Why the Library?
Cornell University Library is the place — virtual and physical — where students, faculty, and other researchers seek knowledge and expertise. It is just as true in 2012 as it was in 1912, although the world of scholarship has changed dramatically in the past century.

A student recently told us that “the Library makes Cornell greater than the sum of its parts,” and faculty and students frequently identify the correlation between the Library and their own success at Cornell.

Why Library collections?
Library collections determine the future of scholarship. In the digital age, online resources are vital, even as print remains alive and well. Libraries work against a pervasive myth that all information is online, and everything online is free.

The truth is that a lot of information isn’t online, and the best e-resources can be very expensive. Many disciplines still rely largely on print, and most online information needed for deep research is available only as licensed content. The Library pays to unlock those resources. Half of our $16 million budget for collections goes to buying online content for Cornell faculty and students.

Why now?
As the University focuses on faculty renewal and student diversity, the Library must continue to build the collections that draw people to Cornell. The Library helps expand knowledge and scholarship, and Cornell is not keeping pace with its peers in building collections.
Losing Ground
Funding for our collections was $16.2 million in 2005 and $16.5 million in 2010 — a cumulative increase of 1.7%. The median cumulative increase for the top 30 research libraries for those five years was 24.9%.

Compared to one of our closest peer institutions:
- Columbia’s increase was 36% ($19 million to $27 million).
- For one major database vendor — Proquest, which covers a wide range of fields in the arts and sciences — we can afford only half of what Columbia purchases.

As the universe of scholarly content grows, the costs grow as well. Double-digit inflation in scholarly publishing and the devaluation of the dollar exacerbate this trend.

How you can help
Because the dual emphasis on print and digital resources raises the cost of running a world-class library, your support for our collections is now more important than ever.

A strong University needs a strong Library. Join Cornell alumni all over the world in supporting your library.

For giving information, please contact:
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