



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As JSTOR continues its phenomenal growth, I find myself spending more time traveling to scholarly meetings attended by librarians, publishers, and faculty. One of the issues raised over and over again is how to address the significant challenges of electronic archiving.

Archiving is, in fact, the primary reason that JSTOR was originally established. I want to reaffirm our commitment to the long-term availability and accessibility of the journals in the JSTOR database. Archiving has both retrospective and prospective elements – each providing a unique set of challenges. And while the initial focus of JSTOR has been on the retrospective aspects of archiving digital content that was originally published in paper, JSTOR is also putting into place mechanisms to provide prospective archiving for participating JSTOR titles that are now being published electronically.

In our view, the archiving challenge is not a technological one. Rather, we believe it is a question of mission, planning, and organizational commitment. Because it is now possible to centralize the archiving function and serve users via the Internet, institutions will continue to evolve to fulfill the archival role. These institutions – not-for-profit organizations like JSTOR, libraries, government agencies, and others — will work independently and in coordination to provide what is a public service function: to ensure that older materials remain accessible as digital technologies evolve.

This issue of JSTORNews is not dedicated specifically to archiving, but the articles in it demonstrate how our commitment to archiving permeates nearly everything we do. Protecting the accessibility of scholarly literature in the new and rapidly changing electronic environment is an extremely important task. We welcome your thoughts and comments as our archival work continues.

Kevin M. Guthrie

JSTOR RELEASES FIRST PAGES OF GENERAL SCIENCE COLLECTION

On February 16, JSTOR successfully released the initial contents of our General Science Collection. At 323,744 journal pages, it is JSTOR's largest content release to date. JSTOR participants are responding enthusiastically to the General Science Collection, with more than 140 institutions already participating.

According to Lisa Brainard, Science Collections Librarian at Wellesley College, "JSTOR has established itself as a reliable, efficient, thoughtful academic vendor in a very short time.... Science and PNAS are two titles that faculty ask for constantly. It is a tremendous relief to point them to JSTOR." You can read Lisa's letter to JSTOR on the back of this issue.

The General Science Collection is a significant undertaking for JSTOR, encompassing 1.4 million journal pages and covering a total of 800 journal years. The decision to engage in this complex task was driven by the archival mission of JSTOR, and the experience that non-electronic scholarly resources are in danger of being forgotten, if not lost all together.

The Collection consists of nine important journal titles, including the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, which began publication in 1665; *Science*, first published in 1880; and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, which started in 1915.

Due to the interest of our participating libraries in having portions of the collection available as soon as possible, journal pages are being released in chronological segments, beginning with recent issues and moving back in time. This first release included issues from 1980 to 1989 of *Science* and the following four titles from the Royal Society of London: *Philosophical Transactions. Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Science*; *Philosophical Transactions. Biological Sciences*; *Proceedings. Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*; *Proceedings. Biological Sciences*, and 1980-1995 of the *Proceedings of the*

National Academy of Sciences. The entire Collection will be completed by December 31, 2000.

“This material, with its complex layouts and extensive use of images, created special production challenges for us,” notes Eileen Fenton, Production Coordinator at JSTOR’s University of Michigan production center. “It is very gratifying to see portions of the final product on-line, and to know that it is available for use by the scholarly community.”

In addition, this was also the first content release from JSTOR’s Princeton University production unit. Says Elizabeth Bennett, Production Coordinator, “Now that we have released the pages of these titles from the 1980s, we are looking forward to working with the 19th- 18th- and 17th-Century material, which is of great interest not only to scientists, but also to scholars of history of science.”

If you are interested in the General Science Collection, please visit JSTOR’s website (www.jstor.org/about/gensci.pricing.html) to obtain pricing information, details on the titles included in the General Science Collection, as well as licensing information for new and existing participants.

LIBRARIANS FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO FUND JSTOR

College and university librarians continue to struggle with the conundrum of meeting rapidly increasing service expectations with financial resources that are not increasing at the same rate. More often than not, collection development decisions involve “either/or” tradeoffs.

Recognizing this challenge, JSTOR has been very active in helping participating institutions discover innovative ways to obtain funding for JSTOR without diminishing the overall purchasing power of the acquisitions budget.

At Iowa State University, for example, librarians approached academic departments that they believed would find the JSTOR database the most useful. As a result, the departments of Sociology, Economics and Mathematics contributed funding toward the initial fee.

According to Kristin H. Gehrhard, Collections Officer at Iowa State’s Parks Library. “This kind of cost-sharing arrangement is unusual for us. Departments often approach us, but this time we went to them. We discussed what JSTOR’s impact would be on our collections, and how we thought it would add to departmental users. Money is tight for everyone, particularly at the departmental level, so we were really pleased that they were willing to contribute.”

JSTOR, with its primary mission to act as a shared, central archive for important journal literature, offers the prospect for long-term cost savings for libraries. Since its inception, JSTOR developed its fee structure with fairness and value as primary goals. The one-time Archive Capital Fee (ACF) is designed to help insure that JSTOR has the necessary resources to meet its archival obligation to migrate data and software systems as technology evolves. That archival mission has led some institutions to conclude that the funding source for JSTOR should not be the acquisitions budget at all.

This different approach was used by Clark University, which requested special funding from the Friends of the Goddard Library. “We asked the Friends to support the purchase because we didn’t have money available in the regular library operating budget and knew that their reserve fund could cover it,” notes Dr. Susan S. Baughman, who led the effort before retiring as University Librarian.

The Friends of the Goddard Library, comprised of alumni, faculty, and community members devoted to improving the library, had funded electronic resources in the past. Their response to the request was enthusiastic, and they donated the initial investment for JSTOR.

At Whitman College, in Walla Walla, Washington, an appeal was made directly to a class of technologically savvy recent graduates who were seeking a fundraising goal for their 10th reunion this spring. After a meeting with Library Director Henry Yaple, the class of 1990 decided to raise \$20,000 to bring JSTOR to campus in the fall. Although reunion classes have raised funding for the library in the past, Yaple notes that this is the first time a class has contributed funds for an electronic resource. Yaple also plans to create an “electronic bookplate” thanking the class for making access to JSTOR possible.

Marilyn Carbonell, Assistant Director for Collection Development for University Libraries at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, believed that JSTOR would be a significant addition to the school’s expanding digital library. With 10,500 students, the majority of whom are “non-traditional,” off-campus access to library resources is growing increasingly important. Carbonell submitted a proposal to a committee of faculty, students and computing service professionals requesting funding that would cover the Archive Capital Fee and Annual Access Fees for two years.

“We’ve been trying to build a digital library so that students have access anytime, anywhere to full text, graphics, and data sets,” Carbonell says. “The students and faculty on the committee recognized the intrinsic value of JSTOR and saw that it would be a wonderful component to library collection and services.”

Carol MacAdam, Associate Director of Library Relations at JSTOR, encourages other interested colleges and universities to contact her regarding ways to seek funding. “We understand the complex issues that library directors face when allocating their budgets,” MacAdam says. “We want to work closely with colleges and universities on an individual basis to help them make this valuable resource available.”

PUBLISHERS REVITALIZE IDEAS FROM THE PAST

Building a vast knowledge of history and rejuvenating the past were the challenges Theodore Roosevelt posed to the members of the American Historical Association in his presidential address of December 1912. He proclaimed, “The greatest literary historian must of necessity be a master of the science of history, a man who has at his fingertips all the accumulated facts from the treasure

houses of the dead past. But he must also possess the power to marshal what is dead so that before our eyes it lives again.”

JSTOR and the American Historical Association are collaborating to bring new life to these inspirational words. Last year the AHA approached JSTOR with an idea to create an online collection of their organization’s presidential addresses. “We welcomed the opportunity to help,” says Heidi McGregor, JSTOR’s Director of Publisher Relations. JSTOR, having already digitized the *American Historical Review* back to 1895, is supplying the addresses to the AHA in electronic form. “Before JSTOR, the only record we had of the journal was in print,” says Vernon Horn, Internet Project Coordinator for the AHA. “We don’t have a lot of money or resources for data entry, so JSTOR was very helpful in facilitating this project.”

JSTOR played a similar role helping the Ohio State University Press to create the 70th anniversary issue of the *Journal of Higher Education* in which several articles from the 1930s issues were republished. According to Ava Stinnett, Journals Manager for the Press, “We wanted to make a statement that we’ve been publishing for 70 years, and also look at what’s changed in higher education and what hasn’t changed.” The special issue included 36 articles digitized by JSTOR, and covered everything from a review of a new book by John Dewey to a 1936 announcement that students at Yale University would be allowed to keep cars on campus. “Although we have archives,” continued Stinnett, “they are not in electronic format and that’s how I wanted to give them to our typesetter. It saved time and money not to have them scanned and to be certain that the files would be correct.”

With over 300,000 full-length articles digitized and fully-searchable online, JSTOR provides a vast history of learning for participating publishers to explore. “Using JSTOR to spark ideas of new ways to disseminate older journal articles and being able to do so at a cost savings is a wonderful opportunity,” says McGregor. “We hope our publishers will continue to think creatively and that JSTOR will inspire other interesting projects in the future.”

JSTOR MEETS Y2K CHALLENGE

The quest for knowledge never ceases. That’s what JSTOR’s technical team learned over the New Year’s holiday when it recorded 1,326 significant accesses to the JSTOR database between 7:00 pm New Year’s Eve and 9:00 am New Year’s Day. What JSTOR users didn’t know, however, was that they were making an electronic voyage to the United Kingdom during that 14-hour period.

JSTOR knew that due to Y2K concerns, both the University of Michigan and Princeton University, where JSTOR’s three U.S. servers are housed, were planning to temporarily disconnect their networks from the World Wide Web. Determined to find a way to remain accessible over the holiday, JSTOR made the decision to reroute all U.S. traffic to the U.K. mirror site. The move required some creative computer coding by the JSTOR technical team.

“Access to JSTOR is controlled by two authentication databases, which record who is allowed access to the US server

and who is allowed access to the UK,” explains Amy Kirchhoff, Software Developer at the Princeton University production unit. “What we did over the New Year was to merge these databases so that the U.K. database could authenticate U.S. access.”

“The tricky part was that U.K. users see slightly different information and help pages than U.S. users. We partitioned the database so that each audience continued to see the appropriate information.”

To achieve this, Anne Holderried, Systems Administrator, established a temporary name server in JSTOR’s New York office to direct requests for www.jstor.org to www.jstor.ac.uk. Then the technical team, using a tool written by Software Developer Mark Ratliff, combined the two databases and configured the Web server to serve two sites from one location.

The next challenge was to monitor the conversion so that the U.K. server did not become overloaded. This required remote check-ins during the holiday by JSTOR staff on Y2K duty. By 9:00 am Saturday morning, when the Princeton server reconnected to the Internet, the machines were successfully converted back to normal.

Throughout this period, service to JSTOR users was maintained, demonstrating JSTOR’s commitment to provide a safe and reliable archive. The strategy of housing the database in three separate locations – and being able to direct users to any of those sites when necessary – is crucial to protecting the database and maintaining accessibility.

“We now have the ability to direct JSTOR users to any of four servers located around the world,” notes Kirchhoff. “It’s exciting to know that we have this capability.”

JSTOR SURVEYS LIBRARIANS ON STORAGE OF BOUND VOLUMES

JSTOR participants often ask what other libraries are doing with their bound volumes of JSTOR titles. We have received this question so often, in fact, that we decided to seek some answers. In November and December 1999, JSTOR conducted a survey to find out what impact JSTOR participation was having on the plans of individual libraries to move bound volumes to remote storage, discard bound titles, or make other cost- and shelf space-saving decisions. The response was remarkable. The survey, which consisted of nine multi-part questions, was answered by nearly 35% of JSTOR participants at the time, or a total of 214 institutions.

The survey questions also encouraged librarians to write comments, and we were delighted by the detailed and extensive anecdotes that were submitted. These comments contributed much to our understanding of how JSTOR participation is impacting the paper archives at participating institutions. Many participants noted the need to make definitive decisions due to lack of space, while others said they were taking a “wait and see” approach to the issue of storing and discarding paper titles.

One striking theme that emerged from the survey was that while many libraries have already developed remote stor-

age and discard projects, JSTOR and other digital resources are providing an additional opportunity to reclaim library shelf space and reduce numerous costs.

“We are currently working with faculty to convince them that we should move all of the bound volumes of the titles available in JSTOR,” noted one respondent. “Because we have such severe space problems, and they are well known on campus, and because faculty have had a very good experience with JSTOR, it looks like we will have solid support for the move.”

When asked “has your library moved, or made plans to move, any of the bound volumes of titles included in JSTOR to remote storage”, 44% of respondents answered “yes.” Of these, 20% have moved JSTOR journals to remote storage and 24% have plans to move.

JSTOR also discovered that a relatively small percentage (9%) of libraries surveyed have entered into or plan to enter into joint remote storage arrangements with other institutions. Libraries recognize, however, that system-wide cost savings through such efforts are possible. As one respondent noted, “We plan to propose that our state university system systematically place full runs of all JSTOR titles in our regional storage facilities.”

Although the majority of participating libraries (64%) has no plans to discard paper titles available on the JSTOR database, a significant minority (31%) do plan to discard journal titles or have already done so. Respondents who are discarding titles noted the impact that shelf space and the availability of journals over the Internet have had on their decisions. “There are many

reasons we chose to discard JSTOR titles,” noted one librarian. “The library has very limited space. This is primarily an undergraduate institution and these are titles that, although important to the collection and a liberal arts education, are not heavily used. Students and faculty are more and more going to the ‘net’ for journals.”

Another participant commented, “Once the journal is online via JSTOR, we discard the paper issues. This is for the current subscriptions. We do not bind the journals that are archived in JSTOR.”

This illustrates another area of activity; 24% of JSTOR participants responding to the survey have stopped binding recent journal issues or have plans to stop binding them. The position of many small colleges was reflected in this comment from a respondent: “We have also dropped microform subscriptions. JSTOR is our permanent form of retention for these titles.”

Several librarians wrote in this vein: “Thanks for doing the survey and collecting this information. I’d be very pleased to know what other libraries are doing, especially if libraries are actually discarding copies. Relying on digital archives is proving a big attitude shift for both our users and our library staff...some are more willing than others to trust the technology.”

We greatly appreciate the time and effort taken by JSTOR participating librarians to respond to the survey. Results are posted on our website at <http://www.jstor.org/about/bvs.html>. We plan to reissue the survey occasionally to gauge how management policies for paper volumes of titles in JSTOR are changing.

<http://www.jstor.org>

Letter dated March 14, 2000



JSTOR FACTS

Statistics for

January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999

Total Accesses:	17,311,453
Searches Performed:	4,153,474
Articles Viewed:	3,254,996
Articles Printed:	1,335,500
Pages Viewed:	8,068,465
Total issues available:	29,380
Total full-length articles available:	301,330
Total articles:	755,950
Total pages currently available:	4,647,682

Number of participating institutions:	685
Number of participating journals:	178
Number of journals available online:	124
Number of participating publishers:	106

To JSTOR:

I think my joy about seeing some science titles enter the JSTOR program is based on a few factors:

1. JSTOR has established itself as a reliable, efficient, thoughtful, academic vendor in a very short time. Our staff has commented at meetings that it is such a relief to work with a vendor who understands and anticipates issues connected with serial literature.
2. Because of this “automatic” trust, we feel confident that material being archived on JSTOR will be there for us years from now.
3. Because we trust that material will be available on JSTOR we actually are moving to the point where we hope to resolve some serious storage problems that we have locally.
4. And lastly, electronic access to “Science” and “PNAS” are two titles that faculty ask for constantly. It is a tremendous relief to point them to JSTOR. We’ll be even happier by December 2000 when the entire file is complete.

*Lisa Brainard
Science Collections Librarian
at Wellesley College*