Let's talk about who gets access to our shared resources.

By sharing resources, all 26 UW campuses and UW online programs benefit from UW Libraries’ exemplary efforts to maximize efficiencies through shared services.

That means...

200,000

Students, faculty & staff at UW campuses, all benefit from expanded access to information as a result of the negotiating strength of “One System, One Library.”

24

Hours per day students, including those on campus, those who work, and those enrolled in online classes, have access to critical academic resources through UW Libraries.

5,711,767

Community members and business people in Wisconsin have access to many of the shared resources at UW Libraries.

One System, One Library {in action}

Amy Duesterhoeft of Monmouth, Oregon, lives farther from UW Oshkosh than any other student in her Accelerated Online Bachelor’s to BSN program. Amy was drawn to the program because it gave her the flexibility to be home with her family, and would enable her to obtain her degree in just 12 months, instead of the usual 3.5 years. To stay on top of the demanding workload, Amy often puts in 12 hour days of studying.

In the heavily research-based program, Amy’s classes require scholarly, evidence-based sources for literature reviews, research papers and discussion questions. To find her sources, Amy searches the database Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) several times a week, sometimes daily. CINAHL, part of the UW System’s shared electronic collections, is usually the only place Amy can find the nursing journal articles she needs. “Honestly, I don’t know what we’d do if we didn’t have access to that database,” Amy says. “When it comes to the nursing journals and medical stuff we need to have... it would be practically impossible.”
Despite all that resource sharing saves, rapidly increasing costs for scholarly publishers during more than a decade of flat or reduced budgets greatly challenges the UW System’s world-class collection. This has forced libraries to make cuts to valued collections and services threatening educational quality across System.

How much are the shared resources used?

Our users borrowed

59,866

Books and items from one UW campus to another through UW Libraries resource sharing services.iii

So if...

$83.59 × 59,866

the average cost of a new book i

books and items lent to users

UW Libraries saved an estimated

$5,000,000

by sharing rather than independently purchasing books and other items.

Our users searched

3,500,000

Times per year in UW Libraries’ 20 shared databases.ii

At an average cost of 73¢ per search

$1517 Average annual cost of an academic journal subscription iv

20% × 1,500,000

Estimated savings from cooperative purchasing

UW Libraries saved an estimated

$340,000

by pooling resources and leveraging contracts for access to online databases and journals.vi

One System, One Library, though remarkably beneficial, faces a substantial Challenge.

7.3%

Average annual percentage increase in journal subscription prices for college and university libraries.v This is roughly 5 TIMES the current US general inflation rate.viii

It has been

13 Years

since the UW Libraries received an increase in state funding.vi

Despite all that resource sharing saves, rapidly increasing costs for scholarly publishers during more than a decade of flat or reduced budgets greatly challenges the UW System’s world-class collection. This has forced libraries to make cuts to valued collections and services threatening educational quality across System.


ii. Based on an annual shared electronic budget of approximately $1,700,000 and an estimated savings of 20%.

iii. Based on 2011 CUWL statistics


viii. At an average cost of 73¢ per search