How the Library Budget is Spent

**PRINT AND E-BOOKS:** In any given academic year we purchase between 3,000 and 4,000 print and e-books. We also dispose of about the same number because they are old or out-of-date. The cost of books and e-book varies a great deal but on average each print book costs around £25 and each e-book around £100.

**JOURNALS AND DATABASES:** We provide access to around 34,000 journals, the majority of which are online. Individual journal subscriptions vary greatly in price, with some as low as £12 and others as high as £4,000 per year. The vast majority of our journal provision however is via the 60 or so databases to which we subscribe; things like ProQuest Central, Academic Search Complete, JSTOR and Project MUSE. Again, database prices range a great deal – anywhere from £60 to £16,000 each per year.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONTRACTS:** Boring but necessary, our support contracts ensure that if we have a problem with our equipment or software (big things like our library computer system and little things like our till) there’s always someone on hand quickly to sort them out.

**PRINTING AND BINDING:** Printing covers things like publicity, posters and user guides. Binding refers to the process of sending away journal issues to be bound together (for longevity and protection) and also to the preservation and/or repair of books.

**DOCUMENT SUPPLY:** Expenditure on document supply is mainly for inter-library loans. Library Services heavily subsidises this service, so for each request that costs you £1 we normally pay about £12 to the lending library.

**STATIONERY, FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT:** All the things you would expect under this heading: from pens to barcode scanners and from book trolleys to the special tape we use to stick shelfmarks to book spines!