I. Narrative Summary of the Year’s Activities

I.A. Core Processes

I.A.1. Services and Access

Chemistry Library staff continues to focus on service to our patrons and access to our collections as our primary responsibilities. This year, as in every year, “core processes” included reference, circulation, collection maintenance, and collection assessment. Projects in support of these processes that took place in FY03 include reviewing the chemistry and chemical engineering collections in main stacks and tagging items for Oak Street, reviewing Chemistry Library collections for Oak Street, cleaning and weeding the reference collection (continued from FY02), continuing to expand electronic reserves, maintaining and adding titles to the chemistry e-journals list, and working closely with Library and School of Chemical Science administrators to shape a new remodeling plan for the Chemistry Library.

I.A.2. Collection Development

Our collections continue to be our reason for being. Emphasis on electronic access to journals and indices were again at the forefront of collecting in chemistry. By partnering with the School of Chemical Sciences and individual departments, the Chemistry Library was able to acquire access to two major electronic backfiles in inorganic chemistry and chemical engineering, both collections from Elsevier. In addition, software client upgrades for both SciFinder Scholar and Beilstein/Crossfire were made available to our patrons. For the coming year, more backfiles will be actively sought out for our users. These backfiles include the entire Royal Society of Chemistry backfile covering nearly 20 titles back to 1876 and the final Elsevier chemistry backfile that covers over 30 physical and analytical chemistry titles. By buying electronic journal backfiles we move our “new model” library forward. When electronic access is made available, print volumes can be stored in the Oak Street facility as an archive, making the electronic copy the “copy of use.”

I.B. Training and Staff Development

As in the past, all Chemistry Library staff were encouraged this year to attend library-sponsored training sessions. PSE Division support staff meetings are held regularly and staff attendance is a critical part of our successful Division. All staff attended multiple Voyager training sessions including circulation forums, reserve meetings, and serials/acquisitions overviews. Graduate Assistants attended library-training sessions in the fall, and follow-up Voyager circulation training was conducted for all student workers.
I.C. Innovative Ideas, New Initiatives

Innovative ideas set in motion in previous years continue to be implemented and refined. Our vision for a “new model” chemistry library continues to move forward with the purchase of large electronic journal backfile sets. These purchases will make it possible to move full runs of print journals to the library remote storage facility. Our new model relies upon the electronic copy as the primary-use format. The model continues to support purchase and archiving of print copies as needed.

Thanks to the leadership of AUL Karen Schmidt, the Elsevier contract for electronic journals was reorganized in collaboration with our sister campuses in Chicago and Springfield. These renegotiations allowed us to purchase one print copy among the three campuses, cancelling any remaining copies. Because of previous communications with chemists and the development and agreement of a new model, chemistry was able to take full advantage of cancelling (in print only) many Elsevier titles. We look forward to using the funds this project generated to purchase needed backfiles and other “new model” materials.

II. Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment Activities

This year was spent organizing and analyzing journal use data from our 2002 study. A journal article describing the latest survey’s results was accepted by JASIST for publication in fall 2003. The data analysis confirmed the nearly complete shift to electronic access of journal articles over print access. Total use of chemistry journal literature at UIUC during the 2002 study period was 94% electronic access, 6% print access. These data, along with other assessments, confirm that the new model for the chemistry library is well established among users of this literature. Based on the established schedule, the next chemistry library journal use study will take place January-March 2004. Because of the progression of the model, which calls for print journals wholly duplicated online to be stored in the Oak Street facility, the 2004 study will be the last of its kind possible.

III. Public Relations and Promotional Activities

The Chemistry Library connects with our patrons in a number of ways. We actively pursue feedback from our patrons concerning cancellation lists, remodeling plans, and the direction of the library. We accomplish this with email, surveys, lists of proposed cancellations, and by taking the time to talk to faculty and students who visit the library. We expect to continue to monitor use in all formats to gauge user needs.

Thanks to our local chapter of the American Chemical Society, the Chemistry Library received funds to purchase a display case to put just outside the library. Because of the upcoming move and remodeling, the purchase of the display case has been postponed. It will be an integral part of our outreach and promotion at our new location.
IV.  Involvement with other Units in the Library and on Campus or Beyond

Involvement with the School of Chemical Sciences (SCS), the Departments of Chemistry and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and the adjunct Biochemistry Department continued in FY 03. Discussion continued on a number of topics including remodeling, budget negotiations (as the SCS reduced funding support for the Chemistry Library), space allocations in Noyes Laboratory, and increased SCS support for the one-time purchases of large backfiles of electronic journals. Regular communication with the SCS Library Committee was maintained and their advice was sought on a number of topics, most notably during serial cancellation discussions. Cancellations were also widely discussed among PSED libraries and with the Life Sciences Division.

V.  Additional Topics Deemed Unique to the Unit in Question

VI.  Goals and Planning

VI.A.  Last Year’s Plans and Goals

Last year’s plans were completely achieved. They included:

- Upgrade SciFinder Scholar and Beilstein clients and communicate availability to all users.
- Complete initial Oak Street selection from Main Stacks.
- Initiate Oak Street selection from the Chemistry Library for both monographs and serials. Begin to process materials when remote storage becomes available.
- Continue facilities planning and remodeling discussions at all levels.
- Continue to move the proposed “new model” forward by purchasing backfiles of electronic journals and selecting print journals from the Chemistry Library to move to Oak Street when the facility is completed.
- Acquire a display case for the Chemistry Library hallway to highlight new acquisitions and promote new library services.
- Continue to measure and assess all Chemistry Library services and collections. The data that are generated and compared to previous years provide essential planning information and show us how our strategies for a cost-effective collection and adequate staffing levels are working.

VI.B.  Next Year’s Plans and Goals

- Purchase access to the Royal Society of Chemistry’s electronic journal backfile.
- Purchase the Elsevier physical and analytical electronic journal backfile.
- Purchase electronic backfiles to Synlett and Synthesis.
- Permanently fund CA on CD, previously purchased on soft money.
- Finalize and begin to implement remodeling plans in conjunction with the School of Chemical Sciences.
- Facilitate SciFinder Scholar training session for all SciFinder users on campus.
- Conduct the seventh Chemistry Library journal use study (print and electronic) from January – March 2004.
- Survey users to determine satisfaction levels, concerns, and needs. Begin with graduate students, working with Library Services Committee to implement survey more broadly.
- Weed Chemistry Library monograph section by sending to Oak Street or Stacks all books that have not circulated within the past 10 years. Sampling has determined this 10-year cut off will reduce on-site monograph collection size by over 10%. The weeding is needed in order to fit the collection into remodeled space with reduced shelving.