From the Library Program Review

Instructional Equipment/Materials

Priority 1
$50,000 – A permanent increase of the yearly budget to fund library materials, which include books, DVDs, CDs, (excluding periodicals) that are offered in a physical format.

1. Is this equipment required to meet Title 5 and/or Ed Code? If so, how? (Cite code) Is this equipment required to meet any local, state or federal Health and Safety Code? If so, how? (Cite code)

Yes, this request for instructional materials funding is to work toward meeting the specific minimum requirements delineated in the credit instructional services category of operations (which includes the library, media, and learning center services that are supplemental to the instructional effort) of the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Division 6, Chapter 9, Article 3, Sections 55872 and 55873. This request for funding is also supported by Standards of Practice for California Community College library Faculty and Programs, adopted Fall 2010 by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

The following language is cited directly from Title 5:

§ 58722. Credit Instructional Services Standards.
(a) The credit instructional services standards per college in 1990-91 dollars shall be as follows:
   (D) 3% of the number of volumes identified in Table 1 of section 58724 times $40.32;
   (C) Number of video/film identified in Table 2 of section 58724 times 3% times $104.66;

§ 58724. Tables of Minimum Standards for Libraries and Media Centers.

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<tr>
<th>College Size FTES</th>
<th>Type of Staff</th>
<th>Materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faculty Librarian</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1,000</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,001–3,000</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,001–5,000</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5,001–7,000</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each Additional 1K</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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TABLE 1
ALA/ACRL—AECT—Minimum Standards for Libraries (Modified)
Strictly following the formula listed in Title 5 requirements:

3% of 60,000 volumes = 1,800 x $40.32 (at 1991 dollars) = $72,576
3% of 750 films or videos = 22.5 x 104.66 (at 1991 dollars) = $2,355

Combined, this brings the amount to $74,931 in 1991 dollars. Adjusted for inflation, that number rises to $130,315 in 2014 dollars. So as you see, a permanent, line item increase of $50,000 for the library’s physical materials budget is a conservative request to help bring our collection up to date, one which still falls far short of minimum state standards, yet demonstrates COM’s commitment to meeting student needs in the 21st century.

It’s worth remembering that College of Marin now has two libraries; one at Kentfield and one on the Indian Valley Campus. Title 5 §84750.5(d)(2) specifies number of centers as a significant factor in determining funding levels. The last ACRL standards written specifically for community colleges included headcount and number of locations as considerations for determining minimum benchmark for library funding.

2. How will the quality of instruction be improved for student learning and success? Is it necessary for students to succeed in a series of courses?

The College of Marin library’s present collection of books and media in physical format is out-of-date. In order to learn information literacy skills that are integral to the research process, students need access to a mix of sources across the disciplines, including classic works and current works published in the last ten years. Like most academic libraries, the COM library is moving away from print format books toward electronic books, however there is still a significant need for physical copies of books and media for a variety of reasons -- some instructors require information that is only on physical books and media, some students prefer physical materials, and many academic titles, unlike popular items, are not available to libraries electronically.
3. How will access for students be improved? How many students (annually) will benefit from this request? Is it required to accommodate existing students? Would it be vital to attracting new students?

Students need access to current scholarship in all of its various formats, including up-to-date print books. Students need to have positive experiences with book-length works so that they understand how authors build arguments over the course of hundreds of pages. Students preparing to transfer need opportunities to interact with an up-to-date, vibrant academic print collection so that their information literacy competencies align with students at four year institutions who have had exposure to up-to-date print format books during the freshman and sophomore years.

4. What student learning or other outcomes are expected? Is it important to the achievement of student goals? How will these outcomes be measured for future planning? What data or evidence supports your request?

We expect students to write more effective research papers and deliver more powerful research presentations because they will have access to more current scholarship. We expect that students will cite more up-to-date materials in physical format. Using the Integrated library System, Innovative Interfaces, the library will analyze the age of its physical materials collection in a variety of disciplines to determine improvement with regard to the age of its collection.

Numerous informal assessments of the collection by librarians, library staff, and professors conclude that across all disciplines and almost all topics, COM's physical collection is woefully out-of-date. Example: A student recently looking for books about how to use a communications degree found approximately 60-75 books, but only two books had been published since 2000. The average date of publication for the books was 1985, including one title: Your Future in the New World of Communications, published in 1975.

6. Additional Justification for this item:

A college library should introduce students to a world of ideas. It should also expose students to the drama of new ideas coming into conflict with older ways of thinking. The librarians are trying to create a place that is intellectually stimulating for our students (as well as for our faculty, staff, and community members) in order to promote critical thinking, information literacy, and lifelong learning. We have been surprised again and again by the number of students, including young students, who are seeking books -- specifically printed books -- not only to complete assignments, but simply because they are curious about a topic, whether it’s a form of martial arts, the latest book by Stephen Hawking, Carole King’s new memoir, or the paintings of Frida Kahlo. Over the next five years, the librarians would like to turn our somewhat dusty collection of print books into a thoughtfully-curated collection which serves as a valuable resource for students seeking to be energized.