Supporting a Top 10 Land Grant Library

Oregon State University Libraries February 2012

Oregon State University seeks to rank among the top ten land grant institutions in the United States. Achieving this goal requires improving infrastructure through targeted investments. In particular, increased funding for OSU Libraries Collections will be necessary to support faculty and student success, enhance research and teaching, and improve the Return on Investment (ROI) for OSU Libraries (OSUL).

Currently, OSUL’s budget relies on state funding and other sources, including:

- E&G $3.2M Collections
- TRF range $550,000-$750,000 FY09-12
- Library fines, $118,000 fy11 (3.6%)
- Gift funds

The current budget structure, together with annual inflation, has created a number of challenges for OSUL.

1) OSUL can only support the existing collections, which increase in price 7 – 9 % annually due to inflation, by cutting subscriptions and holding positions open.

2) The grant awarded Technology Resource Fees provides 17 - 23% of the OSUL collections budget. This means that a high percentage of OSUL’s budget rests on an unstable, variable funding source.

3) Library fines contribute 3.6% to OSUL budgets, but this amount decreases every year and many libraries nationwide are ceasing to collect fines.

4) OSUL employs many strategies to contain costs, including several recommended by the 2011 report Redefining the Academic Library. These include rightsizing the print collection, aligning purchases with demand, reducing scholarly publishing costs, and externalizing lower-value activity.

While OSUL has met these funding challenges with a variety of innovative, cost-saving measures, it is clear that the existing funding model is inadequate to raise OSUL to match libraries at top ten land grant institutions. The OSUL Faculty Senate Library Committee recommends increasing support to $9.43M by 2016 to match the median of OSU peers, to maintain existing collections, and to provide access to new content.

Target: Increase support of OSU Libraries Collections Budget to $9,426,000 by 2016.

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**Peer Comparators**

Compared to OUS designated peers, OSUL collections receive the least amount of support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Expenditures (2010)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado State</td>
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OSUL also has the lowest expenditures per FTE student.
Library expenditures per R&D dollar fall in the middle of OUS's peers.
With OSU growing at the rapid pace of eight percent over each of the last two academic years, OSUL faces additional challenges in sustaining current collections and negotiating reasonable prices on new resources.

Nearly half of OSUL’s expenditures on the most expensive databases are contingent upon the size of the OSU student body and related university growth. Information product vendors frequently determine their pricing based on campus characteristics such as student FTE, number of faculty or students in a department, overall demand on or use of the resource, and even research output. This means that OSUL’S prices increase as the student body continues to grow and more faculty are hired to support them.

New degree programs also drive OSUL’s costs. From 2009-2011 the library would have needed approximately $65,000 in new money to adequately support the proposed new programs in their first year; $40,000 of this total would become ongoing costs. This support ranged from adding critical journals (e.g. Nature Climate Change), to new databases (PAIS - a public affairs database), to new print or online book collections.

**TO ATTAIN SUPPORT AT THE LEVEL OF OUS PEERS**

**Scenario 1 (Note: OSUL will not reach our peers’ medians using this scenario)**

Step 1:
Over the next four years add 4% per year for a total 16% increase.

\[
3,200,000 + 128,000 = 3,328,000 \text{ (yr1)} \\
3,328,000 + 133,120 = 3,461,120 \text{ (yr2)} \\
3,461,120 + 138,444 = 3,599,564 \text{ (yr3)} \\
3,599,564 + 143,982 = 3,743,546 \text{ (yr4)} \\
3,743,546 \text{ Total Budget 2016}
\]

Step 2:
After year four tie the collections budget to student growth. OSU experiences growth of 1.8% -2% per year.

\[
1.8\% \times 3,743,546 + 67,383 = 3,810,929 \\
2\% \times 3,743,546 + 74,870 = 3,818,416
\]

**Scenario 2**

To reach the median of OUS peers, OSU Libraries collection budget would be increased by 66% or $6,226,000. Distributed across 4 years looks like this

\[
3,200,000 + 1,556,500 = 4,756,500 \text{ (yr1)} \\
4,756,500 + 1,556,500 = 6,313,000 \text{ (yr2)} \\
6,313,000 + 1,556,500 = 7,869,500 \text{ (yr3)} \\
7,869,500 + 1,556,500 = 9,426,000 \text{ (yr4)} \\
9,426,000 \text{ Total Budget 2016}
\]