

As of August 31, 2021, the university will no longer subscribe to the citation management software RefWorks. In preparation for this, the University Libraries has created a Research Guide with instructions, links, and videos that explain how to migrate data out of RefWorks and into Mendeley, EndNote, and Zotero. These alternative reference managers have free and paid account tiers.

Budget

2020-2021 COVID cuts resulted in 4.5% cut, \$300,700, from the base budget.

50% of this went to resource cuts, \$148,000 in materials, 7 underused databases that were not “trapped” by multi-year contracts. For example, CQ resources had 25 uses last year and cost \$27,000. Two additional examples include Statistical Insight, \$32,000, and Congressional Index, \$14,000. The remaining 50% of the cuts went to leaving 4 staff positions unfilled.

According to Dr. Evans, 96% of full budget goes to digital resources such as databases, some of which have multi-year contracts that go up 5-6% each year.

The library is at the point where they cannot maintain the current resources without additional funds. At the very least, the library needs an additional 3%, about \$250,000, to the current budget in the coming fiscal year in order to maintain the current resources.

Conclusion

A primary goal in the coming budget year is a the 3%, or roughly \$250,000, increase in the library budget. This will allow for a minimal cutting of resources. Library services will be crucial in terms of R1 status. As of now, there is no clear benefit from R1 status in terms of a funding boost to the library. Moving forward, a mechanism may need to be built into the yearly funding model where increases in annual expenditures can plan to be accommodated.

Without increases in funding for the library, there may come a time in the foreseeable future when colleges and departments will be requested to participate in the funding of new and necessary resources. Nursing, Kemmons Wilson, and Fogelman are already doing this.

The experience with Kanopy can serve to demonstrate that library services come with hidden and sometimes expensive costs. Moving forward, an open, two-way communication between librarians and faculty will be vital in maintaining important resources and obtaining new ones.

As a central organizing hub of information retrieval and exchange, the library maintains a high level of engagement despite the fact that not many people visit the library in person. As a university community, it will be important to maintain this level of engagement while pushing against unfounded negative reactions towards the library goods and services. The library is a vital component in the ways we will serve today’s students and the emerging students of tomorrow.