

Collections Budget Questions and Answers

February 2015

Question #1 What is the Libraries facing this year in terms of budget for collections?

The good news is that the budget outlook for fiscal year 2015 is more optimistic than the previous year. As a result, the University Administration gave the Libraries additional funding to cover price inflation on journals and other serials. But we also recognize that continued increases in inflation, even if slowed, will affect future budgets and are financially unsustainable. As in previous years, we continue to be actively engaged in a dialogue about our collections budget with the CSU Faculty Council Committee on Libraries and they are informing our decisions and strategy.

Over the previous five years, the Libraries has absorbed cuts from the base but has also received funds to cover inflation, so that the base collections budget has increased from \$6,010,695 in Fiscal Year 2008 to \$7,334,763 in Fiscal Year 2015. All of this increase went to cover serials inflation. The overall Libraries budget and collection budget continues to be in the bottom quartile of the 112 largest research libraries in North America.

The mandate from the University to preserve journal subscriptions continues to result in a reduction in spending on books. This mandate was endorsed by the CSU Faculty Council Library Committee. Several key steps were taken to accomplish this reduction:

- The automatic, profile-driven print book shipments have been limited to a few specific disciplines, including Literature and Veterinary Sciences.
- The Libraries shifted to Demand Driven Acquisitions (DDA) for both electronic and print books in most disciplines.. DDA means that we focus on purchasing books chosen by CSU faculty, staff, and students for a large number of “discovery” records loaded in the Sage catalog.
- The Libraries continues to order all specific books requested by individual faculty.

Question #2 What guiding principles are being employed to reduce expenses?

As the Libraries navigates the current economic climate and the consequences of ongoing inflation that will affect future budget years, we are guided by a number of key principles. First – as always – the CSU Libraries is focused on providing ongoing, reliable access to information resources that support research, teaching, and the mission of CSU. Second, we are striving to remain flexible so that we can respond to new information needs and areas of research, as needed. We are also leveraging the strength of cooperative collecting groups, such as the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL) and the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA), to secure the best possible prices for resources and to share unique resources across our respective user groups. Wherever possible we are acquiring materials – both journals and books – in online formats. Publishers are beginning to question consortia “deals,” however; and even these models are under scrutiny.

In response to the Library/IT task force’s recommendations, a number of other cost-saving initiatives are being explored:

- As mentioned above, we are pursuing shared collections with other Colorado institutions, through CARL and other consortia. This includes developing strategies for preserving the “best, last copy” of unique resources.
- We continue to pursue strategies for withdrawing appropriate materials from the CSU Libraries collections, based on careful analysis of usage statistics and the evolving behavior of our users.
- As mentioned above, book purchasing is increasingly “Demand Driven,” which by definition will result in heavier use of the books we do purchase. In the case of electronic books, this also results in immediate access to the full text.

Question #3 Are materials in all discipline areas subject to any cuts?

Yes. Although we don’t anticipate cuts in FY15, if any are required we will look at all disciplines when evaluating books, journals, databases, and other information resources. When allocating budgets for this and future fiscal years, we realize that different disciplines have different needs for books, databases, and journal resources. We are trying to accommodate and balance those realities to the extent practical. The Libraries is constantly gathering data to assess the CSU community’s use of resources; as we move forward, this data will increasingly be used to help inform decisions about purchases and cuts.

Question #4 How does CSU Libraries calculate deficits/inflation?

Outside of a rescission or projected deficit in state appropriations, which usually come with a specific percentage as a target, the Libraries uses data from a number of sources (including publishers, vendors, peer libraries, and consortia) to project the rate of inflation on materials in the coming fiscal year. Over the past decade, journal inflation has averaged 5-8% per year. These increases are far higher than the Consumer Price Index and this inflation is the single largest component of any library’s budget deficit, regardless of the stability of the budget. The Libraries has greatly benefited from the support of the University administration, which has contributed funding to the Libraries’ base budget to help counter journal price inflation. Other forms of deficit are more ambiguous, such as the Libraries’ ability to add resources for new university programs or new faculty within our budget environment. The Libraries manages this level of deficit on an ongoing basis; for example, we may reduce specific resource redundancies in order to free up funds for new initiatives.

The following links provide more information about inflation and journal costs at a national level.

Budget Cuts and Library Price Increases

<http://www.ebscohost.com/newsroom/stories/ebsco-information-services-releases-serials-price-projection-for-2015>

Serial Price Increases BOSCH, STEPHEN, and KITTIE HENDERSON. 2014. "STEPS DOWN THE EVOLUTIONARY ROAD." Library Journal 139, no. 7: 32-37.

<http://quicklinks.library.colostate.edu/?q=sbzyyx> (link for CSU affiliates)

Measuring the Value of Journals | Periodicals Price Survey

2014 :<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/04/publishing/measuring-the-value-of-journals-periodicals-price-survey-2014/>

Book Price Increases

http://www.ybp.com/book_price_update.html

Question #5 Isn't everything available freely online?

No. Most scholarly publications and databases are subscription based or charge a license fee and their content is not freely available on the Internet. It's much the same model as when an individual subscribes to a magazine. In the case of scholarly and research materials, most of that content is **not** free and is **only** available by paid subscription. Even when we buy resources in print, institutional subscription rates are usually significantly higher than individual subscription rates.

Question # 6 What about the Open Access movement. Is that helping to control costs?

Not significantly, although we're making headway. While we hope that in the future open access will be the primary model of publishing scholarly information, most publications are still not freely available and subscription rates remain high. The Libraries is supporting initiatives that support University authors' publishing in open access journals and encourages all faculty to seek to publish in open access journals. The Libraries will be happy to help faculty find a source for open access publishing.

The Libraries are funding an Open Access Research and Scholarship Fund (OARS) for CSU faculty. More information can be found from the OARS website: <http://libguides.colostate.edu/oars>

For more information about the Open Access Movement, see the Association of Research Libraries website: <http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/campus/>

For information on submitting materials to CSU Libraries Digital Depository, see <http://lib.colostate.edu/repository/> .

Question # 7 What is the Libraries doing to influence publishers to control costs?

The CSU Libraries supports statements by the Association of Research Libraries (<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/economic-statement-2009.pdf>) and the International Coalition of Library Consortia (<http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/icolc-econcrisis-0109.htm>) sent to commercial publishers defining the economic crisis and expectations for publishers to limit price inflation

The Libraries is also actively working to support faculty at CSU who are interested in retaining copyright and making their work accessible to a broader audience by depositing their final article manuscript in the CSU Digital Repository (<http://lib.colostate.edu/repository/>).

Question #8 Will we always have access to materials we license rather than purchase outright?

Before making the decision to subscribe to online-only resources the Libraries will continue to research and evaluate whether there is a reliable archiving model in place. Two commonly used

models include LOCKSS and Portico. Today, the Libraries purchases only those online resources for which we have guaranteed, long-term archival access.

LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe)

<http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Home>

Portico: A digital preservation and electronic archiving service <http://www.portico.org/>

Question #9 What can individual faculty members do to help reduce the cost of library materials?

There are many ways in which scholars can help restructure scholarly publishing as authors, as members of editorial boards, as participants in peer review, and as members of professional societies. If you serve on a journal's editorial board, please consider promoting the University of California statement (http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/home/regain_control.html) as well as the following two important statements by the library community. These statements ask publishers to keep renewal rates in line with the realities of the global economic crisis and reduce the rate of development of new products for the library marketplace.

- Association of Research Libraries: [ARL Statement to Scholarly Publishers on the Global Economic Crisis](#) (PDF)
- International Coalition of Library Consortia: [Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and its Impact on Consortial Licenses](#)" (quoted from the UC Berkeley website)

If the Libraries may provide you with additional information on its collection budget and management, please contact Meg Brown-Sica Assistant Dean for Scholarly Communication and Collection Development. 970-491-1838 meg.brown-sica@colostate.edu

Question #10 Who is my representative to the Faculty Council Committee on Libraries?

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