

Fee For Printing At MSASS Begins At The Lillian F. & Milford J. Harris Library

On September 2, 2003 the Harris Library began charging for printing in the library.

Why charge for printing?

There are two factors that contributed to the decision to move to a “fee for printing” model in the Harris Library. Over the past few years vast amounts of materials have become available electronically. The increasing availability of full-text articles and web resources has blurred the distinction between photocopying (always a fee-based service) and printing.

The number of electronic journals available through Case and OhioLINK to our students, faculty, and staff on a nearly 24/7 basis, continues to grow and expand. In the electronic format the print becomes the photocopy. We charge for photocopies of journal articles hence a charge for printing. Does it create an economic barrier to information? If charging for a photocopy does not present a barrier, then charging for a printout of a full-text article or a web site should not constitute a barrier. Since bound journals cannot be used outside the Harris Library while electronic articles can, the access to full-text articles is even easier. Printing (copying) can be done anywhere a computer and printer co-exist.

The second issue is waste. According to library spokespeople at Harvard “At colleges with free printing, there is a higher level of draft or ‘junk’ printing that leads to a higher consumption of paper that subsequently needs to be thrown away;...” At the Harris Library over 10,000 pages a month were printed between July 2002 and July 2003. Much of that ended up in the recycle bin.

Here’s what is happening--- in a nutshell:

- The charge for copies and printing done through the Xerox machines in the Harris Library will be 10 cents per exposure for cash copying or printing.
- A [CaseOneCard Account](#) can be set up so that you can use your Case ID as a copy card. Cards need to be activated at Crawford Hall but once the card is activated additional monies can be deposited on the card at Thwing.
- When a copy is made the card will be debited for 10 cents by the card reader located at the copier.

What happens if the printing function isn't working when I'm ready to print?

If you are printing a paper from a disk you can bring the disk to the Reference Desk or the Circulation Desk and one of the staff will print it for you.

If you are printing a journal article we ask that you either wait for the problem to be resolved; or, if the journal is available in the Harris Library, photocopy the article from the bound journal.

Are there any options to avoid the printing fee?

Yes. Some library databases will allow you to e-mail search results to yourself. You can also save documents to a disk. Either of these options allows you to take work with you and read it, or print it, at home. If you have any questions about e-mailing or saving to a disk please talk to one of the librarians in the Harris Library.

When you are searching the online catalog you can write the call number of the materials you need on the slips of paper by the computer stations.

Questions and comments

Any questions, comments and reactions regarding this procedure should be sent to the Director of the Harris Library at harrisref@case.edu or at (216) 368-2302.