TO: CSUN Faculty

FROM: Mark Stover, Dean, University Library

DATE: July 16, 2020

Re: Print Course Reserves are Problematic this Fall

During these challenging times, I want to assure you that the Library is committed to supporting student success, faculty research, and curricular needs. Given that instruction will remain largely virtual through the fall semester, I encourage you to focus your course readings and media on the Library’s vast array of electronic resources, including streaming media, digital collections, Government Publications, and other Affordable Resources to ensure that you and your students will continue to have access to quality information resources.

While many students rely on the Library’s CQF-purchased print textbooks as a solution to the prohibitive cost of textbooks, this is hindered when the Library must close or offer limited hours during the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, while an obvious solution would be for the Library to purchase eTextbooks instead of print, this is stymied by major publishers who refuse to sell eTextbooks to libraries. However, the Library is developing protocols to supply scans of portions of these books under Fair Use for faculty to link to in their course Canvas.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Reserves staff at librbr@csun.edu or (818) 677-3282, as well as TCC/Music & Media staff at edward.park@csun.edu or (818) 677-2211 for further assistance with course reserves. In addition, subject specialist librarians are available to help identify additional resources as well as provide research assistance and information literacy instruction: https://library.csun.edu/ResearchAssistance/AskUs Please continue to monitor the Library’s homepage for updates to these and other services.

On behalf of the Library’s dedicated team of faculty and staff, I wish you a safe, healthy, and productive summer and fall semester.