Kansas State University Libraries

Epic 10 years

K-State Libraries currently spend about $5 million each year on subscriptions to electronic databases and journals. However, publishers continue to increase their prices by exorbitant amounts. With average annual inflation rates of 6 percent, subscription prices have become unsustainable. In addition, like other campus units, the Libraries have faced reduced budget allocations.

The result is unavoidable: Cuts will hurt researchers and universities more every year as long as publishers continue to raise their rates by 6 percent — and even more — on an annual basis.

Subscription Cancellations at K-State

The Serials Crisis at K-State

The SERIALS CRISIS AT K-STATE

A 1% callback for the Libraries = $140,000

K-STATE LIBRARIES BUDGET

Total Allocations Per Fiscal Year

$1.61M $1.65M $1.69M $1.73M $1.77M $1.81M

Total Reduction


If K-State Libraries continued to purchase the same materials from FY14, we project what cost $6 million in FY14 would cost us a little over $8 million today. That is a 25% increase in 5 years.

Projected Subscription Inflation Costs for K-State

*projection based on annual average inflation rate of 6%

25%
increase in 5 years
$6M $6.36M $6.74M $7.14M $7.57M $7.57M $8.02M

Cancellations since FY14 to date

2,662 resources

$731,184

Anticipated Cancellations spring 2019

$645,000

Spring 2019
A decade of perseverance and innovation

Despite experiencing some of the most difficult years in their history, the Libraries have made extraordinary progress towards several strategic goals. Hale Library, the heart of the campus community, successfully underwent a total renovation, resulting in a state-of-the-art facility that benefits all students, faculty and staff. New programs and initiatives were created, and new spaces, such as the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab and the Butler Digitization Lab, advanced campus efforts to increase student engagement and further research efforts.

The Libraries also found new ways to connect students and staff with resources, including the Resource Link at Hale Library, which partners with campus organizations such as the Writing Center to bring more campus resources into a centrally located space.

The Libraries staff, in particular, have shown an inordinate amount of dedication in continuing to serve the community in the face of challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, a declining budget and the 2018 Hale Library fire. Instead of simply accepting the status quo, staff went above and beyond to find creative ways to provide library services and address issues of distance while keeping patrons safe.

A strong example of this is the effort staff went to shortly after the fire when it was no longer possible to serve patrons directly from Hale Library. Staff quickly adapted to communicating and coordinating online, even though many of them were spread out in different buildings across campus.

Throughout these challenges and more, the Libraries continue to serve, educate and connect the campus community and beyond.
You might already know some of the ways that the Libraries collect and provide access to information, but another strategic goal of the organization is to teach students how to find and use information responsibly.

Research can be a complicated process. The massive amount of information available makes it easier for misinformation to slip through. To combat this, the Libraries are developing more resources to help teach students valuable research skills and support instructors and faculty.

A new strategy:

Many students come to K-State without the research skills required to succeed throughout their academic career. Librarians at K-State Libraries teach many research classes, but time and resources are limited. So in 2010, several faculty librarians sought to create a self-guided, online platform to increase the number of K-State students they could teach research skills to. The use of online tutorials for broad research and information skills would also allow librarians the ability to focus instruction on more in-depth and subject specific research skills.

Working with other institutions, K-State Libraries created the New Literacies Alliance (NLA). Today, the NLA is a collaborative effort by librarians from multiple institutions across the United States, and their lessons are available for free online to anyone that wants to take them. Lessons currently include topics on understanding authority, search strategies, access to information and many others. The NLA’s working group meets every year to share ideas for potential lessons, using their personal experiences to address student and researcher needs.

“The New Literacies Alliance gives everybody the opportunity to learn scholarly skills at their own pace,” said Melia Fritch, academic services librarian and member of the steering committee. “Lessons from the website integrate into programs such as Canvas that faculty often use, which make them simple to use in classrooms.”

What started as a project to enhance research instruction for K-State students has expanded to support learners across the globe.

The Libraries created a popular workshop series targeting graduate student research needs.

“I REALLY APPRECIATED THIS WORKSHOP. FIFTY PERCENT OF MY RESEARCH PAPER WILL BE A LITERATURE REVIEW, SO IT’S VERY HELPFUL TO ME.”

— CHANGMIN (CASEY) LIAO

Master’s student in architectural engineering and construction science, took a workshop led by librarians in preparation for a project.

The Friends of the K-State Libraries, funded by: Kansas State University Libraries, issue 13 (fall 2022) - full issue

Published by New Prairie Press, 2022
Overview: Unsustainable scholarly publishing models have forced many academic and research libraries across the world to seek creative solutions.

K-State Libraries has joined this effort in the last decade by supporting open access initiatives, a key component in the fight to allow free access to publicly funded research and scholarship. This core idea has also led to programs that save students money on textbooks.

Finding new paths to publishing: As the cost of access to scholarly journals continues to skyrocket, academic libraries have prioritized the need to find new and alternative publishing models. In 2015, K-State Libraries created the Center for the Advancement of Digital Scholarship in part to support new publishing models including Open Access.

Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles and other scholarly information coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment. While the concept sounds simple, shifting a rigid academic model that has been in place for generations has many challenges.

Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative: Provides grants to instructors for the adoption or development of open education resources for K-State students.

K-State Open Access Publishing Fund: Provides funds to K-State researchers to help them publish in open access journals.

Textbook Affordability Program: Purchases textbooks for students to borrow so they don’t have to buy them.

K-State Research Exchange: An online, institutional repository for K-State faculty and researchers to store and share their work.

New Prairie Press: An open access publishing platform for journals, conference proceedings and monographs.

Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative has SAVED K-STATE STUDENTS more than $10M since 2016.

Supporting Open Access isn’t always the easy path but it provides an opportunity for researchers and librarians to help shape a publishing environment that is more sustainable. It also helps keep costs down for users, which includes our K-State students. — Ryan Otto

Scholarly communications librarian

K-State’s online institutional repository houses more than 40,000 theses, dissertations, reports and other items.

Since 2017, purchased textbooks have been used more than 3,000 times at the Libraries.

Since 2013, New Prairie Press, K-State Libraries’ open access press, has had more than 4 M downloads.

Dr. Rekha Natarajan created an online textbook for her algebra students using an Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative grant.
Our Spaces

Overview:
In the last ten years, every K-State library has received updates and renovations. These updates have ranged from investing in new furniture and technology to creating entirely new locations. In 2017, the Paul Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning and Design moved to a new space in the freshly renovated Regnier Hall. And most recently, Hale Library received a complete renovation after a fire damaged much of the building in May of 2018.

Rising from the ashes:
After a fire on May 22, 2018 at Hale Library, K-State Libraries turned devastation into opportunity. A multi-year renovation and restoration project both enhanced traditional library settings and created modern spaces to support student collaboration, creativity and innovation. Thanks to generous donor support, the Libraries were able to add several new features including a beautiful café, an additional event and lecture space and a 60-person instruction room.

The new Paul Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning and Design is more accessible and visually appealing. The Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons opened on the first floor of Hale Library in August 2019. The Everitts provided the lead gift of $3 million to the renovation project.

In conjunction with new spaces, the Libraries enhanced traditional spaces with the complete restoration of Historic Farrell Library. In addition to the Great Room, two other floors of the original 1927 building were restored to increase access to timeless study spaces with natural light and stunning architecture.

The 2018 Hale Library fire led to a multi-year renovation; today’s building features state-of-the-art study spaces and equipment for community use.

The new Great Room windows were installed in 2013 thanks to the generous contribution from Mark Chapman.

During the 2021-2022 school year, 17 collaboration rooms in Hale Library were reserved 16,586 times by more than 2,500 different people.

The Libraries also established the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab. The lab offers all K-Staters the opportunity to use the latest innovative technologies, including 3D printers, laser cutters, a media studio, a professional sound studio, equipment checkout, a video production studio and makerspaces.

New Great Room Windows were installed in 2013 thanks to the generous contribution from Mark Chapman.
Overview: Technology has played a key role in the evolution of the Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections throughout the last ten years. The department now has the ability to make materials more accessible through digitization efforts. But at the same time, technology has introduced new challenges for collecting and managing born-digital materials for the university archives. While technological advances have created both new opportunities and challenges, they have not changed the department’s strong commitment to collecting significant items for its world-class collections.

Keeping records current and accessible:

Gone were the days where university records were almost entirely in paper format. To help address this major shift in university records management, the Libraries hired its first full time records manager. Outreach to K-State departments regarding records management has been a key initiative, and to help meet this goal, a successful training program was launched in 2017. “Strong records management can improve efficiency and ensure records are accessible and usable when needed,” said Ryan Leimkuehler, university records manager.

These efforts included archiving websites to capture the vast amount of information presented in that format. The department even became a leader in developing a statewide consortium for web archiving. Digitization has also been a key focus of the department throughout the last ten years. The Libraries contracted with outside vendors to digitize frequently used K-State records, such as yearbooks and newspapers while some photographs and historical records were digitized in house. In 2021, the Libraries established the Butler Digitization Lab thanks to a generous gift from the Butler Family Foundation. The new lab is outfitted with the technology necessary to accelerate digitization efforts in-house. In 2020, the department also started its first online transcription and translation project with manuscript cookbooks. The project has had more than 2,400 pages transcribed from 31 works.

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About 30 students represent the Libraries as ambassadors each year. In an effort to make the group as representative and diverse as possible, both undergraduate and graduate students serve as ambassadors.

“Students love that they get to work with peers from different colleges and degree programs,” said Martin. “Our program is also unique in that we wait to add new members until the fall, because we want new freshman and transfer students to have representation in the group.”

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It’s no coincidence that the amazing success of the Libraries over the last ten years coincides with a banner decade of philanthropic support. Much of what has been accomplished would not be possible without the generosity of donors. In fact, the Libraries surpassed their fundraising goal during the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign by more than $2 million, allowing the Libraries to dream bigger than they ever imagined. In addition to targeted enhancement gifts, the Friends of the K-State Libraries have continued to provide vital point-of-need funding for the Libraries to support technology and furniture updates, employee recognition awards and restoration efforts.

However, it wasn’t just monetary support that propelled the Libraries forward in recent years. In the fall of 2013, the Libraries created the K-State Libraries Student Ambassadors program. The first of its kind for an academic library, the diverse group of K-State students serve both as advisors and advocates for K-State Libraries.

Lori Goetsch, who retired as Dean of Libraries in 2021, had an enormous impact on the Libraries. Her leadership has inspired resilience and positivity since she started in 2004.

The Libraries Gala is a signature event hosted by the Friends of the K-State Libraries to raise money and awareness for the Libraries.

K-State President Richard Linton spoke at the Libraries Gala earlier this year.

Looking Forward

With a new dean of Libraries and university president, creating a new strategic plan to align with university initiatives is a top priority. The Libraries will begin engaging with stakeholders this fall to help identify top priorities for the K-State community.

If you would like to provide feedback on the future of the Libraries, you can contact Dean Joe Mocnik directly at lib.k-state.edu/about/our-people/joe-mocnik.
Inside un Libro de Cocina

A Mystery Solved Through Collaboration

Toni Garcia has been looking for a way of preparing a particular dish that was popular in her home region. She decided to research the preparation and sociological significance of the dish in a cookbook.

"Understanding the particular rhythms of the language and using context clues has really helped us understand the authenticity of each dish," said Rebecca Cannon, a senior studying architecture. "It's really neat to see how much work, energy and passion goes into each recipe."

Several of the dishes are quaintly illustrated in color, which indicates that the cookbook was an item that its creator treasured. But the origins of the cookbook are somewhat shrouded in mystery. Little clues such as the binding, paper, handwriting, the type of pen used and stray pieces of paper with telephone numbers can help researchers narrow down timeframes and identities.

Although the cookbook is written entirely in Spanish, Kanost discovered that it contains recipes from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

"It contains recipes such as Veracruz-style red snapper, almond chicken, curry, goulash, Japanese noodles, borscht, spaghetti with cream cheese, chocolate mousse and cheesecake," Kanost said. "When we limit ourselves to just one language, we're missing out on so much of our cultural heritage."

Staff with the Morse Department of Special Collections hope that the cookbooks will be used in a variety of courses as primary sources to enhance student learning experiences.

"I think handwritten cookbooks are culturally significant because they provide a snapshot of an individual's culinary repertoire, drawing on knowledge acquired from family, friends and magazines," Kanost said. "We aren't planning to cook any of the dishes, but who knows, maybe someone will get inspired!"

The cookery collection in the Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections originated in 1944 when Abby Lindsey Marlatt donated 800 rare cookbooks from her aunt, Abby Lillian Marlatt. But the development of the manuscript cookbook collection began much later, in 2000. At that time, the collection contained only four manuscript cookbooks which were handwritten in England in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Today, the manuscript cookbook collection contains 200 individual volumes of manuscripts, which date back to the 1600s and represent works in many languages from several countries. Almost all of the manuscripts were written by women for family use, and provide a wealth of insights into the culinary traditions of the time.

In the spring of 2021, Laura Kanost, a professor of modern languages, expressed interest in incorporating one of the manuscript cookbooks into a class project. Kanost's class used From the Page, an online transcription and translation program, to review the transcription of the cookbook. The Morse Department of Special Collections is using From the Page to make manuscript cookbooks available online to a broader audience.

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On June 4, 2022, K-State lost an important member of the campus and community. Widely known as one of its greatest athletes, Veryl Allen Switzer Sr. played a historical role in building the university’s multicultural programs. Additionally, he was a key leader in promoting the significance of his hometown of Nicodemus, Kansas.

Born in 1932 as the youngest of six children, Switzer was a descendant of original settlers in Nicodemus, a Black farming community founded by formerly enslaved people. As a child, he helped with farm chores and developed a knack for making biscuits and pies.

As Switzer grew, his athleticism emerged. In high school, he excelled in football and track and field. After playing on a dominating football team and being the state long jump and pole vault champion his senior year, Switzer received an athletic scholarship to K-State in 1950. This became a life-changing event. At K-State, he was a conference long jump champion his senior season led him to being the league’s 20 Black men. These situations influenced Switzer’s approach to multicultural work: “I competed hard to express my disapproval.”

Switzer was a powerful running back and punishing defensive back. He was an all-conference and All-American selection in each of his three varsity seasons.

In 1969, K-State Athletic Director Ernie Barrett and Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Chet Peters convinced Switzer to return to K-State as an administrative assistant to Barrett and coordinator of minority and cultural programs for Peters. In 1973, he became an assistant professor in University Human Relations and associate dean for University Minority Affairs. His efforts helped increase the multicultural student population from 137 in 1969 to 951 in 1982. One of his philosophies was that “the majority is more obligated to show hospitality to the minority; that is, those in decision-making positions are more capable to determine what will or won’t be. Minorities have never been in these decision-making positions.”

Switzer also remained engaged in the communities where he lived. In Manhattan, he was a school district board member, serving as its first Black president from 1975 to 1976. He later was on the Kansas Children’s Services League board and helped found the Kansas Black Farmers Association. On many weekends, he made the 180-mile trek back to Nicodemus to help work his land there. He was an early advocate for the community to become a National Historic Site. It now stands as the only remaining town west of the Mississippi River that was established by Black people after the Civil War.

Veryl Switzer’s actions as a K-Stater and Kansan helped the university and his community change. He also positively influenced numerous relatives, including the three children he had with his wife, Fern.

Throughout his life, Switzer was an important mentor and guide to thousands of students, parents, staff, family and friends.
A new mural titled “2 Americas” now adorns the ceiling of the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies in Hale Library. The mural is a modern-day response to the “We Are the Dream” mural, which was painted in 1980 by various multicultural student groups in the original location of the Dow Center on the fourth floor of Hale Library. “2 Americas” is a collection of work from photographers Luke Townsend and Doug Barrett, owner of 400 North Creative, which amplifies Manhattan area voices and those enrolled at Kansas State University during the protests of civil unrest in 2020.

“As artists, it’s important that the work we create, especially around topics of injustice, be used in a way to create actualized change,” added Townsend. “Through combining art with action, our mural can help turn pain into progress by bringing people together to hold meaningful dialogue and create deeper community relationships centered around a visual foundation.”

The project was funded by Linda A. Duke, Mary Vanier and K-State Innovation Partners. The mural helps position the Dow Center as a place to advance a meaningful understanding of multiculturalism and diversity in order to create mutual awareness and respect.

“We are so grateful to both the artists and the donors who were able to envision the impact this artwork would have on the Dow Center’s mission and future programming initiatives,” said Joe Mochnik, dean of K-State Libraries.

The Dow Center has partnered with communication studies students and faculty, as well as others across campus, to host monthly conversations, called Perspectives, on various topics.

In addition, the Dow Center’s endowment supports cultural programming on campus and in the community that is compatible with the Dow Center’s mission.

“It’s important that we are able to have conversations as a society about difficult topics, and libraries are a prime space for community events like these,” said Melia Fritch, co-coordinator of the Dow Center. “The space provides a chance to share your own truth and learn about others’ experiences as well. That’s what the Dow Center is all about.”

By Calin Riley

A new mural finds a home at Hale Library

“Dr. Martin Luther King used the phrase, ‘the other America,’ to portray what many other social classes experience,” said Barrett. “Art with purposeful meaning is the backbone of this piece. The emotion in our imagery over the lives lost through unrest is what helped the ‘2 Americas’ piece come together.”

It took just two days to assemble the mural on the Dow Center ceiling—an impressive feat, considering they needed to use scaffolding to do so, and the mural included more than eight panels, each 13 feet wide.

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