Is perpetual access guaranteed?**

One of the determining factors when shifting to e-only access is the retention of perpetual access if a subscription subsequently ceases. This is noted within the licensing agreement, and will generally cover the subscribed years i.e. some publishers will offer extended access to earlier years (rolling back files, etc), but access may not be retained to those earlier years if the subscription ceases.

**What happens in case of a disaster?**

Most New Zealand Libraries have a Disaster Preparedness Policy which identifies risk factors and what to do in case of a “disaster”. The files for most electronic journals are stored by the publisher (or their agent) in dark archives designed to withstand most natural disasters.

It might be argued that print journals are a greater risk from disasters such as fire/flood/natural disaster.

In most circumstances e-journals are available 24/7 (allowing for maintenance downtime). Whereas print journals are only available for the hours that the Library is open (approx. 80 hours per week).

**Loss of the print journal takes away the serendipity of discovery of an article of interest. How is this to be met with e-journals?**

Setting up of e-tocs (electronic tables of content) alerts, may lend itself to a degree of serendipity. You can see what else is being published in that issue of the journal.

Additionally it is possible to schedule current awareness alerts from the OVID databases for items published in particular subject areas.