

Appendix E

Power Point on Comparison of UM Libraries with Peer Institutions

Assessment and Response

Problems motivating current ULC
actions

State of collection is identified by faculty
as **greatest failing** of library

- In Lib-Qual survey, the materials availability factor is **27%** below faculty's definition of "satisfactory" collection, and even 15% below the definition of a "minimum" collection

LibQual survey of library patrons, Fall 2004

- Library summit reported **deterioration in access** to resources for research *and teaching*

Report on Library Summit, December 2007

Comparison with peers shows faculty reports are **realistic assessment** of collection

- We are the significantly **smallest** library; **46%** of mean volumes of our peers; 67% of smallest peer (UNC)
- We have access to the **fewest** journals; **42%** of mean serial titles of peers; 75% of next fewest peer (UNC)
- We only spend **68%** of the mean expenditure of our peers for collections (\$9.2M versus \$12.8m); 92% of our lowest peer (UNC: \$9.4m)

ARL statistics FY06 (excluding law and medical libraries)

We are not closing the gap; we are widening the distance to being the library of a top 10 university

- We are adding fewer volumes than any of our peers: 29% of the mean of our peers; only 58% of our closest peer (UCLA) in FY06
- Our serials collection has fallen from 50% of the mean of peers in FY01 to 42% of mean in FY06

ARL statistics, FY01, FY06 (excluding law and medical libraries)

We are in a position where being an
average research library is now threatened

- Our collection is only 106% of the median collection size for ARL libraries
- We own only 81% of the serials titles of the median ARL library
- Our expenditures for materials are now 95% of the ARL median
- This tenuous position of mediocrity is eroding; we are adding only 72% of what the median ARL library is adding

ARL statistics, FY06

Our current trajectory **worsens** the problem rather than addressing it

- In real dollars (materials budget adjusted for materials inflation), despite doubling our gross expenditures on materials, the annual materials budget is now over **a million dollars short** of *maintaining* the collection we had in 1994.
- The library estimates that by FY2011, without increases in the materials budget, we will lose another **\$1.9 million** of purchasing power; a further cut of 20% in library resources available to our campus.

from data provided by library and provost's office

Aside from comparisons, the **dimensions** of the current cuts are dramatic

- **25%** of our current journals have been cut in the last two years
 - By FY2011, nearly **half the current journal subscriptions** of two years ago will be gone
 - Our effective cut in published monographs over the last two years is around **18%**
 - By FY2011, we will be receiving **only around 60 percent** of the published scholarly monographs we received two years ago
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The widening gap of our resources is falling on **vital** aspects of the university's research goals

- As our collections retreat to core holdings in disciplines, **interdisciplinary** holdings have been eroded.
- The **depth** of our collection has eroded as core holdings are maintained and more specialized research literature eliminated.
- **Foreign language** resources have eroded even as research is internationalizing.
- **Ancillary collections** (such as law and medical) that support our research are targeted since they do not relate directly to the disciplinary matrix of our teaching mission at College Park
- As our resources erode, interlibrary loan requests have increased (up 151% from 1996 to 2006; 68% since 2002), forcing a **protracted timeline** for research projects and grant applications depending on access to past literature

from review of titles cut for FY07, FY08

The problem with the library budget appears **structural**, not transitional

- Library materials support is generated from state/tuition funds. The president has indicated **state funds will not increase** in the foreseeable future. With tuition increases now central to state politics, **revenue from tuition will also be a limited source of funds**
- President urges improvement in research funding, but library support included in **overhead** for research grants is **siphoned to other uses** and never reaches the library
- President urges foundation support, but foundation support **does not generally support maintenance**, nor are general library collections a priority for donors.

President's speech to University Senate, September 2007

We approach crisis . . .

- We still have an excellent **undergraduate** quality library
 - The library that would support a **top ten** research institution is **receding** farther into the distance
 - Our standing as even an **average** research library is **now in the balance**.
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Approaches guiding and being considered by ULC

1. ULC is addressing a list of specific questions from the library collection management team to guide the immediate cuts that are being implemented in the collection
 2. ULC is conducting a more general review of the libraries' policies that currently shape the process and product of collection decisions.
 3. ULC is considering issuing a “worst case” challenge to the library, recognizing that the fundamental nature of the library as a resource is changing and asking the library to plan for a library whose goals fall short of a top ten, or even a top flight research institution.
 4. ULC is considering a challenge to the provost (or to our three sponsors), declaring that we perceive an emergency, that we judge the status of the library as a facility for researchers seriously at risk, and requesting that the provost appoint a blue ribbon task force to assess the kind of library we should expect at a top ten research institution and advise the provost on what would be needed to provide such a library for the use of our researchers and students.
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To take back to the ULC

- Your response to the blue ribbon proposal?
 - Your suggestions on how we can assist you in addressing what we perceive as crisis?
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