

Funding for Access to Digital Resources in Classics: summary of responses to survey

In response to a request from a department chair and also to improve our own sense of the issues, the SCS sent out in November both to department chairs and to the Classics Librarian group a request for responses to a few questions on this subject. They were:

Who decides on what database resources are ordered through the library (or separately from the library, if also applicable)?

What funds are drawn upon to pay subscriptions or one-time purchases? Library acquisition funds, departmental funds, others?

To the extent that Library acquisition funds are used, how does this impact acquisition of journals and books?

Are there resources you want but cannot afford?

Thirty responses were received from 28 institutions: in one case a response came from both the library liaison and the department chair; and Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies replied separately in addition to the response for Harvard Libraries in Cambridge.

The institutions represented vary considerably: Ivy League and non-Ivy League private universities, state universities (both flagship research type and others with less concentration on research), and small liberal arts colleges; some with long-established large endowments and some without. Naturally, the collection policies of these different types differ greatly, as do their financial resources. Thus, it is difficult to generalize about the situation. Nevertheless, the following attempts to summarize some key points in the hope that they may be of interest to departments and classics librarians.

Many libraries have separate budgets for subscriptions and for monographs and other one-time purchases; sometimes there is a separate third categories for databases. Sometimes increases in one area necessitate decreases in the other (but inflation is also a major cause of cutbacks, when they occur). Libraries with tight budgets may periodically cancel some journal subscriptions, or reduce the monograph budget. Some libraries have endowed funds within the library dedicated to classics, and in a few cases departments with endowment income transfer money to the library annually or for particular purchases.

Decisions about new resources usually involve recommendations from or consultation with faculty. Some area librarians or selectors can make a decision because they have an annual allocation for their discipline; in other cases, decisions are made at a higher level, such as that of a collection development group. In many cases, the number of potential users may be a factor, and resources that serve people in more than one unit or discipline may be favored for funding.

Institutions with large endowments are generally at an advantage, to judge from the fact that several say they have been able to obtain everything they really want. When there are desired items that are not acquired, this may either be because the budget is too constrained; because the item is not available separately but only as a part of a large package that is not needed or not affordable; or because the institution declines to subscribe or make a one-time purchase because

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the price is judged to be excessive (Brill's offerings are mentioned more than once in this regard). Other desired items not acquired at various places include TLL and some Oxford and Cambridge packages. Also, a small liberal arts college recently dropped its TLG subscription as too expensive in relation to the low usage by students, and a state university dropped *Patrologia Graeca* for a similar reason. Most places have managed to get Loeb Classical Library (preferring the option for one-time purchase plus annual maintenance fee). Some places mention no longer getting print copies of items that are available digitally: e.g., cancelling a standing order for printed Loeb's, getting a journal online only, acquiring only an eBook and not a print copy of a monograph.

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