

LIBRARIES

Context

- Anticipated natural attrition and movement of the Libraries workforce will impact staff costs within the next five years.
- Opportunities exist to enhance cross-campus collaboration and potential for consolidating certain library functions across KU Lawrence, KUMC, and Wheat.
- Collections expenditures may be preserved through expansion of KU Libraries' Demand Driven Acquisition pilot program, though over-expansion may impact service levels and the long-term quality of KU's collections.
- The planned installation of a second Annex storage module presents an opportunity to either generate revenue through leasing agreements or clear campus space by accelerating the pace at which KU internal materials are transferred.
- Updates to the fines policies and payment process could provide better service and reduce required staff time.

Goals

- Reassess library staffing and key service levels.
- Expand Demand Driven Acquisitions to reduce the acquisition cost of monographic materials.
- Assess the use of journals purchased in "big deal" bundles to produce more effective collections spend.
- Offer storage space in the Annex to non-KU institutions to enhance revenues.
- Consolidate Library back-office functions across campuses.

Challenges

- KU Libraries' ability to create a cost contingency plan and the possibility of significant budget reductions are the key risks related to the business plan.
- Two elements of the business plan – cross-campus consolidation and contingency planning – require KU Libraries to identify, vet, and design additional cost saving opportunities.

Opportunities

- Expected annual net benefits of 319.4K from resource reallocations and new revenues can be achieved through:
 - Focus on staff rationalization modified to encapsulate more holistic view of library expenditures, resulting in a recommendation to develop a cost reduction contingency plan, which is tied to KU Libraries' ongoing strategic planning efforts
 - Utilization of Annex for both leasing to third parties and accelerated intake of KU materials
 - Analysis of fines and fees related to level of charges and the review of policies and payment process.