

June 12, 2009

OPEN LETTER TO LICENSED CONTENT PROVIDERS

The Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) shares the economic concerns expressed in the *Statement to Scholarly Publishers on the Global Economic Crisis* issued by the Association of Research Libraries and the *Statement on the Global Economic Crisis* issued by the International Coalition of Library Consortia. TRLN calls on information providers to respond to the major fiscal challenges affecting higher education in a spirit of cooperation and mutual problem-solving. Our goal is to work with you to develop creative solutions to preserve access to the greatest amount of content possible to meet the information needs of our clientele.

The Triangle Research Libraries Network includes three state institutions (North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and one private institution (Duke University). None of our member institutions, public or private, are immune from the severe impacts of the economic downturn. Our libraries are preparing for 8% - 10% cuts from their current 2009 expenditures in order to balance their 2010 collections budgets. Uncertain economic conditions, anticipated budget cuts, and continued price increases for journals and databases above general inflation rates have forced a review of current collecting to identify up to \$3 million dollars in cuts across all four institutions. These cuts will have a deep and lasting impact on our research institutions.

Looking forward to 2010 and beyond, we anticipate flat, or even further diminished, collections budgets. Sources of private and public funding we have relied on in the past are being decreased or eliminated, and, for state schools, reversions of funds have already occurred and are anticipated again in the next budget cycle. We expect that budget cuts in FY 2011 will be at least as significant as those in FY 2010.

As we reflect on the upcoming renewals, it is clear that our diminished budgets and the continued impact of yearly subscription rate increases of 7% or more mean that our consortium members will not be able to continue to pay for subscriptions at the same levels we have in the past.

The TRLN consortium of libraries has a long and mutually beneficial history of working with information providers. In these difficult times, we welcome all innovative models for managing our collections budgets and hope that by working in partnership with you, we can achieve a balanced solution to these extreme economic problems.