

Libraries' Committee Report  
Vicki L. Sauter, Chair  
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This year, the Library Committee has responded to two events on campus: (a) the journal cutting exercise in Fall, 2006; and (b) the 5-year review of the Libraries. These efforts are described in this report.

### 1. Committee Response to the Journal Cutting Exercise

The members of the Library Committee were quite concerned about the implications for the Libraries of cutting journal subscriptions amounting to approximately one-third of our print journal budget. Greater investigation showed that the Library had not had an increase in the serials budget *for ten years*.

Further investigation made this statistic seem even worse. Looking at comparative library data, we found some troubling statistics:

- UM - St. Louis *currently* has less serial subscriptions than UM - Kansas City, Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University and, even, Lindenwood University.
- All other campuses of the University of Missouri system spend more per FTE student than does UM-St. Louis on the Libraries.
- UM-St. Louis ranks 19<sup>th</sup> of the 21 institutions in the School Serving Urban Areas group (formerly the Urban 13) in number of serial subscriptions, about 75% below that of the average institution. UMSL ranks 14<sup>th</sup> of 21 institutions in expenditures per FTE, about 24% below that of the average expenditure.
- UM-St. Louis ranks 26<sup>th</sup> of the 31 institutions in the Minter Group (our standard comparison group) in the number of serial subscriptions, about 32% below that of the average institution. UMSL ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> of the 31 institutions in expenditures per FTE, about 14% below that of the average expenditure.

Although these data do not take into account the budget for electronic resources (because that is paid for Umca), they do suggest a problem. The Committee believed there was clear evidence of a need for greater funding for the Libraries, and a need for a commitment to ongoing attention to this issue.

The Committee took the following actions:

- The Committee *unanimously* supported the Libraries' request for additional funding from any reallocations or new money available in the next fiscal year. These include:
  - \$439,950: a one-time allocation to re-instate the serials cuts;
  - \$165,000: annual rate increase 2008-2010 for serials' inflation;
  - \$210,000: annual rate increase 2011-2013 for further serials' inflation;
  - \$100,000: one-time allocation to re-instate our monograph cuts;
  - \$ 46,000: serials cataloger;
  - \$ 25,000: recurring for electronic resources for reference.

We have shared this support with the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for MTS. The Committee was pleased to learn the Chancellor and Provost have made a commitment to fund the re-instatement of the serials cuts when new monies become available for FY2008.

- The Committee has emphasized to the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for MTS that even if these requests are funded that our Libraries will continue to need new monies over the upcoming years to repair and long-standing decay in library resources.

- The Committee has emphasized to the Dean of Libraries the importance of regular requests for these new funds to repair the long-standing decay in library resources.

- The Committee recognized the absence of any mention of the Libraries in the Campus Action Plan. Since this is the document against which funding changes are compared, the Committee saw this as a significant oversight. Hence, we have recommended to the Chancellor the addition of new items to the Action Plan that *explicitly* mention the Libraries. The two suggestions provided include amending:

1. In the section, "Enhance the quality and delivery of undergraduate and graduate/professional education," we suggest adding a fifth item:
  5. Develop Libraries infrastructure to support the academic mission with the following increase per capita library expenditures by FTE from \$435 to \$671<sup>1</sup>.
2. In the section labeled "Build the quality of research, scholarship, artistic/creative activity and

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<sup>1</sup>The amount of \$671 was chosen because that is the expenditure currently experienced at UM - Kansas City.

graduate programs, “subcategory, “Faculty Research and Scholarship;” we suggest adding a ninth item:

9. Develop Libraries collection to support the historical and emerging academic disciplines. The Chancellor received those recommendations positively and is considering with the appropriate committees how to implement the recommendations.

- Recognizing the importance of the Libraries to the research mission of this campus, the Committee was surprised to learn that the Libraries receive no funds from the F&A associated with grants and contracts. In recognition of the importance of the Libraries, the Committee recommended to the Chancellor to open discussion of the F&A allocation and consider adding the Libraries to the list of units that receive funding from this source. The Chancellor has this idea under consideration at this time.

- Recognizing the importance of the Libraries to the educational mission of this campus, the Committee recommended to the Provost that the campus consider a student fee directed to the Libraries that parallel's the instructional computing fee. The Provost was not supportive of the recommendation without first gauging student support.

- The Committee continues to look for creative ways to direct new revenues to the Libraries to repair the damage done to the collections over the last 15 years.

## 2. Committee Response 5-Year Review

- The Committee unanimously supported the Libraries' staff and their excellent efforts to meet the needs of a wide range of patron needs.

- The Committee acknowledged the difficulty the Libraries' staff has in getting information to faculty about changes and policies. Amy Arnott, Dean of Libraries noted the Libraries publishes an online newsletter twice per year. When she described the items in the last newsletter, it became clear that we, the faculty, don't seem to read the newsletter carefully. Hence the Committee suggested the Libraries renew their efforts to establish a Libraries Listserv that would be used to notify the faculty about new products, new services, and changes, in a format which is more concise than a traditional newsletter.

Since very few people had requested to be added to the list (when it was noted in the newsletter), we suggested that members of the Senate Libraries Committee, Library Liaisons, and Deans be automatically added to the listserv. In addition, we recommended that she send (through appropriate channels) a short notice to the campus community about the availability of the listerv with instructions for subscribing.

**If any member of the Senate is interested in subscribing to the Library listerv, you can do so by sending e-ref@umsl.edu and state that you want to be added to the Libraries' Update Listserv. The Libraries Committee recommends that all faculty do so.**

- The Committee complimented the Libraries' efforts to get faculty input about collection development and policies. The Review suggested they could do more in this area. The Library Committee committed to working with the librarians to get more input.

- The Committee applauded the Review Committee's notice that all students, but especially undergraduates, do not fully appreciate how to use the Library. Amy Arnott, Dean of Libraries noted they had offered a pilot 1-credit course to undergraduates each of the last two semesters. After describing the course and the student feedback, the Committee *unanimously* endorsed the class, and suggested the Libraries go forward and seek approval for the course by the Senate C&I Committee. We recognize that even if approved, the course will not be offered until the funding (from the Library School in Columbia) is secured. The Committee further suggested that after the course is implemented, the Libraries consider requesting the course be added as a graduation requirement.

In the meanwhile, the Committee suggested that the Libraries pursue other opportunities to make the bibliographic instruction part of curricula. The options considered include:

- contacting the undergraduate and graduate studies committees in each school and college as an intermediary with the faculty and encourage them to take advantage of the bibliographic instruction, make them aware of the course (when it is available), and encourage faculty to create assignments that bring students to the Libraries;
- identify the “methodology courses” in the various schools and colleges and target the instructors in those classes directly about opportunities for bibliographic instruction;
- coordinate with ITS to make some bibliographic instruction part of ITS' Friday short course series; and
- send information about this (and similar activities) out to the faculty in short emails that will get attention (not as part of a newsletter).

The Committee anticipates more activity this semester in providing guidance to the Libraries in the event that all of the funding requests are granted. In addition, we anticipate providing feedback on the UM Libraries Strategic Plan when it is available.