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## How to Cut a Third of Your Journal Subscriptions (and Keep Faculty Happy)

Janelle L. Wertzberger  
*Gettysburg College*

Kathleen D'Angelo  
*Gettysburg College*

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## How to Cut a Third of Your Journal Subscriptions (and Keep Faculty Happy)

### Abstract

When faced with a 0% budget increase for fiscal year 2010, librarians at Gettysburg College designed a comprehensive review of journal subscriptions. Library staff began by gathering data about format(s), price, publisher, and more. Then subject librarians consulted with academic departments and asked faculty to review titles for relevance to current research and curriculum. 100% of departments cooperated with the review with a mixture of enthusiasm and concern; in the end, most offered to cancel about a third of their journal titles. By trimming multiple format subscriptions, relying on aggregator databases for full text content, cancelling titles that no longer support the curriculum, and cancelling a small number of high-cost subscriptions in favor of document delivery, the library met – and exceeded – its savings target. More importantly, by involving the faculty in every stage of the review process and sharing all available information, the library received absolutely no complaints about cancellations. This poster presentation will include a flow chart of the entire review process, sample review spreadsheets used by faculty in academic departments, and graphs showing cancellations by department. This journal review model is transferable to other academic libraries.

### Keywords

journal, cancellation, budget

### Disciplines

Library and Information Science

### Comments

Poster presented at the American Library Association annual conference in Washington, D.C., June 26, 2010.

# How to Cut a Third of Your Journal Subscriptions (and Keep Faculty Happy) 😊

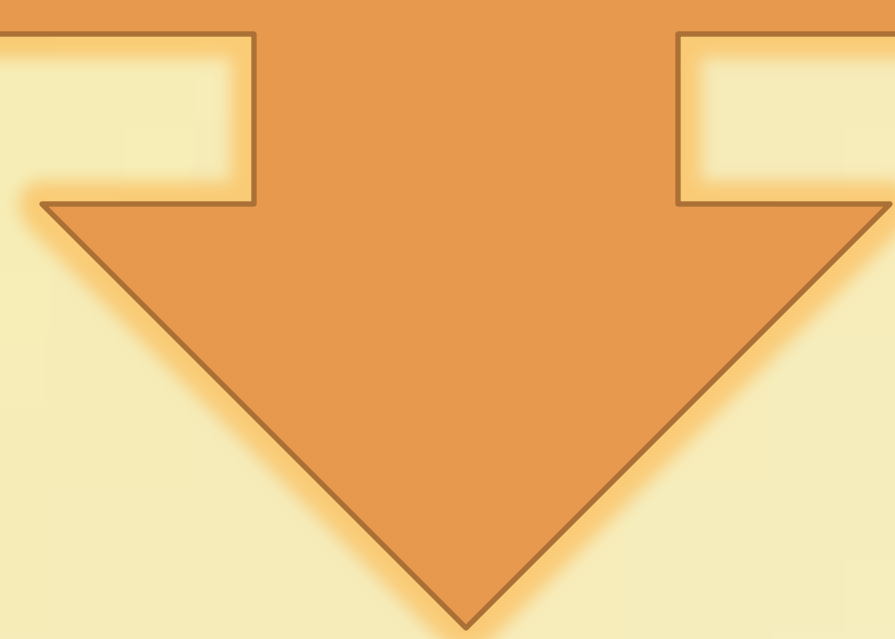


(and Keep Faculty Happy)



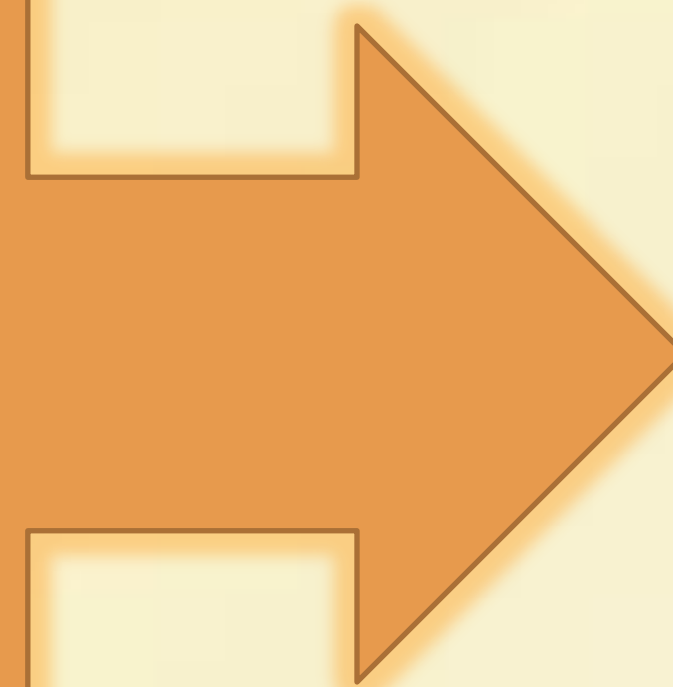
## Challenge

- No materials budget increase
- Cut \$80K to absorb inflation



## Opportunity

- Review journal holdings
- Realign with current curriculum
- Reduce duplication of content

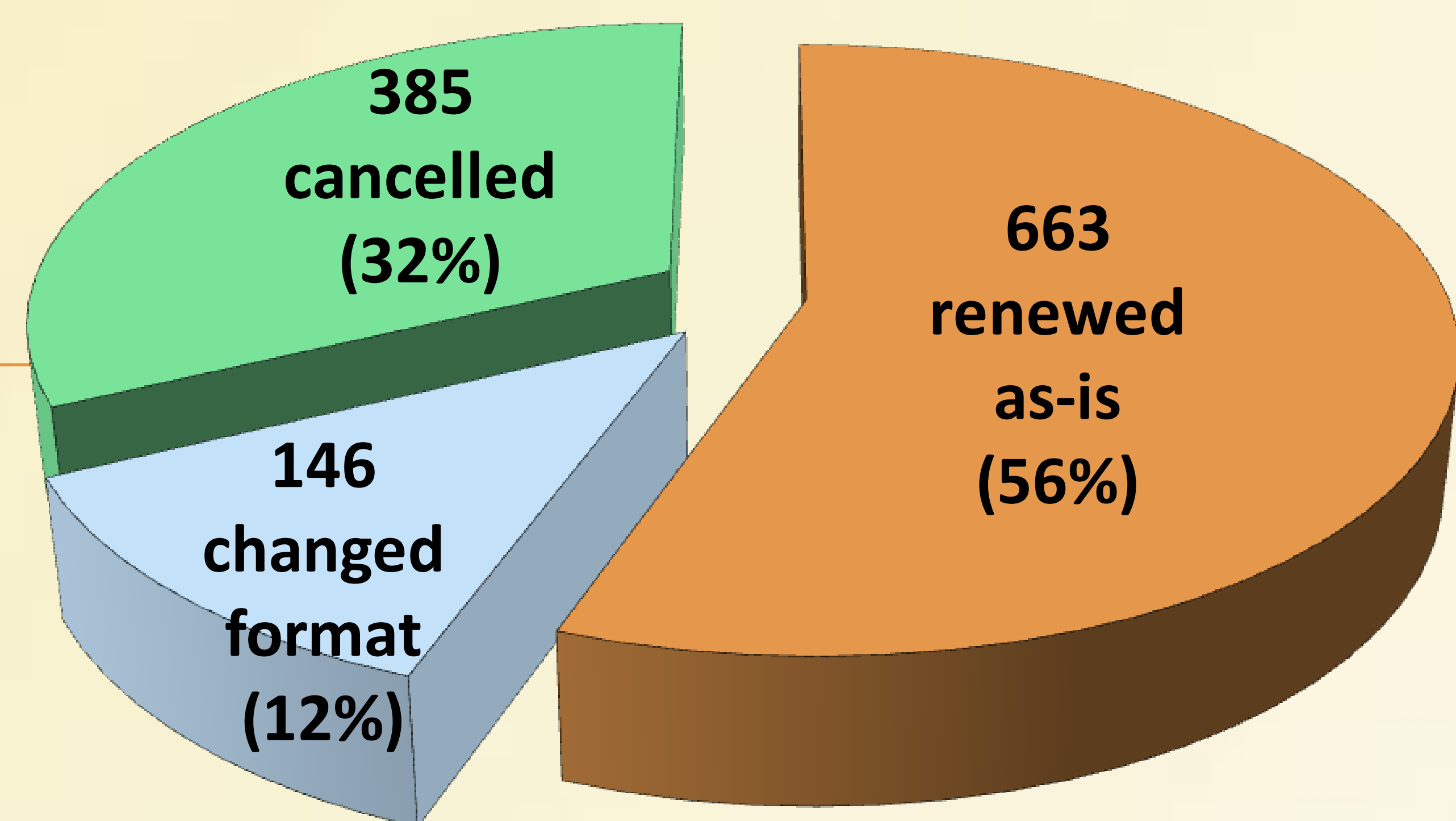


## Sample faculty review spreadsheet

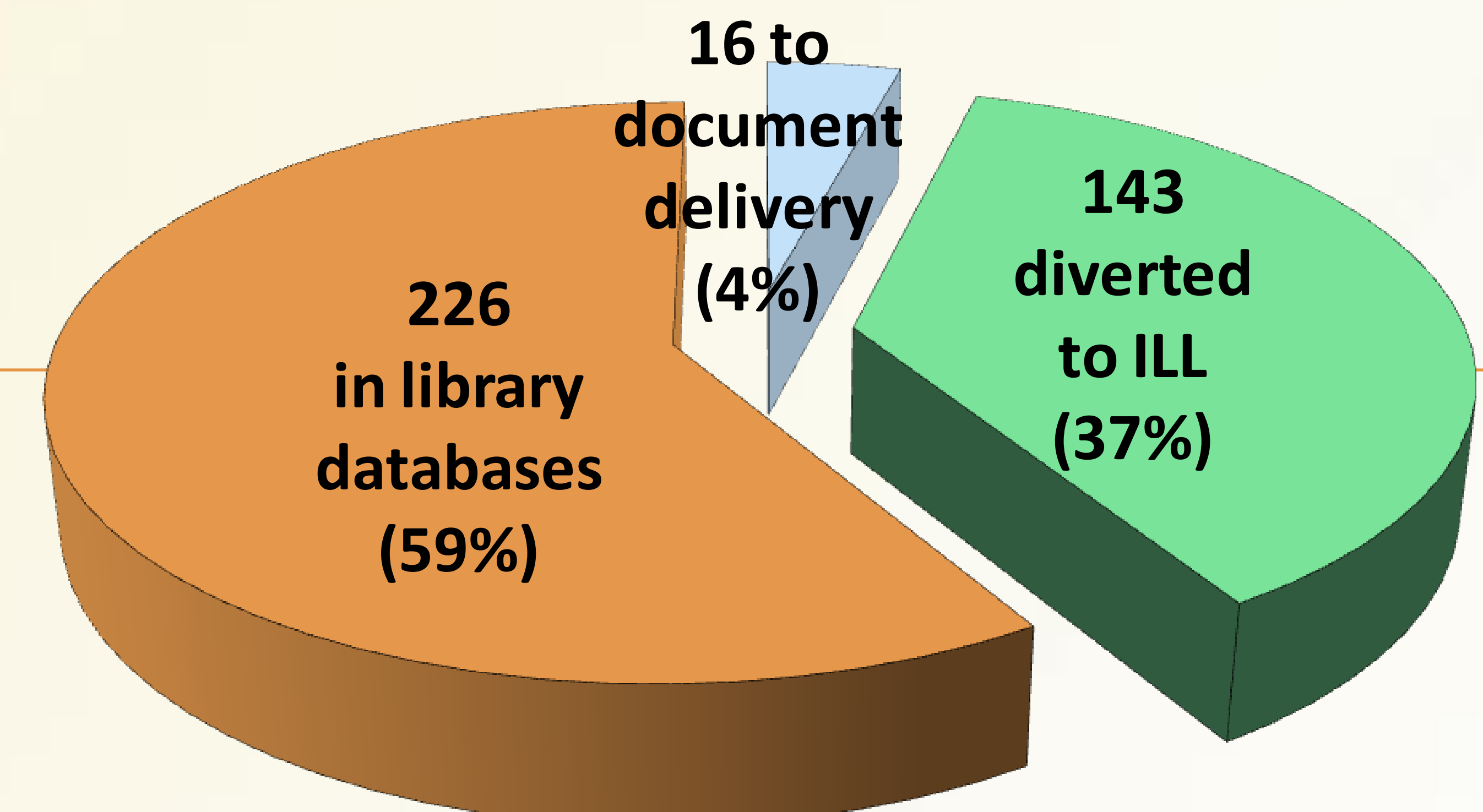
TITLE	Format	2009 Price	Still relevant to dept?	Importance to student coursework (circle one)			Importance to faculty research and/or development (circle one)			EDD OK?	ILL OK?	Current year needed?
The journal of neuroscience	Print + Online	\$ 3,819.99	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Psychological science : a journal of the American Psychological Society	Print + Online	\$ 3,074.19	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Journal of youth and adolescence	Print + Online	\$ 1,764.60	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Cognition & emotion	Print + Online	\$ 1,611.89	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Journal of personality and social psychology	Print	\$ 1,449.00	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Applied cognitive psychology	Online	\$ 1,435.49	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Journal of applied social psychology	Print + Online	\$ 1,334.70	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Perception	Print + Online	\$ 1,319.01	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Personality & social psychology bulletin	Online	\$ 1,134.00	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Developmental science	Online	\$ 1,118.17	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
The Behavioral and brain sciences	Print + Online	\$ 1,066.92	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Journal of personality	Print + Online	\$ 1,026.13	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Behavioral neuroscience	Print	\$ 1,025.08	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Journal of experimental psychology: human perception and	Print	\$ 1,025.08	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Journal of experimental psychology. Learning, memory, and cognition	Print	\$ 1,025.08	Yes / No	Critical	Important	Optional	Critical	Important	Optional	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No

## Results

### 1,194 Journal Titles Assessed



### Cancellations by Reason





# Janelle Wertzberger & Kathy D'Angelo

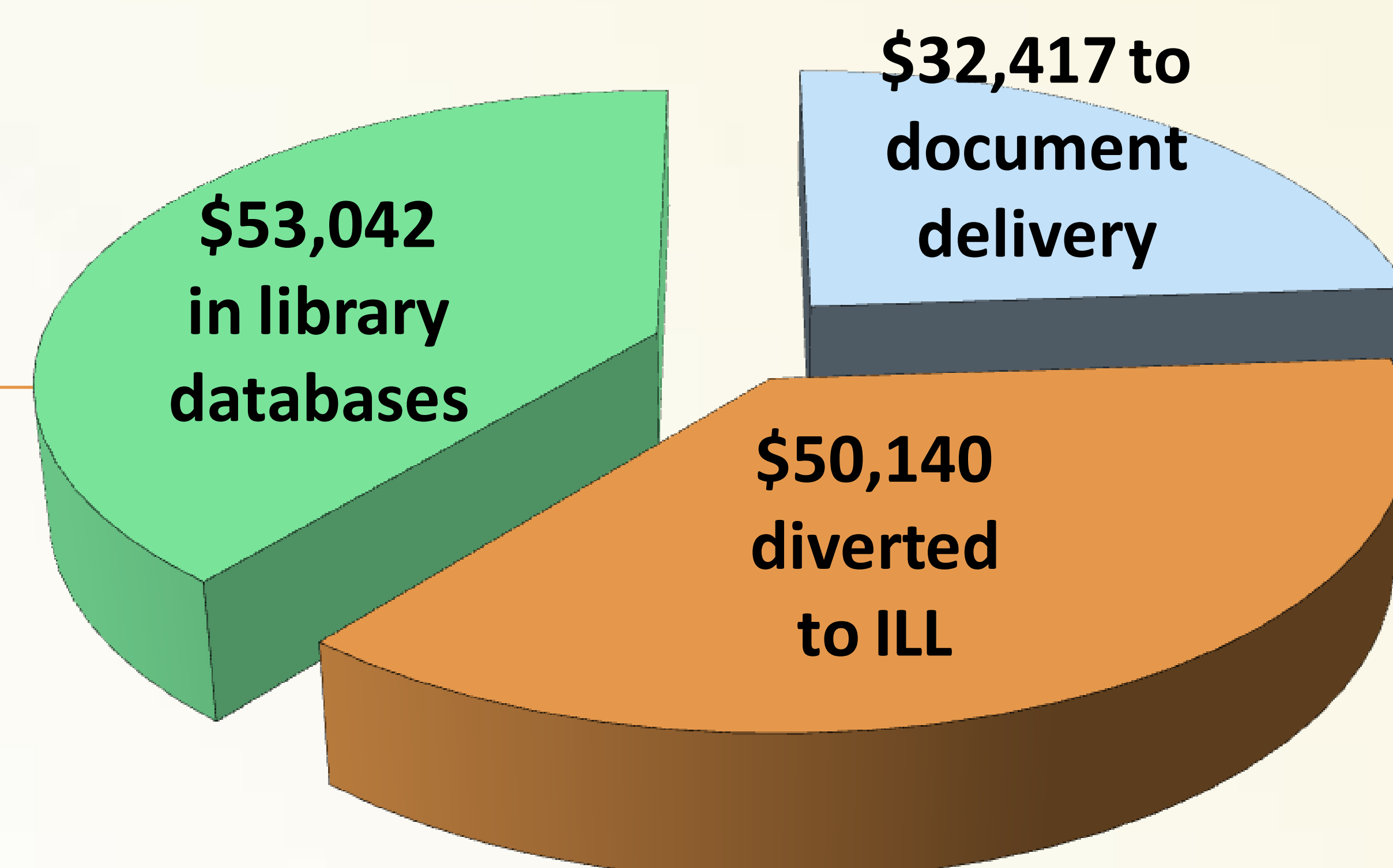
## Gettysburg College

### Strategies for Success

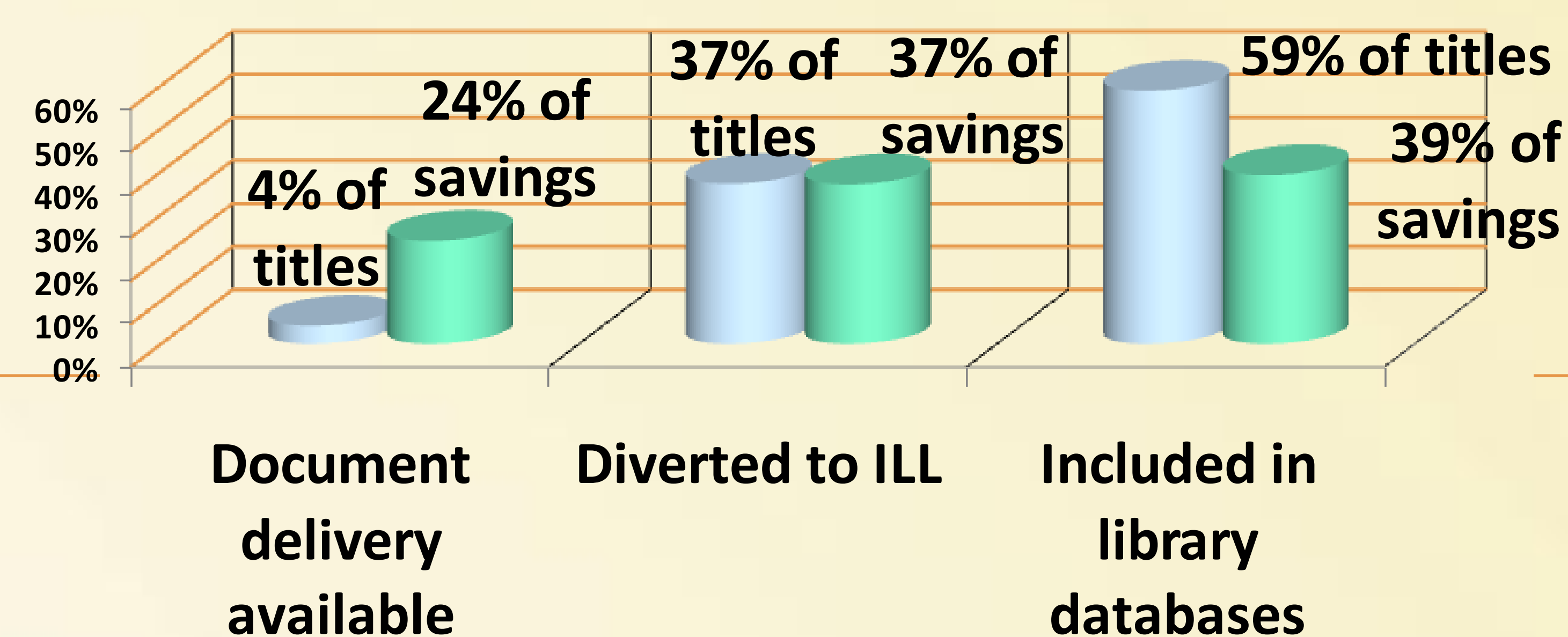
- **Lay a good foundation** - We already had a strong librarian liaison program in place
- **Use the hierarchy** - The library director talked with department chairs early
- **Do a pilot project** - We tested the process with one department before going public
- **Emphasize quality over quantity** - Faculty were asked about journal value for teaching & research, rather than told to cancel x journals or x dollars
- **Keep it simple** - We only asked a few key questions and made it easy for faculty to respond
- **Set a short deadline** - Faculty were asked to respond within a month (most did)
- **Be decisive** - We gave faculty opportunities for input, but librarians made the final decisions
- **Enlist support** - Our collection development assistant helped us approach the project from a fresh perspective (perhaps because she's *not* a librarian?) and managed massive amounts of data effectively. Thanks, Denise!



#### Cancellations by Cost Savings



#### Titles Cut vs. Dollars Saved





## How to Cut a Third of Your Journal Subscriptions



(and Keep Faculty Happy)



ALA poster session 6/26/10

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### For more information contact Musselman Library:

Janelle Wertzberger  
Director of Reference & Instruction  
[jwertzbe@gettysburg.edu](mailto:jwertzbe@gettysburg.edu)

Kathleen D'Angelo  
Director of Collections & Technical Services  
[kdangelo@gettysburg.edu](mailto:kdangelo@gettysburg.edu)

## **How to Cut a Third of Your Journal Subscriptions (and Keep Faculty Happy)**

Gettysburg College FTE : 2,683

Library materials budget for 2009-2010 : \$1,571,953

Target amount of dollars to cut : \$80,000

Librarian Liaisons involved in decisions : 14

Academic departments and programs : 35

Turnaround time for faculty feedback : 3 days to 3 months

Journal titles assessed : 1,194

Journal titles cancelled : 385

Cancellations recommended by faculty : 113

Cancellations replaced by database access : 226

Cancellations diverted to document delivery : 16

Cancellations shifted to ILL : 143

Subscriptions converted to online only : 146

Journal titles saved during rescue phase : 4

Total cost of journals cancelled : \$142,589

Time invested from start to finish : 1 year

Number of faculty who followed the directions : 0