

## **Rutgers University Libraries** **Reducing Collections Budget for Fiscal Year 2021**

August 18, 2020

### Spending Reductions for Library Collections

Rutgers University is facing an expected [shortfall of approximately \\$160 million](#) in its budget for fiscal year 2021. The same factors driving this shortfall have also brought cuts to the Libraries' budget, including a reduction in the budget for collections of approximately \$1.5–2 million for fiscal year 2021.

### Where the Cuts Will Be Made

Some 92% of the Libraries' collections budget is tied up in recurring annual costs associated with subscriptions, primarily for scholarly journals, journal packages, databases, streaming video, and other content formats. In addition, inflationary increases on these recurring costs are estimated at 4–5% each year. The majority of the cuts will therefore, necessarily, come from these subscription resources.

### Guiding Principles

It is an ongoing goal of the Libraries to align our collections as closely as possible to the curricular and research needs of the schools and departments we support, and to the goals and priorities of the university overall. The Libraries recognize that library collecting decisions—both purchasing and cutting—must incorporate our [values](#) and advance the mission of the university. To that end, our overarching principle will be to provide access to the broadest universe of content possible within the constraints of the current budget reality. In some cases, *access* may mean expanded reliance on services such as Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and other means of just-in-time article delivery arrangements. Factors that will drive decisions on which resources to cut will include whether the same content is available through other means such as Open Access platforms and services. Resources deemed core to a given field or discipline will be afforded priority over other material, and factors such as low use and high cost-per-use will be considered within the context of program and curricular support.

Rutgers is not alone in facing these challenges. Many of our peers are facing cuts of similar magnitude to library collections budgets, and it is our hope to work with our partners elsewhere, particularly within the Big Ten, in coordinating our efforts and exploring additional means of sharing our collections through strategic partnerships.

We have a talented and extremely knowledgeable team of subject liaisons across all campuses who are working to ensure that library resources remain aligned with research, curricular, and programmatic needs, not only through the current crisis, but into the Rutgers future as well.