
New publication from LISU

Sonya White & Claire Creaser
*Scholarly journal prices: selected trends
and comparisons*
(Loughborough: LISU, 2004)

A new report published by LISU, based at Loughborough University, offers some valuable insights into scholarly journals pricing over the last decade. Amongst the findings are average price increases by publisher ranging from 27% to 94% over the period 2000-2004, and biomedical journal prices per page ranging from £0.31 (approx. \$0.55) to £0.98 (approx. \$1.75) in 2004 (average by publisher).

The report was originally commissioned by Oxford journals, a division of Oxford University Press, as part of its desire to better understand what has commonly been described as 'the serials crisis'. As part of the survey LISU analysed data from twelve named scholarly publishers, including OUP, taken over a 5-year period (2000 -2004), plus 1993 as a base year for comparison. General analysis was carried out on around 6000 journals spanning all subject areas, then detailed analysis focused on identifying average journal prices, per page and per impact factor point on biomedical titles.

Eric Davies, Director of LISU, remarked 'Serials continue to be a key component of scholarly communication and their pricing and affordability is a major preoccupation for those who create and use them. The report represents a great deal of hard work in collating and analysing data to establish some objective information to inform the current debate on serials. Although it represents a snapshot of only part of the entire serials landscape, it does provide the basis for further investigation and discussion on this important topic. We were delighted to be given the opportunity by Oxford Journals to explore trends in this detail and on this scale.'

Scholarly journal prices: selected trends and comparisons (Sonya White & Claire Creaser, LISU, 2004) is freely available from the LISU website as a downloadable pdf. <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dis/lisu/pages/publications/oup.html>

Print copies can be purchased for £50 (post paid in the UK) from:

LISU, Loughborough University
Loughborough, Leics, LE11 3TU
Tel: 01509 223071
Fax: 01509 223072
E-mail: lisu@lboro.ac.uk
and through Tele Ordering.