Budget Update
FY19 was the fourth fiscal year in a row with no increase to the recurring funds (PBA) of the OSUL materials budget. Projected inflation was covered by a transfer of cash from the Ohio State University Libraries (OSUL) operations budget, similar to the previous fiscal year. In March 2019, OSUL was informed that we would receive an approximate $1M increase to the PBA of the OSUL materials budget, and an additional cash allocation of approximately $730,000 to address its structural deficit due to annual cost increases in FY20.

Staffing and Organizational Changes/Update
The Acquisitions and Discovery program area has now filled all three vacancies in the five-person leadership team reporting to the Acquisitions and Discovery Strategist. Although initially advertised in a cohort in fall 2017, the positions were ultimately filled in two phases. Morris Levy started last August 2018 as Head of Bibliographic Initiatives. On March 1, Moon Kim began as Acquisitions Librarian and Anna Klose Hrubes as Metadata Initiatives Librarian. These appointments will advance our work to review and update workflows and seek efficiencies to direct staff time towards exploring new initiatives and work that can only be done locally. Metadata Initiatives, along with supporting staff hiring, will bring new capacity to OSUL to create, maintain and remediate metadata for digital collections. Electronic Resources Management Team now spans licensing through cataloging activities.

With the June 10 appointment of Miriam Centeno as Preservation and Digitization Strategist, we anticipate examining digital collections workflows of all kinds and increasing scale of these programs, which is in support of our strategic directions. Two new positions were created – a production coordinator to work across digitization and conservations shepherding projects into and through workflows; and a production assistant for camera based digitization.

Archival Description and Access was assigned four new positions to support restructuring away from interim reliance of term staffing for many project workflows.

New Programs or Initiatives
Local, National, International Partnerships
OSUL participated in Phase 2 of the HathiTrust Shared Print Monograph Retention program, placing retention commitments on an additional 51,430 monographs.
Collection Assessment Activities

Changes to copyright fee payments: Collections Strategy established a high-demand journal purchase pilot project in FY19, combining article request data from ILL with turnaway/denial data from publisher sites; this resulted in purchasing access to over two dozen journal titles for a specified term (three years). Concurrently, our Head, Interlibrary Services and Copyright Services Librarian developed along with input from the Collections Strategist and Electronic Resources Officer a new Interlibrary Loan Copyright Compliance policy, which moves away from following CONTU guidelines.

OSUL began deduplicating print journals retained in the Big Ten Shared Print Repository at Indiana University, for which we also have owned, perpetual digital access via the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center.

In FY20, we plan to review many of our foreign language content approval plans, updating subject profiles and bringing better alignment to our current fiscal management priorities.

Notable and Newsworthy Collection Development and Acquisition Models

OSUL expanded our user-initiated purchase program in FY19 by reallocating subject unit order funds to create two new centrally managed funds, one to support single book requests and one to support curricular materials requests received directly from users via forms. These new processes, alongside our existing streaming media request process and Interlibrary Purchase on Demand (ILPOD) process, allowed for streamlined and prioritized ordering of in-demand content from our users, while also freeing up time of our subject liaisons to focus on other priorities.

Scholarly Communication Initiatives and Developments

OSUL participated in the Choosing Pathways to OA forum hosted by the University of California Libraries in October 2018. Since then, OSUL has developed a strategic initiative titled “Transforming the Scholarly Publishing Economy,” which aims to, as an institution and a member of two major consortia (Big Ten Academic Alliance and OhioLINK), lead efforts to impact change on the economics of scholarly publishing by securing Open Access to Ohio State research while containing rapidly escalating costs associated with for-profit journals. Encouragingly, both the BTAA and OhioLINK have made commitments to increasing the openness of research and scholarship produced by member institutions in June 2019.

“Top of Mind” (Challenges, Issues, etc. to surface)

In FY19 we reviewed our pilot streaming media commitments. While we continue to make strategic fund reallocations in this space, current streaming media licensing models remain unsustainable, both in terms of cost and access management.

Implementation of the University Digital Accessibility Policy has led to some challenges with scale and range of library resources, and we are entering into a new era of partnership with the Digital Accessibility Center to reach compliance and work with content providers to makes resources accessible. We are pleased with the work BTAA is championing in this arena, but with the digital resource marketing lagging in implementing community standards, we are doing a great deal of work educating vendors, documenting shortcomings, and developing remediation strategies to support users.
OSUL has begun a strategic initiative titled “Leveraging Book Digitization for Strategic Collection Building,” to help our organization prioritize content and align our various digitization streams, invest strategically in community collaborations, identify partners, and identify external funders in a more strategic and intentional way. Priorities could focus on topics, formats, and/or underrepresented communities or perspectives. Outcomes would be intentional digital collection development.

In May 2019, an incident occurred at our Harvard-style book depository which resulted in hydraulic fluid coming in contact with collections materials. Upon examination by staff from Preservation & Digitization, a modest number of collections items were actually affected.

The approval of construction of an expansion to our high-density storage facility is slated for vote at the August 2019 Board of Trustees meeting. This 25,000 square foot addition would allow for the housing of approximately 4.2M additional volumes to our current depository.

Similar to digital accessibility, digital security awareness and compliance is rapidly expanding as a campus and Libraries concern. License review is now expanding to cover security issues and broad staff training on data security and digital security are required of the full workforce in the Libraries.