

Report of Library Task Force - Summary

The past decade has witnessed continued growth in the production of library materials in journals, monographs, and other venues. Similarly, the transfer of this information to, and creation of new knowledge in electronic form has experienced an even greater explosion. The ways patrons use libraries have similarly undergone radical changes. Remote e-access for some and use of the libraries as Learning Centers for others has changed the nature of libraries in what can only be viewed as revolutionary ways.

In the midst of these changes, the University of Oklahoma Libraries have made remarkable progress in the past decade compared to peer institutions, especially in regards to acquisitions and current expenditures for library materials. This feat has been accomplished by the steadfast commitment to excellence by President Boren including his plan of bolstering the University of Oklahoma Libraries with the infusion of \$1 million per year of additional on-going funding for the last ten years. This commitment has allowed the University of Oklahoma Libraries to pass many Big 12 competitors in essential library holdings. It has helped the University Libraries to reach a level where they can begin to compete seriously with some remaining high-ranked institutions in the crucial category of materials expenditures.

On the other hand, the University of Oklahoma Libraries remain quite uncompetitive in other areas compared to Big 12 institutions. Foremost among these areas is personnel. Oklahoma must substantially boost the number of library personnel if associated services and capabilities are to be maintained and expanded.

Considering the past, present and desired future, the Library Task Force recommends the following items for the University Libraries for the coming decade (2009-2019):

- Continue President Boren's initiative of increasing the operating budget of the University of Oklahoma Libraries by an additional \$1 million per year.
- Establish and aggressively pursue funding for various endowment and one-time funds for the University of Oklahoma Libraries.
- Convert a substantial fraction of the existing physical facilities into Learning/Information Commons with the concurrent movement of materials to off-site storage
- Establish of ca. 25 new library personnel positions in parity with peer institutions in the Big 12.
- Invest more fully in digitization efforts, particularly of rare books and collections.
- Enhance user education, librarian and user collaborations, and develop and promote alternate scholarly communication mechanisms.