

University of Wyoming Libraries Report

This document is a report to the Wyoming Legislature on the uses of funds authorized in S006 for University of Wyoming library collections under HB 001, Section 321 (the "Library Funding Amendment"). The report is consistent with the requirements of the legislation:

Use of the funds and their effectiveness in enhancing existing library services, promoting collaboration between the colleges and University in the use of library resources, and improving library quality for their users. In addition, the University shall report on its efforts to prepare for reapplication to the Greater Western Library Alliance and identify what further actions are necessary for its library to successfully apply for membership in the Association of Research Libraries by summer 2010.

Background

In 2004, the University of Wyoming was denied membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) due to the University Libraries' small collection size and materials budget. GWLA made the following observations in rejecting the University of Wyoming for membership:

- ☒ Wyoming's collection size was lower than the smallest GWLA public universities (such as Arkansas, Kansas State, Oregon State, and Utah State)
- ☒ Wyoming's annual budget for information resources (\$3.2 million) was significantly lower than the comparable average (\$4.5 million) of the four universities listed above

The GWLA denial of membership demonstrates that the University of Wyoming Libraries are at a competitive disadvantage with our comparator universities and that UW lacks a research library in support of our academic programs.

The UW Law Library is also facing serious problems within their collection budget. In their recent accreditation of the UW Law College, the American Bar Association (ABA) identified problems with the Law Library due to their inadequate collection budget. The ABA noted that:

- ☒ the UW Law College has the lowest acquisitions budget of approximately 190 ABA-accredited law schools
- ☒ the UW Law College's acquisitions budget was "insufficient to meet the School's needs," resulting in "a negative and material effect" on the students' education

The GWLA and ABA reports document deficiencies in the university collections and indicate that UW lacks a research library. The external reviews also measure the quality of the University Libraries against comparator universities. These external reports

validate the critical need within our libraries and provide goals for the University of Wyoming to achieve to maintain a high level of education.

Legislative Action

The Libraries Funding Amendment passed in 2006 has been a significant step in addressing this situation. The Libraries Funding Amendment also provides funding for county and community college libraries with the encouragement to work cooperatively toward advancing the information infrastructure for the state of Wyoming. As a member of the Wyoming Libraries Database project (WyLD), UW Libraries support and contribute to statewide purchasing of resources and sharing of books and journal articles. The Library Funding Amendment strengthens this partnership and enables the UW Libraries to develop, along with the county and community college libraries, an information infrastructure for the state of Wyoming. The UW Libraries also have a strong partnership with the Wind River Tribal College recently providing over 4,000 new books (donations to UW Libraries transferred to the Tribal College) and surplus shelving to the College Library. UW Libraries not only serve the state but are committed to building excellence within all Wyoming academic libraries.

Funding for the University Libraries and the Law Libraries is essential to provide an extensive information environment that supports learning and research for students and faculty. The University and Law Libraries also fulfill statewide needs through interlibrary loan, article delivery, and reference services for all Wyoming libraries and on-site access and circulation for every Wyoming citizen. By investing in the University and Law Libraries, Wyoming is also expanding information access for the entire state.

Uses of the funding July 2006 to October 2007

The University Libraries and UW Law Library have recently improved their collections through the one time funding provided by the Library Funding Amendment and will have fully expended \$4.3 million during the 2006-2008 academic years.

The following databases have been added:

- The Making of the Modern Law: Legal Treatises, 1800-1929*
- The Making of the Modern Law: US Supreme Court Records and Briefs, 1832-1978*
- Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective, 1901-1981*
- Web of Science Backfiles, 1900-1985*
- ScienceDirect Backfiles, 28 collections, 1826-2001*
- Sanborn Insurance Maps for Wyoming* (licensed for the state of Wyoming)
- U.S. Serial Set* (licensed for the state of Wyoming)
- U.S. Congressional Hearings* (licensed for the state of Wyoming)
- ARTbibliographies Modern, 1974-2006*
- Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, 2001-2006*
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*

The University and Law Libraries are also evaluating existing collections and anticipate spending \$1.6 million on individual titles such as books, research studies, historical resources, and AV materials, such as award-winning DVDs. Librarians are working with reference lists and publishers to fill gaps in the collections and to strengthen disciplines identified in the UW Academic Plan, in support of the critical priorities already identified by the university community.

The Law Library has purchased \$40,000 worth of essential legal texts listed in the *Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual* to build a foundational legal research collection. The University Libraries are working with publishers to assess our current collection and to work on target areas that are lacking. These areas include science and technology materials, classic research texts, health resources, and engineering. In addition, the Libraries has developed a collection plan to support the new UW School of Energy Resources and to reinvigorate the petroleum engineering collection to support expanded research initiatives. The Libraries are purchasing information resources in a variety of formats with a preference for electronic resources as this supports UW's Outreach programs and off-site research by UW students and faculty.

Strong university libraries are a strong resource for the state of Wyoming. In support of Wyoming's information needs, the University Libraries:

- Continue to work closely with the Wyoming State Library and the Community College libraries to secure competitive pricing and seek resources that meet statewide information needs.
- Purchased the digital Sanborn maps, U.S. Serial Set, and U.S. Congressional Hearings and licensed these resources for the entire state.
- Continue to work closely with the community colleges for joint purchases of full text resources including electronic books in core academic disciplines such as nursing.
- Continue to support digital initiatives that bring Wyoming historical and cultural materials to residents throughout the state.

It is our goal to leverage the legislative funds to have the widest impact upon the state and to address common needs within our libraries.

Levels of Excellence Needed for Wyoming Membership in GWLA

Regionally, six of Wyoming's peer institutions have GWLA membership. Wyoming currently falls below all of them in terms of collection size (measured in library volumes) and library collection budget:

University (FY2005)	Collection Size	Library Collection Budget	Amendment Funding
Colorado State*	2,026,508	\$ 6,237,544	
New Mexico*	2,666,970	\$ 5,817,037	
New Mexico State	1,743,934	\$ 3,859,126	
Oregon State	1,530,298	\$ 4,805,000	
Utah*	3,230,854	\$ 7,481,035	
Utah State	1,574,440	\$ 4,189,290	
Wyoming FY2006	1,373,238	\$ 2,977,400	
Wyoming FY2007	1,413,324	\$ 3,562,781	\$ 2,030,000
Wyoming FY2008 est.	1,439,324	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,270,000

*Libraries that are both GWLA and ARL members.

Simply raising Wyoming's library collection budget to a par level will not lead to GWLA membership, much less membership in Association of Research Libraries (ARL) – the university must demonstrate a sustained commitment to its information infrastructure measured by collection size and recurring collection budgets.

Targets for Wyoming Membership in GWLA:

1. Increase the total number of volumes owned from 1.4 million to 1.7million.
2. Increase the library collection budget from \$5.65 million to \$13.2 million for books, electronic journals, and databases.
3. Dedicate \$1,000,000 in funding to digitize and preserve Wyoming unique collections for student, faculty, and international scholarship.

Plan and Timeline for Wyoming Membership in GWLA

		Collection Budget Appropriation	Collection Size
Current	FY06	\$ 3.0 million	1,373,278
Current	FY07	\$ 5.65 million	1,413,324
Target	FY08	\$ 5.65 million	1,439,324
	FY09	\$12.6 million	1,574,324
	FY10	\$13.2 million	1,699,324

Levels of Excellence Needed for Wyoming Membership in Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

Attaining GWLA membership is certainly a progressive step towards attaining ARL membership, since collection size and library materials budget are common factors in both. In the Mountain West Conference, Brigham Young, Colorado State, New Mexico, and Utah hold memberships in both GWLA and ARL. However, membership in GWLA does not guarantee membership in ARL. Attaining membership in ARL is more prestigious, but also more competitive and costly, demonstrating a commitment to libraries over a longer time period.

In evaluating candidates for membership, ARL looks at the following factors:

- collection size
- materials budget
- number of volumes added per year
- total library budget
- total professional plus support staff

These factors generate an ARL index score, which ARL requires to be greater than -1.65 for at least three consecutive years prior to applying for membership. The most recent ARL member, the University of Kentucky, had a score of -.98 in 2005. Wyoming's index score based on ARL criteria in 2005 was significantly below the minimum mark, at - 2.95:

University (FY2005)	Library Volumes	Collection Budget	Fac/Staff/Total FTE	Score / Rank
Brigham Young	3,621,577	\$ 8,183,965	114/57/380	-0.94 / 50
Colorado State	2,026,508	\$ 6,237,544	46/60/137	-1.81 / 96
New Mexico	2,666,970	\$ 5,817,037	69/160/283	-1.57 / 86
Utah	3,230,854	\$ 7,481,035	76/195/356	-0.72 / 44
Kentucky	3,286,731	\$ 9,413,427	97/119/281	-0.98 / 54
Wyoming*	1,373,278	\$ 2,977,400	31/50/99	-2.95 / --

* UW Libraries Statistics FY2006

Even comparing Wyoming to the *lowest* ARL universities in these categories demonstrates that Wyoming is still beneath the minimum standards for ARL membership:

University (FY2005)	Library Volumes	Collection Budget	Fac/Staff/Total FTE	Score / Rank
Wyoming*	1,373,278	\$ 2,977,400	31/50/99	-2.95 / --
Louisville	2,015,752	\$ 8,641,096	51/91/187	-1.59 / 89
Kent State	2,715,986	\$ 3,432,288	32/48/120	-2.47 / 111
Howard	2,388,073	\$ 3,885,992	54/75/167	-2.50 / 113

* UW Libraries Statistics FY2006

While Louisville has the lowest collection size, it also has a collection budget nearly 3 times that of Wyoming's in 2005. Kent State has the lowest collection budget and staff, but its collection size is nearly twice that of Wyoming's. Howard has the lowest ARL ranking and score, yet its collection size is nearly 1 million volumes larger than Wyoming's. As a potential ARL candidate, Wyoming is weak in every ARL category, with no strong categories to counterbalance the weak ones.

Targets for Wyoming Membership in ARL:

1. increase the total number of volumes owned from 1.4 million to 2.1 million
2. increase the collection budget from \$5.65 million to \$15.7 million
3. increase the total number of faculty by 7, staff by 14, and overall FTE (including student workers) from 99 to 120 to:
 - a. support expanded instructional services

- b. support initiatives for digitizing Wyoming resources
 - c. support content management services for additional print and electronic resources
4. attain an ARL index score of -1.65 or better, and sustain that performance level for 3-4 years before formally applying for ARL membership

Plan and Timeline for Wyoming Membership in ARL

	Collection Budget Appropriation (est.)	Collection Size	Faculty	Staff	Total FTE	ARL Score
Current FY06	\$ 3.0 million	1,373,278	31	50	99	-2.95
Current FY07	\$ 5.65 million	1,413,324	31	50	99	-2.63
Target FY08	\$ 5.65 million	1,439,324	31	50	99	-2.79
FY09	\$12.6 million	1,574,324	31	50	99	-1.69
FY10	\$13.2 million	1,699,324	31	50	99	-1.64
FY11	\$14.1 million	1,804,324	31	50	99	-1.57
FY12	\$15.7 million	1,904,324	32	52	102	-1.50
FY13	\$18.1 million	2,004,324	35	58	111	-1.37
FY14	\$20.3 million	2,099,324	38	64	120	-1.28

Conclusions

The Libraries Funding Amendment enabled the university to purchase critical texts that the University Libraries were not able to previously purchase and begins to address the deficiencies articulated by GWLA and ABA. The new resources are benefiting UW students and faculty as well as the state by building a rich information infrastructure in support of teaching and research. Strong university libraries attract the best students and faculty for Wyoming and enable UW faculty to have a competitive edge in research supported by strong academic libraries. However, attaining the standards required by GWLA, ABA, and ARL will require a sustained financial commitment to the University Libraries. In order to continue to develop this critical information infrastructure, the one time funding needs to be ongoing and increased to ensure that UW never again loses its ability to support the research and information needs of Wyoming.