



University Libraries

# Journal Article Access Report, January - March 2021

## Preliminary data after unbundling our Elsevier package

In January 2021, the University Libraries withdrew from Elsevier’s large journal bundle (the Freedom Collection) and subscribed to 223 highly used Elsevier journals. Mason was not alone in unbundling the Elsevier package; we negotiated along with five other Virginia Research Libraries, and will continue to negotiate as a group for next year’s contract. This report summarizes available data on how the Libraries continue to provide access to Elsevier articles, three months after unbundling the Big Deal.

### LibKey service streamlines access to Open Access and journal backfiles

**LibKey Discovery** provides one-click access to journal article PDFs from the Libraries’ search results. The Libraries implemented this service in January to streamline access to Open Access (OA), pre-2021 Elsevier articles (backfiles), and even currently subscribed journal articles.

The initial results:

- Mason faculty, staff, and students have downloaded almost 35,000 articles via LibKey.
- LibKey helped users access at least 342 OA or pre-2021 articles from over 20 of our unsubscribed Elsevier journals.<sup>1</sup>

### Satisfaction with InterLibrary Loan is high

Our Spring 2021 faculty journal access survey asked, “How satisfied were you with your InterLibrary Loan (ILL) experience(s)?” Of 134 respondents who used ILL, 92% viewed their ILL experience favorably with 57% of that group responding that they were extremely satisfied.

Level of Satisfaction	Count of Responses	% of Responses
Extremely satisfied	76	57%
Somewhat satisfied	47	35%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	3%
Somewhat dissatisfied	5	4%
Extremely dissatisfied	2	1%
TOTAL	134	100%

### InterLibrary Loan numbers are up, turnaround time is down

These numbers include article requests from any scholarly journal, not only Elsevier journals.

Timeframe	Article Requests Filled	Average Turnaround Time (Days)
Jan 1 to Mar 31 2021	903	2.49
Jan 1 to Mar 31 2020	675	2.86
Jan 1 to Mar 31 2019	645	3.81

<sup>1</sup> LibKey usage data only provides article counts for the top 750 most requested journals, so this is definitely an under-count. The top 750 journals for January-March account for just ~19,000 of the ~34,000 downloads.