

**RATIONALE FOR TRANSITION FROM PRINT TO ONLINE  
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The ultimate goal in this transition is to serve our users as effectively as possible. The professional literature regarding this type of shift tells us that 1) more libraries are making this same type of change and 2) users at these libraries are pleased with the change. In addition, we have found that our own users are generally pleased with the increased accessibility that the online format gives them.

We understand that some disciplines or areas of study are simply not conducive to electronic-only journals. However, we feel that the majority of our journals will work extremely well in an electronic format given the parameters of the essential criteria that we have laid out. The criteria are intended to be practical and user-friendly. Our bottom-line in shifting to electronic format is to increase usability.

We would expect to:

1. increase user accessibility
2. implement workflow changes
3. reduce space requirements
4. reduce/slow rising journal costs

Hence, cost savings are not our primary concern. What has been shown to occur is that the overall cost of a print journal subscription (the subscription, issue check-in, binding, etc.) is essentially the same as that of the overall cost of an electronic subscription (the subscription, initial setup for online access, technological infrastructure). Essentially, the direct costs may be somewhat lower for electronic vs. print journals but when the overhead costs are included there are no real cost savings.