



**Northern Illinois
University**

University Libraries

Barnhart, March 7, 2019

NIU Libraries Facts:



- Collections:
 - 2.47 million volumes
 - Approximately 210 databases
 - More than 2,000 annual subscriptions
- Also have government publications, microfilm, sheet music, recordings, movies, photos and artifacts
- Collection value (insurance) - nearly \$363 million

NIU Libraries Facts:



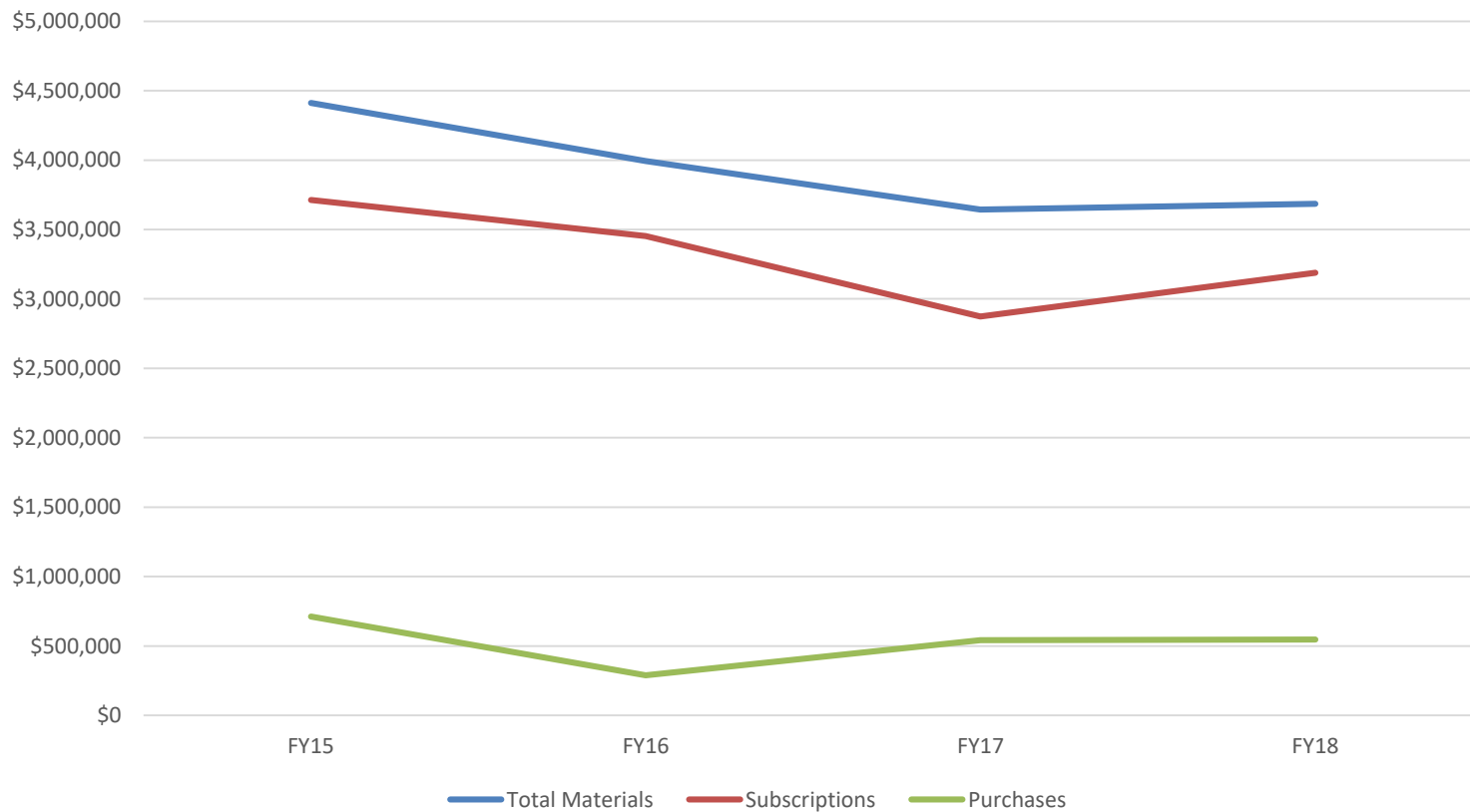
- Founders Memorial Library
 - 1974 building with 314,000 SF and ~200,000 LF of shelving
 - Seating for over 1,000 students
 - Recent improvements
 - Café
 - Founders Gallery
 - 71 North (includes new entrance)
 - Code Orange
- Music Library and Faraday Science Library

NIU Libraries Facts:



- FY18
 - Circulated nearly 50,000 items
 - Borrowed 21,000+ items from other libraries, and lent ~20,000 items
 - ~2 million e-resource searches
 - 500,000+ e-resource downloads
 - Average 10,000 patrons per week (school year)

Materials Budget:



Services:



- Books and videos for circulation
- Walk-in and virtual research help
- In-depth research consultations
- Research instruction
- Writing assistance
- Tutoring
- Technology help

Strategic Plan (in process):



1. Transform collections to meet evolving needs of the community
2. Enhance student and faculty success by engaging them with our services and collections
3. Optimize (new and existing) library space to enrich the user experience

Strengths – People:



- Library faculty (24)
 - Instruction in and out of the classroom
 - Assist with research and assignments
 - Develop, maintain and organize collections
 - Dual degrees and subject research expertise
- Operating staff (44)
 - Are crucial to the facilities, collections, and services
- SPS (Supportive Professional Staff) (5)
 - bring unique skills to the library (digital, archiving and grants)

Strengths – Collections:



- Research collection supporting all academic programs at appropriate levels
- Distinctive strengths:
 - SE Asian collection
 - Rare Books and Special Collections - popular culture (Dime novels, science fiction, comic books), the Horatio Alger collection, history of publishing
 - Regional History Center and University Archives

Strengths – Programs:



- Textbook affordability initiative
- Digitizing collections for open access
 - Dime novels, sheet music, newspapers, etc.
- Huskie Commons (NIU's Institutional Repository)
 - Faculty, student, and alumni scholarship
- POWRR Program
 - Grant funded and nationally recognized workshops to help libraries digitize their collections

Strengths – Relationships:



- Co-located partners:
 - Writing Center, Peer Assisted Learning (PAL Tutoring), Technology Support (DoIT), JobsPLUS
 - Caribou/Einstein's Café, OneCard, Discover Code Orange
- Liaison relationships with all colleges and departments
- Co-sponsored programming with RIPS, Faculty Development, Outreach, and the centers

Challenges:



- Collections:
 - Cost of research collection (5-7% inflation annually)
 - New and expanding programs need library resources
 - Students and faculty expect access anywhere and anytime (but not all content is online)
 - Student Association art collection – raise visibility
- Facilities:
 - Deferred maintenance
 - Students want comfortable and technology rich space
 - Finite space for growing collections

Challenges:



- Students' needs:
 - Information *and* technology literacy
 - Need to bridge the digital divide to promote equity
- Personnel:
 - Changing needs affect hiring, training, and library organizational structure

Future Opportunities:



- Leverage space:
 - Library is at physical and intellectual “heart of campus”
 - Space for programs, scholarship, artistry and innovation
 - Shared space for technology exploration, like 3D printing, data visualization and digital humanities
 - Housing print collections off-site or in compact shelving would create more inviting student space

Future Opportunities:



- Enhance NIU's brand:
 - Strengthen open access initiatives
 - Raise NIU's profile through our distinctive collections/programming
 - Strengthen connections with alumni through programs, services, and collections
- Support Strategic Enrollment Management:
 - Foster partnerships that align with mission of service to students and faculty
 - Attract and retain students by engaging them with library resources and facilities



Northern Illinois University

Go HUSKIES!

And thank you.