Results of Collections Survey
or
What Else Could We Do with $50M, Annually?

Full Slide Deck

Pat Burns
Dean of Libraries and VP for IT
Colorado State University
Survey Results

The comments received for the different questions are all available separately via ARL. Or, feel free to contact Pat Burns, Patrick.Burns@colostate.edu, (970) 491-1456 to obtain them, or if you have any questions.
Details

• 88 responses – thank you!
• Numerous very thoughtful comments – thank you!
• 173 pages of responses, distilled and analyzed
• I “cleaned” the data for consistency
  • Adjusted for creative interpretations of the survey questions
  • I do not aspire to perfection
• 10 responses in Canadian $
  • Adjusted to US $ @ $1 Canadian = $0.77 US
The Numbers

- 88 institutions responded, 1 did not respond to the budget questions, 1 other was removed due to an aberration in the numbers reported
- FY 16 Total Serials + Databases budgets = $763 Million US $
- FY 17 Funded Inflation costs = $38.2 Million US $ (5.0%)
  - Canadian institutions reported that the decline in exchange rate is a far greater problem, currently, than inflation on collections
  - Does not equal total costs of inflation (more to come)
  - $38.2M from 88 institutions extrapolates to ~$50M for all ARL Institutions
- Funded inflation statistics:
  - Range: min = 1.55%; max = 15.0%
  - Average = 5.4%
  - Standard deviation = 1.70%
Q3: Collections Inflation -
In FY 17, I expect my institution to fund:

- Full inflation, & increase base -13.6%.
- Full inflation only - 13.6%.
- Less than full inflation 39.8%.
- Flat collections budget - 23.9%.
- Reduced collections budget - 9.1%.

Chart showing expectations of what the library would fund based on inflation
Q4: Article Processing Charges (APCs), by themselves, are most likely to:

- Reduce costs - 6.8%.
- Increase costs - 40.9%.
- Have no effect - 21.6%.
- Other (comments) - 30.7%.

Chart showing the answer to the question: Article Processing Charges
Q5: Do you support ARL investigating aggregated purchases?

Chart showing the answer to the question: Do you support ARL investigating aggregated purchases?

- Yes - 64.8%.
- No - 6.8%.
Q6: Belief that aggregated purchases through ARL have potential to decrease costs.

Yes - 42%.
No - 18%.
Other (comments) - 40%.

Chart showing the answer to the question: Belief that aggregated purchases through ARL have potential to decrease cost.
Q7: If you experienced significant savings from reduced collections costs, your institution would:

- Recoup all for non-library - 1.1%
- Share savings - 83%.
- Don't know - 8%.
- Other (comments): 8%.

Chart showing the answer to the question: If you experience significant savings from reduced collections costs, your institution would?
Investment Preferences

Chart showing libraries investment preferences
So, What Can We Do?
Possible Reactions

Ignore the Issue

React Appropriately

Overreact

Do Nothing

Pictures reflecting different reactions
Our Collective Sense of Urgency?

Illustration showing different degrees of urgency
Possible Strategies

• Open Access, but that is a very long-term proposition

• Aggregate our buying power under ARL, and enter into better and less expensive agreements with publishers
  • Will be extraordinarily difficult, but this may be the only way to achieve long-term sustainability
Observations, for Aggregation

• This is an institutional problem, not a Libraries problem
  • Need a PR/communications process to engage Presidents, Provosts, & VP’s for Research
• A great negotiator would be required
• Complexities abound
  • Existing coalitions already aggregate – what’s different here, how and when to unravel?
  • Differences in titles, terms and conditions, expiration dates
  • Discomfort/inability to abandon existing coalitions/smaller partners
• Most ARL institutions would need to participate
  • We would need to be extraordinarily disciplined – collective cancellations?
  • Consult a progressive attorney
• Significant desire to reduce costs, not just to address inflation
• Aggregation is already done at scale by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network & others – review possible models
An ARL “Strategic Framework” Committee?

Diagram showing a possible Strategic Framework for the Coordinating Committee

Elevate to Our Presidents, Provosts, And VP’s for Research

Legal/Organizational

Financial

PR/Marketing

Operational

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I Believe that, **Together**, We Can Still Accomplish Great Things

Who Else Will Do This?
Suggest We Explore Further...

"Insanity is doing the same thing over & over again & expecting different results."

Albert Einstein
Questions and Discussion

Are most welcome.