Ranking and Voting

Current Databases
1. Each departmental representative will get **50 points** to distribute to the currently funded databases. They will also receive any available usage data or product information to assist in the decision-making process. It should be noted that usage data, even for full-text resources, should not be considered as a definitive characteristic of a resource’s value.
   - Exempt: Currently unfunded databases *(not included on voting sheet)*
   - Exempt: Archival Databases *(not included on voting sheet)*

2. The departmental votes will then be tabulated and each database will receive a corresponding Rank number. Any “ties” will be resolved by factoring rank position from the prior year.

3. If any databases fall below the established funding line once the budget is released, they will be subject to a final FLC vote on whether or not to retain that resource. However, the FLC voted ‘yes’ to automatically fund archival databases (JSTOR, PROLA, ACS Archive).

   These database subscriptions are purchased strictly for the archival purposes of not having to bind or store the hard copy journals on NJIT shelves. They do not replace subscriptions to current issues since the archives most recent materials are four or more years old. If we cancelled the archival databases there would be no access to old volumes and issues of those titles, since we did not bind nor did we have room to store them on the Van Houten library shelves.† (2/15/2007)

   Also, The FLC voted ‘yes’ to consider 3 years voting history before dropping a database to more accurately assess it’s value to the university population (2/15/2007).

Unfunded / Proposed Databases
1. If the library budget increases at a rate that exceeds the inflationary cost of subscribing to existing resources, then the decision to subscribe to any new database would be delayed until the October or November meeting of the FLC. This would give the library a chance to run trials on any new database in the early fall semester after we already know the budget situation (usually by early August).

2. In the event that the library has additional funds to purchase a new resource, or there is a unanimous FLC vote to drop a currently funded resource, there will be another round of voting to distribute points to the unfunded/proposed databases.

3. The votes will then be tabulated and each database will receive a corresponding Rank number.

† See AY 2005 Journals/Database Proposal