

**Library Budget Proposal talking points
for discussion with Chief Academic Officers**

- Libraries must be an integrated component of the infrastructure of the university to provide efficient, effective, and appropriate information services to users.
- The URSUS budget has faced steady erosion in purchasing power ---*de-facto* budget cuts for more than a decade. Since 1986 the average increase for print journals has been 9%, higher than the general inflation trends in North America during the same period. The cost for access to electronic full text is a new cost since 1986 and a higher cost than print
- The URSUS budget has increased once in the past fifteen years, from \$250,000 to \$295,000, largely to accommodate staff wages and benefits.
- Library patrons are digital resource users that are best served with 24/7 user support, adequate library space, and collections and services users want within the context of the larger constellation of networked information and service providers.
- Without a base budget increase, the UMS libraries are unable to leverage their purchasing power and realize cost savings for essential resources that would not otherwise be available to students and faculty.
- Providing digital libraries and distributed support are new library services that require additional base budget. Maintaining the traditional collections and services and delivering digital collections and electronic user support cannot be accomplished without a base budget increase.
- Libraries are in the information business: they acquire and manage information resources and services that support education. The library business adds value for the academic community. The academic administration needs to understand and be aware of the cost of doing library business.
- The URSUS budget has had to use one time bond money to address these *de-facto* budget cuts for a number years. Without a base budget increase the UMS Libraries are forced to :

Cancel electronic database subscriptions

Default on software and hardware maintenance licenses for URSUS system

**Cancel data processing services essential to managing the URSUS catalog ,
an \$80,000 investment made possible by the Maine State Library in 2002**

**Default on electronic journal management contract that maximize faculty
and student access to the full text of millions of articles in over 40,000
journals and newspapers**

- It is incumbent upon the academic administrators of the UMS Libraries to recognize and support the budgetary requirements of libraries.

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