Dear Colleagues:

As you may already know, all units of the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus are planning for budget reductions in the upcoming fiscal year. For our Libraries these reductions will come on top of a major funding shortfall. One part of the Library’s planning will include re-evaluating ongoing financial commitments to such services as online databases and periodical subscription bundles. As the first step in this process, you are invited to lend your expertise. An email sent to department Chairs on February 19th, 2016 explained that this on-line survey is the first phase of an ongoing evaluation process that will continue into the Fall semester. You may learn more about this evaluation process here: http://library.missouri.edu/collectionsreview/ and log in to the survey directly here: https://library.muhealth.org/secure/collectionsreview/

The survey will remain open until April 4th at 5pm.

Please do not think of this as voting to “cut or keep.” Rather, we need your expert evaluation of the relative importance of the titles in this list for your own academic work. You might also use the comment space to explain matters not easily represented in use/cost data (for instance, that a journal with 0 uses is still important because your department is hiring a replacement in that subfield, or that your department might be willing to help identify donors to help fund the cost of a journal). The rankings you provide will inform the negotiation process.

The majority of titles in this survey are currently purchased in journal “bundles” up for renewal with Wiley and Elsevier, two commercial academic publishers. Because these two packages represent almost 1/3 of our subscription costs, the deals we can negotiate during the renewal process will have widespread consequences for the rest of the library budget. The negotiation process will be long and complicated. Any feedback you can provide will assist librarians win the best deal possible as they negotiate these subscription renewals.

Please take the time to give the Libraries your opinions on these journals. Other requests for information will likely be coming later on, but this is your primary chance to weigh in on journals published by Elsevier or Wiley. You may choose to rank any or all of the journals; please don’t rank ones you don’t know.

Please forward this message to every library user you believe may not have seen it.

Thank you,