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Booklover -- Road Trip

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we might run out of funds before the fiscal year was over. I obviously needed to keep some money in reserve for firm orders, so in November I contacted both vendors and explained the situation to them. I felt that I had no choice but to cut the budget for each approval plan by $5,000. Naturally, this was not news they wished to hear, but they understood my reasoning and accepted it. I am pleased to say that the budget cut was only temporary. I continued to monitor our expenditures, and I noticed that the number of standing orders declined markedly in the new year. By February I felt confident that our budget could absorb the $10,000 amount that had been cut from the approval plans. I notified both vendors and asked them to restore the budgets to their original amount, which they were happy to do.

With the approval plans now well into their second year and the experiences outlined above, I would like to return to the question that I raised at the beginning: am I still selecting? I think the answer is yes, but the following observations should be kept in mind. First, it is essential to stay in regular communication with vendors. Particularly in the early stages there were many emails and telephone calls about the scope of the plans. Fortunately, I have found both Front and Harrassowitz to be receptive to my questions, concerns, and requests for changes. They both gave the option of returning items that did not fit the plan, although it has not been necessary to do so. Second, an approval plan is not likely to be set in stone. The plan is almost certain to be modified over time due to a number of factors. Changes in the curriculum; the hiring of new faculty; a decline in the materials budget; new publications that are deemed worthy of being added to the plan; and the arrival on the scene of important composers, whose work we desire to collect comprehensively — all of these scenarios are likely to affect approval plans in some way. In my own situation, I know that after the spring semester draws to a close and the last flurry of ordering has taken place, it will be time once again to review the parameters of the plans and to consider changes for the coming year.