

Archived Messages

Date	Jun 03 2009 06:05:07 PM
Sender	George W. Breslauer, Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost (Campus-wide)
To	Deans, Department Chairs, Senior Administrator Officers,
Subject	Preserving Access to Books, Journals, and Databases in Your Library
Message	<p>I am forwarding a message from University Librarian Tom Leonard.</p> <p>George W. Breslauer Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost =====</p> <p>Deans and Department Chairs</p> <p>The economic downturn has left few if any US research libraries unscathed. The Berkeley Library is facing a significant reduction to its *operating budget*. Berkeley faculty and students should be very pleased to know that campus leadership has shielded our *collections budget* from cuts in the past several years and has promised to try to continue this protection in the coming year. In spite of this, Berkeley's collections budget is confronting the cumulative effect of 8 years of unrelenting hyperinflation in books and journals, compounding annually at roughly \$600,000 since the last inflation-based adjustment to library collections was made in 2001.</p> <p>The Library is taking several measures to bring collections expenditures into alignment with available resources, including a focused cooperation initiative with the Stanford libraries and an aggressive fund-raising campaign. Central to our overall efforts will be a two-year process aimed at reducing collections expenditures by \$1.3m or 10.5% of our current annual expenditure of \$12.2m for books, journals and databases. The reductions will be managed by subject librarians for the individual departments and programs. Your subject librarian will be contacting you in the coming months to identify appropriate journal titles for cancellation and strategies to reduce expenditures for books and databases.</p> <p>We also seek faculty support in working with publishers on library-friendly pricing policies. As you may be aware, Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell have reported extraordinary profit margins for the most recent corporate reporting periods. Nature Publishing Group (NPG) indicates that it will significantly increase its 2010 journal renewal rates for all UC campuses. The University of California Libraries have issued an Open Letter to Licensed Content Providers urging publishers and vendors to take the California budget climate into consideration in their negotiations with UC. The letter can be viewed at http://www.cdlib.org/news/pdf/UC_Libraries_Open_Letter_to_Vendors.pdf</p> <p>If you are serving as a member of a journal's editorial board, please consider promoting the University of California statement as well as two important statements by the library community in which we have asked publishers to keep renewal rates in line with the realities of the global economic crisis and</p>

reduce the rate of development of new products for the library marketplace. These statements are available for your inspection at:

*Association of Research Libraries. ARL Statement to Scholarly Publishers on the Global Economic Crisis <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/economic-statement-2009.pdf>

*International Coalition of Library Consortia. Statement on the Global Economic Crisis and its Impact on Consortial Licenses <http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/icolc-econcrisis-0109.htm>

Please distribute this message to all appropriate faculty and departmental lists. For general questions, please contact Chuck Eckman, the University Library's Director of Collections (email: ceckman@library.berkeley.edu).

Tom Leonard
University Librarian

Further Reading:

UCB Subject Librarians
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Help/UCB_subject_librarians.doc

UCB Library Collections Budget and Planning
<http://lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/bphome.html>

Cuts, Freezes Widespread in Academic Libraries
<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/currentnews/newsarchive/2009/may2009/academiclibrarywoes051309.cfm>