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## Issue Brief – Utah Academic Library Consortium

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NUMBER USHE-08

### **SUMMARY**

The Utah Academic Library Consortium is a nationally-recognized collaborative system with all nine USHE institutions, Brigham Young University, and Westminster College. It allows all library resources, wherever they may be located, to be made available to all libraries in the system. The Analyst recommends an ongoing appropriation of \$642,000 and a one-time appropriation of \$1 million for the Academic Library Consortium for FY 2008 to support the digital imaging and document collections and gain back lost ground in electronic collections, specifically in Computer Science, Business, Health, and Education.

### **OBJECTIVE**

This appropriation will enable the Consortium to continue its collaborative efforts in providing resource material to Utah students.

### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

For the past few years, digitization centers have been operating on the campuses of the University of Utah, Utah State University, Southern Utah University, and Brigham Young University. There are now over 4 million items and documents that have been digitized. Additional funding will allow for these efforts to continue and help to preserve records. New records will be integrated into the library system. However, without additional funding, the collections will shrink due to the increasing prices.

The Consortium provides access to electronic resources for students and faculty. The use of these database searches has increased considerably over the past few years. In 2001, there were approximately 4.3 million database searches; in 2005, that figure increased to 11.2 million. The Analyst recommends an appropriation of \$642,000 for FY 2008 in addition to a one-time appropriation of \$1 million.

