

Questionnaire Survey on the Current Situation and Issues Facing Academic Information at National Universities

[Purpose of the survey]

The prices of academic journals have been rising in recent years. In particular, creating adequate contracts for electronic journals published overseas has become more difficult and high publication costs are also placing a financial burden on research budgets of faculty members, as well as university finances. Thus, improving the environment for academic journals at universities is an urgent issue.

In order to resolve this issue, the Japan Association of National Universities (JANU) conducted a questionnaire survey to try to understand and summarize each university's current situation regarding electronic journal contracts, initiatives for the future, and their views on these matters, with a particular focus put on requesting new initiatives.

[Survey outline 1. Contracts for magazines and electronic journals]

(Comparisons between 2014 and 2016)

[Survey results]

While operating grants to national universities and university budgets are decreasing, about half of universities have increased their budgets for books, magazines, and journals. However, most universities have said that they have decreased the number of magazines as well as the budgets for magazines. The number of available electronic journals, on the other hand, was increased at 34 universities and reduced at 50 universities. Furthermore, expenses for electronic journals decreased at 25 universities and increased at 59 universities. While at 30 universities, the number of available electronic journals decreased, but their expenses increased. Finally, at five universities, the number of available electronic journals increased even though their expenses decreased.

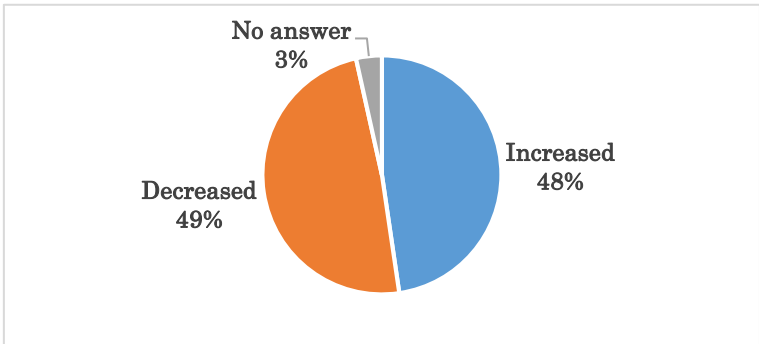
Total expenses for books, magazines, and journals

Increased: 41

Decreased: 42

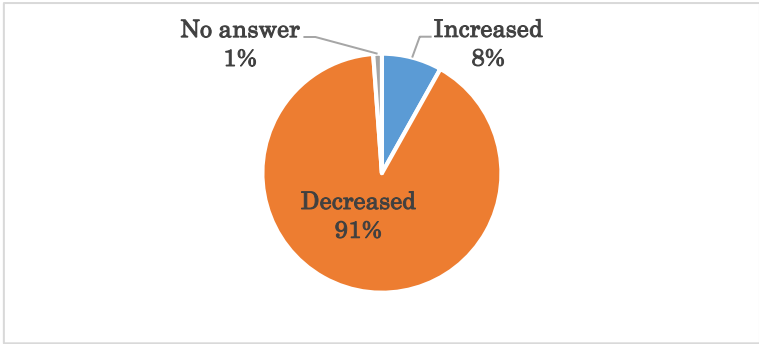
No answer: 3

Total: 86 universities



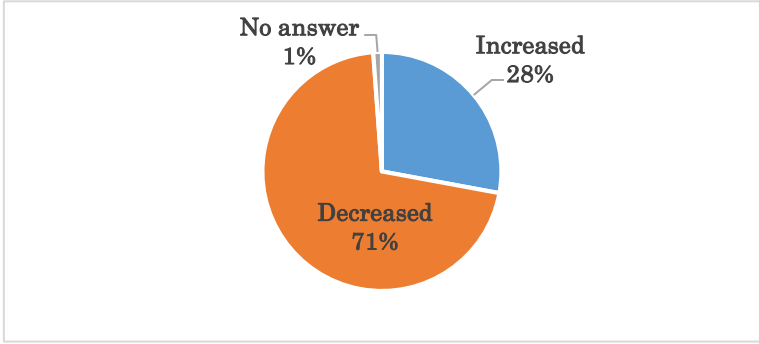
Number of available magazines (purchased & donated)

Increased: 7
 Decreased: 78
 No answer: 1
 Total: 86 universities



Magazine expenses

Increased: 24
 Decreased: 61
 No answer: 1
 Total: 86 universities



Expenses for and the number of available electronic journals

		Number of available electronic journals			
		Increased	Same as the previous year	Decreased	Total
Expenses	Increased	29		30	59
	Same as the previous year		1		1
	Decreased	5		20	25
	Total	34	1	50	85

*One university did not respond and is therefore excluded.

[\[Survey outline 2. Awareness of issues related to academic information\]](#)

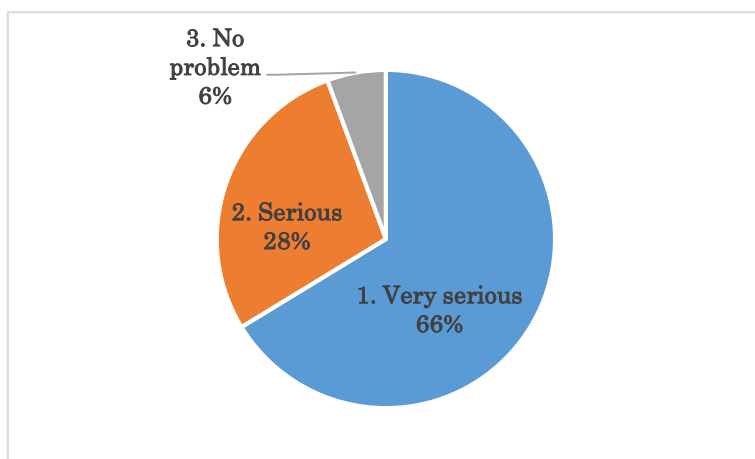
[Survey results]

Eighty-four universities consider the rising costs of electronic journals, etc., on university budgets as “very serious” or “serious.” Eighty-three universities consider giving priority to budgets for books and subscriptions (including budgets for electronic journals) as “most important” or “important.” Thus, we can conclude that universities have a keen understanding of the crisis concerning the rising costs of electronic journals. Forty universities responded that it is “difficult” or “very difficult” for university members to access required academic information, which suggests a concern for the decline of adequate research environments.

Seventy-eight universities pointed out that the Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources (JUSTICE) needs to take broader measures, such as further price negotiations and proposals for new contract models and various package plans.

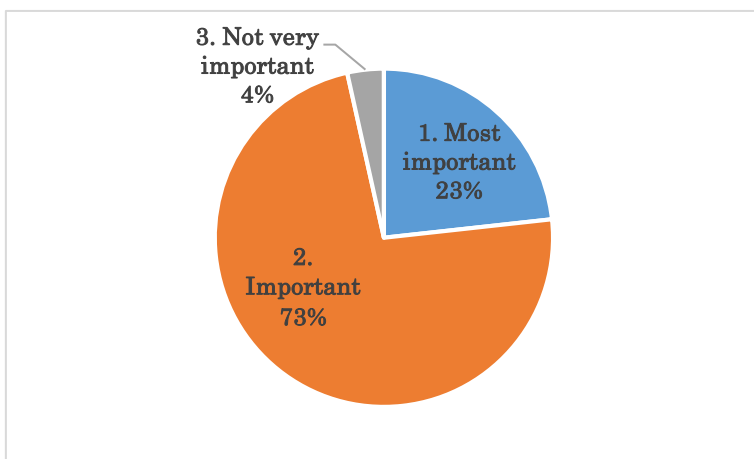
(1) Impact of the rising costs of electronic journals, etc., on university budgets

- 1. Very serious: 59
 - 2. Serious: 25
 - 3. No problem: 2
 - 4. No problem at all: 0
- Total: 86 universities



(2) Priority of book and subscription budgets (including budgets for electronic journals) as part of university budgets

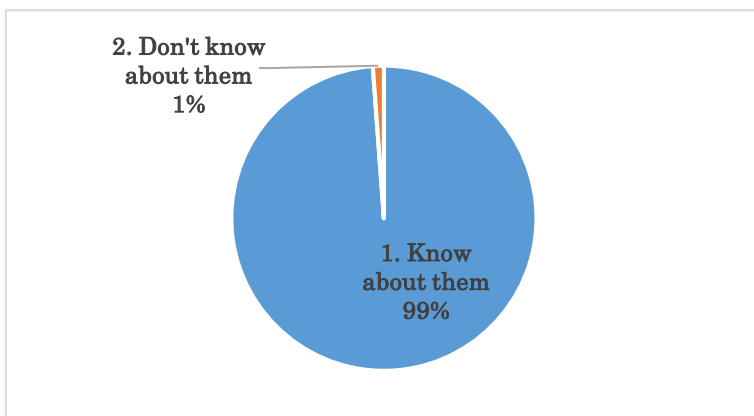
- 1. Most important: 20
 - 2. Important: 63
 - 3. Not very important: 3
 - 4. Not important at all: 0
- Total: 86 universities



(3) Issues facing electronic journals

1) The JUSTICE negotiates the terms and conditions of electronic journal contracts with each publisher for all universities. Are you aware of the activities of the JUSTICE?

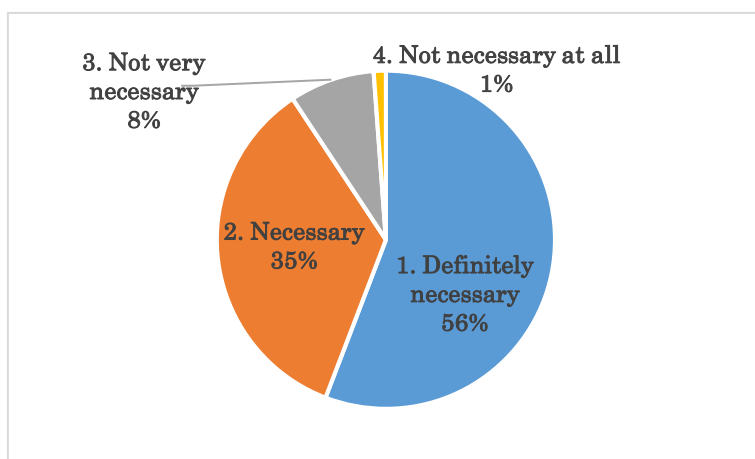
- 1. Know about them: 85
 - 2. Don't know about them: 1
- Total: 86 universities



2) Do you feel that the JUSTICE needs to take further measures for its current activities?

1. Definitely necessary: 48
2. Necessary: 30
3. Not very necessary: 7
4. Not necessary at all: 1

Total: 86 universities



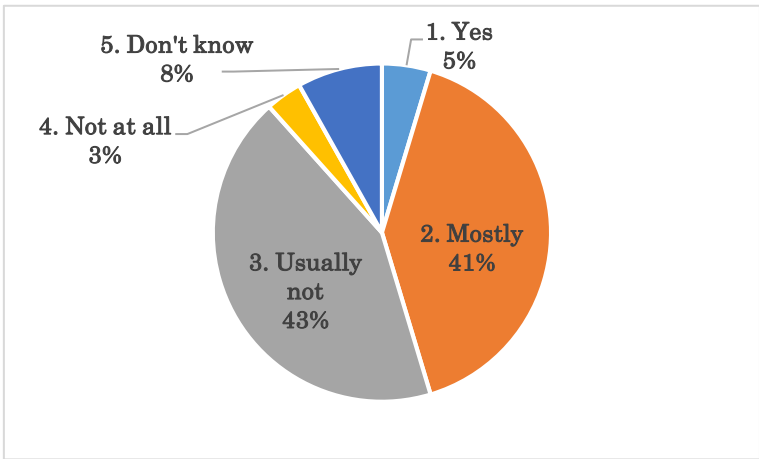
Specific activities required (Open-ended/Multiple answers)

- Further price negotiations (41 universities)
- Proposals for new contract models and various package plans (16 universities)
- National site licenses (10 universities)
- Acquisition of new budgets for electronic journals (2 universities)
- Enhancing open access (2 universities)

(4) Currently, do members of your university have access to all of the academic information that they need?

1. Yes: 4
2. Mostly: 35
3. Usually not: 37
4. Not at all: 3
5. Don't know: 7

Total: 86 universities



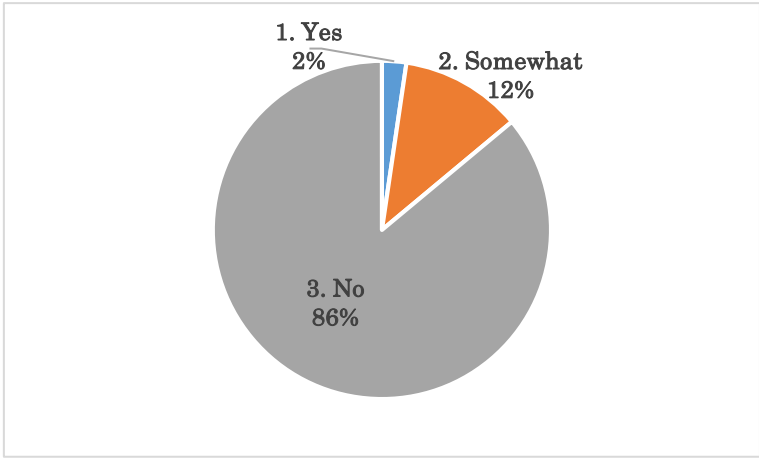
(5) Are you aware of the expenses required for transmitting academic information (publication charges, article processing charges (APC) for open access, etc.)?

1. Yes: 2

2. Somewhat: 10

3. No: 74

Total: 86 universities

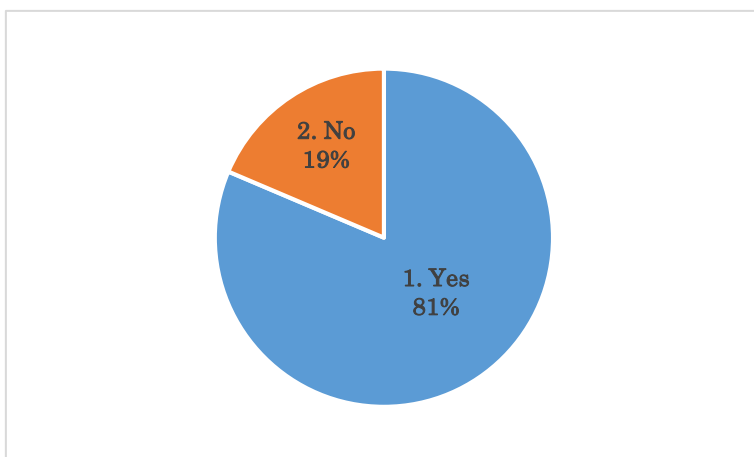


(6) Are you using an academic information database to examine and analyze the number of citations, etc.?

1. Yes: 70

2. No: 16

Total: 86 universities



[Survey outline 3. Types of contracts]

[Survey results]

Each university considers how to conclude electronic journal contracts according to their needs, usage statistics, and questionnaire survey results. Some universities, however, have decided to deal with increasing electronic journal prices by concluding multiple-year package contracts, downgrading the type of package contracts, shifting to individual journal contracts and/or pay per view (PPV) contracts for cost efficiency purposes.

For electronic journal contracts with major publishers, about half of universities only do a package contract, while 30-40% of universities combine package contracts with individual journal contracts. Only a limited number of universities have completely shifted to individual journal contracts and/or PPV contracts.

(1) The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) is requesting that universities utilize the appropriate electronic journal contracts according to their needs. Please describe how you understand the needs of your university.

(Open-ended/Multiple answers)

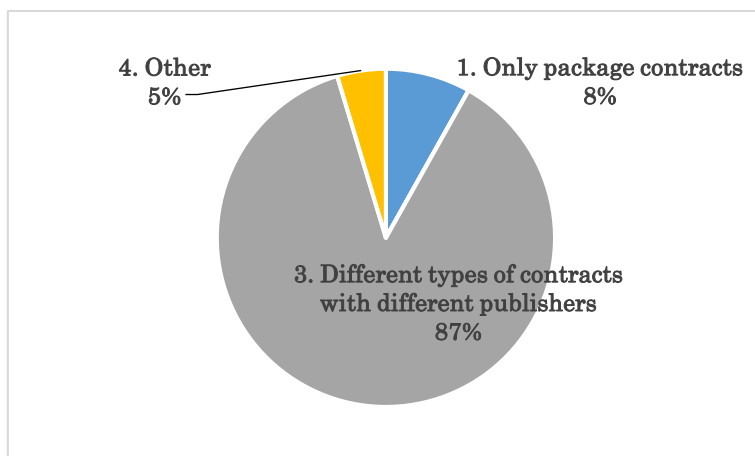
- Usage statistics (53 universities)
- Questionnaire survey (45 universities)
- Consideration by committee, etc. (30 universities)
- Copying requests, etc., for unavailable materials
- The department in charge compares expenses between package contracts and PPV contracts based on electronic journal usage statistics and determines the necessity of concluding the contract.

(2) What type of contract do you utilize for foreign electronic journals?

- 1. Only package contracts: 7
- 2. Only individual journal contracts: 0
- 3. Different types of contracts with different publishers: 75
- 4. Other: 4

- The university utilizes a package contract. Individual journal contracts are covered by the research budgets of faculty members.
- The library only utilizes a package contract. Some individual journal contracts are covered by the research budgets of faculty members.
- Package contracts and individual journal contracts

Total: 86 universities



(3) What do you do to increase the cost efficiency of electronic journals?

Many universities review what journals to buy based on usage statistics, etc. Other measures are as follows:

- Multiple-year contracts (13 universities)
- Package downgrades (3 universities)
- Shifting to individual journal contracts and/or PPV contracts (16 universities)
- Utilizing minimum electronic journal contracts

Alternatively, including interlibrary loan (ILL) charges (charges for obtaining copies or borrowing books/magazines from other universities) in common expenses

- Introducing Link Resolver to increase the use of electronic journals