

## 2.9

The institution, through ownership or formal arrangements or agreements, provides and supports student and faculty access and user privileges to adequate library collections and services and to other learning/information resources consistent with the degrees offered. Collections, resources, and services are sufficient to support all its educational, research, and public service programs. **(Learning Resources and Services)**

USC Columbia has an extensive library system consisting of the Thomas Cooper (Main) Library, the Elliott White Springs Business Library, the Math Library, the Music Library, and specialized libraries in the School of Law (Coleman Karesh Law Library) and the School of Medicine, along with libraries at the regional campuses at Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union.

The Libraries' collection stands at more than 3.2 million volumes and approximately 29,500 serial titles; the library also serves as a regional depository for federal government documents. The strategic planning document *Blueprint for Academic Excellence 2009/10* stresses the importance of maintaining collection strengths, and an examination of budget figures provides evidence that the university has tried to protect this portion of the budget. Approximately 84% of the collections budget is dedicated to recurring resources, and the library is considering ways of meeting needs for print resources while expanding access to electronic resources.

The Libraries have worked to develop strong consortia! relationships to provide access to electronic resources and to print materials not owned by the university. Among these are PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries), DISCUS (funded through the South Carolina State Library), ASERL (the Assod2tion of Southeastern Research Libraries), the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), and Lyrisis. Interlibrary loan services can secure materials not available within the state. The Libraries have introduced and monitored services to ensure that distance education students have convenient access to both electronic and print resources. Collections at the regional campuses are tailored to meet the needs of their curricula, and users can also obtain needed materials from the main campus, through the consortial agreements, from nearby institutions, or through interlibrary loan.

The Libraries' special collections are particularly noteworthy: the South Carolina Library (emphasis on southern history), the Rare Books and Special Collections unit (over 100,000 volumes), the South Carolina Political Collections (the papers of over 80 individuals), and the Moving Image Research Collections (housing the Fox Movietone News Collection). These collections offer opportunities to explore unique, rare, or primary source materials. The Libraries have an active digitization program and are working strategically with the College of Charleston and Clemson University to expose collections of regional and national interest.

Statistics provide evidence that the print and electronic collections receive heavy use. The library tries to meet the needs of users by responding to suggestions for the collection and by assigning subject specialists to work with faculty in academic departments. Faculty are involved in the review of ongoing serial resources. Assessments include monitoring use patterns and interlibrary loan requests. Both the law and medical libraries have consistently met the standards of the accrediting bodies in their respective fields.

While budget constraints are mentioned in places in the 2.9 Core Requirement narrative, it is not clear how reductions in revenues may have challenged critical

access or services.