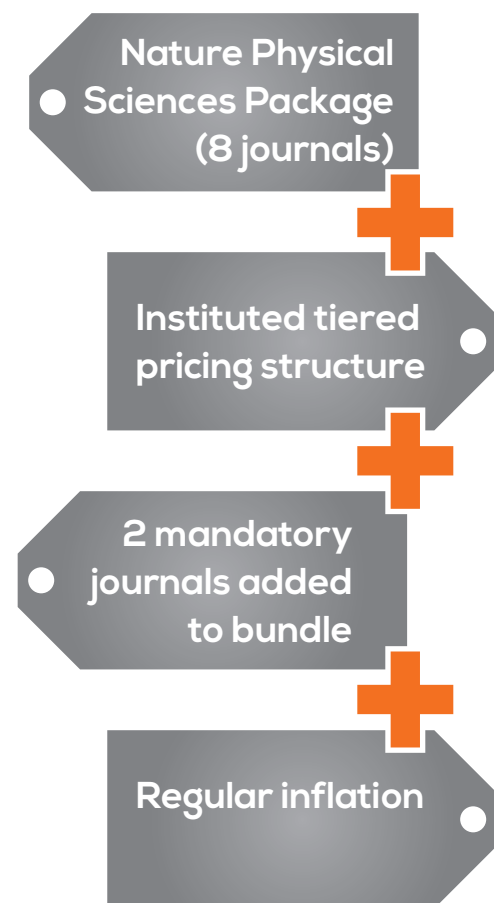


TRYING TIMES

The impact of inflation on the GW Libraries' budget

Scholarly resources are not luxury goods. But they are priced as though they were.

SERIALS COST A BUNDLE



= **85%** **PACKAGE PRICE INCREASE, 2015-2016**

OPTION ONE: Break up the package and cancel some of the journals. The total cost would still amount to a 35% increase over last year's cost, only in order to retain access to a handful of critical titles.

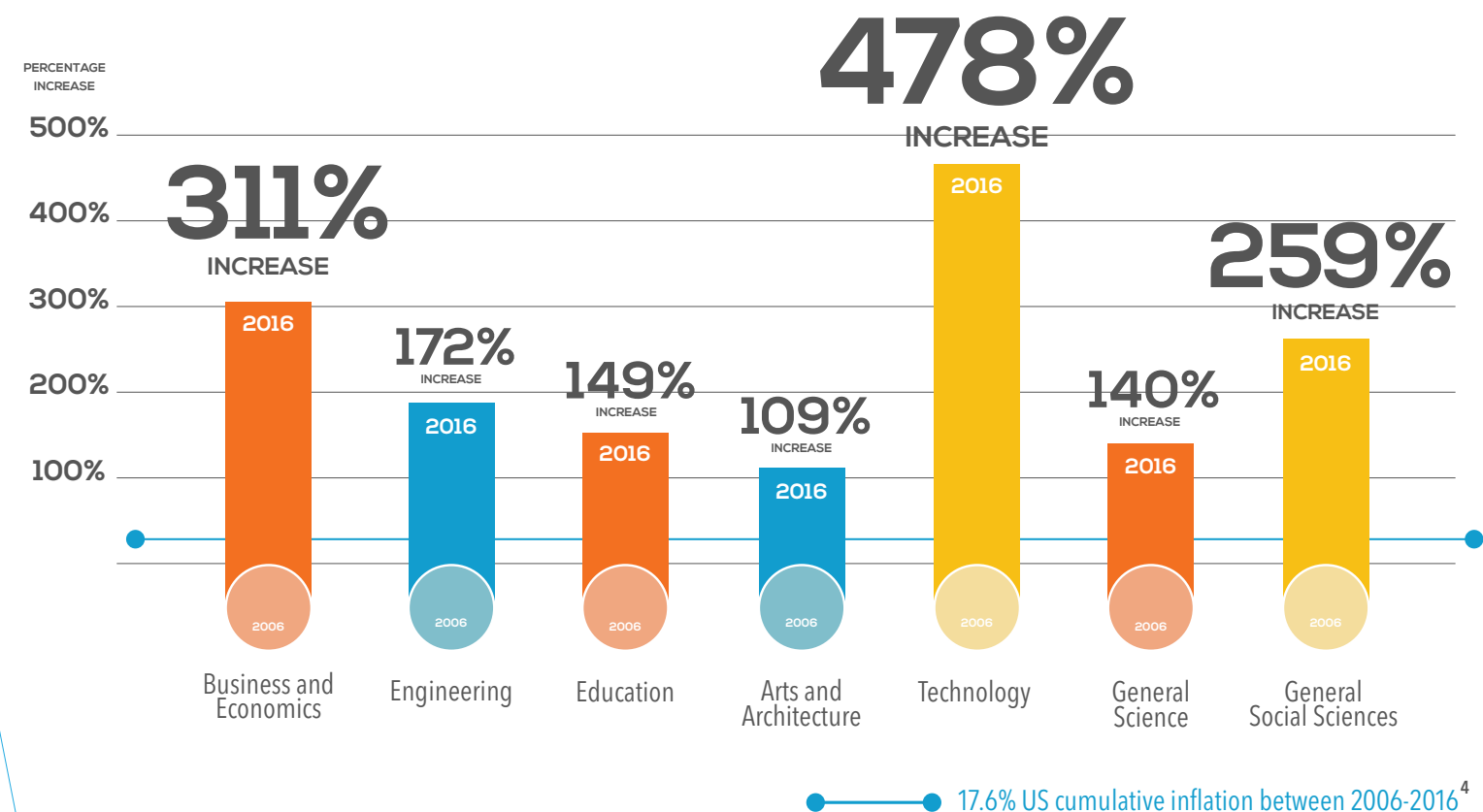
OPTION TWO: Keep the package and accept the 85% increase.

Based on high usage across these titles, we chose option two.

Purchasing journal "packages" from publishers saves money and provides access to more journals than title-by-title subscriptions. But package subscriptions also limit flexibility, since publishers impose strict rules on which titles we can cancel while retaining access to the rest. And they leave us vulnerable to dramatic price increases when a publisher decides to change the terms of the package itself.

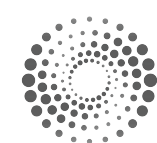
RUNAWAY INFLATION ERODES LIBRARY PURCHASING POWER

Percent change of the average cost per journal title by discipline from 2006-2016^{1,2,3}



How much do **RESOURCES** really cost?

What we spend on certain annual subscriptions are equivalent to the purchase price for some surprising high-priced items.



Annual Subscription to **Web of Science**



Median US purchase price of a **single-family home**⁵ (2012)



Annual Subscription to **IEEE/Xplore Digital Library**



National Geographic trip for two around the world by private jet⁶



Annual Subscription to **EIU Country Profiles**



Tuition, room, and board for **1 year of undergraduate education** at GW⁷



Annual Subscription to **Compendex Engineering Index**



Purchase price, **2016 Mercedes-Benz SLK Roadster**⁸