

2016

University of North Texas Libraries Profile

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Background

Since 2004, the **UNT Libraries** have been funded nearly completely by a student use fee, with undergraduate and graduate hourly caps. Until 2010, the increase in student enrollment exceeded the increase of costs due to inflation. Student enrollment, however, has plateaued since 2011, reducing the purchasing power of the library. From the 2011 to the 2015 academic years, the **UNT Libraries** has reduced its collections budget by 36%, accomplished largely by cancelling most approval plans, eliminating dual print and electronic subscriptions, breaking up selected journal "Big Deals," and reducing firm-order or one-time purchase funds.

Before 2012, collection development at the **UNT Libraries** was largely decentralized, with subject specialists or Liaison Librarians responsible for spending a set amount annually on one-time purchases. The management of this collection development method was cumbersome, given the innumerable accounts (firm orders, subscription, etc. for each subject). Also difficult to manage were the selectors themselves. Many of the funds were spent appropriately, but there were those that were overspent, underspent or unspent.

Methods for the Three Sets of Cuts

Managing Budget Cuts from 2011-2014—

The first year of cuts, \$750,000 for budget year 2011-12, was relatively modest and met by eliminating most approval plans, reducing firm order funds by over 70%, and converting from print-plus journals to electronic only. The next year, another \$1 million was eliminated from the collections budget. The focus of these cuts were on the recurring expenditures. The criteria used to evaluate these resources were low overall usage, high cost-per-use, overlap, and access restrictions. In addition, we invited the Liaison Librarians to rate resources specific to their fields based on feedback from faculty. Despite liaisons inability to rate related resources purchased from other funds and challenges with librarian ratings of resources, we were able to meet the budget reductions.

For the 2013-14 year, the **UNT Libraries** was provided funding to cover inflation, sparing additional cuts. We used this year to prepare, by compiling more longitudinal usage data and to revise our evaluation methods. The article by **Foudy and McManus (2005)** described a method to rank resources for de-selection purposes, incorporating measures of access, cost-effectiveness, breadth/audience, and uniqueness inspiring our current method.

Measures Used in Evaluation— We used five measures in our evaluation: Overlap, Usage Trends, Cost-Effectiveness, Cost Trends, and Librarians' Input. For overlap, we examined not only full-text overlap of journals (as compared to subscription access), but also of database indexing. Several tools were used for this analysis for comparing coverage between full-text aggregators, as well as database in-

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against the grain library profile

University of North Texas Libraries

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LIBRARY BACKGROUND/HISTORY: The **University of North Texas Libraries** are the collections, facilities, tools and people who serve the research needs and informational interests of the institution's students, faculty, and staff and the community members of Denton, Texas, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Managed resources include over 6 million cataloged items, numerous special collections including government documents, and the **UNT Digital Library** (<http://digital.library.unt.edu>). The libraries have four public service locations on two campuses and two other off-campus facilities for storage and offices. The institution serves, as of fall 2015, 37,175 students, 2,503 faculty and 2,432 staff.

STAFF: Approximately 55 librarians, 80 staff and 170 student employees.

BUDGET: \$18 million, of which \$6-7 million annually is for materials.

TYPES OF MATERIALS YOU BUY: Collection development efforts include acquisitions of physical and e-books, audiovisual media, print and electronic journals and databases. By policy, textbooks are not acquired routinely although exceptions are approved on a case-by-case basis. The goal of collection development is to provide access to all types of information sources necessary to meet the research needs of the students and faculty, to support instructional programs, to ensure coverage of interdisciplinary subjects, and to maintain agreements with consortia and systems in which the institution has a role. We have a preference for electronic resources when available and when pricing is commensurate to other formats, due to multiple programs at **UNT** targeted to distance learners. We also emphasize access to research materials over ownership whenever feasible.

USE OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY: The institution's web site is optimized for friendly rendering on mobile devices. Purchased or subscribed resources may or may not be usable by mobile devices, according to vendor or publisher efforts to adapt products for that environment.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR LIBRARY BE LIKE IN FIVE YEARS? The **UNT Libraries** will continue to prefer electronic resources when possible, to be in the vanguard of developments related to digital libraries and scholarly communication, and to create spaces where people can meet, learn and collaborate.

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION:

HOW MANY DIVISIONS ARE THERE IN YOUR DEPARTMENT? The Collection Management Division (<http://www.library.unt.edu/collection-management>) consists of two departments: Collection Development and Cataloging & Metadata Services (<http://www.library.unt.edu/staff-directory/department/collection-management>).

HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK IN YOUR DEPARTMENT? The associate dean of Collection Management leads the two units. Collection Development has eleven employees—six librarians and five paraprofessionals; the unit has a varying number of student assistant and graduate library assistant positions, usually four. Cataloging & Metadata Services has eight employees—four librarians and four paraprofessionals, and two student assistants. (Total salaried, non-student FTEs is eleven.)

The Collection Development department is very fortunate to have such a large complement of professional librarians. The positions handle the following roles:

- department head & coordinator of collection development
- collection assessment
- serials management, receiving & accounts payable
- collection development liaison to public services & monographs ordering
- electronic resources acquisitions and management
- strategic collections analysis & open access resources

The Collection Development unit works very collaboratively, consults with colleagues frequently, and makes purchasing decisions in a team environment. Staff at all levels are empowered to investigate resources, suggest improvements, try new ideas with leeway to fail and try again, to collaborate with others in our division and in other divisions, and to pursue educational opportunities to improve skill sets and advance career goals. 🌱