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Book Pricing Update -- Book Price Inflation Highest in Years

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Book Pricing Update — Book Price Inflation Highest in Years

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This year, book prices appear to be heading toward a double-digit inflation rate on average. So far, at the end of seven periods of fiscal year 2005-2006, book prices have risen 9.62% over the same period one year ago. To put this in perspective, in only two out of the last nineteen years have book prices increased more than 10% in a single year: from 1991 to 1992 (up 12.51%) and from 1996 to 1997 (up 11.65%). Since we still have more than a quarter to go in this fiscal year, I am predicting that we will see inflation hitting 10% or more.

Most high-inflation years have been followed by years with relatively modest increases. For example, 1992 was followed by four years in which inflation didn't exceed 2%. 1997 was followed by six years of low inflation, and even one year of deflation. Nevertheless, at \$75.55, a new benchmark in the price of the average monograph has been set.

Please see the following table for pricing details from 1988 through the first part of 2006:

Book Price Inflation 1988-2006

Year	Price	Pct Change
1988	39.81	*
1989	42.25	6.13%
1990	44.28	4.80%
1991	46.29	4.54%
1992	52.08	12.51%
1993	52.98	1.73%
1994	53.85	1.64%
1995	54.05	0.37%
1996	54.32	0.50%
1997	60.65	11.65%
1998	61.82	1.93%
1999	62.72	1.46%
2000	62.88	0.26%
2001	61.29	-2.53%
2002	61.79	0.82%
2003	62.94	1.86%
2004	67.44	7.15%
2005	68.92	2.19%
2006	75.55	9.62%

* Base year

Little Red Herrings — What Do Academic Library Deans Do?

by **Mark Y. Herring** (Dean of Library Services, Dacus Library, Winthrop University) <herringm@winthrop.edu>

A recent discussion apropos of nothing set me to a thought-experiment: what is it deans of library services (or, as is often the case when I'm introduced, dean of library sciences) do? If one were to write up a short list of some of the most important general attributes of an effective dean, what would they be?

The danger in an exercise such as this is palpable: as surely as one thing is named, five are omitted. Readers will peruse the contents and announce it as lacking as **Belshazzar**, mene, mene: you left out this; why didn't you mention that — and you call yourself a professional! These disclaimers notwithstanding,

here's my aporematic in fulfillment of the thought-experiment, and I hope an ushering in of a wider conversation on same:

Deans must strive for participatory governance;

Deans must be proactive;

Deans must be flexible; and,

Deans must be fund-raisers.

Now, what do all of these mean?

Deans must strive for participatory governance. This must begin any such conversation since no dean can, or should attempt to,

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