Pattee adopts automation; budget diluted by inflation

By AMY ENDLICH

Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Three years ago the University libraries purchased one book per student in its budget expenditures. Only two-· thirds of a book per student was allowed for in the 77-78 budget.

This reduction in purchasing power is indicative of the consequences inflation, in face of a static budget, will have on the quality of library services and purchases in the future.

"We will have to tailor our goals to fit the situation," said Edward Johnson, assistant dean of library resources.

· Purchase of new books and periodicals, services provided and staff positions all will suffer reductions in this tailoring process.

In the 77-78 budget two-thirds of the \$1,200,000 alloted for volume purchase was consumed by bound periodicals, while new title books received the remaining one-third. This is in contrast to past years when new books took up two-thirds and periodicals the remainder.

The 77-78 allotment of \$800,000 purchased 29,500 periodical subscriptions while the 74-75 allocation of \$576,000 purchased 34,000 subscriptions.

Despite the increase in the dollar percentage given to periodicals, no new periodical titles have been added to the Pattee collection.

"This is our number one problem," Johnson said. "We are afraid that periodicals will take 100 percent of this

budget division unless something is done. The cost of periodicals and journals is really killing us."

A total of 10,000 fewer books were purchased by Pattee in 77-78 than in 74-75. The budget allotment for book purchases in 77-78 was \$400,000 while the 74-75 amount was \$600,000.

"The price of books has also skyrocketed," Johnson said. Books that would have cost \$8 or \$9 are now \$20 to \$25," he said. The cost and purchase amounts of maps, records, documents and microforms remain relatively constant "no matter what happens," said Murray S. Martin, associate dean of libraries.

The cost of staff salaries is another area that consumes larger percentages of library funds yearly. Approximately \$3,350,000 of the \$1,500,000 77-78 budget went for salary expenditures.

Thirty-seven staff positions have been eliminated in the last six years. Some were mandated by the University, some were transfered and some were replaced by automation.

The ratio of library personnel to students at Penn State is 1 to 103. In comparison the University of Pennsylvania has a ratio of 1 to 46, while the

University of Pittsburgh has a 1 to 64

Obligatory costs, including mail and telephone service and typewriter maintenance, have also gone up, Martin

"By the end of the year these type of costs will have surpassed 100 percent of our current budget amount," he said.

In the face of constantly escal ting costs, reduced purchases and staff reductions "something has to give," "

Johnson said. "This is where automation comes in."

All library processes were formerly

done by people, Johnson said. "We are labor intensive," he said. 'Now we are moving to automation."

"The only way to cut costs is to find

A hook-up with the Ohio College Library Center in 1974 marked the beginning of use of the first major automated system by Pattee.

substitutions for people time," Martin



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