

NOAA Research Council Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries

Presentation to the Council

Phase I Results

Nov. 21, 2011

Charge to Committee for Phase I

“In Phase I of its task, the Committee will develop an Action Plan including descriptions of the following:

- The current situation with respect to NOAA’s purchasing of journal subscriptions, databases, and e-books;
- Recommendations for steps that could be taken immediately to eliminate the cost of as many "decentralized" and "redundant" electronic subscriptions as possible and to apply those savings to purchasing centralized electronic subscriptions, with the goal of maintaining, and, to the extent possible, increasing the current level of access to journals across NOAA.

The Committee will provide a draft Phase I Action Plan to the Research Council by November 1, 2011. Upon the Council’s approval, the Council will present the Plan to NOAA Leadership and recommend implementation by NOAA.”

Guidance from the *Strategic Plan*

NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan includes in its mission statement the charge to “understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts” and to “share that knowledge and information with others ...”

The *NGSP* further states that “NOAA’s core mission functions require ... information management and distribution systems”.

Clearly, the provision and management of information to NOAA and the public is important to NOAA’s overall mission.

NOAA Libraries' Guiding Principles

- Provide essential information resources and services to support research, analysis, and policy development.
- Provide equal access for all of NOAA through their collections and services.
- Provide electronic access whenever possible and cost-effective, including licenses to electronic journals, databases, and e-books.
- Collect and/or make accessible NOAA's intellectual output in print and electronic form, e.g. an institutional repository which is being developed
- Obtain sufficient annual funding to accommodate the rising cost of journals, databases and e-books in order to develop and maintain library research collections.
- Take an active role in the research process by becoming embedded librarians.

NOAA Libraries' Constraints

- NOAA librarians serve a large number of professional researchers who require access to a wide subject range of peer-reviewed literature and other published materials.
- Not all current or past research materials are available in an electronic format nor will they be in the foreseeable future.
- Electronic access to scientific journals is not purchased but licensed. If a license is not renewed, then access to past years of the journal may no longer be available. Therefore, having a single printed copy somewhere in NOAA is critical for some core journals.
- The cost of library materials or access to them (mainly scientific journals and databases) continues to increase annually at 6% to 8%.
- Bundling of electronic resources by vendors works against NOAA libraries striving to optimize their electronic journal budgets b/c it requires purchase of materials not needed.

Current Situation

- Funding levels are not consistent year-to-year nor are they increasing to accommodate the rising costs of library materials.
- Annual budgeting priorities among NOAA library user groups vary from a *must pay* attitude to *only if we have money in the 4th quarter that we cannot spend on other things*.
- Funding for library materials is decentralized in NOAA and there is not an organization-wide collection development plan currently in place.
- Decisions regarding the funding of library materials are made at many different levels throughout the line offices at NOAA.
- Many NOAA libraries and their collections have lost librarians who provided services, or the library collections have disappeared altogether.
- The NOAA Central Library's budget provides for the acquisition of a few databases and a few online journal collections that provide equal access to all of NOAA.
- The NOAA Central Library team has, with assistance from others in NOAA, negotiated several NOAA-wide agreements which provide or could provide equal access at no additional costs to NOAA. Through this effort, some savings from lower prices and less acquisitions processing have and can be realized. However, prioritized **centralized funding** must be established in order to maintain the savings achieved thus far and to make additional progress. This is also necessary to prevent access interruptions.

Recommendations for Right Now

Obtain funding to restore electronic journal cuts at NOAA libraries for the coming year at:

- NOAA Central Library: \$95,647
- Boulder Laboratories Library: \$100,000
- Miami libraries: \$71,012
- Seattle library: \$13,415

Subtotal to restore electronic journals: \$280,074

- Possible Web of Science NOAA-wide savings from:
 - \$280,636 to \$277,384 for 2012 (savings of \$3,252) and access to back files to 1984
 - \$296,216 to \$290,254 for 2013 (savings of \$5,962)
 - 5% per year increase vs. current 6% increase

Increase funding for Web of Science cover back files to:

1965 \$102,778

1955 \$173,424

Recommendations for the Future

- Stabilize and confirm the commitment to financially support NOAA libraries to acquire quality research materials
- Establish an enterprise-wide central funding source for the purchase of a core list of journals, databases, and e-books that everyone in NOAA can access online.
- Charge the NOAA Central Library with execution of this annual purchase with input and agreement on the selection of core journals, databases, and e-books coming from the other NOAA library organizations.
- Recognize the need to maintain individual library budgets to fund the acquisition of specialized library materials, journals, databases, and e-books required to support local research.
- Charge NOAA Central Library, with assistance from others, to negotiate NOAA-wide agreements for library materials and to make all of NOAA aware of these resources.
- Document the process and the titles selected and produce a NOAA-wide collection development plan for the licensing of electronic journals, databases, and e-books.
- Report annually to NOAA's Research Council and others on the progress toward equal access to library materials across NOAA.