Executive Summary

Tisch Library requests 8% increase for the FY16 materials budget to total $8,655,700. The increase would allow the library to maintain current collection strengths, while also to acquire materials in support of new teaching and research needs.

- 6% is requested in order to maintain the status quo; it is in line with predictions of 6% journals inflation. This is an increase of $480,872 on the FY15 materials budget of $8,014,537.
- An additional 2% is requested to meet new needs. This is an increase of $160,291.

Inflation

Journal inflation for 2015 is predicted to be 6% according to the Library Journal’s annual survey of journal prices. 81% of our FY15 budget is in fixed costs (journals and databases). For that reason, our past budget increases hovering at 5% are effectively just keeping up with inflation. While we acknowledge that in lean times even 5% is generous, we will not be able to add to our collections to meet new and changing needs while still maintaining the excellent collection we have without an increase above that rate.

With so much of the budget tied up in fixed costs, what is left of the budget is used for all of our book buying (print and e-books), as well as any one-time purchases, such as items for special collections, digital primary source collections, journal archives, and data sets. With the continued escalation of fixed costs, that has left less and less monies to support the buying of books, a fact that disproportionally hurts the humanities and some social sciences. Book prices have also been subject to inflation, resulting in fewer books purchased for the same amount of money. The alternative is to cancel journals or databases, reversing our trend to strengthen collections, particularly in the STEM fields.

New Areas of Research and Teaching at Tufts

As always, through conversations with faculty and careful consideration of curricular changes and strategic directions, we are attuned to new areas of research and teaching at Tufts and are actively engaged in ensuring we have the necessary collections to enhance the core mission of the university.

While we have long sought to build strong collections in cognitive studies and water, other areas of the cluster hires, such as race studies, digital humanities, and food, require us to greatly expand beyond past levels of collecting. Additionally, if a new relationship between UEPP and Community Health goes through allowing tenure-stream faculty to be hired in Community Health, it will require significant new

resources to ensure the new faculty can flourish. Collections librarians have identified several new acquisitions that will fill gaps in these areas, which will likely take years to fill with the current budgetary constraints.

Another ongoing project has been to add resources to support the study of finance. Although we added a second Bloomberg terminal at Ginn Library and opened up use to the AS&E community, we need to continue to work with the Tufts Finance Initiative to identify and add resources to serve the growing interest in finance at Tufts. Here too, there is simply not the capacity in the current budget to absorb the ongoing costs of the full extent of the resources needed in this area.

**Additional Pressures on the Materials Budget**

We have long relied on the materials budget to support our binding and preservation needs, certain memberships, and the annual purchase of Harvard library privileges for faculty. In the past few years, we have added costs associated with purchasing MARC records\(^2\) to the materials budget.

When we want to experiment with new services or new models related to our collections, we have often turned to the materials budget. Two new areas are digitization and open access support.

Currently, we are ramping up in-house digitization capabilities for select projects; however, even once we are fully operational, there will remain some items that need the highest quality professional digitization services. We will use preservation monies to pay for these professional digitization costs.

Another new area is open access. We wholeheartedly support the open access movement, but it, too, is another drain on the materials budget. We provide monetary support for a number of OA initiatives (e.g. Knowledge Unlatched, BioMedCentral, Open Library of Humanities, Directory of Open Access Journals, PhilPapers), so that those projects can thrive without having to charge exorbitant author processing charges (APCs). Additionally, we are in the early stages of working with the graduate school to offer a fund to support graduate students who want to publish their papers open access but lack alternative funding sources. The money to support this pilot will come from the materials budget.

We would like to continue to be responsive to new needs, to experiment with new types of collections-activities, but it is hard to be agile with the budget already fairly constrained.

**Conclusion**

At the new faculty orientation this year a new hire in Psychology remarked that we have a better journals collection in development studies than his previous school, MIT. Indeed, we can say with pride that we now have a world-class STEM journals collection. In order to maintain that collection, while also giving proper care and attention to the arts’, humanities’, and social sciences’ collections, we request an 8% increase to our materials budget.

---

\(^2\) When we buy large e-book or primary source collections, we also often purchase MARC records. The MARC records are preliminary catalog records for each item in the purchased collection. It would not scale to create cataloging records for each of these items ourselves; this practice allows us to provide access to the newly purchased material in a timely manner.