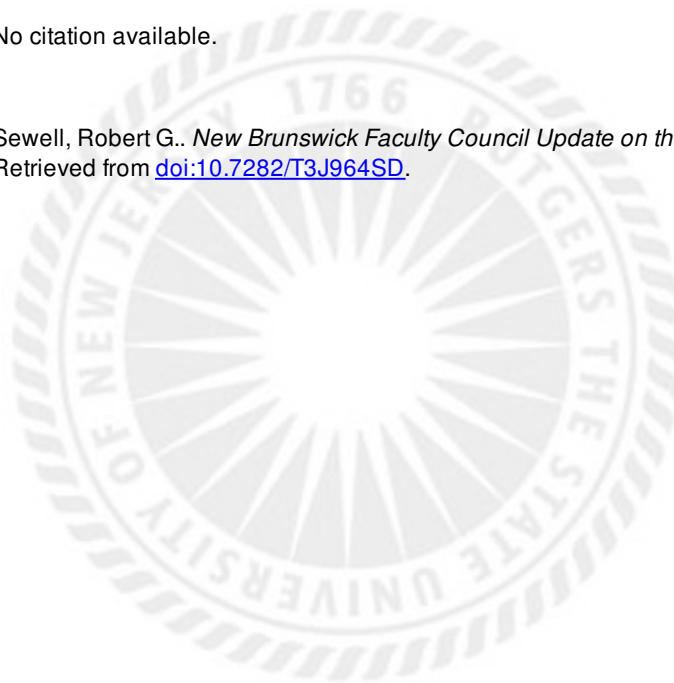


## **New Brunswick Faculty Council Update on the Library Situation**

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NEW BRUNSWICK FACULTY COUNCIL  
UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY SITUATION  
JANUARY 2009

Robert Sewell

Associate University Librarian

For Collection Development and Management

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- Update from my presentation at the NBFC meeting in May 2008

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- Rutgers and Its Library System in Comparative and Historical Perspective

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- Future Outlook

## **Situation in May 2008**

Dismal outlook for the library, especially its collections budget:

- State Library project - New Jersey Knowledge Initiative (NJKI) providing academic and public libraries with key science and business databases - was coming to an end, just two years after its establishment. Cost for Rutgers - \$600,000
- Over a 10% annual increase in subscription costs (over \$600,000) in FY2008
- Well over a million dollars of requests for new databases and new journals had not been acted on because of lack of funding

## **Situation since May 2008**

- NJKI – science database lost but two business databases were continued (no indication that they will be in 2010)
- VP Furmanski increased collections budget by \$1.2 million to cover loss of science databases and inflation in serials
- 2009 Budget Reduction:
  - July 1 Reduction
    - \$95,000 from collections budget
    - \$664,180 in personnel budget (12 lines frozen since 2007 returned)
  - Planning for future budget reduction
    - \$300,000 from collections budget
    - \$634,000 from personnel budget (10 personnel lines)

## **Initially unknown if planning for future reductions would go into effect this fiscal year**

- Cancellation decision needed to be made by October, so went ahead with them
- Criteria same as in 2007 when the Libraries reduced the collections budget by \$800,000
  - Cancel duplicate subscriptions no longer needed in the current environment
  - Renegotiate existing contracts with information providers
  - Cancel unique titles that were not heavily used and where similar information is available in online resources
- Results similar to 2007 cancellations – little loss to content, but essentially remain at status quo. Money freed up can be used toward one-time purchases of databases and other resources this year

# **Rutgers and Its Library System in Comparative and Historical Perspective**

## ***ASSUMPTIONS***

- Rutgers needs to be competitive with its peer group to compete for top faculty and students
- Rutgers needs a top library and information system so faculty can compete for research grants from NSF, NIH, and other sources
- Rutgers needs a top library and information system so it can recruit and retain top faculty and students
- Rutgers needs a top library and information system so its students can be fully educated and competent
- The Rutgers Libraries are uniquely situated to provide services and scholarly information to every member of the university community to further these goals

## **The Libraries have staff to navigate the complex information environment we live in. . .**

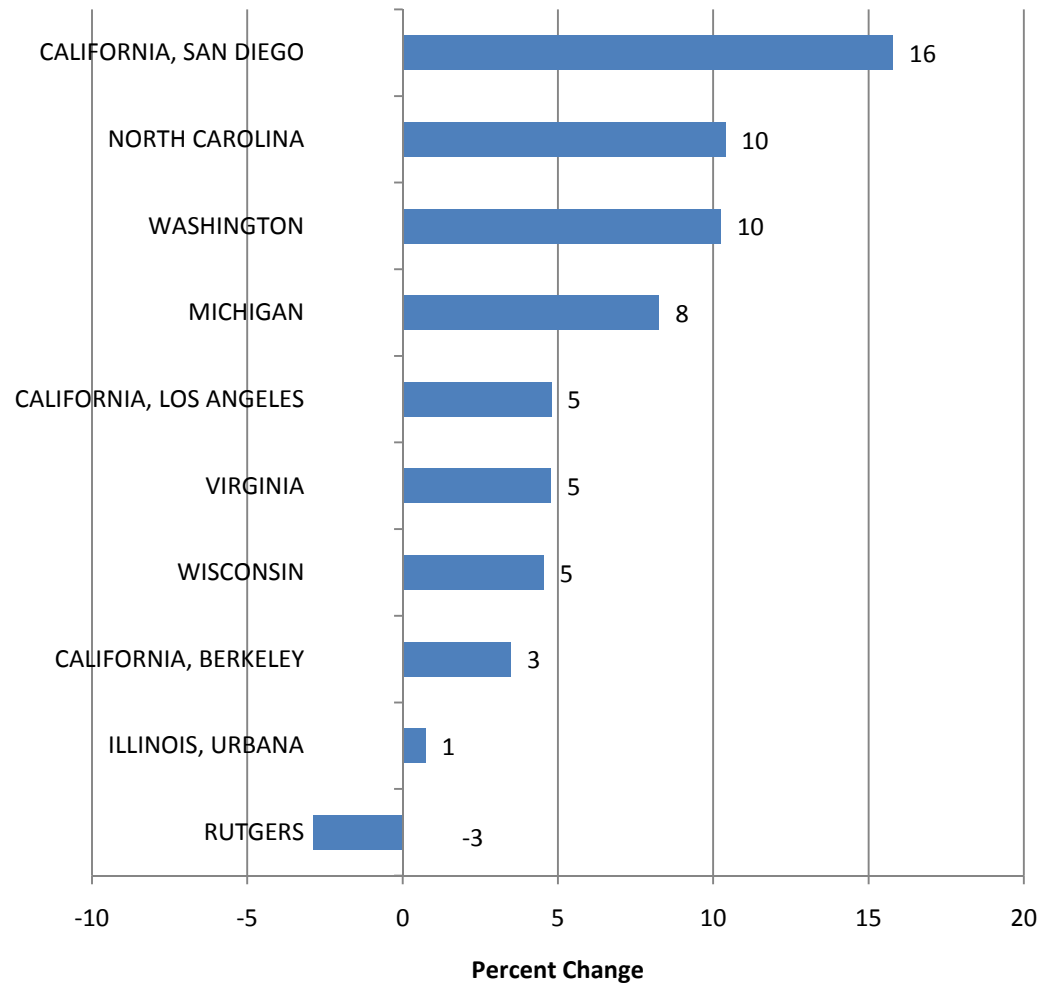
- Can decide when information needs to be purchased or other forms of access can fulfill users' needs
- Can bargain with information providers as one large university on three regional campuses and through consortia of other research universities such as the NorthEast Research Libraries Consortium
- Can teach information literacy skills to students
- Can assist researchers in finding and organizing scholarly resources
- Can assist researchers by preserving and expanding access to their work



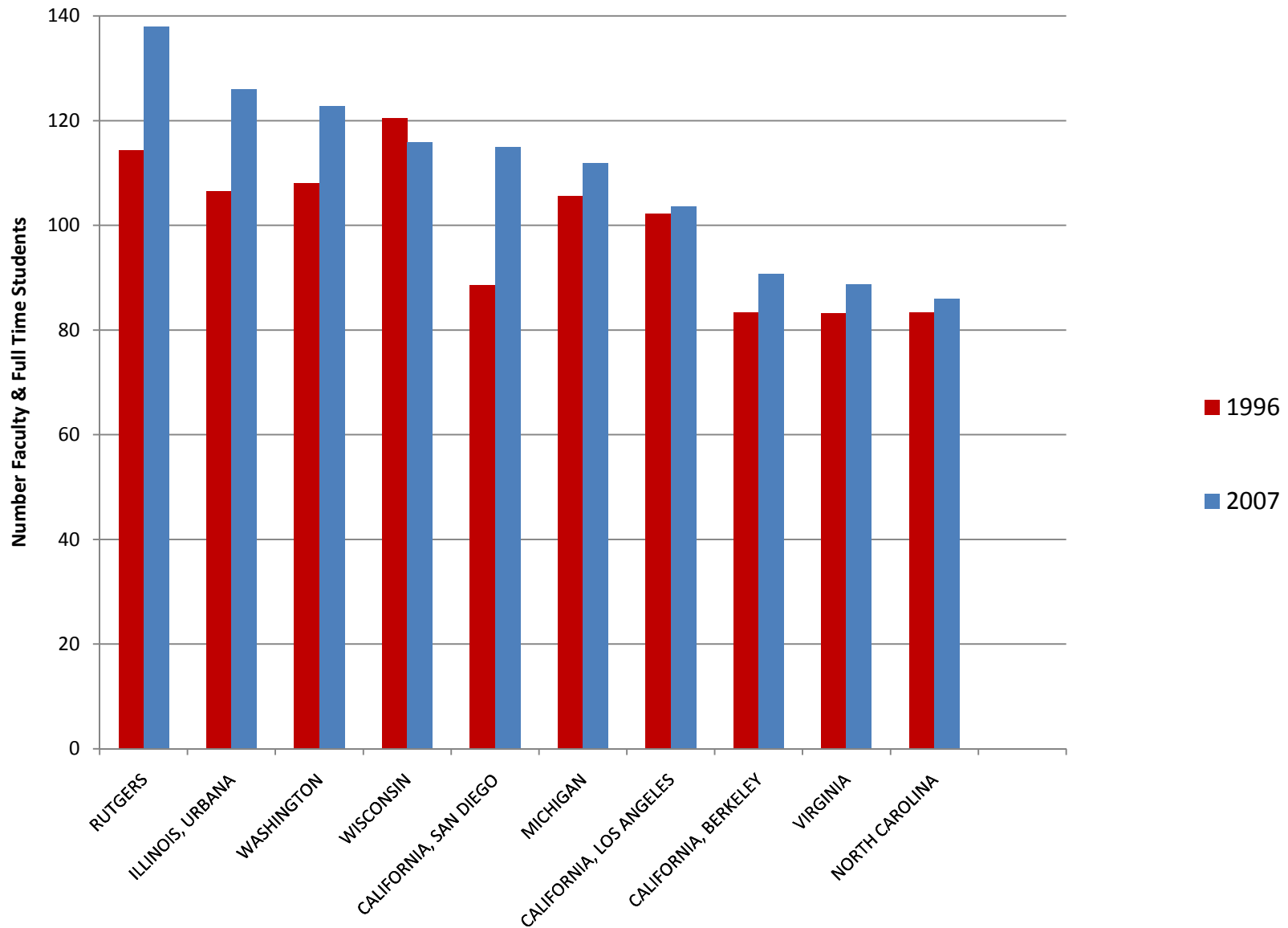
**To be able to perform these activities and be competitive with our peer/aspirant universities, the Libraries need resources – human and financial**

We are falling behind the peer/aspirant universities identified by Rutgers in both personnel and financial resources in the last decade

# Number Library Faculty & Staff Members: Percent Change from 1996 to 2007



## Faculty & Full Time Students per Each Library Faculty & Staff Member in 1996 and 2007



## **We are falling behind our peers in funds to lease or purchase core scholarly information**

Rutgers' ARL rank in collections expenditures went from 7<sup>th</sup> (with only Harvard, Yale, UCLA, Stanford, Berkeley, and Michigan ranked higher) in 1989 to 53<sup>rd</sup> in 2007

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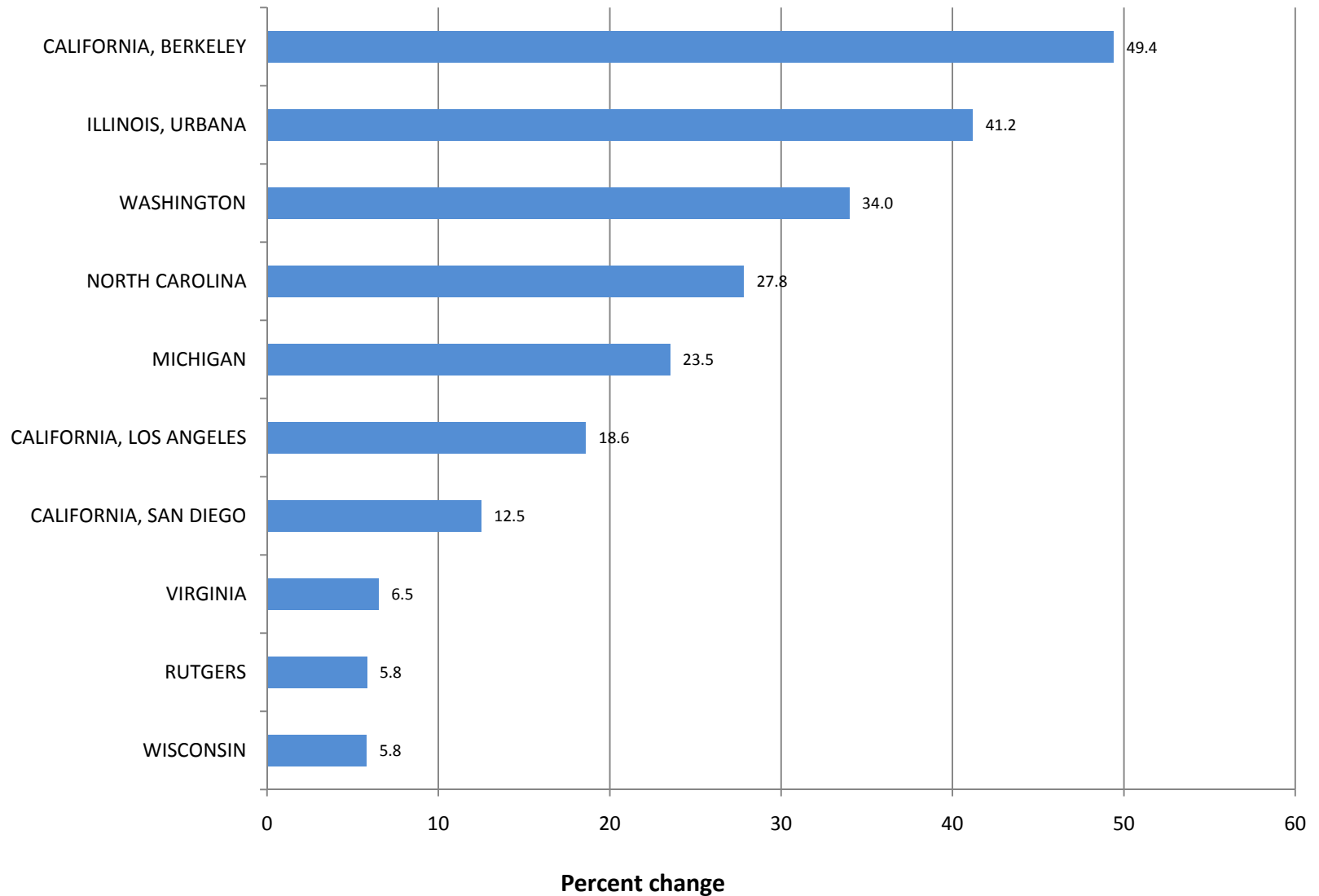
Rutgers Libraries sends about \$10 million a year on collections compared to:

North Carolina, UCLA, Pittsburgh, and Illinois - over \$14 million

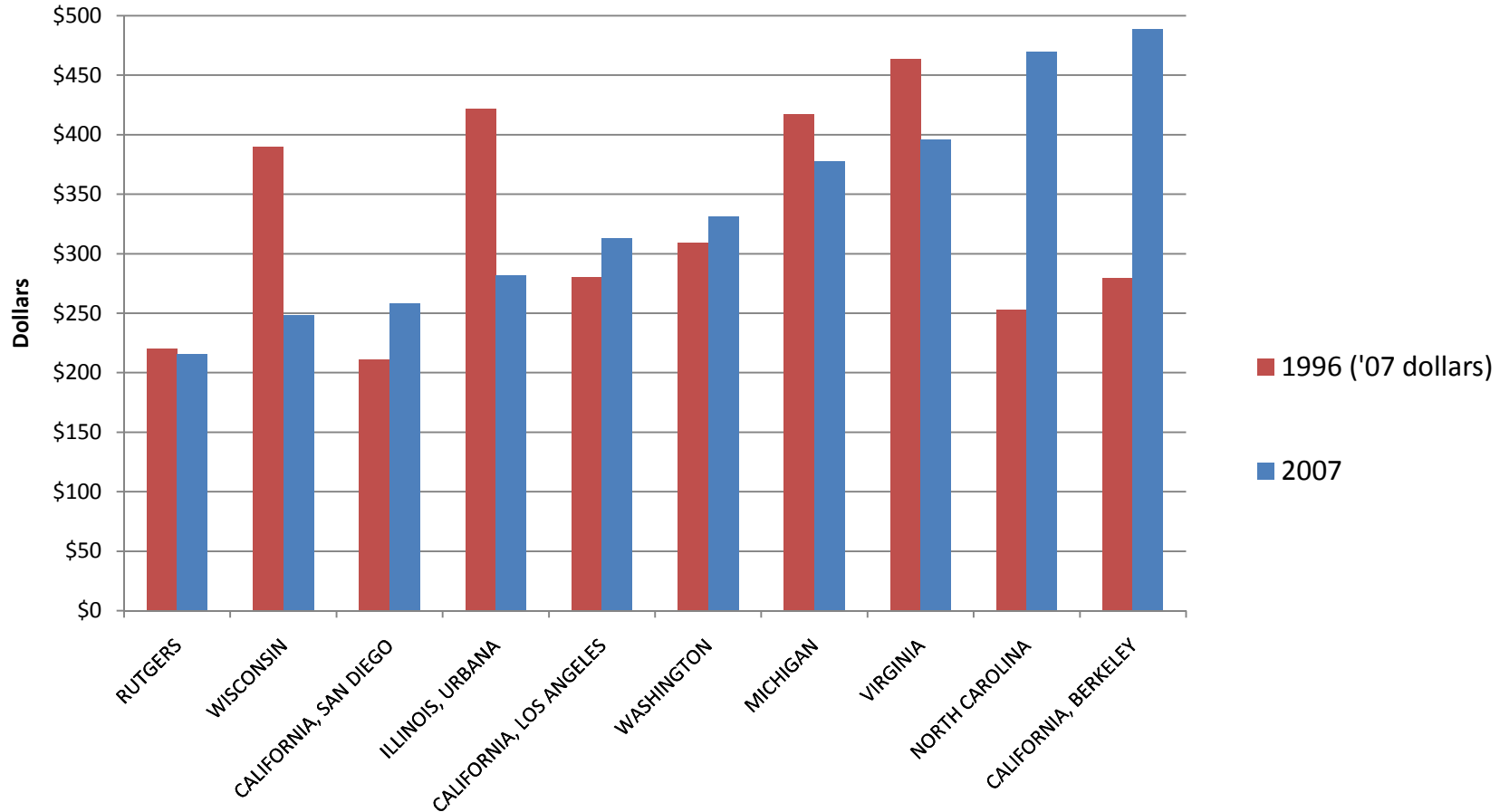
University of Washington - \$16 million

Berkeley and Michigan - \$20 million

## Collection Expenditures: Percent Change from 1996 to 2007 ('07 Dollars)



## Collection expenditures for each faculty & student, 1996 and 2007 (in '07 dollars)



Data computed from Association of Research Libraries data <http://www.arl.org/stats/annualsurveys/arlstats/index.shtml>  
2007 dollars computer using Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator [http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

## Global Financial Crisis

- Budget Reductions
  - Libraries have been very responsible in how we have dealt with past reductions- limiting impact on collections, but rarely expanding our offerings
  - But extremely vulnerable to future reductions: in last few years 80% of our expenditures have been for serials and 20% for all other types of purchases – all from non-state funds
  - Potential loss of 10 additional lines will cut deeply in to our ability to offer services (22 lines in 2 years)
  - Fall further behind our peers
- Publishers will have to adjust to declining university budget
- Accelerate changes in scholarly communications

# Changes in Scholarly Communication

- Opening up scholarly communication and eventually decrease cost
  - Open Access Publishing
  - Open Repositories
  - Open Source Software
- See Libraries webpage on Scholarly Communication:  
[http://www.libraries/rul/scholarly\\_comm/scholarly\\_comm.shtml](http://www.libraries/rul/scholarly_comm/scholarly_comm.shtml)



## **Need for Academia to fully engage in these issues**

- Not a Library Problem but we can help you
- Major copyright education program for Spring semester
- RuCore
- Important Draft Report :
  - The University Roles in the Dissemination of Research and Scholarship – A Call to Action*** by AAU, ARL, CNI, NASULGC
- Rutgers presenting Symposium on Scholarly Communication in Fall 2009