



Using JUSP to improve collection management and strategy

Case study

With a drive toward data driven decision making many libraries are taking a fresh look at how they use the usage data that they collect. By providing quick and easy access to usage data in one place JUSP can enable libraries to find the time they need to analyse their usage and make informed decisions about their collections. In addition to the standard reports, summary reports and data visualisations offer new ways of viewing usage and support better reporting.

In this case study we will look at how a small higher education institution is using JUSP in a way that fits their needs. The library decided to carry out a journal review that resulted in a reallocation of budget from low use journals to databases of greater relevance to their users.

Stranmillis University College

Stranmillis University College is a small higher education institution with a teaching focus and a growing research interest. The library has a small team and currently the library services manager is the primary user of JUSP although this is expected to change in future. The library services manager has overall responsibility for the operational management of the library and provision of service to users, including the management and development of collections in line with the academic needs of staff, students and researchers.

Stranmillis University College had been participating in JUSP for two years. After settling into a new role following a restructure, the library services manager recently found time to take a good look at the information within JUSP. The library services manager quickly recognised the advantages of having access to usage data in one place. This prompted her to consider how they could make better use of the data available within JUSP and move towards a more systematic and strategic approach to analysis and collection management.

The initial review of their journal subscriptions that followed has led to significant cost savings which means that they now are able to take out subscriptions to databases more relevant to their current users' needs.

Journal subscription review

The library had been collecting and monitoring usage monthly to see what was being used, but they realised they were not making good use of this information. JUSP made it easier to see the bigger picture by having easy access to usage data in one place. It quickly became clear that some titles had very low usage and that a journal review was needed to help develop a plan to enhance the collection to better meet user needs. In addition to looking at online journal usage, they also looked at the usage of print journals using tick sheet and visual shelf checks.



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The library services manager combined usage data for their collection of individual subscriptions and calculated the cost per use. These reports were then analysed to identify titles to be considered for cancellation, taking into consideration factors such as impact, importance to a subject discipline, cost and format. Academic staff were then informed that certain subscriptions were 'at risk'. Having reviewed various factors the final decision was made on which titles to cancel. 44 individual titles were cancelled and as a result the library was able to save approximately a third of their journals budget. These savings will enable the library to subscribe to databases which are wider ranging and targeted to their user groups. Data from these new resources will be gathered from JUSP in due course in order to monitor usage and measure impact.

Flexibility of JUSP

JUSP can be used in different ways to suits the needs of different institutions whether large or small, research or teaching focused. JUSP is flexible enough to support a range of uses and data is available when it is needed.

“Just look at [JUSP] if you haven't before and use it in a way that is meaningful to you. That's the beauty of it you can adapt it to your own needs.”

At Stranmillis the JR1 is the main report used by the library and it meets their current needs. As an institution with a small collection they are easily able to use the standard JR1 in JUSP to monitor usage, for example, looking at the headline figures gives a quick view of how titles are being used. As part for their monthly monitoring they initially look at total usage, then at monthly breakdown and for trends.

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Before JUSP, the library team would download data on a monthly basis direct from individual publishers and view these to see what was being used. Being able to access the data through one interface is the biggest benefit of JUSP. JUSP is also easy to use and they know that the data provided through JUSP has been checked and is COUNTER compliant. They also appreciate the high level of support provided by the JUSP team, especially during the implementation and initial use stages.

Getting more out of JUSP

The library team are still very new to JUSP and expect their use of JUSP to change over time. They expect to do more analysis and are also keen to explore book and database statistics in more depth. The JUSP data visualisations are a welcome addition as they display usage in a more engaging way and will be useful in any presentations to senior management team at end of academic year.

“I would expect that in the coming years we will find other beneficial ways in which to use the data we gather from JUSP.”



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Summary

This case study looks at how a library discovered the value of having access to usage data in one place through JUSP. It describes how Stranmillis University College used JUSP as part of a process to review their journal subscriptions and the savings made as a result. It highlights that the advantages of using JUSP are widely applicable and how JUSP can support smaller institutions with small teams and collections.

What you can do now

- ◆ Use JUSP JR1 reports to look at usage across the full range of titles from a publisher
- ◆ View the JUSP data visualisations to identify trends in usage
- ◆ Include the data visualisations in your presentations
- ◆ Look at the JUSP use cases (<https://jusp.jisc.ac.uk/use-cases/>) and other case studies (<https://jusp.jisc.ac.uk/case-studies/>) to see examples of how libraries using JUSP