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NJIT Libraries Annual Report 2004-2005

NJIT Libraries

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Dear colleagues, students and friends of the NJIT Libraries:

It was a pleasure serving you in AY 2004-2005, my tenth year as NJIT University Librarian. I welcome everyone back to AY 2005-2006 and wish you every success.

The senior NJIT administration, recognizing the need to add some new research resources, authorized an increased budget in AY 2004-2005 enabling the addition of a number of new online journals, books, databases and other resources. For instance, the NJIT Libraries added new databases and journals focused upon developing three academic programs to national prominence as designated in the NJIT Strategic Plan. More details are available in this report: www.njit.edu/publicinfo/planning.php

NJIT students, in the Spring 2005 Student Satisfaction Survey, have again rated NJIT Libraries second among all NJIT departments and services and an improvement from the prior year. In this survey, the “assistance of our library staff” continues to be our highest ranked area. I am proud to say that our library staff members are both talented and service-oriented sharing the common goal of user satisfaction. The challenge is for us to continue to provide such user satisfaction for faculty and students who now primarily use us remotely and are invisible to us.

Over the last five years, the migration to NJIT digital resources has dramatically changed library processes, library staffing, and even NJIT community expectations, more than in my previous 35 years in the library profession. Many people might now question why any university still needs a physical library and librarians in the age of so many online resources accessible over the internet. Please see the section in this annual report regarding why libraries are needed more than ever in the age of the internet.

I welcome our new full time library staff -- two new professional librarians, Sunny Yoon and Heather Huey -- who will strengthen this effort.

Lastly, I wish to thank the members of the faculty from each academic department who spent many hours participating on the Library Committee and who have been so very helpful in guiding the library decision making with the librarians and managers.

See www.library.njit.edu/administration/faculty-library-committee

I welcome your comments and feedback at sweeney@njit.edu.

Rich Sweeney, University Librarian

INFORMATION LITERACY

Our Reference Services team took on a huge challenge this year under the direction of Davida Scharf. In order to meet Middle States latest standards for Information Literacy, the staff focused on creating awareness and laying the foundations for systematic instruction and assessment of our students’ information skills.

NJIT’s first Information Literacy Librarian, Heather Huey, was hired to strengthen this effort.

Heather and the reference team created a program that will begin in earnest in fall 2005. To do this, they studied the work of other institutions and met with faculty and administrators to tailor a program to NJIT. They piloted assessment techniques and instruments in collaboration with the Department of Institutional Research. They created tutorials and explored classroom and WebCT instruction methods and tools with library staff, faculty and students. One innovative program started in spring 2005 extends NJIT’s well-recognized writing portfolio assessment program to include criteria for assessing student information literacy. Created by NJIT Computer Science students under the direction of NJIT librarians Davida Scharf and Heather Huey in FY 2004-2005, and still in development, is a videogame, Zeek2Find, designed to give students experience using library resources. Working with the Department of Media Services to overcome some technical obstacles, they also have a mini-WebCT course set up covering the basics in information literacy for all incoming freshman. The Reference Librarians also began to work out collaborative assignments and teaching with faculty to help integrate information literacy more fully into courses across the curriculum.

NJIT’s Information Literacy Program developed over the course of the year will be fully implemented for the first time in 2005-2006. It will consist of:

- A three part assessment program that will enable the library to measure its progress. A pre-test and post-test will measure the training in the freshman boot camp. The library will assess senior portfolios to measure the information literacy skills of graduating seniors.
- Beyond Google Boot Camp will begin in Sep 2005 for all incoming freshmen, including one full class period in Freshman Composition and a thirty minute session in Freshman Seminar taught by the reference librarians. Both classes will focus on learning the library website and resources with in-class exercises.
- FLIP (Faculty and Librarians in Partnership), a program of collaboration with faculty to weave information competence throughout the curriculum to begin in earnest in 2005-2006, providing research instruction tailored to the course, topic, and goals.
- Self-Help – Online Tutorials across the curriculum. A new tutorial, SearchPath was adapted with the purpose of orientating new users to the NJIT library system.

Reference and Instructional Services

Reference services went fully electronic at the tail end of the 2004-2005 academic year. While still handling in-person questions at the Van Houten Library, our librarians are now also available via instant messaging through any of the widely used systems (AOL, Yahoo, MSN). To highlight the easy online access to our expert staff, the Reference Desk was re-named Research HelpDesk and is also available online 24/7 via the New Jersey librarians collaborative QandAnJ.org in which our librarians participate.

NJIT Reference librarians handled an estimated 10,000 queries ranging from the basics of library use to the complex document discovery and research assistance. In addition they taught sessions on library use, sources, and research methods.
Below is a graph presenting the nine-year history of the NJIT library materials expenditures (and encumbrances). The average subscription price continues to be about 9% over the period. See Library Journal’s annual periodical price survey at: www.library.njit.edu/njit-only/2005-periodical-price-survey.pdf

During that time, the journals and databases expenditures have flip-flopped, as more and more fulltext database have become available.
**GRANT-FUNDED ACTIVITIES**

This year the library collaborated with NJIT faculty on two three-year grants – one for the IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services) and one for the NSF (National Science Foundation).

Led by Michael Bieber, Professor of Information Systems and co-director of the Collaborative Hypermedia Research Laboratory at NJIT, a group of NJIT faculty and librarians received federal grants to develop computer software to automatically add links within web pages to related documents and services.

The system's meta information engine will automatically add links within existing web pages to related documents and services, such that related information in the user's home library, other databases and electronic special collections, books on sale at Amazon.com, and so forth all appear one-click away, customized to the user's current task.


**WHY WE STILL NEED A LIBRARY IN THIS ELECTRONIC AGE**

It may seem now that information is ubiquitous on the web, and that libraries and librarians may no longer be needed. However, the reverse is actually true. Today almost all current science, technology, architecture and other subject domain research material is available digitally but only through very expensive controlled internet access. The work of selecting, licensing, subscribing, managing and assisting users with the complicated digital resources (e.g. e-journals, databases, electronic books, online interlibrary loan, etc.) has changed many of our vendors, the technology infrastructure, library staff skill requirements, the library supply chain, and even user expectations. It is true that libraries are spending less time managing large physical collections of journals (except those that are retrospective).

Students still need the librarians and the physical library for quiet study, group work, research assistance and training. Faculty need the assistance of the librarians to evaluate, select, subscribe and/or purchase and make accessible and searchable online research resources appropriate to our programs of study as well as areas of research. While online research tools, journals, and books are more powerful, comprehensive and ubiquitous they are more complex and present new and unusual challenges that require a more highly skilled library staff and digital infrastructure. Of course, the library still provides hard copy resources that are critical to research and only available in the library and they must continue to be supported.

There are many challenges to providing access to digital research resources for the next five years. For instance, one challenge is trying to help faculty and students remotely when the librarians can’t see what they are doing because digital library users are less visible.

Many of our faculty visit the physical library less but heavily use remote digital library services such as interlibrary loan requests or searches for electronic journals. Students also use the digital resources remotely but they are more likely to use the library building for their study, collaborative research, and to meet in groups. This means that we must be more proactive in meeting with faculty and students at their place of business. We also must develop and implement new technologies to help users remotely at the point of need. In order to participate more effectively with the technology, library staff must learn new technology skills and immediately use them to develop new processes to quickly and easily meet our user needs. In any case, the need for skilled librarians has never been greater.

The American University in Washington, D.C. conducted a symposium on the needs and trends for their academic library over the next five years. They had a large number of national experts, not just in libraries but also in related industries. The preliminary report, which is an excellent guide to the issues, trends and needs for academic libraries, concluded that the academic library is still very much needed. The preliminary report of the symposium can be found at: [www.library.american.edu/Symposium_2010.pdf](http://www.library.american.edu/Symposium_2010.pdf)

The report said: “The mission of the academic library in 2010 will remain essentially the same as it is today and will be more closely aligned with the institutional mission … Libraries and universities must adjust their services and facilities to create supportive learning environments for these ‘digital’ students. Inundated with information, students are looking for meaning and knowledge.”

In an ocean of information (knowledge), finding just the right information is one problem. Effectively accelerating our learning and the use of such networked information becomes an even greater hurdle. The academic library will still be needed for the foreseeable future.

Some additional readings:

Association of Health Sciences Libraries. *The Library as place: symposium on building and revitalizing health sciences libraries in the digital age.* (Symposium held Nov 5-6, 2003, at the NIH). Available at: [www.aahsl.org/building](http://www.aahsl.org/building)


EDUCUSE Review. *Theme issue on learning space design.* Vol. 40, no. 4. Jul-Aug 2005. Available at: [www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm05/erm054.asp](http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm05/erm054.asp)


**VALE (VIRTUAL ACADEMIC LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT OF NEW JERSEY)**

VALE, the consortium of all 54 private and public academic libraries in New Jersey continued to grow and meet new user expectations in AY 2004-2005. NJIT librarians are involved in a number of key VALE committees and continually work on practical ways to cooperate to improve library services and reduce costs. Rich Sweeney continues on the VALE Executive Board.

See [www.valenj.org](http://www.valenj.org)

**LIBRARY RESOURCES & MATERIALS**

The NJIT Libraries added a number of new AY 2004-2005 online databases, electronic journals, e-books and other subscriptions that greatly strengthen the research knowledge available to the NJIT community. There were far more journal titles available in 2004-2005 than in the prior year; almost all accessible online. Links to the new digital resources and a better description of their contents can be found on the library's database page. Remote access is only available to students, faculty, and staff with NJIT computer accounts but public guest access is available on-site in the library.
The library added a subscription to Scopus, the world’s largest abstract and indexing database. Scopus is a multidisciplinary navigational tool that contains records going back to the mid-1960s, offering newly-linked citations across the widest body of scientific abstracts available in one place.

The library also added other database subscriptions including INSPEC, Institute of Physics (IOP) online journals, Science and Nature e-journals, as well as the online archives to American Chemical Society journals.

In Fall 2004, NJIT released its strategic plan that designated three strategic areas for NJIT to develop to national prominence: architecture, mathematics, plus wireless communications & networking. That plan also identified three “niche” areas: advanced engineered particulate materials, nanotechnology, neural engineering.

The library added eighteen (18) new mathematics journal subscriptions, and Current Index to Statistics, a database useful to mathematicians.

In addition to fifteen (15) new journal subscriptions, the library added the following new databases for architecture: Building Green suite, CuminCad, Grove Dictionary of Art Online, Material Connexion database, and ULI Case Development Studies database.

The library added eighteen (18) new mathematics journal subscriptions, and Current Index to Statistics, a database useful to mathematicians. Twenty-two (22) new journals were ordered, as well, for wireless communications and networking.

See journals lists at: www.library.njit.edu/jranks

NEW JERSEY KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE (NJKI)

In addition to all of the new NJIT online resources, the State Library of New Jersey, working with a committee that included Richard Sweeney, NJIT University Librarian, Judy Cohn (UMDNJ) and Anne Ciliberti (William Paterson University) representing VALE libraries, was successful in obtaining six million dollars for online journal and reference database subscriptions called NJKI. The databases are funded and made accessible for FY 2005-2006 and are available to any NJ citizen on-site at the NJIT libraries.

The library added eighteen (18) new mathematics journal subscriptions, and Current Index to Statistics, a database useful to mathematicians. Twenty-two (22) new journals were ordered, as well, for wireless communications and networking.

See journals lists at: www.library.njit.edu/jranks

LIBRARY BOOKS

The library continued to purchase hard copy books to support the academic programs and research. (Note that the actual book purchases for a particular year may be delayed from the year when the money is encumbered, thus the average book cost is calculated from the books received at the time of this report).

E-books

In the fall of 2004, the NJIT library began subscribing to its first e-books package from Safari Tech-Books online. Containing e-book versions of print CS and IS books on topics such as Java, C++, and .NET, Safari allows users to search for passages with e-books, search across the e-book collection, and read sections and entire e-books on the web.

Over 200 different e-books were accessed by NJIT users at least once in FY 2004-2005 via the Safari collection. The most-read book was Java Servlet & JSP Cookbook (ISBN 0-596-00572-5) with 874 hits (unique reads of a section of the book). The average use of those 205 e-books was 58 unique reads of a section. A usage plot is below:

Safari e-book usage FY 2004-2005
n = 205 books with one or more read
ave = 58 reads
median = 11 reads
total unique sections read = 11,950

JOURNALS AND E-JOURNALS

The total number of journal titles (subscriptions) available to NJIT users continued to increase in AY 2004-2005, due to journal titles within large databases. At the same time, individual hard copy journals and e-journal subscriptions have continued to decline.

To see if a specific journal title is available, please see:

See www.library.njit.edu/journals
To compare this usage to our print collection, the seventh most-read e-book (Excel hacks by David E. Hawley, ISBN 059600625X) had 411 unique sections read on Safari in FY 2004-2005. The paper copy in the NJIT library's collection had 10 circulations for 166 days out of the library during that same time. Clearly e-books are read much more than their hard copy equivalents and are accessible simultaneously to more users.

**Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)**

The online ETD collection grew from 660 to 896 world-accessible NJIT theses and dissertations during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Researchers, students, and business people from around the world continue to find hits to our ETDs through Google and Yahoo searches and then get immediate full-text content through our ETD server.

By the end of FY 2004-2005, the ETD project encompassed 238 gigabytes of total data on its two servers.

Of the 236 ETD’s published in 2004-2005, 59 were in response to user requests (15 via interlibrary loan channels, 44 via NJIT ETD web request form) and 177 upon request. Thirty one of the requests came from the NJIT community (faculty, staff, students and alumni), while 28 were from non-NJIT people.

To see NJIT’s ETD’s go to www.library.njit.edu/etd

**Architecture Library**

During FY 2004-2005, the Architecture Library received two grants to establish specialized book collections. With the support of the Bay and Paul Foundations’ grant we established a rare book collection. We were able to purchase new cabinets and start archival preservation of brittle books.

See www.library.njit.edu/archlib/collections/rarebooks.cfm

The Masonry Contractors of New Jersey also funded a collection of books and microforms on masonry architecture.

In support of the School of Architecture’s summer Siena program, the library also established a digital repository of Siena information, including articles, book chapters, maps, former students’ works, and administrative paperwork. The architecture article databases, like all of the library databases, are also available remotely, such as our NJIT architecture students studying abroad in Italy.

Over the last year we added 4,000 images to our Digital Image Database, which now contains 10,447 records. Access to this database is limited and password protected for registered students and faculty.

**New Book Borrowing Policy**

At the Faculty Library Committee of Oct 21, 2004, the committee voted to raise the simultaneous borrowing limits from 10 items for all groups to the following:

- NJIT faculty members: 25
- NJIT staff: 25
- NJIT graduate students: 25
- NJIT undergraduate students: 15
- NJIT alumni: 10
- Courtesy patrons, Rutgers students, all others: 10

**Statistics**

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours open in a typical week</td>
<td>93 (spring semester)</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User visits to the main library</td>
<td>574,943</td>
<td>476,234</td>
<td>403,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User visits to the ArchLib</td>
<td>77,757</td>
<td>71,742</td>
<td>71,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General circulation (both libraries)</td>
<td>55,780</td>
<td>40,493</td>
<td>40,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items borrowed from other libraries</td>
<td>2,301</td>
<td>2,189</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items lent to other libraries</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Archives**

In the fall of 2004, the NJIT archives digitized the 1954 yearbook and placed it on the web in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the class of 1953’s visit to the campus during reunion week.

See the yearbooks at www.library.njit.edu/archives

![ChE faculty from 1954 yearbook](image)

**Library Staff Transitions**

Sunny Yoon was hired in Dec 2004 as the new e-Resources and Serials Librarian.

Sunny has had experience working in knowledge management systems at ejemoni.com and as an information specialist at the Franklin Furnace Archive Inc. Sunny reports directly to Rich Sweeney, University Librarian, and is responsible for databases, journals, and other digital library projects.

Before going to Rutgers library school, Sunny earned a Masters in linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley.
Heather Huey was hired in Dec 2004 as NJIT's first Information Literacy Librarian.

Heather has been a reference Librarian at Somerset Christian College, the Clark Public Library, North Brunswick Public Library, and a medical librarian at St. Peter’s University Hospital Medical Center. She has her MLS from Rutgers University and her BA from Northwestern College. Heather reports to Davida Scharf and will help NJIT develop a nationally recognized information literacy program.

Davida Scharf and Heather Huey gave a presentation entitled Zeek2Find: A Constructivist Approach to Information Literacy Training Using a Computer Game at the ILGEX Conference in May 2005 on the development of their innovative library videogame, Zeek2Find. Their paper was published in the conference proceedings.

Haymwantee Singh attended a Scopus Colloquium in Strasbourg France in Jul 2004 as a member of the development partners group. This was a discussion and feedback session on the Scopus database. Haymwantee also attended Elsevier’s launch event of the Scopus database in Tokyo, Japan in Nov 2004. She presented with Spencer De Groot (Elsevier UCD) on the topic: Developing products with the scientific community and conducting usability sessions – NJIT’s partnership with Scopus and users feedback.

Rich Sweeney, University Librarian, was quoted in the Aug 2004 issue of Library Journal. Speaking on a “Future of Libraries: Disappearing Libraries and Invisible Librarians” panel at the American Library Association in Orlando with Cliff Lynch, Howard Besser, and others, Rich followed Roy Tennant’s dictum about how users care less about searching than finding with, “I would add a third level. It’s about learning.” Rich proposed a new role for libraries: fostering “accelerated learning” tools that enhance and speed a student’s learning process. “We have an opportunity. The whole area of information literacy hasn’t really happened.” Rich was also a panelist on the topic of Googлизors and Resistors at the Association of College and Research Libraries’s annual conference, April, 2005, in Minneapolis. At the same conference, he also conducted a preconference focus group with Millennials (people born 1979 to 1994) in front of a live audience.

Bruce Slutsky continued to serve as a volunteer career consultant for the American Chemical Society (ACS) by advising chemists of the career opportunities in science librarianship and related fields for professionals with technical backgrounds. He also is the Chairman of the Publications Committee for the ACS Division of Chemical Information and is editor of the division’s electronic newsletter called the CINF E-news. See www.acscinf.org/cinf/publications/e-news/0601/latest.html

The annual library staff retreat was held at the New Jersey City University May 11, 2005, and included a tour of the campus library, and a presentation on “The blended librarian’s perspective on information literacy” by Steven Bell, Director of the Paul J. Gutman Library at Philadelphia University.
NJIT professional librarians attended the annual VALE User Conference in January 2005 at Rutgers, the largest gathering of academic librarians in NJ, with a large number of presentations including some by NJIT staff.

Yacie Enos was honored with her 30 year service pin, Nina Alexander-Mighty was honored with her 20 year service pin, and Galen Faison was honored with his 10 year service pin during NJIT’s ceremony in May 2005.

NJIT students continue to make up the bulk of those borrowing books and other materials from the NJIT library in FY 2004-2005.

During FY 2003-2004, the library formalized a long-standing practice of lending books to Enterprise Development Center clients in the three incubators of small businesses located on campus.

See the EDC policy at: [www.library.njit.edu/policies/edc.html](http://www.library.njit.edu/policies/edc.html)

Users

During FY 2004-2005, 3,621 new user accounts were loaded into the library’s Voyager circulation system via weekly feeds from the campus’s HR and SIS systems. Those, plus existing accounts updated by the system totaled 9,954 eligible-to-borrow user accounts.

During FY 2004-2005, 4,527 different users borrowed at least one item. A second-year industrial management student led the pack with 147 items borrowed during that academic year.

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Num items borrowed by users during FY 2004-2005 (each point is one user)

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### DATABASE USAGE REPORT (FULLTEXT DATABASES ONLY)

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<td>ABI/INFORM Global</td>
<td>$8,407.00</td>
<td>$8,168.43</td>
<td>$8,566.89</td>
<td>16,479</td>
<td>19,607</td>
<td>12,192</td>
<td>Cancelled 8/2005 because Business Source Premier offered by Knowledge Initiative</td>
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<td>Academic Search Premier</td>
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<td>paid by state</td>
<td>paid by state</td>
<td>9,356</td>
<td>12,008</td>
<td>22,167</td>
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<td>Acad-Universe Lexis-Nexis</td>
<td>$10,861.00</td>
<td>$11,090.47</td>
<td>$11,488.93</td>
<td>27,983</td>
<td>27,099</td>
<td>17,360</td>
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<td>ACM Digital Library</td>
<td>NA $6,140.00</td>
<td>$2,941.58</td>
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<td>no stats</td>
<td>no stats</td>
<td>no stats</td>
<td>no stats; contract now from VALE resulted in savings</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART Full Text Web</td>
<td>NA $3,386.91</td>
<td>$1,965.91</td>
<td>no stats</td>
<td>No stats</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>received credit of $1,421 for overlap with Omnimedia.</td>
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<td>IEE/IEEE Electronic Library</td>
<td>$91,995.00</td>
<td>$97,995.00</td>
<td>$101,950.00</td>
<td>34,061</td>
<td>72,910</td>
<td>74,616</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMNIFILE FT MEGA WEB</td>
<td>$15,324.00</td>
<td>$16,093.00</td>
<td>$16,577.50</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>9,052</td>
<td>2,299</td>
<td>only Jun-Dec monthly stats available.</td>
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<td>ScienceDirect</td>
<td>$193,963.00</td>
<td>$203,262.54</td>
<td>$222,224.79</td>
<td>20,510</td>
<td>42,628</td>
<td>44,439</td>
<td>cost = Elsevier Online Journals + Elsevier Science Direct</td>
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<td>ACS Archive</td>
<td>$1,575.00</td>
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<td>$1,575.00</td>
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<td>PROLA</td>
<td>$440.00</td>
<td>$440.00</td>
<td>$440.00</td>
<td>1,877</td>
<td>2,456</td>
<td>5,156</td>
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<td>Springer-Kluwer</td>
<td>NA $9,216.00</td>
<td>$17,730.00</td>
<td>$17,730.00</td>
<td>13,840</td>
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<td>cost = the sum of all individual titles subscribed + $250 for access to all titles subscribed to by other Palinet members</td>
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<td>Wiley Interscience</td>
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<td>$22,069.00</td>
<td>$22,069.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>no stats available from Wiley</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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<td>111,386</td>
<td>185,760</td>
<td>194,596</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONTACT US

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- **Reference librarians**  
  973-642-3210  
  [www.library.njit.edu/aboutus/ref-librarians.cfm](http://www.library.njit.edu/aboutus/ref-librarians.cfm)

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Research HelpDesk**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/researchhelp](http://www.library.njit.edu/researchhelp)
- **Annual reports**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/publications/annual-reports](http://www.library.njit.edu/publications/annual-reports)
- **New books**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/newbooks](http://www.library.njit.edu/newbooks)
- **Library policies**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/policies](http://www.library.njit.edu/policies)
- **Hours**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/apps/hours](http://www.library.njit.edu/apps/hours)
- **Library support for NJIT e-Learning students**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/elearning](http://www.library.njit.edu/elearning)
- **Library administration**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/administration](http://www.library.njit.edu/administration)
- **Architecture Library**:  
  [www.library.njit.edu/archlib](http://www.library.njit.edu/archlib)