UNIVERSITY

Library to ax 2,000 periodicals

By Colleen Pohlig Emerald Associate Editor

The University's Knight Library will slash periodical subscriptions by at least 2,000 in the coming months in response to rising costs.

Inflation is the driving factor in the mass-cancellation, University Librarian George Shipman said. He said 1990's Measure 5 tax initiative has nothing to do with the cuts, the first of their kind

in 10 years.

The library ideally should be spending 70 percent of its purchasing fund on periodicals and 30 percent on books, Shipman said. Because of inflation, however, the library's 17,000 periodicals are expected to cost about 75 percent of its \$3.1 million buying budget.

The Knight Library can't keep pace with rising costs, though the administration has tried for the last 10 years

"From 1982 to 1992, the University buying budget has increased 88 percent," Shipman said. "But cost for library materials has risen 210 percent in that same period."

Letters were sent to faculty last month notifying that tough choices will need to be made with departmental library representatives and library subject specialists about what subscriptions to maintain.

Under library budgeting policy, each academic department is budgeted so many dollars and the department tells the library what periodicals are necessary for research and to maintain up-to-date information in that field.

Under the mass-cancellation project, each department will be asked to cut those requests to bridge the 16 percent inflation rate library administrators are projecting.

Because the inflation rate is an educated estimate, the library administration is handling the cancellation project in three phases.

Periodical decreases, in the first phase, will begin at \$375,000 and may reach \$550,000 to bring the materials budget back into balance. This will depend on next year's material acquisition budget and the actual rate of inflation.

'We will cut only as deeply as we must to bring the materials budget back into balance, but we need to be prepared for the worst-case scenario,"

'In a way, it penalizes the students who work harder, because the journals that will probably be cut are the lessused and less-common.'

> Tim Gleason, journalism associate professor

Shipman said.

The effects of the cancellation on research are not yet known but are expected to make access to materials a little tougher.

"Whenever resources of an institution are diminished, it hurts everyone," said Tim Gleason, who has taught Information Gathering, a journalism research class. "In a way, it penalizes the students who work harder because the journals that will probably be cut are the less-used and lesscommon.

Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, assistant librarian for collection development and resource services, said she believes the mass-cancellation will have a direct impact on students and faculty members who are researching.

"The serial cuts certainly reduce support for research and instruction," she said. "We'll still provide bibliographic access though. Anyone can still learn about what's available, even though we may not have it in the library.

Various data bases at the library notify users where to find the material, if unavailable at the

Interlibrary Loan is a service that allows students and faculty to access unavailable material from other university libraries. Shipman said use of this service has doubled in the last two years.

The last decrease in periodicals was in 1982, but wasn't nearly as wrenching as this one, Shipman

"This is the biggest (cut in materials) the University has faced," Shipman said. "There's a lot of academic activity with students and faculty, and it hurts not to have the materials - it really hurts at an altruistic level."









Continued from Page 1 out over a year.

"It takes a while to absorb things," he said. "For our discipline, it's not educationally sound."

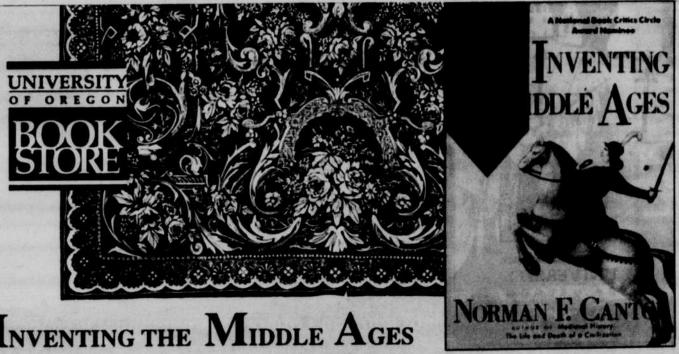
However, the sciences' agreement to stick with the current system may be a tenuous one.

"If chemistry and biology change, we'll have to, too, because students might be attracted away by the different requirements," Kevan said.

How well the new system works remains to be seen. Aside from anthropology, departments' course changes won't be on the books until the 1994-95 school year.

A four-credit class used in a new cluster must meet four hours a week in either a recitation, discussion, tutorial, seminar or conference, according to the University. Departments also have the option to offer one credit for a three-hour lab that requires little or no outside preparation or work.





The medieval world was not simply excavated through systematic research. It had to be conceptually created: It had to be invented, and this is the story of that invention.

In his ground-breaking work, Inventing the Middle Ages, Norman Cantor explains how our current notion of the Middle Ages-with its vivid images of wars, tournaments, plagues, saints and kings, knights and ladies-was born in the twentieth century. Focusing on the lives and works of twenty of the great medievalists of this century, Cantor demonstrates how the events of their lives, and their spiritual and emotional outlooks, influenced their interpretations of the Middle Ages.

A revolution in academic method, this book is a breakthrough to a new way of teaching the humanities and historiography, to be enjoyed by student and general public alike.

"Brilliant ... No other book published this year is more witty and challenging."-Houston Chronicle Paperback 12.00



