Report to
Faculty, Administration, Trustees, Students of
New Jersey Institute of Technology
University Heights, Newark, New Jersey

Prepared following analysis of the institution's
Periodic Review Report

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Recommendation 3: It is strongly recommended that a) the library staff draw up a plan for adding 5,000-7,000 new book titles annually and present it to the faculty and administration for their consideration and possible implementation.

In its response to the 2002 review team report, NJIT agreed that it should increase the number of book titles in its libraries, but it questioned the team's seeming reliance upon quantity of book titles as a central measure of library effectiveness: "We do not agree that library books are any longer the sole standard of library excellence, and we believe it is inappropriate to establish a specific, prescribed book acquisition level" (PRR, 16).

Nevertheless, NJIT has taken this recommendation seriously, creating and presenting to the Provost in 2003 a plan for increased book purchases. While the Middle States goal of 5,000-7,000 new titles annually has not been met, between FY 2003 and FY 2006, an average of 3,446 books per year have been purchased—a 58% increase in the number of books purchased per year. Decisions about which titles to purchase were made by faculty, graduate students, and librarians; new titles included "retrospective published titles" of use to NJIT but not purchased at the time of publication.

As well as expanding its book collection, NJIT has also significantly increased electronic journals and databases—sources that faculty and students identify as critically important to their studies. These additions were funded both internally and externally.

Closely related to the issue of owned books, but not cited within the evaluation team’s recommendation, have been the addition of an Information Literacy Librarian to the library staff and the physical expansion of library space.

Taken together, the improvements made to the university library appear to justify the PRR’s conclusion that ‘the NJIT library has made great strides in meeting the informational needs of students and staff. Through electronic materials, targeted investments, and improved information literacy, library objectives in tight fiscal times within the state are being met’ (PRR, 19). Nevertheless, the library cannot afford to take its eye off the ball; efforts at enhancing both its collection and staff must continue.

It is not within the scope of this Report to comment on the institution’s response to the many Suggestions made throughout the 2002 Team Report. But because the PRR does address—in some detail—each of these suggestions, and because progress on these suggestions is commendable, we cite here a short list of the impressive developments issuing from some of the suggestions.

- Development of an exemplary Strategic Plan that drives resource development and allocation.
- Expansion of pre-college programs, particularly those intended to enrich science and technology instruction within urban schools;
- Enhancement of the Honors College.