

Dear Colleagues,

We are about to start the second phase of decision-making needed to reduce our collections budget, and we will need everyone's assistance. The good news is that after further discussion, President Diacon and Interim-Provost Tankersley have agreed to lessen our budget reduction. We had been planning for a 20% reduction. We are currently working with the Provost's office to determine the exact reduction level. This has allowed us to resubscribe to three resources we initially cancelled: the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Certainly, we will still need to make significant adjustments to our collections investment to balance our budget. But do know that University Libraries is committed to gathering input and engaging in discussions to determine the best decisions for the Kent State community. To that end, we have created the **Responsible Collections Reduction website**. This website will provide details on process, resources under review, communications, and timeline. Please share this web site with your faculty and staff.

As soon as later today, the departmental-level review process will begin. Library representatives and chairs and directors will receive an email from Kay Downey, assistant dean for technical services and collections, that will share specific resources up for review, supporting data, and opportunities to provide feedback. As mentioned above, the **Responsible Collections Reductions website** outlines this process in more detail.

I will conclude with two important calls to action for **library representatives**:

1. Please reach out to your faculty colleagues and include them in this process. We need the voices of faculty to help us make our data come to life and support the right decisions.
2. Please work with your **subject librarians** throughout this process. They will be following up with you, fielding your questions, and asking their own questions. They can facilitate scheduling meetings and bringing the right people together to discuss resource decisions.

I thank you in advance for your assistance and sharing the burden of making the right decisions. I know it is a very busy time in a very different world. University Libraries applauds your resiliency and courage in striving to fulfill Kent State's mission. Do not hesitate to personally reach out to me at kburhann@kent.edu. My door, often virtual these days, is open and I welcome your questions and feedback.

Best regards,