



Case for the Need of Increased Support for Library Collections

1. **How has the collections budget changed over the past few years? Up / down / flat?**

From 2005 to 2010 our cumulative expenditures on collections growth was 1.7% (not adjusted for inflation).

2. **How does our collections budget compare to those of our peer institutions over the past few years?**

The median cumulative expenditures on collections growth among the top 30 North American academic research libraries between 2005 and 2010 was 24.9% (according to Linda Miller). In 2005 CUL had the 8th largest collections expenditure among this group. In 2010 we were 19th.

3. **Are there other budgets we should be knowledgeable about? Total budget? Is this question really "How does the Library's total budget compare to our peers?"**

CUL's total expenditures grew by 4.6% between 2005 and 2010 (cumulative growth, NOT adjusted for inflation). The median cumulative total expenditure growth among the 116 North American academic research libraries during this period was 16.5%. The average cumulative growth for this group during the same period was 16.1%.

4. **Can we look at the budget data across peer universities by comparing spending per student and spending per faculty member?**

Among the 116 North American academic research libraries in 2010 we were 43rd in total library expenditure per faculty and 15th in total library expenditure per student. What matters most is expenditure per PhD field, because these are the subject areas that we have to support deep research by faculty and PhD candidates. Supporting the same number of students and faculty across fewer subject areas could require fewer resources. In 2010 we were 35th in total library expenditure per PhD field.

5. **Within the area of collections, what are the library's top priorities in terms of collections support (fields of study or types of materials)?**

John Saylor, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development is currently working with the selectors who work with faculty and graduate

students to make decisions about what is purchased in different subject areas to determine where we have major gaps partially as a result of the past three years of major budget cuts. This information will be compiled and disseminated by December.

Priorities we can identify right now include:

Asia Collections: We know that because of the elimination of the Title VI National Research Council grants that our collections support needs to be increased for our Southeast Asia, East Asia, and South Asia Collections. This area also needs support because of the devaluation of the dollar and the increased cost of postage from Asia for these materials.

Humanities and Social Sciences: A priority in this area is for one-time and ongoing support to purchase electronic backfiles and new materials. These are resources that our other top university libraries provide to their constituencies but because the last three years of collections budget cuts (appropriations and endowments) at Cornell we have been unable to fund. Examples include digitized runs of historical newspapers, databases of resources on slavery, the civil war, the arts and other resources that have been made available for purchase by commercial vendors. One example is the resources from just one publisher, ProQuest. Columbia University Library provides access to \$770K worth of digitized resources in history and social science while Cornell has only been able to purchase \$390K of this material. Cornell has an internationally known program and collection in industrial and labor relations and last year the materials budget was cut significantly by its college. Replacing funding for this collection should be a priority.

Physical Sciences, Engineering, and Computing and Information Science: When the Engineering Library was virtualized it was estimated that its materials budget was at least 25% below what it should be. We increased the ongoing materials budget for these libraries resources by ~5% last year but we are still significantly behind in terms of one time and ongoing digital resource support.

Life Sciences: While the endowed collections budget contributes substantial amounts of funding for collections in the life sciences the major portion of the life sciences material is purchased with funding from the contract colleges and the medical school. Life sciences (biology, environment, etc) resources are used campus wide by engineers, chemists, and others. The contract colleges are under severe economic constraints and the ongoing budgets for the collections must be supported.