

Increasing fees at the UPEI library

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According to Lynne Murphy, University Librarian, the user fees are a result of major cuts to the university budget over the last two or three years.

Murphy adds that books and periodicals increase in price every year, quite drastically in some cases. Many science journals have increased in price by as much as 15 percent. The decreased value of the Canadian dollar also impacts the library's buying power, as many of the journals and books held by the library are published in the United States.

These high costs are part of what Gordon describes as a worldwide problem. All universities are experiencing major funding problems, but he sympathizes with everyone feeling the pinch.

ILL costs come out of the book/periodical budget, according to Ginny Kopachevski, ILL technician. She adds that the user fee only

recovers a small amount of this money.

"Either we stop buying books, or we charge a small fee," says Murphy.

She also suggests that the addition of electronic databases has helped lessen the need for ILL's. However, Murphy is quick to point out that any more cuts to the budget could compromise the effectiveness of the library.

Dr. Catherine Innes-Parker of the English Department goes one step further.

"Any cut compromises a library's effectiveness," she asserts.

Innes-Parker also expressed her concern that the ILL charges will hinder undergraduates, particularly honours students. An honours thesis requires extensive, long term research. Depending on the topic, a student may have a considerable amount of ILL's.

She is especially concerned about the potential to reduce the amount of current material in the library, forcing

students to rely on back issues which may be out of date.

Although professors may have material they can loan to students, to do so on a systematic basis breaks copyright laws. According to Innes-Parker, these laws are in place for good reasons, but she is concerned that students will not have access to necessary information.

Most agree that education needs to be supported by the Federal government, and that the cuts to the library are symptomatic of a larger funding problem.

"The Federal government doesn't fully understand the needs of universities," remarks Gordon.

Innes-Parker attests that if Prince Edward Island is going to have a university, it needs to be funded. The library is a community asset as well as university resource, she adds.

"Think about the advantages of a well-educated populace," she urges.

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MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE INVITES UPEI STUDENTS TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

MacLean's Magazine is preparing its fourth annual guide to universities, and is seeking input on campuses' strengths and weaknesses. Specifically, they are looking for answers to three questions:

1. Who are the strongest and most popular professors?
2. What is the hottest hang-out?
3. What are significant developments at UPEI?

E-mail your thoughts to <newspaper@upei.ca>

THE CADRE INVITES UPEI STUDENTS TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

The Cadre is seeking input on students' opinions on the infamous MacLean's university guide. Specifically, we are looking for the following:

1. Do you think that the MacLean's guide is an accurate assessment of post-secondary education?
2. Why do you think that UPEI scores low on the rating annually?
3. Should administration be concerned about UPEI's representation in the magazine?