

# **Library Serial Needs Assessment Project**

***Presented by: Paul Metz***

# **Erv Blythe, Vice President for Information Systems, established the Library Serials Committee in Fall 1997 to:**

- Consider and propose alternative strategies to deliver the information content currently provided to the university community in the libraries' serials collections**
- Recommend a goal for library funding over the next six years to create a more stable planning basis, and to eliminate the annual "crisis" reaction**
- Suggest a methodology to ensure wide faculty input into developing the collection of serials to be made available through the library**

# Membership of the Task Force:

**Eileen Hitchingham, Chair**

**Ralph Badinelli**

**John Husser**

**Yvan Beliveau**

**Earl Kline**

**John Burton**

**Gail McMillan**

**Gene Cliff**

**Paul Metz**

**Karen Dyer**

**Ray Plaut**

**John Eaton**

**Karen Swenson**

**Ed Fox**

**Eliza Tse**

**Richard Gandour**

**Bob Williges**

# **Key Recommendations:**

- We believe that it is time to make an aggressive move to create the Digital Library for Virginia Tech by investing heavily in the important digital journals, hyperlinked indexes and other multi-media resources that are needed to support the university's cross-cutting initiatives and essential college programs.**

# **Key Recommendations:**

## **(continued)**

- **During 98/99 we recommend that the Libraries work with faculty to redefine from a zero base the publications they find critical for research and teaching, and to develop the cost base associated with supporting these contemporary needs.**

- The recommendation that the libraries move to networked resources clearly illustrates the desire to take advantage of an *opportunity* - the emerging availability of digitized resources, generally available by IP-based control.

- Both VIVA and the university libraries were already moving enthusiastically in this direction.
- Virtually all bibliographic databases are now electronic.
- Over 1,000 electronic journals are fully available, and articles from many thousands more are indirectly available.
- When we own rights to both an index and some of the full text it covers, we aggressively pursue the hyperlinks from one to the other.

*Electronic Journals -- Selected Examples  
from Total Offerings of > 1,200 Titles*

*Publisher*

*Titles*

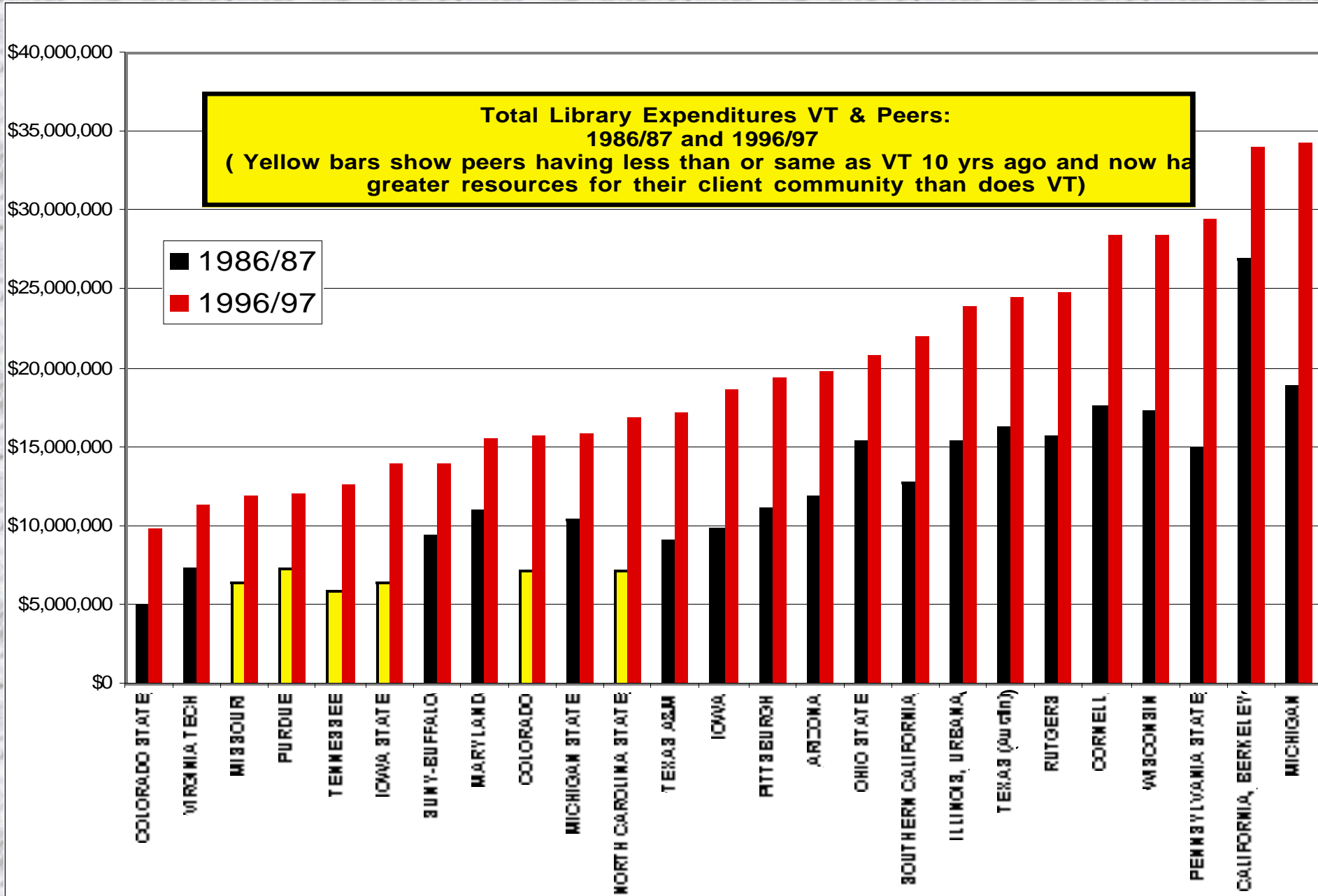
<b>Academic Press</b>	<b>1 6 5</b>
<b>American Chemical Society</b>	<b>2 6</b>
<b>American Institute of Physics</b>	<b>1 1</b>
<b>American Mathematical Society</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Blackwell</b>	<b>2 7</b>
<b>Cambridge University Press</b>	<b>6 1</b>
<b>Elsevier</b>	<b>1 8</b>
<b>Institute of Physics</b>	<b>5 4</b>
<b>JSTOR</b>	<b>&gt;100</b>
<b>Institution of Mechanical Engineers</b>	<b>1 1</b>
<b>Johns Hopkins University Press</b>	<b>4 8</b>
<b>MCB University Press</b>	<b>1 1 7 *</b>
<b>MIT University Press</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Sage</b>	<b>7 6</b>

The recommendation that the Libraries work with faculty in defining a list of core serials so that long-term budgetary needs could be known and planned for clearly illustrates concern about a *problem* - the dreadful combination of serials inflation averaging over 10 percent annually and a flat library budget.

# Overall Drop in Funding Position Among Peers

**Total Library Expenditures VT & Peers:  
1986/87 and 1996/97**  
( Yellow bars show peers having less than or same as VT 10 yrs ago and now have greater resources for their client community than does VT)

■ 1986/87  
■ 1996/97

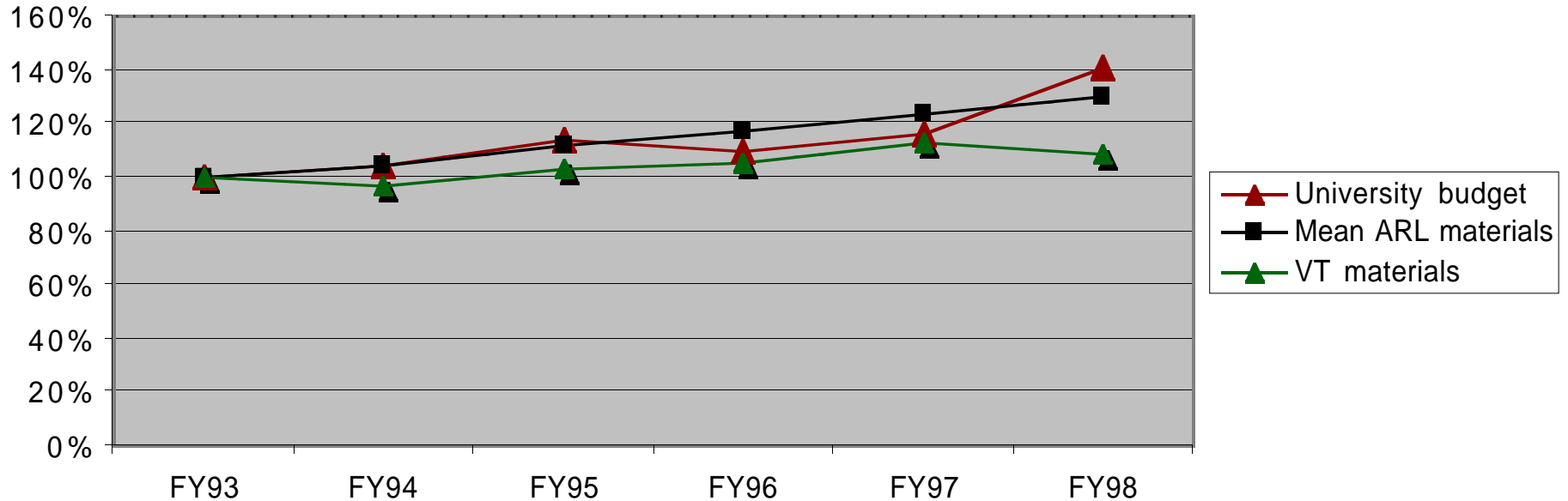


# Library Materials Budget vs. Selected Benchmarks, FY93-98

	<i><b>FY93</b></i>	<i><b>FY94</b></i>	<i><b>FY95</b></i>	<i><b>FY96</b></i>	<i><b>FY97</b></i>	<i><b>FY98</b></i>
University budget	419031460	437860721	475143261	459007067	486880255	587726568
Mean ARL materials	5017352	5234788	5581640	5859974	6202167	6534252
VT materials	5178979	5018292	5312661	5423996	5817335	5594544

	<i><b>FY93</b></i>	<i><b>FY94</b></i>	<i><b>FY95</b></i>	<i><b>FY96</b></i>	<i><b>FY97</b></i>	<i><b>FY98</b></i>
University budget	100%	104%	113%	110%	116%	140%
Mean ARL materials	100%	104%	111%	117%	124%	130%
VT materials	100%	97%	103%	105%	112%	108%

**Trends, VT Materials vs. Benchmarks**

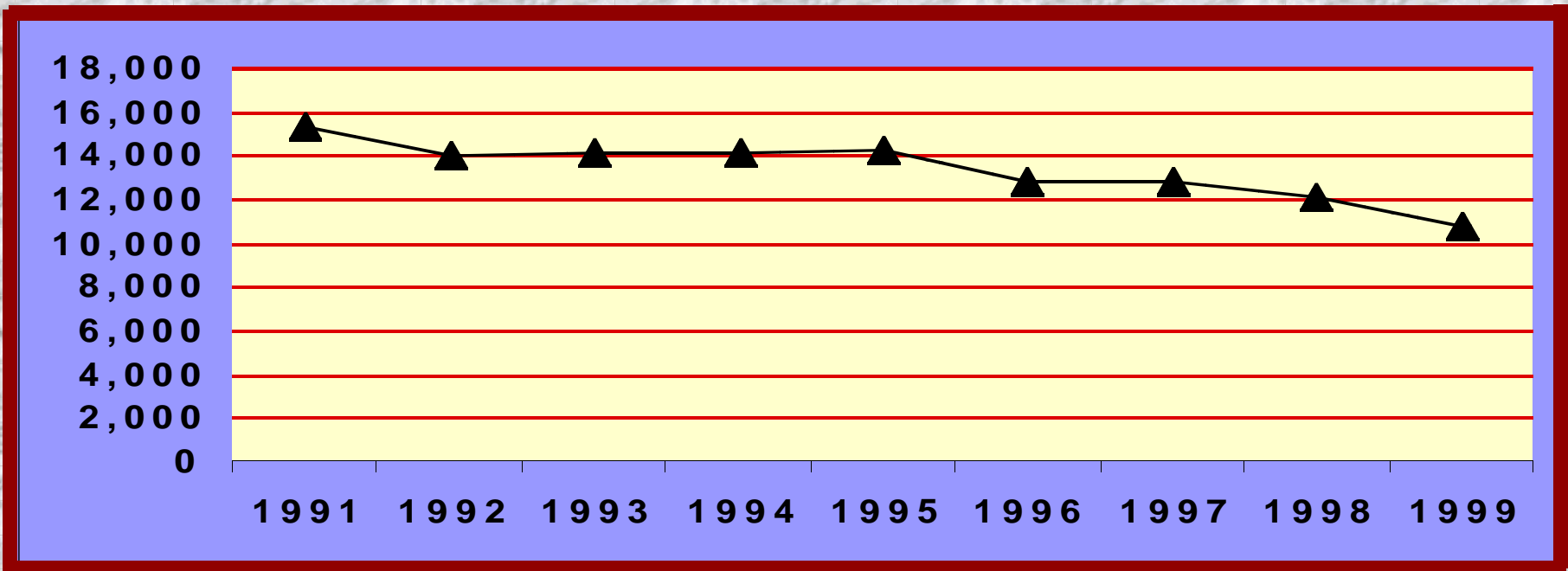


# Serials Cancellation History, 1990's

Year	Titles	Savings	Estimated Savings in 1999 \$\$ at 10% serials inflation
1991	1,253	\$315,000	\$675,000
1995	1,471	\$451,747	\$661,000
1997	777	\$620,592	\$751,000
1998	1,292	\$565,951	\$623,000
	4,793	\$1,953,290	\$2,710,000

<i>Year Eliminated</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Active Serials</i>
1990		<b>15,302</b>
1991	1,253	14,099
1992	0	14,149
1993	0	14,199
1994	0	14,249
1995	1,471	12,828
1996	0	12,858
1997	777	12,111
1998	1,292	10,849

***PAID SERIALS  
(ESTIMATES)***



# Faculty Serials Survey

## Assessment Form

At \$4 million per year, the Libraries' serials expenditures account for nearly a full percent of the University's budget. A number of your colleagues have suggested that it is time to give each faculty member, including those hired in the last few years, the opportunity to consider the entire spectrum of their journal and serial needs so that they can very directly **tell us what is wanted**. We agree! We very much want to understand your specific needs so we can include this information as part of the budget request and planning cycle for 1999/2000.

In the form below, please furnish at least the titles for journals, "advances in" series, indexes, databases, or other serial publications useful to your teaching and research to which you believe the University Libraries should subscribe. We are equally interested in titles currently held and those not now in our collections. It is not necessary to include obvious core titles such as *Nature*, *Daedalus*, or *The Harvard Educational Review*.

While only each title and identifying information about yourself are required fields, we would appreciate any further information, including comments.

If you are unsure of a title, you may verify it by calling the main library reference desk at 231-9232 or try the [PubList](#). For general questions about this project, please consult the [FAQ](#).

Use the tab key to go to the next field. The form submit button is at the bottom of the page.

**Thank you for participating in this important project.**

<b>Lastname</b>		<b>Firstname</b>	
<b>Department</b>			

If you need more than **10**, select how many you need below first. Please request the largest number of title lines you could possibly need. Blank records are ignored.

20 30 40 50 60

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher (Optional)</b>	<b>ISSN (Optional)</b>	<b>Comments (Optional)</b>

# Votes

Faculty voters: > 400

Votes cast: 9,429

Titles receiving votes: 4,098

Excludes several departments and subgroups

# Data Elements for the Serials Decision Support System

<i>Data Element</i>	<i>No. Cases With Cases</i>	<i>Highest Ranked Title</i>	<i>Score</i>
Faculty Votes Spring 1999	4098	AIAA Journal (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Journal)	38
CARL Uncover Profiles	1755	Nature	23
Current Periodical Reshelving 6/4/98-8/23/99	6691	People Weekly	738
Virginia Tech Publications 1994-98	2601	Abstracts of Papers of the American Chemical Society	289
Virginia Tech Citations 1994-98	2601	American Chemical Society, Journal of the	977
Interlibrary Borrowing 5+ Times 7/1/97 - 8/27/99	1332	European Journal of Applied Physiology and Occupational Physiology	192
InfoTrac Views April 1999	2720	Books in Print	1744
InfoTrac Article Retrievals April 1999	1411	New York Times	278

# The Big Ugly Database and Its Uses



# Creation of a Neater Database for Budget Justification

- One or more individual or departmental votes
- Profiled on CARL Reveal by five or more individuals
- Borrowed 20 or more times on interlibrary loan
- Ten or more publications by Virginia Tech authors
- Cited 50 or more times by Virginia Tech authors
- Reshelved 50 or more times

# Database Example

<u><i>Frequency</i></u>	<u><i>Title</i></u>	<u><i>Price</i></u>	<u><i>ISSN</i></u>
<b>Semimonthly</b>	<b>Molecular and cellular biochemistry</b>	<b>\$3672</b>	<b>0300-8177</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Molecular and cellular biology</b>	<b>\$ 461</b>	<b>0270-7306</b>
<b>Semimonthly</b>	<b>Molecular and cellular endocrinology</b>	<b>\$3057</b>	<b>0303-7207</b>
<b>Semimonthly</b>	<b>Molecular and general genetics</b>	<b>\$3454</b>	<b>0026-8925</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Molecular biology and evolution</b>	<b>\$ 343</b>	<b>0737-4038</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Molecular biology of the cell</b>	<b>\$ 384</b>	<b>1059-1524</b>

# The Bottom Line

- Number of titles included: 4,563
- Cost: (85% lookups, 15% estimates) \$3,588,000

# Exclusions:

- Titles needed by faculty not able/bothering to vote
- Titles needed by students
- Newspapers
- Reference titles

# The University Plan:

- **Plan A**

**New State Funding**

- **Plan B**

**“Develop a contingency plan for eliminating up to \$1 million in continuing serial costs for fiscal 2001-2002.”**

# Projecting . . .

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1997	777	\$620,592	\$751,000
1998	1,292	\$565,951	\$623,000
2001	1,500	\$1,100,000	\$891,000
	6,293	\$3,053,290	\$3,601,000

<i>Year</i>	<i>Eliminated</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Active Serials</i>
1990			<b>15,302</b>
1991	1,253	50	14,099
1992	0	50	14,149
1993	0	50	14,199
1994	0	50	14,249
1995	1,471	50	12,828
1996	0	30	12,858
1997	777	30	12,111
1998	1,292	30	10,849
1999	0	30	10,879
2000	0	30	<b>10,909</b>
2001	-1500		9,409

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(ESTIMATES)***

