At a time when national studies indicate that students overrate their ability to find faculty lament the quality of the sources students cite in journals are priced. Fifty-eight percent of U.S. college students aged 18 to 24 responding to a 2001 Harris poll said there was no difference in the reliability of information on Web sites with advertising and those without it. The information business has become like health care: Everyone wants it and no one can afford it. Many academicians believe information should be free or reasonably priced and easily accessible. Not everyone shares such beliefs, however, and certainly not commercial journal publishers. Between 1986 and 2000 the journal inflation rate rose 226 percent, while the Consumer Price Index rose 49 percent. For those who need and want information, high quality information, it is available—for a price. Witness this year’s journal inflation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Chemical Communications</th>
<th>Geogworld</th>
<th>International Journal of Geographical Information</th>
<th>Nutrition and Food Science</th>
<th>Social Science and Medicine</th>
<th>Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$1,908.45</td>
<td>$113.20</td>
<td>$1,091.97</td>
<td>$3,273.69</td>
<td>$4,575.54</td>
<td>$367.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$3,398.49</td>
<td>$961.13</td>
<td>$2,050.70</td>
<td>$4,122.04</td>
<td>$5,511.35</td>
<td>$595.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>219%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The business of journal publishing is not a phantom enterprise. It is one of the pillars of the academic eco-system. The rising cost of journals erodes the quality of other library collections and effects of journal inflation. Now underway is a study to consider developing shared collections with the University’s academic partner: the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The Mulligans moved to Salisbury in 1994. The idea of donating it to the SU library where Joe had been so busy came to Eleanor when she awoke one morning. The statue of two long-legged boys leapfrogging over one another is youthful yet elegant: two adolescents ready to go air borne at any moment. This work by well-known American sculptor Dennis Smith radiates strength, spontaneity and energy. Now at home in Blackwell Library, “Leapfroggers” was a favorite of the late Dr. Joseph F. Mulligan, who purchased the bronze at a gallery in Carmel, CA, for his wife, Eleanor, in 1993. She was outside the gallery talking with others when her husband appeared and said very seriously that he wanted her to see “a couple of friends.” Later, he would affectionately refer to these “friends” as “the fellows” and even “the kids.”

Eleanor said her husband loved to prow around galleries and come up with some art object or painting they had to have, but she was the one who had to find a place for it afterward. Ultimately, both came to realize that the sculpture should be somewhere more public.

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Dean of Libraries and Instructional Resources Alice Bahr was receptive and even suggested a mirror in back of its case, so the sculpture’s elegant lines would be fully in view. Noted Bahr, “The fellows have found a home where they can keep forever.”

Joseph Mulligan loved libraries. A thoughtful man who could appreciate the beauty of a scientific theorem as much as that of a work of art, he was dean of the Gradate School of Arts and Sciences at Fordham University, NY, and later the first dean of the Graduate School at the newly formed UMBC campus, where he worked for 22 years.

He once said “a love of libraries ... began for me with Sundays spent working in the stacks, with an apple usually, and was in high school in the 1930s. There I sat in the stacks, and the spirits and coaxes the observer into thinking in new directions.”

Mulligan wrote several physics textbooks which became noteworthy for the inclusion of highly readable biographies of scientists from as far back as the 16th century to today. After moving to Salisbury, he became a fan of the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. His last article, a year before his death in 2004, was a departure from his usual scholarship: a biographical treatment of Maryland physician and fly-fisherman Alfred Marshall Mayer, for the Maryland Historical Magazine. Like “the fellows,” his scholarly pursuit of Mayer proved that Mulligan still could pursue his own flights of fancy, sparked by a love of imaginative adventure—found in libraries.

To honor her husband, Joseph, and his appreciation of the library, Eleanor also contributed funds to defray the costs of renovating the circulation offices of staff that Joe so appreciated: Sharon Payne, Sue Ruddy and Susan Wheatley.

LISCHER JOINS TEAM
Susanne Lischer joined Blackwell Library in March of this year to be the library’s first serials and electronic resources librarian. While managing the periodicals collection is her first priority, she also serves as Web master. Susanne’s education includes an A.A. in advertising/graphic design from St. Louis Community College, a B.A. in German from University of Missouri-Columbia and an M.L.S. from the State University of New York-Buffalo.

BROMLEY RETIREMENT RECEPTION
Blackwell Library held a retirement reception for Lois Bromley on Friday, May 27, in the Social Room of Holloway Hall. Bromley worked in Blackwell Library for all of her 30 years at SU. She began her career on July 1, 1974, in the Serials Department and then transferred to the Interlibrary Loan Department in 1976. Over the years, she was involved in many library committees, including library search committees. She served the campus as a past treasurer of MCEA Area 5 and for many years served as vice president of MCEA. Bromley represented Salisbury University staff on the Collective Bargaining Negotiation Team. After Bromley’s retirement, Interlibrary Loan Services was integrated with Access Services.

For more about government documents, see http://researchport.umd.edu/govt/stat.html.

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