

A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

UW System: Growing the Research Infrastructure (Library Component)

Brief summary: This proposal seeks to increase library acquisition of electronic journals, databases, and reference tools in areas of new knowledge for all students and faculty/staff and expand access to UW-Madison's electronic collections to other institutions in the UW System.

Why is it needed?

In recent decades, the information marketplace has exploded with new areas of knowledge that must be supported by libraries. This challenge has been compounded by staggering cost increases for periodicals. A considerable gap exists between rising costs and stagnant allocation increases. This limits faculty from keeping up-to-date in their fields and passing that knowledge to students, both of which will ultimately transfer research into economic growth for the state. All campuses are reporting problems attracting and retaining quality faculty without core information resources available at their libraries. Inadequate electronic resources also make campuses less competitive for research grants because it takes too long to retrieve materials through interlibrary loan. Bringing the UW System to a competitive level with its peers would require more than \$20 million.

How does this proposal meet the need?

Full funding of this initiative will expand access to many of the core resources in a wide range of subject areas, with emphasis in the biomedical and life sciences. Several resources which are currently licensed only to the UW-Madison campus will become available to institutions throughout the System. This will increase research and teaching quality while enhancing equity between campuses. Research grants and related revenue flows will result from high-quality faculty research supported by the new research infrastructure. Additional funds will be generated by license fees for products that result from this research.

What are the outcomes/benefits?

- Recruiting, retaining, and graduating the best and brightest undergraduate and graduate students by equipping them with the information and tools they need to do their best work;
- Supporting the production of technologies and products that generate license fees and spur the creation of start-up companies, which tend to arise and flourish within 50 miles of the "home" university;
- Attracting and retaining a highly accomplished faculty whose expertise and drive contribute to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge;
- Accelerating grant awards and related revenue flows to the UW by providing faculty with access to the most comprehensive, up-to-date knowledge base.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$6 million (\$3.9 million GPR/\$2.1 million Fees)

For more information: Contact UW System Communications and External Relations, 608-263-5512