

Budget Submission -- Library Collections

1. Introduction.

Last October, The Library presented a detailed report on the “Benefits of Additional Library Collection Funds” to Chancellor Berdahl. The report described the invigorating effects of the Chancellor’s three-year collections support: we have been able to meet the continued challenge of inflation; to take advantage of many of the new opportunities stemming from the development of digital resources; and to maintain a reasonable balance between the new resources and those essential research materials which continue to be distributed in conventional formats. The faculty comments appended to that report confirmed the positive impact of the Chancellor’s investment and the use we have made of it. As we approach the end of the three-year funding cycle we project that the library collections budget will still be in balance at the beginning of the next fiscal year but that, without a new infusion of campus support, it will fall soon thereafter into deficit. Along with judicious local expenditures, we continue to engage in collaborative collection development and resource sharing at the UC-wide level, both in our contributions to California Digital Library (CDL) shared licenses and in our growing use of the CDL Request interlibrary borrowing service. In the concluding words of the October Report, “the Chancellor has begun to restore the faith of faculty, students, and library staff that the library can after all serve its users’ needs.” A renewal of the three-year budgetary commitment will allow us to “maintain momentum back towards distinction.”

2. Inflation.

Inflation in the cost of scholarly library resources has eased somewhat from the devastation of the early nineties, thanks in part to multi-year licensing agreements and the competitive promise of new outlets for scholarly communication. However, the Library still has to factor in an anticipated increase of about 9% annually, simply to maintain its current list of journal and other ongoing subscriptions. Collections costs subject to this rate are currently about \$7 million; to meet inflation during the next three years, we shall need permanent increases of \$630,000 in year one, \$687,000 in year two, and \$748,000 in year three. For monographs, the inflation rate is estimated to be 3.5%. Collections costs subject to this lower rate are about \$5 million, requiring in successive years the following permanent increases: \$175,000, \$181,00, and \$187,000 respectively.

3. New digital resources.

New digital resources require not simply a shift in collections budget allocations, but, during this transitional period, continuing enhancement. They are changing the habits of many but not all of our users, but especially undergraduates. Their convenience has been embraced unequally by publishers in different disciplines and scholars of varying experience and proclivities. For some time to come, the library will have to provide similar content in multiple formats. Regrettably, the new formats are often substantially more expensive than the old: journal publishers impose a surcharge over the print price

for electronic access; faculty urge us to re-purchase content in the form of electronic back-files; increasing demand requires us to pay for more simultaneous access opportunities (“ports”), each of which may cost several thousand dollars; FTE-based business models raise the costs disproportionately for the larger campuses; and standard reference sources which once could be purchased in print now have to be licensed for annual fees substantially higher than the former purchase price. As the potential of new resources is more fully realized in the scholarly community, it promises to transform teaching and research. The investment by the campus and the library in developing new models of scholarly communication may eventually reduce our dependency on commercial resources, but funding them, for the foreseeable future, will be a growing challenge. We request an annual permanent increase of \$300,000 for new digital resources.

4. Collections impact on other library operations.

The Technical Services Department which orders, receives, pays for and catalogs new materials has been heavily impacted by the recent collections recovery. The increased number of items acquired has not been accompanied by a growth in essential staff support. Furthermore, as we acquire more digital resources, sustaining old standards of bibliographic control and physical access while coping with complex, diversified procedures and platforms have become more time-consuming. In order to avoid backlogs and delays in making the new library resources available, we are requesting seven new Library Assistant III positions (two in Orders, four in Monograph Processing and Cataloging, and one in Serials/Documents) and 1.5 FTE librarian positions in Original Cataloging for serials and Germanic languages cataloging. The estimated annual cost of these essential new positions is \$273,500.

5. Other collections related backlogs and challenges

Other areas which have not kept pace with the renewal of the acquisitions budget and which now need additional funding support include: the binding of new print materials; cataloging and housing new microform sets; and the replacement of missing titles (replacement copies are now easier to locate on the Internet). Thanks to a series of grants, we have in recent years invested some \$2 million in digital preservation projects; without additional funds to make and safely store backup copies, this investment is increasingly at risk. We request an additional \$50,000 annually for binding increases; \$25,000 for 3 years of anticipated microform storage; \$50,000 annually to replace missing volumes; and \$25,000 (one-time) for digital duplication.

6. New outreach and other digital support services

In order to urge faculty and students to take full advantage of new digital collections, we need to involve them more in the selection of resources, licensing the best of those available commercially and converting to more convenient formats the best of those we already own. Having added them to our collections we need to promote them more vigorously to ensure that they reach the widest possible scholarly audience. Finally, we

need to provide more training opportunities, for both faculty and students, so that they take full advantage of the transformative power and convenience of the new research tools. Each of these three outreach activities -- collaborative selection; vigorous promotion; and individual or group instruction -- needs more time and staff than we have been able to devote to it. The library is already devoting substantial staff-time to the design and implementation of more integrated, unified and user-oriented library web pages. This improved web design will complement direct personal outreach, not replace it. Both forms of outreach are connected, with each other and with the e-Berkeley Initiative, to which we plan to submit a separate proposal.