



May 18, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Professor Suresh Advani, on behalf of the COE Named Professors

From: Provost Robin Morgan

Re: Reinstating the UD Subscription to Elsevier

Thank you for contacting President Assanis and me regarding the Library's cancellation of the Elsevier package subscription. We know that access to this content is important to research and scholarship. President Assanis and I have discussed this situation, and I am writing on behalf of both of us.

The decision to cancel the bundled journal subscription was based on the need for the Library to achieve a budget savings target in response to the negative financial impact of the global pandemic on the University as a whole. We are thankful that the Library was able to achieve this target without any involuntary loss of staffing, although the Library, like many units across the campus, has experienced a reduction in workforce.

The Library remains committed to ensuring that you maintain access to the journal content that is important to your teaching, research and scholarship. In canceling the subscription bundle at the end of 2020, the campus community will retain access to subscribed Elsevier journals that were a part of the package through the December 2020 issues. Access, directly through Elsevier, will not be available for 2021 issues and forward, until such time that funds become available for us to renegotiate with Elsevier to reinstate our subscription.

Researchers may use the Library's robust [Interlibrary Loan](#) service to request 2021 and subsequent issues of Elsevier journals from elsewhere. Library staff are prepared to manage what may be an increased demand on this service. We will make this a top priority, and Interlibrary Loan costs will be the responsibility of the Library. Many Elsevier journal articles are available six months after publication via PubMed, and we know that many members of the campus community have other means of accessing content such as through personal subscriptions and as members of editorial boards. The [library liaison](#) to your department or college may also provide assistance in finding alternative means of access to the content. There is also a [special website](#) with information about accessing Elsevier content.

We appreciate you referencing Elsevier negotiations with other schools such as the University of California (UC) system and MIT. While the UC system recently struck a new deal with Elsevier,



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the “fine print” reveals that they will pay to Elsevier significantly more in total than they were previously paying as a result of the Library (through the California Digital Library) paying the Article Processing Charges (APCs) for each article that is published in an Elsevier journal by a UC faculty member or researcher. MIT continues to negotiate with Elsevier, and they have not yet reached an agreement.

Our current stance is that the University of Delaware needs to renegotiate with Elsevier, potentially in partnership with other university systems. We will work to make this happen with our intent being to make access to journal articles as straightforward as possible without compromising UD finances.

We appreciate your understanding as we all work through these challenging times together. We remain firmly committed to supporting your research and teaching at the University of Delaware. Please reach out to the vice provost for libraries and museums, [Trevor A. Dawes](#), or to your [liaison librarian](#) if you have additional questions about how to access the content that you need. We also encourage you to communicate with your liaison librarian to provide information about specific Elsevier titles that are important in your teaching and research. As we renegotiate with Elsevier, liaison librarians will be in touch to discuss specific titles that are needed at UD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robin W. Morgan'.

Robin W. Morgan
Provost