



## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
Office of the Dean

April 13, 2009

Dear Faculty, Deans, Directors, and Chairs:

I am writing to update you on anticipated reductions to the University Libraries' information resources budget, and to enlist your advice and assistance as we make difficult decisions that will affect support for your research, teaching, and learning.

Like each of your units in these extraordinary budget times, the Libraries is facing severe challenges as it prepares for possible reductions in central support of 8% to 12% or more in the coming biennium. These reductions are coupled with a 1.5% rescission that was imposed this fiscal year, as well as increases in the cost of information resources that we project to average 8% for serials and 3.5% for monographs in 2009-2010. The unfunded inflation and the rescission represent a 7.7% cumulative cut \*before\* taking the 8/10/12% budget cuts. Thus, the Libraries faces actual and unprecedented purchasing reductions in the range of 16% to 20%.

While the Libraries has budgeted conservatively, we must undertake a serials and database review for UW Seattle libraries (including the Health Sciences Libraries) aimed at reducing our continuing obligations by approximately \$2 million. This may result in cancellation of upwards of 2,000 journals and loss of access to hundreds more if we cannot continue to participate in selected publisher journal package contracts. We also expect to have to cancel a number of databases and reduce our book buying by several thousand titles per year.

During the remainder of this academic year, librarians will be working with faculty, researchers, students, and staff to identify the journals, databases, and other information resources that are so critical to the University's research and instructional mission that they must be maintained, and those of lesser importance that can be foregone if circumstances require. The Libraries has established a Serials and Electronic Resources Review website (<http://www.lib.washington.edu/cms/publicserialspage09.html>) to serve as an information clearinghouse for this project. I encourage you to visit the website to learn more about the serials review and how you can be involved.

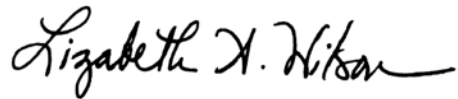
Later in the summer, lists of serial titles under consideration for cancellation will be posted on the Libraries Information Gateway ([www.lib.washington.edu](http://www.lib.washington.edu)) and HealthLinks

(<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/>) to ensure the broadest possible conferral. Final decisions will be made in the fall once the actual budget allocation is known.

Be assured that we will take a strategic approach to the resources budget reduction, eliminating any duplication of content across information formats wherever possible (e.g., print/electronic, electronic/electronic) and coordinating our efforts with the Law Library, UW Bothell and Tacoma, and our Northwest academic library consortium, the Orbis Cascade Alliance. In addition, we will continue working and consulting with the Faculty Council on University Libraries and many other partners to help create a more affordable and sustainable system of scholarly journal publishing.

Please contact me at (206) 543-1763 or [betsyw@u.washington.edu](mailto:betsyw@u.washington.edu) if you have any questions.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lizabeth A. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Lizabeth (Betsy) A. Wilson  
Dean of University Libraries