



WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY

March 4, 2026

TO: University of Scranton Community
RE: Dean of the Library's Decisions regarding the Recommendations
of the Electronic Resources Management subcommittee
of the Library Advisory Committee

Dear University Community members,

I would like to begin this memo by thanking the interdisciplinary group of faculty who served on the Fall 2025 Electronic Resources Management (ERM) Subcommittee of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC), and specifically to Prof. Sylvia Orner for compiling the relevant data that the committee reviewed, for convening the group, and for developing the report based on the committee's feedback and recommendations.

The initial report shared with the LAC and ERM can be found [here](#).

The ERM's recommendations to the Dean of the Library can be found [here](#). These recommendations were shared with the LAC at the November 25, 2025, meeting and were advanced by the subcommittee with no audible dissent from the LAC.

After careful review of the items listed above and the survey results that were open to all faculty, I am now sharing my decisions.

1. Academic Video Online

Decision: *Renew*

Academic Video Online continues to serve the University well as our primary streaming media platform, with consistent usage across Nursing, English & Theatre, and Counseling & Human Services programs. The resource is cost-effectively licensed through the PALCI consortium, which has negotiated 0% annual price increases. Critically, *Academic Video Online* also provides our only compliant method for self-hosting licensed streaming content. The subscription is bundled with our *ProQuest eBook Central* package, further enhancing its overall value.

I concur with the subcommittee's recommendation to renew.

2. EBSCO eBook Subscription

Decision: *Renew*

The EBSCO eBook Subscription provides access to over 331,000 titles—including approximately 9,000 Spanish-language titles—and is well utilized, with strong usage figures across the review period. Pricing has been effectively managed through the PALCI consortium, with 0% annual inflation. The breadth and cost control of this resource justify continued investment.

I concur with the subcommittee's recommendation to renew.

3. ProQuest eBook Central

Decision: *Renew*

ProQuest eBook Central continues to show strong and consistent usage, providing access to approximately 300,000 titles across multiple disciplines. The resource is bundled with *Academic Video Online* through our PALCI consortium agreement, enabling favorable pricing with 0% annual inflation. The resource's size, usage, and price stability justify continued subscription.

I concur with the subcommittee's recommendation to renew.

4. PsycArticles and PsycInfo

Decision: *Renew*

PsycArticles and *PsycInfo* are essential resources for the programs housed in Psychology and Counseling & Human Services. Both are bundled under a single Lyris consortium agreement that provides favorable pricing. *PsycInfo* received strong faculty feedback in the open survey and maintains robust usage figures. *PsycArticles*, while showing a recent decline in usage, provides full-text access to APA journals since 1988 that would otherwise be unavailable. Furthermore, I am unaware of peer universities with strong programs in Psychology and/or Counseling & Human Services that lack these resources.

I concur with the subcommittee's recommendation to renew.

5. ProQuest Central

Decision: *Renew, but to be re-reviewed by ERM in Fall 2026*

ProQuest Central is a major aggregator database and the Library's second-largest single expenditure, with an annual inflation rate of 5%. An anecdotal survey of peer institutions found that maintaining two major aggregator databases is increasingly uncommon. Faculty feedback in the open survey expressed support for *ProQuest Central*, but the ERM subcommittee was not persuaded that its content can be sourced elsewhere.

I have decided to renew and retain this resource at least through 6/30/2027; however, I am directing the Librarians to conduct a deeper analysis of its unique, high-use titles. Potential avenues include cancelling this resource, which is not indexed in Royal Search, and reallocating funds to additional Read & Publish agreements, which expand Open Access publishing opportunities for faculty, or to expanded resources through other publishers, such as Emerald Publishing and/or Taylor & Francis.

6. Oxford English Dictionary Online

Decision: *Renew, but directing Librarians to seek and propose worthwhile alternatives.*

The Oxford English Dictionary Online is a high-quality reference resource used by faculty and students across multiple disciplines. It received specific positive feedback from several faculty members who use it in teaching and research. However, usage has declined markedly in the most recent academic year.

I concur with the subcommittee's recommendation to renew, but I have requested that the Librarians keep an eye toward potential replacements in the form of open-access alternatives that could duplicate the resource's core utility.

7. Simmons Catalyst

Decision: *Renew, but I request that the faculty of Communications & Media keep an eye toward viable alternative resources that could replace this resource.*

Simmons Catalyst provides consumer behavior data and analytical tools with no equivalent in our current portfolio. At least one Communications course actively uses the platform, and the subscription enables students to participate in a national design competition. However, usage, measured by unique logins, is low relative to the \$7,319 annual cost, and Simmons does not provide COUNTER-compliant statistics, limiting our ability to fully assess utilization.

I understand the unique value of this resource for Communications & Media and for students who compete in the National Design Competition. Should the resource no longer be applicable to the competition and Communication courses, it would be an easy decision to discontinue. Given that, I strongly encourage the faculty of Communications & Media to keep an eye out for viable alternatives to this resource that would be more cost-effective or better serve the campus community beyond this resource's very narrow scope.

Ultimately, I opt to renew given that there is currently no known alternative resource.

8. Biological Abstracts

Decision: Renew, *but to be re-reviewed by ERM in Fall 2026*

Biological Abstracts is meant to support research and teaching in Biology and Environmental Sciences. Faculty feedback in the open survey indicates active use for both purposes. That said, the resource has a relatively high per-use cost and a worryingly high 7% annual inflation rate. Most notably, the resource only provides abstracts, not the full text of articles. An audit by COUNTER in 2024 also revealed overcounting in prior years, meaning actual usage may be lower than previously understood. The subcommittee has identified *OpenAlex* as a potential open-access alternative.

Given that the Library is currently hiring a Research & Instruction (R&I) Librarian for STEM and is currently without someone in the role, I am recommending we renew for now, but am directing the Librarians and the incoming R&I Librarian for STEM to work with Biology faculty to determine if *OpenAlex* or another alternative resource is a viable replacement in the next renewal cycle.

9. Oxford Bibliographies Online: Victorian Literature

Decision: Renew, directing R&I Librarian for Humanities and Ignatian Pedagogy to discuss with faculty of English & Theatre and requiring the resource to be re-reviewed by ERM in Fall 2026.

Oxford Bibliographies Online: Victorian Literature offers unique primary source materials for Victorian Studies not available elsewhere. However, usage is very low, and no faculty feedback was received during this review cycle. Before a discontinuation decision can be made responsibly, further consultation with the English faculty is warranted to determine whether this resource is meeting active curricular or research needs and whether those needs could be addressed through other means.

Given the low cost of this resource, we will renew for one year so that the R&I Librarian for Humanities can discuss the possible discontinuance of this resource with English & Theatre in advance of a re-review in Fall 2026 by the ERM.

10. International Bibliography of ART

Decision: *Discontinue*

International Bibliography of Art has extremely low usage and a relatively high annual cost for a niche Art resource that provides no full-text content. While this is the only dedicated Art/Art History electronic resource, there is art and art history content in the large aggregator databases (e.g., EBSCO and ProQuest). Furthermore, given that Art History is a minor, has no full-time faculty, and Studio Art is an elective offering, the cost-per-use is among the highest in the Library's portfolio.

Given the ERM's recommendations and my stated rationale, I am discontinuing this resource effective at the end of this license period. ***Access to this resource will end on June 30, 2026.***

11. NexisUni

Decision: *Discontinue, but reallocate portion of funds to HeinOnline*

NexisUni's most distinctive content areas are largely duplicated by other resources already in our portfolio. Case law content overlaps significantly with HeinOnline, which costs \$2,487 annually compared to NexisUni's \$9,834. HeinOnline was trialed throughout the Spring Semester and showed good initial usage data. R&I Librarians also tested and utilized the resource significantly and provided positive feedback. NexisUni's secondary content (i.e., journals and newspapers) is largely available through other aggregator subscriptions (e.g., EBSCO and ProQuest) and those that are not can be acquired through our robust InterLibrary Loan services. Furthermore, faculty feedback in the open survey was not strongly in support of the resource during this review cycle.

Given the ERM's recommendations and my stated rationale above, I am discontinuing this resource effective at the end of this license period. ***Access to this resource will end on June 30, 2026.***

12. Oxford Reference Online

Decision: *Discontinue*

Oxford Reference Online usage has dropped sharply in AY 24-25, with only 71 requests recorded. Oxford Reference Online is functionally similar to *Credo Reference* and consistently generates approximately 800 requests per year—roughly 11 times the usage of *Oxford Reference Online*. Given this functional overlap and the marked decline in usage, continued investment in *Oxford Reference Online* is difficult to justify. Furthermore, this specific resource was requested by me when I was a faculty member serving as Research Services Coordinator and was not specifically requested by faculty in other departments.

Given the ERM's recommendations and my stated rationale above, I am discontinuing this resource effective at the end of this license period. ***Access to this resource will end on June 30, 2026.***

13. Royal Society of Chemistry Journals

Decision: Discontinue the full RSC package, while retaining access to Green Chemistry and Faraday Reviews.

Royal Society of Chemistry Journals, full content package, costs \$53,886 annually, with a worryingly high 6% annual inflation, and represents the Library's single largest expenditure for a niche resource that provides access to only 20 unique titles. Total usage has remained flat at approximately 420 requests per year over the review period, resulting in one of the highest cost-per-use figures in our portfolio. Analysis reveals that two titles—*Green Chemistry* and *Faraday Reviews*—consistently account for approximately 25% of all RSC usage and are available as standalone subscriptions at approximately \$7,000 per year. Post-access rights are retained for the 9 add-on titles for the years subscribed (2008–present) upon cancellation of the full subscription.

Given the above rationale, we have discontinued the full RSC package but have subscribed individually to *Green Chemistry* and *Faraday Reviews*, which are the most heavily accessed resources in the RSC full content package. **Access to the full RSC was discontinued on December 31, 2025. Access to *Green Chemistry* and *Faraday Reviews* will continue.**