

# Road to R2: Assessing library needs related to an expansion of university research capacity

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## I. Background

- UDC, the U.S.'s only urban, public, land grant university and an HBCU, recently added doctoral programs and is seeking to expand its capacity and public profile in research. The university's research office has developed a proposal called "Road to R2," outlining a vision for this expansion and attainment of the R2 (Doctoral Universities – High research activity) Carnegie Classification.
- The UDC Library conducted a two-part assessment project to identify additional resources/capacity that the library will need to appropriately serve a university community that is producing and publishing more research and inform a proposal advocating for expanded library resources.
  - Part 1: Comparing selected UDC Library expenditures per FTE student vs. those of peer group libraries
  - Part 2: Identifying core research and scholarly communications support at peer group libraries

## II. Methodology

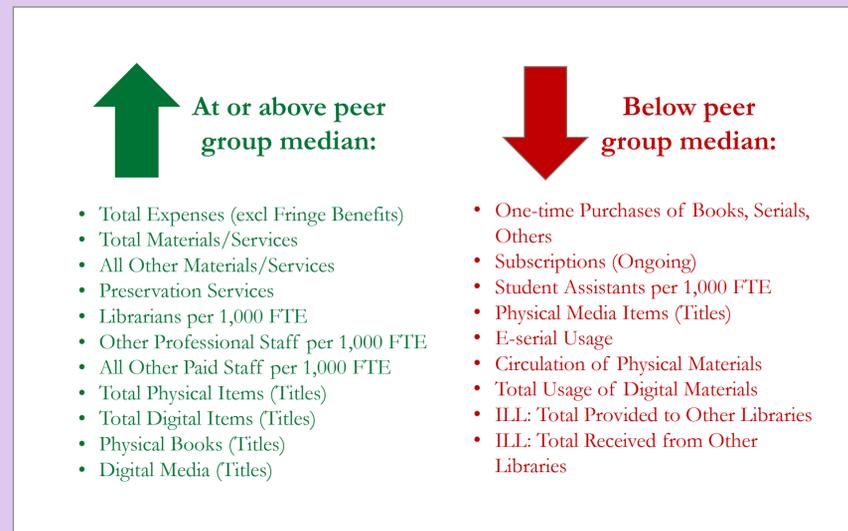
Peer group identified for comparison: 24 public minority-serving institutions (MSIs) identified as R2s in both 2018 and 2021 IPEDS data.

Data sources:

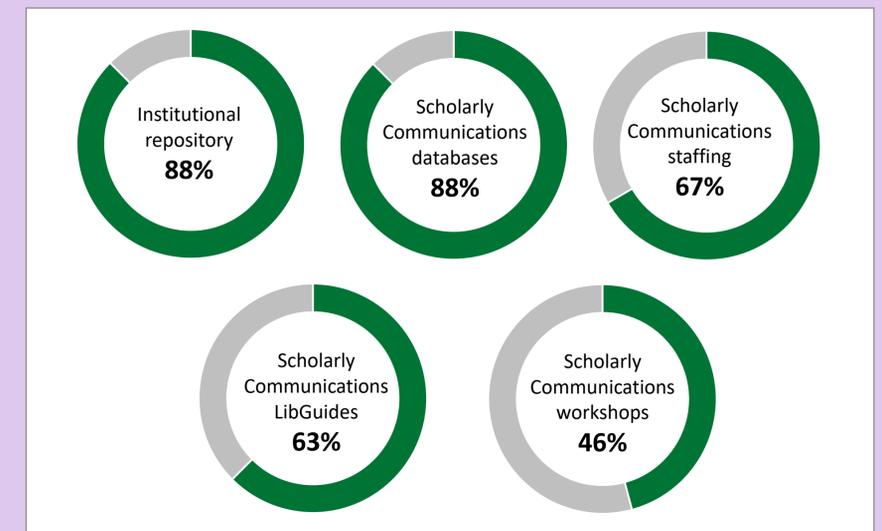
- Quantitative data: Selected 2018-2020 ACRL Trends & Statistics data, to identify possible areas of library service that will require additional investment to meet expanded research and publishing needs. Analyzed figures per FTE student to account for variation in institution size.
- Qualitative data about research services available at peer institutions, including presence of an institutional repository, scholarly communications-focused databases, research- and publication-oriented staffing, research support LibGuides, and scholarly communications workshops. Obtained from institution websites. UDC does not currently offer these services.

## III. Findings

### Expenditures: UDC vs. peers



### Peers' research & scholarly communications support



## IV. Turning data into action & advocacy

UDC librarians reviewed the findings and developed assessment follow-up actions. Short-term actions to increase baseline library research support capacity are possible with current library resources/capacity and will be undertaken in the next 12-18 months. Recognizing that a meaningful expansion to library research support capacity will require substantial financial support and personnel, the Library is also using the findings of the assessment to advocate within the university for additional library resources.

Recommendations for future actions that would require additional resources have been submitted to the university's research office for consideration.

### Short-term actions

- Expand the library's online Faculty Research Index
- Create scholarly communications LibGuides on core topics.
- Deliver webinars targeted to faculty and graduate students on core scholarly communications topics.
- Ensure that all librarians are prepared to offer basic support on scholarly communications issues by completing a list of professional development activities and readings.
- Conduct qualitative assessment of unmet student and faculty research needs through interviews and/or focus groups.

### Recommendations for future actions

- Hire a librarian to lead the library's scholarly communications efforts and provide expert support for the UDC community on publishing and author rights, copyright, data management, measuring research impact, and Open Access issues.
- Establish a digital repository for the university to increase the visibility and impact of the UDC community's scholarly output.