

MOTION 4

Increase Volumes of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy Available Online

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MOTION: I move that the Board of Directors develop a plan and proceed to make more volumes of *AJOT* available full text online as a member privilege as well as for purchase by nonmembers such as virtual libraries in universities, research centers, and online databases. Twenty or more additional years (back to 1980) should be the minimum made available. All Slagle lectures and any articles prior to 1980 that are frequently requested from the Wilma L. West Library would also be digitized.

RATIONALE: Complete-text *AJOT* articles are only available from 1999 on as an AOTA member privilege or through OVID. At a time when faculty and clinicians are pressured to base clinical services on an evidence base and to carry out needed clinical research, it is a liability to have such limited access to the most important American OT journal. In addition, with the shift to basic professional education at the graduate level, there is more need to access the historical roots of the field in review papers and research proposals. Students, clinicians, and faculty need quick access to resources and have learned how to use the virtual library. Universally, university and clinical libraries are shifting their resources into virtual libraries rather than hard copies. Two chief medical librarians and a CINAHL representative have indicated that occupational therapy stands out as the only major American health field with little virtual access to full text of its major journal. There is far better access to the Haworth OT journals and international OT journals; some are available back to their initial issues. By limiting access to *AJOT* other professions may remain unaware of valuable OT contributions to a particular area of research or program development. In addition we are hampering international access by our fellow OTs as well as other professionals. At a time when we want to increase knowledge of OT's contributions in public and academic arenas, it seems counterproductive to limit key information about the field. AOTA staff should be encouraged in their pursuit of digitizing the entire *AJOT* collection with a large international company.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: It costs 40 cents per page to scan and build searchable PDFs. It is estimated that there are about 13,000 pages in the 20 years between 1980 and 1999; this results in an estimated cost of \$5,200. In addition, about 35 staff hours, or \$1,540, is required to install all the PDFs on the AOTA Web site. This cost is based on donated journals being taken apart and scanned, basically destroying them. Total cost to do this is thus estimated to be \$6,740. If less than 20 years is considered for cost purposes, based on data from the Wilma West Library on their requests, it is recommended that the digitized issues go back to at least 1987.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal 1: Building the profession's capacity to fulfill its potential and mission

- a. Prepare occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants for the 21st century
- b. Increase the profession's research capacity and productivity
- c. Enhance collaboration with international partners and state affiliates

Goal 2: Demonstrating and articulating our value to individuals, organizations, and communities

a. Increase public understanding of the profession and its value in meeting diverse health and participation needs

b. Support traditional occupational therapy roles and foster the development of emerging practice areas to help meet society's health, wellness, and quality of life needs

Goal 3: Linking education, research, and practice

a. Promote stronger linkages and collaboration among the occupational therapy research, education, and practice communities

b. Facilitate dissemination of occupational therapy knowledge to foster innovation in research, education, and practice

c. Promote the dissemination and application of evidence-based knowledge