SU PPOR TING A T O P 10 L AND G RANT U NIVERSITY LIBRARY

O REGON S TATE U NIVERSITY L IBRARIES (OSUL)

Achieving student academic success and teaching and research excellence requires significant and targeted investments in the University’s infrastructure including increased support for the OSU Libraries’ collections. With aspirations to rank among the top ten land grant institutions, OSUL’s budget is not currently adequate to meet campus needs or to provide flexibility, especially with a growing student body and the demand for additional content to support the research and teaching of new faculty and new programs.

Currently collections funding is built on state funding along with several variable sources:

- E&G $3,200,000
- TRF $550,000-$750,000
- Library fines $115,000-$118,000
- Gift funds $48,000-$200,000
- Total: $3,913,000-$4,268,000 FY10-FY12

This budget structure, together with annual inflation, creates significant challenges:

1) Due to annual cost increases of 7 – 9 %, OSUL can only support the existing collections by cutting subscriptions. This prevents OSUL from adding new subscriptions. OSUL’s inability to add new subscriptions hampers faculty and student access to content and faculty and researchers hired to work in disciplines newly supported by the University are especially negatively affected.

2) One-fourth of OSUL’s budget rests on changeable funding sources. The grant awarded Technology Resource Fees provides 17 - 23% of the OSUL collections budget and an additional 3.5-3.7% of the budget is contributed from library fines. Variable funding impedes OSUL from swiftly accommodating changes in student and faculty research needs—such changes are often met only after targeted cuts which may take multiple fiscal years.

OSUL controls costs using a variety of strategies including rightsizing the print collection, aligning purchases with demand, reducing scholarly publishing costs, and outsourcing lower-value work.

OSU faculty and students use the content provided by OSUL. In 2010 OSUL reported 2,744,571 uses across all books, journals and databases. That year’s budget of $3,709711.79 resulted in a $1.35 cost per use. To get a sense of how that compares, the University of Oregon’s cost per use in 2012 was $2.24. This is a rough comparison because the two institutions may have differing use calculations.

While OSUL has met these funding challenges, the existing funding model is inadequate to provide needed resources to ensure student and faculty success. To remedy this, the OSUL Faculty Senate Library Committee (FSLC) recommends increasing support over the next three years to a level at which OSUL is at least as well-funded as OSU’s peers. The OSUL FSLC recommends raising the collections budget to $5,562,952 by 2015 to match the median library collection expenditures per student FTE of our peers.

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OSU Faculty Senate Library Committee, May 2012
Target: Increase support of OSU Libraries Collections Budget to $5,562,952 by 2015.

**Peer Comparators**

Compared to OUS designated peers, OSUL collections receive the least amount of support. We fall between UO and PSU.*

OSUL also has the lowest expenditures per FTE student. Again, we receive less than UO and slightly more than PSU.

*Data from National Center for Education Statistics

OSU Faculty Senate Library Committee, May 2012
The Impact of Campus Growth on OSU Libraries Collections Budget

With the OSU student FTE growing at over 7 percent on average since 2009, 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 tied to the size of the OSU student body and related university growth. Information product vendors frequently determine their pricing based on 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.

Impact of a Significantly Improved Budget

The library maintains a wish list of faculty and student requests, which are primarily online resources (journals, books, primary sources). The approximate annual cost associated with the ~100 items on the list is over $700,000. A significantly improved budget will allow the library to provide faculty and students with resources they have told us they need to excel, but which we cannot afford to add to the collection. Access to international research covering OSU’s signature areas increases faculty productivity and supports student learning. Examples of resources currently requested by faculty and students include:

- Subscriptions to new science journals and online archives: Nature Archives, Nature Nanotechnology, Nature Photonics, Nature Physics
- Online newspaper archives, primary sources, and reference materials which support the humanities and undergraduate education: Proquest Historical Newspapers, Proquest Early English Books Online, the complete U.S. Congressional Serials Set, and online encyclopedias.
o Giving the campus *an opportunity to try innovative new tools* such as *Faculty of 1000* (bioscience research reviews) and *SimplyMap* (demographics, marketing).
AN APPROACH TO INCREASE SUPPORT

Tie the collections budget to student FTE as a measure of campus growth and apply targeted increases over three years.

Year 1 2013
Adjust the current base budget to rely on stable funding by permanently adding to E&G the average of TRF funds received the past few years: $3,200,000 + $600,000 = $3,800,000

Determine the increase needed to bring OSU to the median of our peers library collection expenditures per student FTE as of 2010 and add this to the base. In 2010, OSU’s expenditure per FTE was $192; the median of our peers was $260; and, OSU’s FTE was 21,934.

$192 \times 21,934 = \$4,211,328$

$260 \times 21,934 = \$5,702,840$

$2010 - 2011 \text{ increase} \quad \$1,491,512$

Add the adjusted base and the increase to set the 2013 budget.

Adjusted base: $3,800,000 + \text{Increase} \$1,491,512 = \$5,291,512$

Year 2 2014
Account for OSU’s increase in student population since 2010 and add that library collection expenditures per student FTE. The difference in OSU’s student FTE between 2011 and 2010 is: 22,978 – 21,934 = 1,044.
Library collection expenditures per student FTE is 1,044 x $260/FTE= $271,440. Add this amount to set the 2014 budget.

$271,440 + \$5,291,512 = \$5,562,952$

Year 3 2015:
In 2015 and going forward, annually adjust the new base according to student growth and serial inflation which typically range 1.8% -2% and 6-8% respectively along with the library collection expenditures per student FTE of $260. Find OSU’s total student FTE and multiply by the library collection expenditures per student FTE of $260 (adjust $260 as it changes). Then add 6-8% for serials inflation based on the previous year’s inflation.

For example:
- Student growth of 2% of OSU’s 2011 student FTE 22,978 is 459. Total student FTE would be 23,437
  Multiplied by $260= \$6,093,776$
- Serial inflation of 8% of the base $5,562,952 is $445,036. Add this to set that year’s budget:
  $6,538,812$.

(Student Growth) + (Serial Inflation) + (Previous Year’s Base) = Yearly Budget