



**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ALBERTSONS LIBRARY**

March 9, 2020

Dear Colleague:

The increasing cost of staying current with new research has once again collided with the reality of Albertsons Library's budget. The Library is facing a turning point and critical decisions are required.

### **FY20 Budget Shortfall**

Last fall, the FY20 budget shortfall for Library Materials was estimated at \$220,000. I allocated one-time funds from endowment accounts to help us through this fiscal year, but these funds will be depleted, and will not be available again for several years. As a result, Albertsons Library has made cuts to subscriptions to meet a goal of reducing expenses by \$100,000.

### **The Basics & Our Drive to a Sustainable Budget**

Although this may seem sudden, this is a challenge all academic libraries face, and that we've been wrestling with for many years:

- Although the Library materials appropriated acquisitions budget has increased, the added funds have amounted to less than the rate of library materials inflation, which has averaged 5-6% *per year* since 2010.
- Resulting impact:
  - A loss of approximately \$160,000 of purchasing power each year
  - An annual budget shortfall that increases each year if cuts are not continuously made
  - A cumulative 19% increase in journal costs from FY16-20
- Nearly all \$3.2 million of the Library's appropriated acquisitions budget is dedicated to maintaining *current, annual subscriptions*
- Funding for one-time purchases, such as books, has been dwindling
- No funding is available for new journal or database subscriptions
- Our budget does not currently allow enough flexibility to keep pace with growth in University enrollment, degree programs, and research

This has been a slowly growing dilemma that we need to address. Potential budget cuts for the University this spring or for FY21 have not necessitated this project. They simply intensify the challenge. Any reductions in subscriptions that we make now, will reduce the impact of inflation in the year to come.

## Addressing the FY20 Shortfall

Last fall, the Albertsons Library Collections Council evaluated underutilized resources, primarily those that are negotiated on an annual basis, and existing subscriptions were reduced to address the immediate shortfall. Your [liaison librarian](#) will share this information with you in more detail soon if they have not already done so.

### We Commit to:

- **Continuing to purchase one-time items such as books/ebooks**, with minor limits on cost as funding allows. Please continue to submit these requests through your [liaison librarian](#)
- **Borrowing materials for you** if we don't own them, where borrowing is feasible (via [Interlibrary Loan](#))
- **Carefully evaluating streaming media requests**, which frequently come with multi-year commitments. We will purchase what we are able
  - If we cannot purchase the item, your [liaison librarian](#) may be able to identify an alternative for use that is open access or already within our collection
- **Continuing to maintain a wish list of new subscriptions** requested by faculty and academic departments; however, the likelihood of purchase is extremely low
- **Launching an initiative to shift our practices toward sustainability**, which will include developing a library materials budget management philosophy that allows for a holistic, long-term approach to purchasing and licensing content, and reallocating funds to invest in our future

We are committed to being good stewards of state and student funds, providing access to essential resources, and providing support and resources to help you utilize the content we provide. No matter how difficult the situation, we will never cease advocating for your right to access the information you need.

For more information on this issue please visit our web page <https://www.boisestate.edu/library/about-the-library/budget/> or contact your [liaison librarian](#).

Sincerely,

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