VIU Library Collections
Guided by principles of intellectual freedom, Indigenous Knowledge, and Open Access, VIU Librarians develop and manage collections relevant to learning and scholarship at VIU and available to the greatest number of learners irrespective of location and schedule. The VIU Library is not a “research library of record” but rather an “academic library of utility”, with a dynamic collection reflective of current and reasonably foreseeable VIU learning, teaching and research needs. VIU Library resources are increasingly acquired in large interdisciplinary packages or bundles. About 85% of today’s collection is electronic, supporting all campuses, sites, remote learners & inter-institutional scholarly collaborations.

Collections Growth in last 15 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2003</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>~2000</td>
<td>~90,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>~150,000</td>
<td>~700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Videos</td>
<td>~6000</td>
<td>~44,000</td>
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Collections Budget structure: divided in two parts

**Capital**
- used to purchase library resources (primarily ebooks and online videos) with “one-time” payments – includes “demand driven acquisition” programs
- Historically stable at $140,000 per year

**Operating**
- used to fund subscriptions (ongoing year-over-year financial commitments), e.g. journal packages, article databases, online videos, ebooks
- Historically stable at $878,000 per year

Collections budget characteristics:
- Supports all disciplines and program areas
- Almost 80% of expenditures are billed through our provincial, regional or national consortiums
- Almost 90% of expenditures are billed in US dollars, making the budget very sensitive to currency fluctuations
- Average year-over-year inflation on expenditures is 4-5%
- Stable budget + increased costs = decreased spending power each year
  - Fewer resources purchased on the capital side
  - Cancellations on the operating side

Collection management

**Physical collections**
- Decreasing usage vs increasing demand for study space: Evolution of Physical Collections 2017-2022 Plan
- Cooperative solutions to preservation and access concerns: COPPUL Shared Print Archive Network

**Electronic resources**
- Active, responsible, evidence-informed management taking into account the entire range of VIU program areas.
- Liaison librarians work closely with faculties and/or departments to assess needs
- Continuous ROI assessment to support collection management decisions in consultation with faculty
  - 27 point assessment rubric surfaces both qualitative and quantitative factors
- Collegial consultation with faculty essential to keep the best possible resource mix available to the VIU community within a very limited budget
- E-resource cancellations can significantly affect successful program delivery and are not always feasible, leading to frequent overspending of our collections budget with negative impacts to other Library budget lines
- External context: unstable marketplace characterized by publisher consolidation, flux in acquisition & distribution models, and trends in Open Access scholarly publishing
- Cooperative light, dim and dark archive initiatives to meet perpetual access and digital preservation needs