

# ABSTRACT

## USE AS A MEASURE IN RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR PERIODICALS

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Bradford's and Trueswell's findings reveal that only a small proportion of a collection is used in libraries. Guided by these theories, cost effectiveness of periodicals in the Science Library of the University of the West Indies, Mona was investigated. The loan records for a period of 4 years (1988-1991) were analyzed to measure the use. Use of Chemistry journals was further investigated as a case study, analyzing citations of the publications of the Chemistry Department during the period 1988 to 1991. The Department's opinion on the relevance of these journals as well as services available to users of journals was examined using a questionnaire.

Both citation and loan analyses confirmed that approximately 20% of the collection provided 80% of the use of the collections. Approximately 80% of the journals falling within 20% of the most used titles are from subscription journals. Similarly among users and producers of published scientific research, small groups of the population were found to be responsible for a larger share of use of the journals and published output.

bibliometric laws do not cover the *raison d'etre* for the Library in its entirety, measurements of use by way of loans and citations alone cannot provide the basis for conclusive decisions to cancel or retain journal subscriptions. Nevertheless, conclusive evidence was found to confirm that, issues of journals published in the most recent 20 years provide, 86% of the total use of journals at the Library.