JSTOR Bound Journal Withdrawal Project

K-State Libraries propose to withdraw (i.e., donate to other libraries or discard) print volumes of journals that are duplicated in the JSTOR online journal archive. We welcome comments and questions about this project and encourage you to contact a librarian for further information or clarification.

What is JSTOR?

The JSTOR (journal storage) project is a creation of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The purpose of JSTOR is to convert back issues of print journals into electronic format to save libraries space (and the capital costs associated with that space) and to enhance access to the journal content. Begun in 1995 with less than a dozen journals in economics and history, the JSTOR project has grown to nearly 1,000 titles in the arts and sciences, botany and ecology, general sciences and business. K-State Libraries currently have access to the majority of these.

Why do we need to withdraw bound journals?

Like many libraries, K-State Libraries are quickly running out of physical shelf space for new print materials. By withdrawing the journals that are available in the JSTOR electronic archive, the Libraries can create space for growth while using our space more cost effectively.

Will K-State Libraries withdraw all JSTOR titles?

We will withdraw all print bound volumes that are available electronically from JSTOR.

How can we be sure that we will always have access to the electronic archive of JSTOR titles?

JSTOR is a collaborative preservation project by libraries and the Mellon Foundation to create a stable model for electronic journal archives. All participating libraries, including K-State, contribute funds through an "archive fee" for preservation of the digital record. What will happen to K-State Libraries’ current subscriptions to JSTOR journals? Current subscriptions will not be affected. We will continue to get these journals in print and hold them until JSTOR has electronically archived them (usually five years). Only then will those print copies be discarded.

Are any complete paper archives for JSTOR journals available?

JSTOR has signed agreements with the California Digital Library and Harvard to act as initial paper repositories. In addition, the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago is building an archive, and other regional library consortia throughout the country are creating JSTOR archives. More locally, the University of Kansas is retaining print copies in the newly-built shared storage facility in Lawrence.
What will K-State Libraries do with the withdrawn journals?

First we will check with JSTOR and the Center for Research Libraries to see if we can contribute to their archives. Volumes not needed will be discarded.