



## Background information for Libraries Task Force

September 1, 2004

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"Over the last decade, the libraries have experienced proportionally higher growth than the rest of the university. However, during this same time, increases in the costs of both scholarly books and journals have exceeded the rate of inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI). In addition, the bundling of e-journals into packages that must be purchased as a single package has reduced flexibility in determining which journals to purchase. University faculties and librarians are reconsidering the value of publisher e-journal packages and defining ways in which they can support sustainable scholarly publishing practices, while research libraries are expanding their collaborative activities particularly in acquiring foreign materials and preserving existing print collections." Provost Nathan Hatch, April 7, 2004

### **The Charge**

- What is our competitive situation?
- How are other universities addressing these issues?
- What strategies should Notre Dame adopt for the next three to five years? Further,
  - What options should the Libraries consider to address the needs of the humanities, social sciences, professional schools, science and engineering?
  - By what strategies can the Libraries best support ND faculty and students?
  - How can the coming campaign best assist the library?

### **Current fiscal realities in the library**

- Growth in total library operating expenditures (100%) was higher than university average growth rate (75%) (Chart: Library Growth, August 2003). -- p. 1
- Library budget components are in line with those at other top 20 private universities (Chart: Library Budget Components, August 2003). -- p.2
- In a tuition-driven institution, endowments provide substantial funding to the library materials budget (Chart: Library Budget by College, 2003/04). -- p. 3
- The library materials budget grew 77% from FY 1994/94 to FY 2000/01, an average of 12.8% annually.
- Since then, our comparison of increases in library materials base budgets showed that ND was in range for 2 years, then we dropped below the low end of the range (Chart: Benchmarking Increases). -- p. 4

- Monograph and serial costs have risen at rate exceeding that of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with subsequent drop in purchasing power (ARL graph). Inflation may be moderating slightly with projections for FY04/05 of only 10-12% and at 5-6.5% for some commercially published e-journal packages (Chart: Library: Monograph and Serial Costs) - - p. 5
- Exchange rate fluctuation (dollar to Euro) in FY02 through FY04 has resulted in an additional loss of 10%-15% purchasing power for library purchases from European sources, and about 30% of our purchases.
- Allocation of library collection budget (FY03/04) to show differences in books and serials purchases by college (Chart: Acquisition Budget Allocation by Format and Subject Area). - - p. 6
- From FY1996 to FY 20003, library expenditures for electronic journals grew from \$1,000 to over \$2.6 million.
- E-journal packages with 2% (or none) cancellation rights and discounted prices provide access to a broader range of content but in era of limited funds, e-journal packages limit ability to select journals or other information content individually.
- Library strategies to maintain content include smart shopping, reduction of print when electronic access is available and purchase of books in softcover..

#### **University data and library demand indicators show growth**

- University growth seen in student enrollment, instructional faculty, awards received, graduate programs, centers (Chart: University Growth Indicators). -- p. 7
- ND Works, July 16, 2004: "ND faculty members earned more than 420 research awards and some \$73 million in externally sponsored research funding during the past fiscal year, continuing a trend that represents an average 16 percent funding increase each of the past five years."
- Library demand indicators show growth: circulation data, electronic journal download data, interlibrary loan (Chart: Library Demand Indicators). -- p. 8
- Convenient desktop electronic access one factor in increased use of information resources
- Download data shows high use of some journals not previously owned which could be due to convenience (found first and readily accessible), or a shift or expansion in research needs.

#### **University aspirations high for academic excellence**

- Expectations for faculty teaching and research are higher than ever but the faculty rate library performance as substantially below their expectations on the dimension of access to information, including the completeness of journal titles and comprehensive print collections (LibQUAL+ Survey, Spring 2002).
- Major strategic goals for academic life will demand even more from library collections and access to electronic information (Chart: Major Strategic Goals for Academic Life, February 2004). -- p. 9
- Continuing investment in the library required: Maintain rank of 15 or better in the top 20 private universities ranked by USNWR (University Libraries Strategic Plan, January 2004) (Chart: Rankings of USNWR top 20 university libraries, August 2004). -- p. 10

### **Envisioning the library collections and access to information resources**

- Our library, like all academic libraries, cannot acquire or gain access to all useful information, nor even to only that information required by ND faculty and students, with the resources the University is able to allocate.
- The resources provided to academic libraries are, in one sense, arbitrary, but the “right size” for library collections and access to information is also a function of the University vision and goals.
- The “right size” of library collections and access to information resources is more a function of graduate programs and faculty research than it is of undergraduate programs because graduate programs and research place greater demands on the library.
- The “right size” is a function of the ways in which research is conducted as for some disciplines, the library is the laboratory and the presence of a comprehensive, systematically developed collection is essential while in other disciplines, the library is a repository holding, or provided access to, needed information.
- The “right size” of a library collection is a function of the cost effectiveness between library collections and information supplied to individual requesters (document delivery, interlibrary loan).
- Budget crises together with the ability to deliver information content “on demand” on a more timely basis has shown that document delivery can be effective in responding to individual faculty needs and thus possibly more “acceptable” as a regular means of meeting information needs.
- Choices on funding levels are based on University goals and programs, including:
  - a gross target of maintaining library parity with schools ranked in our peer group because to do less would endanger ranking and national prestige
  - a direction aimed at supporting areas of historical strength or new programs to be supported with extraordinary resources, e.g., give these programs first call on library resources as a matter of priority
  - a direction influenced by availability of financial resources and/or library materials in specific subject areas