While the University Libraries Information Access Budget has been spared from campus budget cuts over the last 16 years, it has not always received new dollars to cover inflation, the purchase of needed new materials and increased costs to support access to information resources. This has been the case for the last six years when the University Libraries experienced inflation of five to eight percent per year. Over the most recent five years we have been forced to reduce spending on journals by $760,629 and on books by $384,440 for a total of a $1,145,069 in order to stay within our budget. However, we also engaged in consortial buying that added access to 7,500 new journals at no additional cost and, for last year alone, avoided $4,171,204 in costs for journals and other materials. For additional information see the Acquisition Budget Spending Reduction 3-D memo and/or contact your library liaison.

Again facing an expectation of no new money for library resources for the next two years, the University Libraries are looking at additional spending reductions based on an inflation estimate of 5% per year. We project that we will need to reduce spending on journals, books, and other information resources by $850,000 over the next two years. This would mean subscribing to 870 fewer journals and buying 5,800 fewer monographs if we cut expenditures evenly across all subject areas.

Different subjects will be affected differently, depending on the type of materials used most frequently by faculty and students in the course of their research and teaching (i.e., e-journals, books, serials, audio/video formats, etc.). Our librarians have gathered data, considered options for minimizing adverse impacts of reductions, and have developed plans for how to reduce spending in various subject disciplines. Specific timelines and plans for each discipline are accessible through the links at the right.

We need to hear from our faculty, students, researchers and scholars about how the proposed cuts will affect your teaching, learning, research and scholarship. Your feedback will be used to inform our final decisions. Please review the proposed spending reduction plans in your discipline (see links to the right) and send us your feedback.

Thank you for providing feedback on the list of serials titles proposed for cancellation. Your input has been invaluable in helping us make difficult decisions. We have reduced spending on journals, books, and other information resources by approximately $850,000 for the next two years, $768,000 in books and journals and $82,000 in support areas like bindery and cataloging. This equates to an estimated 870 journals and 5,800 monographs. We have reduced spending because costs for journals, databases and books have continued to increase and the Libraries’ Information Access budget has remained flat over the last six years.

For this process, we considered use data, cost increases, overlap among formats and/or content, quality of publications and citation information, as well as alternative means of access for low use materials. We contacted you in May and shared our draft list. Based on your input, we finalized the list below. For some of these titles, we will only be canceling the print subscription, with electronic access still currently available through various databases. Access to most resources will still be available through interlibrary loan.
In spite of these cuts, in FY07 the Libraries used $1.7 million in non-state funding (one-time purchases) to enhance library collections. These alternative funding sources (student fees, gift monies, and auxiliary funds) have provided new electronic information and converted print back files to electronic access. The Libraries committed $300,000 of student fee dollars for FY08 to purchase over 2,700 e-books and to fund a customer-driven e-book collection with access to over 40,000 titles across all disciplines.

The purchase of these new items highlights the Libraries’ commitment to aligning collections and services with the evolving academic directions of the University. As the University begins another academic year, the Libraries, too, look forward to continuing our tradition of meeting campus and customer expectations.

If you have further questions, please contact your Library liaison.