

Proposal to eliminate the allocation of library funds to departments for book/DVD purchases.

In 2002-2003 the Library Affairs Committee initiated a new monograph allocation formula that distributes or allocates funds from the library budget to departments to recommend purchases for books or videos. Allocations are currently based on a formula that factors in student enrollment in undergraduate and graduate courses, cost of materials in a given discipline, and number of faculty in each discipline. It essentially provides each department an amount to spend on library materials to support the curriculum.

In 2003-2004, the Library Affairs Committee worked to develop a similar allocation formula for serials but, after a careful and thorough review, determined that the best approach for serial allocations was not to have individual departmental allocations but instead to have one serials budget managed by the library. This decision gave the library greater flexibility in managing the increase in electronic serial and database subscriptions. A list of department serial subscriptions is maintained.

Over time, with the proliferation of electronic resources and shift in expenditure to cover those resources, the amount available for book/video orders has decreased, primarily due to serials inflation which averages a 5% increase each year to the cost of subscriptions. Increased demand for eBooks and streaming media has also put additional pressure on the flat budget for materials. Many of the electronic resources the library subscribes to cover multiple disciplines, and resources i.e., JSTOR, Wiley. Streaming Media resources may also require a subscription.

Without increases to the library's material budget, aggressive cancellations and negotiations with vendors have been one way the library has been able to preserve funds for non-subscription purchases, like books or videos (DVD or streamed files). We've had a few years recently where there were not enough funds to allocate because of the cost of subscriptions and serials inflation.

Current library spending on electronic resources, including streaming media, eBooks, serials, and databases, consumes 89% of the total budget of \$744,530 for library resources. Non-subscription purchases like books and videos consume the remaining 11%.

This proposal is to eliminate allocations, not orders. Department library liaisons will continue working with their faculty and subject librarian to submit recommendations and requests for titles and subscriptions for the collection to support programs. Having one source of funds for firm order purchases will give the subject librarians greater flexibility to develop and update the collection, along with the flexibility to adapt to new trends in resource access. The library will maintain fund codes to track purchases and ensure materials are purchased to support all programs.