**Texas A&M University Libraries 2018 Update**

ALCTS CMDS Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries

ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries

**General**

We will receive no collections budget increase to keep up with inflation for FY19. As a result we will make no new continuing resource purchases unless another resource of roughly equal value can be canceled. Normally we make a few backfile or new one-time database purchases with any end-of-year money but any leftover funds in FY18 will be used to offset FY19 bills. Last year we received a 1% permanent reduction in library allocations so we cut 1% from the materials budget by identifying little-used materials and reducing our DDA profile. This year we began a continuing resources review and identified another 1% of materials that could be canceled or converted to a cheaper online subscription, in total reducing our materials spending by 2%, which will help offset the lack of increase. We hope to identify another 1%-2% in less-needed continuing resources in the coming year. The operating budget will receive a slight increase and we will receive a one-time substantial special fund for infrastructure needs.

As a result of last year’s 1% mandated reduction the Dean identified five areas to examine closely for possible cost savings with the following results:

* Collections budget
  + Cuts made as explained above
* Closing a small branch library on campus
  + Branch will remain open but with reduced hours and one non-tenure track instructor position eliminated
* Reducing the costs of document delivery and interlibrary loan
  + Realized substantial savings through switching from FedEx to postal service for certain returnables; also made extensive use of Rapid, reducing OCLC transaction charges
* Combine the three technical services units into one (Evans, Medical Science, and Special Collections)
  + Special Collections acquisitions and cataloging functions now under Evans, Medical Science considerations deferred until next year
* Reduce 24-hour access at one of the smaller branch libraries
  + Analysis revealed both libraries on west campus should remain 24-hour

Phase 3 of the Libraries’ renovation project was completed in early January. The new Preservation/Conservation lab and the new Learning & Outreach instruction rooms opened last fall and the renovated student spaces on the 2nd floor of Evans opened in January. The second module of the Joint Library Facility (JLF), which is shared with the University of Texas system, and will hold an additional 1 million volumes, was completed last summer. Our business and employee resources office space is under renovation but no major construction projects are planned.

We are actively participating in the development of FOLIO, a new open source library services platform. We have a dozen librarians serving as functional experts on nearly all of the Special Interest Groups (the librarian side of the development project) and have committed two half-time developers to the project, and also contribute professional staff to marketing and website support. Texas A&M, Cornell, and Chicago are all slated to go live with FOLIO in summer 2019, the current expected release date.

Last summer the Libraries hosted a week-long Lean Leadership boot camp for selected supervisors in the Libraries, including all Technical Services supervisors. We are using Lean methods to streamline our current workflows and the techniques learned should help us develop efficient workflows when we implement FOLIO.

Due to our extensive commitment to FOLIO we have had to reconsider our participation in other national projects or collaborative efforts. We have determined that at this time we do not have sufficient resources to continue our membership in the OCLC Research Libraries Partnership or the SHARE-VDE project.

The Libraries instituted a Diversity Residency Program this year and our first resident, *LaQuanda Onyemeh*, began on June 1.

**Collections**

We continue our review of materials housed on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Evans Library, sending journal volumes and sending older, little used monographs in the sciences to the JLF. We continue to withdraw duplicate monographs that are no longer needed. The West Campus Library which houses mainly business and agriculture titles undertook an extensive review of its holdings and transferred many journal and monograph volumes to the JLF as well. We also continue our review of our print federal documents collection with a goal of reducing that collection by 60%.

The Cushing Memorial Library and Archives made several substantial acquisitions in the past year:

* A 1637 Hamlet Quarto edition
* A signed Virginia Woolf letter to Quentin Bell
* A copy of the 1556 *Constituciones del arcobispado*, a Mexican “primero libro” [a major collection focus of the Cushing Library]
* Stephen F. Austin’s *Map of Texas*, 1830, the map that Austin published to attract settlers; one of 8 existing copies
* *Frankenstein*: the first American edition (1833) and the second British edition (1823)
* *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (1867 edition)
* An archive of Philip K. Dick papers
* The archives of Craig Jensen, notable American bookbinder and founder of Jensen Bindery and BookLab

**Technical Services and Scholarly Communication**

The Scholarly Communications unit is actively developing Scholars@TAMU, a VIVO-based project to enhance the research presence on campus and to aid faculty in discovering new collaboration partners. A beta version was released to campus last fall to positive reviews and currently covers over half of the academic departments on campus. The Data Management Librarian has assisted several academic departments with data management plans and to find an appropriate repository for research data.

Responsibility for metadata management for our institutional repository (OAKTrust) moved recently from the ScholComm unit to the Metadata and Cataloging librarians. These librarians are also actively involved in preparing metadata for several ongoing digitization projects. The Electronic Resources unit spent much of the fall transferring our continuing resources orders to a new serials vendor. Electronic Resources and Monographic Acquisitions have both been instrumental in identifying resources for the cuts mentioned above.

The Texas A&M Libraries currently have fifteen library vacancies, including these in the technical services areas:

* Acquisitions librarian – search will open soon
* Preservation librarian – search in progress

*Charity Martin* was named Metadata/Cataloging librarian (serials emphasis) in October.

*John Ballestro* was named Director of Collection Development and Acquisitions Services in January.

*Kelsey Brett* was named Electronic Resources librarian in January.

*David Lowe* was named Digital Asset Management librarian in June.

Submitted by:

**Paula Sullenger**  |  Associate Dean for Information Resources

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