

Changes in Collections during COVID-19: Part 1
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

BUDGETS

Budget Restrictions for FY20 and FY21

- Cornell had spent most of their money from FY20. They have been asked to hold back a little bit of funding from the current year. They anticipate large budget cuts of 10-20% but have not received specifics on FY21 budget. Cornell will likely have cancellations due to budget cuts.
- Columbia has no concrete information for FY21; they anticipate finding out in July. They were asked to stop spending in FY20 unless it was already accounted for, but new monograph ordering was halted. They stopped all shipments to the library and will be looking at a significant number of cancellations.
- Harvard was asked to give money back from unrestricted funds. Monographs were only purchased as requested through the spring term. They anticipate about a 5.5% loss in our endowed funds and a 15% budget cut overall and are actively looking at cancellations to make by the end of summer.
- UGA was asked to give back to the University for FY20, but most of the return was covered by the law school. There is no firm budget as the legislature has not approved the state budget. There has been a 14% state budget cut floated around, but that may not be done evenly.
- Berkeley was not asked to give any money back for FY20 and has been able to spend on some electronic book collections. The budget for FY21 has not been confirmed and they do not anticipate a budget until September. They feel they have made all of the budget cuts possible, so it will be difficult to make decisions on cuts.
- UConn did not have to return from FY20, but they knew going into the pandemic they had a 4% cut, and another 10% is likely to come with the pandemic. They anticipate cutting things like CJS or McKinney's.
- USF is well into 6 figures of cancellations for the year ahead. They will be freeing up room for the resources most likely to be used by students. Enrollment numbers will also have an impact on the budget. Most of the print budget is being cut.
- Fordham has been asked to give back from FY20 and has seen cuts for FY21. They have been looking at cuts but are also trying to get additional online resources for students like a study aids package.
- BU has been given a tentative cut of 15%, which looks more like 20% with inflation rates included. The law school has not been receiving shipments, so it helps in FY20 but will hurt in FY21 when all of the materials are received.

Changes in Collection Methodologies

- UGA believes that they will be moving entirely to just-in-time; the approval plan for resources will have to be evaluated. They will likely have to look at database cancellations if they are not serving a large number of users or are not a core item. They are also looking to pivot some of the spending to study aid packages and ebooks, which will require more cancellations. Journal cancellations are happening, but are not the highest cost items. Q4 costs will be carried over into FY21, and that will be a challenge for the budget.

- Columbia has received university-wide guidance to shift focus to electronic as there must be a consideration that things could be online only or move back to online only in light of a potential second wave of COVID-19.
- Cornell is in the early planning stages, but will likely not move to complete DDA. The University Libraries are moving to only demand-driven. Faculty requests will likely be the bulk of the monograph collecting for FY21.
- UPenn moved YBP to slips rather than automatic so that selection decisions could focus on ebooks. They have not received a directive to halt purchasing but are looking at looseleaves for cancellation options.

Limitations on New Requests

- USF will continue to purchase items requested from faculty and students within a certain price range once they return to the office.
- UGA is trying to fill all requests from faculty and students. They will use requests to educate patrons on the availability of materials.
- Harvard is limiting ebook purchases that are not available for academic purchase for both students and faculty. They are also not shipping books to faculty.
- Columbia is allowing requests for faculty ordering out of their own faculty research accounts and shipped to their homes.
- Cornell has not had to stop faculty requests. They have received increased requests for individual ebooks since there was no access to print collections, but this is a very small part of the overall collections budget. They have only been turning down faculty requests that are very costly or not available for library license.

CANCELLATIONS

Permanent vs Temporary Cuts

- UGA & NIU are treating cuts as permanent.
- NIU has put a pause on specific sets that are difficult to cancel without losing a year.
- BU has been told that the cuts are temporary, but they are treating the cuts as permanent.
- There was a question as to if publishers will take this opportunity to begin cutting their production of print resources. Bloomberg has moved to electronic only for BNA, and there is an anticipation that Wolters Kluwer may do something similar.
- There is hope that WK will choose to fix some of the Cheetah issues, but there are concerns over what is in the database if they stop producing print.

Monographs Spending vs Serials Spending

- Harvard and BU are looking at redundant journals; print will be cut if available electronically.
- BU will be cutting more from the monographs budget because most research comes from serials.
- Columbia will be cutting from both monographs and serials. In preparation for law school renovations earlier this year, they made some cancellations. They anticipate more cuts, but are hoping to continue some spending on monographs.
- UConn is working to protect the monographs budget; the collection development team has placed value on monographs. They are looking at usage stats for databases and will be dropping some. They will be cutting looseleaves as they won't have students to file.

Big Ticket Items on the Chopping Block

- Harvard will be looking at drastically reducing the state codes collection.
- The Bluebook has changed its rule on state statutes; you can now use the online version.
- Cornell will likely not be making one-time database purchases this year.
- Texas A&M is considering cancelling Bloomberg Law. They don't have the final budget numbers, but they did three levels of projections and Bloomberg will likely be cancelled.
- Fordham will be cutting databases that are only used by a small number of faculty, primarily in foreign languages. They are also considering cutting Cheetah.
- Suffolk is looking at a number of cancellations, but they are hoping that they may get cost reductions from the vendors before they cancel.
- BU is negotiating with Wolters Kluwer about cancelling large libraries because the resources are available from other sources. WK has been willing to negotiate.
- Harvard is looking at FCIL for cancellations, but they are protective of areas that are unstable. Most of the cuts will come out of US law where there is redundancy.
- UGA was cutting some FCIL spending because it came down to use. VLex has become more robust, so it has allowed the cancelation of some country-level resources.

FCIL Spending

- Harvard is looking at FCIL collections for cancellations, but most cuts will likely come from US law.
- UGA has already been cutting in FCIL spending based on use. They have been trying to keep databases, but are looking at redundancies. vLex has become more one-stop, so they have eliminated some country-level or regional databases.
- The question was raised about FCIL monographs being cut.
 - UGA has been looking at the mission in terms of collection and cuts. Monograph budget has had to shift to things like study aids.
- Chicago has been providing foreign and international collections for faculty and scholars working on international issues. They have determined that just-in-time is risky for FCIL long-term projects. Foreign materials are more difficult and take longer to acquire.
- UGA sees much of the demand for FCIL materials comes from site checks rather than research.
- Berkeley indexes FCIL journals, so they are required to subscribe to all the journals.
- UGA has an LLM program; the library is looking at how to best support the program in present day.
- Merle Slyhoff is looking at working with NELLCO to create lists of what resources are owned by what libraries and which libraries have collection strengths. She hopes to send the survey to ILL contacts later this week.

Other Topics

- Bluebook Discussions
 - There is a Bluebook committee within ALL-SIS. If there are suggestions for changes to the Bluebook, those can be sent to Merle Slyhoff.

SHIFTS TO ELECTRONIC ACCESS

Suggestion to move discussion to a second meeting

- **Changes in Collections during COVID-19: Part 2** scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020.