

Evaluating Engineering Databases: A Pilot Project

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Background

- To solve the issue that we continue to receive new subscription requests from faculty members, but we don't have enough continuing money to cover the costs
- To assure the library's collection meets the current needs of the academic community

Usage Data

• **Worked with the acquisition department to get statistical data with the following information for each current engineering databases subscription**

- **3-year usage data (number of access)**
- **Cost**
- **Cost per access**

Usage Data

Engineering Databases

Title	Usage data		
	(number of access)	Cost (\$)	Cost per access (\$)
Database 1	Year 1		
	Year 2		
	Year 3		
Database 2	Year 1		
	Year 2		
	Year 3		

Methods

Participants:

All tenure track faculty members from School of Engineering

Total: 153 tenure track faculty members from 9 engineering departments

Participant Recruitment

Created a excel form and kept updated on the process

- **List of faculty members with useful information**
- **Initial invitation email sent out**
- **Follow-up emails sent after one and two weeks**
- **For those who expressed interests in interviews via email**
 - **Replied with a list of detailed questions**
- **Ensured we met in-person with department chairs and faculty library liaisons**

Outreach Result

We contacted all 153 tenure track faculty members from School of Engineering

- Met with 45 professors through one on one meeting
- Collected e-mail responses from 9 professors.
- 7 of them indicated that they did not use engineering databases.

Data Collection

Faculty Name	Frequently Used	Never or Seldom Used	New Requests (including databases and journals)
Professor 1	IEEE		
	ACM digital library		
Professor 2	Scopus		Laser and Photonics reviews
	Web of Science		
Professor 3	IEEE	Environmental Impact Statements	
Professor 4	Web of Science		

Results

Making recommendation decisions regarding cancellation and purchases

- Successfully saved \$42,555.37
- Will use this saving to subscribe to new databases and journals

Acknowledgments

- Fondren Fellow Program
<https://library.rice.edu/fondren-fellows>
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- Acquisitions department
- Reference department



Thank you !

Any questions?