

Cornell University Library
January 2010 ALA Annual Round Robin
ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Group

Reimaging Cornell

After enacting the budget reductions for the current fiscal year (see previous RR report), the University continues with plans to close the remaining \$135 million projected annual deficit. To this end, the Library (along with each other academic unit) has submitted to the Provost broad plans that could result in a 10% reduction to the operating budget. The actual budget goals for each unit on campus will not be made available until sometime in March. The 'reimaging' refers to an imagined, strategic outcome that both addresses the fiscal realities while retaining excellence in key areas. ☺

Sale of Duplicated Undergraduate Collection (Social Sciences and Humanities)

On November 1, 2009, Tsinghua University Library signed a purchasing agreement to acquire 95,000 volumes of duplicative holdings in the Cornell University Uris Library. These books will serve as a core collection for Tsinghua's new humanities and social science library scheduled to open in 2011. By making this sale, CUL will free up stack space for new, unique acquisitions and obtain funds to help offset the cut to CUL's materials budget.

Amazon.com

In addition to buying collection content from Amazon, the Library continues to use Amazon as a sales outlet adding nearly 80,000 books that the Library has digitized in-house or through its partnership with Microsoft and Kirtas Technologies to the 6,000 titles already 'in-stock' through Amazon.com. All of the books are in the public domain, printed before 1923 mainly in the United States. They cover a host of subject areas, including American history, English literature, astronomy, food and wine, general engineering, the history of science, home economics, hospitality and travel, labor relations, Native American materials, ornithology, veterinary medicine and women's studies. For those who wish to have free access, we have shared these titles with the Internet Archive.

Modifying Domestic Approvals -- Patron Driven Ebook Collection

Our domestic approval plan has run at a substantial deficit for a number of years: no longer a sustainable option in the current and foreseeable economic environment. We analyzed historical cost and usage data, by publisher, for the approval plan and considered two options: a.) converting publishers deemed low-use to "slip-only" status or b.) moving to a patron-driven ebook option. Following a usage-based approach, we arrived at a relatively moderate adjustment. 20 publishers were moved from book delivery to "slip-only" status and will follow a WorldCat Selection-based firm orders process. These include several smaller presses with low CUL circulation and a few expensive, high-output commercial presses. No university presses were included in this revised list. As of September 2009, Cornell began a patron-driven eBook purchasing model to replace print books formerly received on approval from 11 publishers in the sciences. Using the vendor Coutts and the MyiLibrary platform, the system is designed to provide access to content our patrons actually use, including expensive but important titles that are normally excluded from our print-based plan. MARC records are loaded into the catalog for books matching our profile (scholarly and in certain subject areas). Patrons decide which titles we purchase through their active use.

Columbia-Cornell Collaboration (2CUL)

See Columbia report quoting Cornell CCDO report. Bob and I would be happy to discuss our current activities.