

Enhancing Student Success at Mizzou

University Libraries Collections Proposal

The University Libraries request \$75,000-\$100,000 to buy more e-books to support student research and learning.

Last year's grant was a success in providing increased access to e-books, but it was limited to only a few rapidly growing areas supporting distance learning. Despite our increased investment in e-books, our 2023 turnaway reports revealed that our users have received a total of 37,417 turnaways on e-books we don't own, across a wide variety of educational programs.

In a spring 2023 user satisfaction survey, a recurring theme expressed by our student population was a plea for more electronic books to support their coursework and study needs. We heard this not only from our distance students but also from our on-campus students. They also requested electronic copies of books already owned in print. One example:

Would like more access to e-books, especially for updated editions of works that are in print in the library

We propose building on last year's successful pilot to increase our ebook collection to benefit both on campus and distance students in all programs.

Estimates of Direct Impact

The e-books will be available 24/7, having a direct impact on the time students will need to wait to see the materials and providing wider availability (students on-campus and distance learning students will have access at the point of need). In addition, the e-books serving as textbooks offer students a **no cost alternative** to buying or renting textbooks. One ebook bought last year, *Motivational Interviewing*, was required in two different courses in 2023 with a total enrollment of twenty students. Depending upon how many students opted to use the library copy in lieu of a rental or purchase, the potential cost savings to students could be as high as \$1,390 per semester just for this one book.

Furthermore, these e-books are one-time purchases, not rentals. They will benefit not only current students, but also students in future semesters. The impact of these purchases will continue to grow each semester, since we will have perpetual access to the titles purchased.

Outcome Measures

The libraries will collect data on unique and total usage of the e-books, as we do with all e-books in our collections.

Potential Negative Impact of Not Making the Investment

Without the ability to purchase e-books to support these growing programs, students will have to utilize the libraries' interlibrary loan service. While interlibrary loan is a valuable service, many students will opt to do without as their need for the books is more immediate. From the spring user satisfaction survey:

- *More copies of E-books available so I don't have to request scanned copies*
- *Due to lack of access to online books and journals I am using [interlibrary loan] far more than I would like to..In some cases it has taken some time to obtain the materials, and in a few cases they arrived too late for a particular assignment.*

Some students will just do without or make do with the information they find on Google, which will be of varying quality:

- *I'm an online student and have only used the e-books.*

Budget

\$75,000-\$100,000. Specific titles will be determined once the final award amount is determined. Costs vary widely depending upon the title.

Timeline

Once the funding has been received or the MOCode provided to the libraries, we could begin adding these e-books to the collection. As each book is purchased, it typically takes only a few days until it is made available on the library website. Purchases will continue until the money is exhausted.

Sustainability

Only e-books that are available for purchase will be bought with this funding (no rentals or subscriptions). We would own the titles in perpetuity. Any ongoing costs to maintain access will be borne by the libraries.

Cost-Share

The libraries will provide the staff and time to select and purchase the e-books and will pay the annual maintenance costs to maintain access to the purchased books.