



**Fiesole
Retreat**

Tübingen, 2026

The Consortium as a Trust-Building Organism

Teri Oaks Gallaway, PhD, MSI, MM
Executive Director, SCEL
Los Angeles, CA

YOU WERE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD

YOU DIDN'T STOP TO THINK IF YOU SHOULD

Library Collection Activities: Rapidly Shifting from Access to Stewardship?

Old Model

Procure static, bounded content, and assist with locating it

New Model

Deliver AI layers shaping discovery, interpretation, and influencing original research?

Ensure content is:
Reliable
Contextualized
Preserved
Ethically Used

Trust is
operational

Do we turn this feature on?

Do we allow this in the classroom?

Do we rely on this output?

Do we sign this license?

What if we are operating with a trust deficit?

Hello Salina,

We'd like to ask a couple questions before reaching a decision about this offer.

If we agree to add one year of free {Product} + AI access, **will the cost of {Product} be automatically increased** to some new higher level the following year because it includes {Product} + AI? Will we have the option to **remove the add-on** if it's not working for us?

After accepting the offer, do we have the **ability to control** whether the AI features are turned on in {Product}? I don't think we have trailed {sic} the current version of this product and confirmed whether we want to roll it out to **our users**.

SCELC Support Desk Ticket, Mar 26, 2026

Signals of mistrust

Technical

Legal

Policy

Pedagogical

Trust has
memory

Consortia negotiate hard

Trust doesn't reset after negotiation



Description English: Mind
the Gap sign on London
Underground Victoria
Station
Source Own work
Author WillMcC
License: CC-BY-SA-3.0

Consortia Trust Models

Funding

Scope

Governance

Collaboration & Support

Scaling

We Agree on What We Do: MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

CONNECT AND COLLABORATE

We are stronger when we bring people together to share, learn, and work together.

CENTER INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

We value and respect our community by embracing diverse perspectives, fostering dialogue and belonging, and advocating for social justice.

ACT WITH INTEGRITY

At every turn, and to every stakeholder, we are a trusted partner.

PUNCH ABOVE OUR WEIGHT

We leverage our collective power to support a diverse set of institutions.

LEARN

In the changing landscape of information, education, and research, we remain curious, embrace new ways of thinking, and learn from our mistakes and successes.

TAKE RISKS

We are bold, strategic, creative, and adventurous when addressing challenges.

ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY

We turn to our members to listen, drive, and evaluate our efforts, progress, and success.

Financial Investments = Member Benefits



Awards and Scholarships

Travel, Interns, Scholarships, Research, SPIF



Networking

Communities of Practice



Physical Collections

Reciprocal ILL, Faculty Borrowing Shared Print



Professional Development

SCELCapalooza, Channel 1



Leadership Experiences

Steering Committees



Library Technology (opt-in)

JSTOR & FOLIO

Consortia Tension

Best Interests of Individuals vs. Whole

Differing Interests and Needs

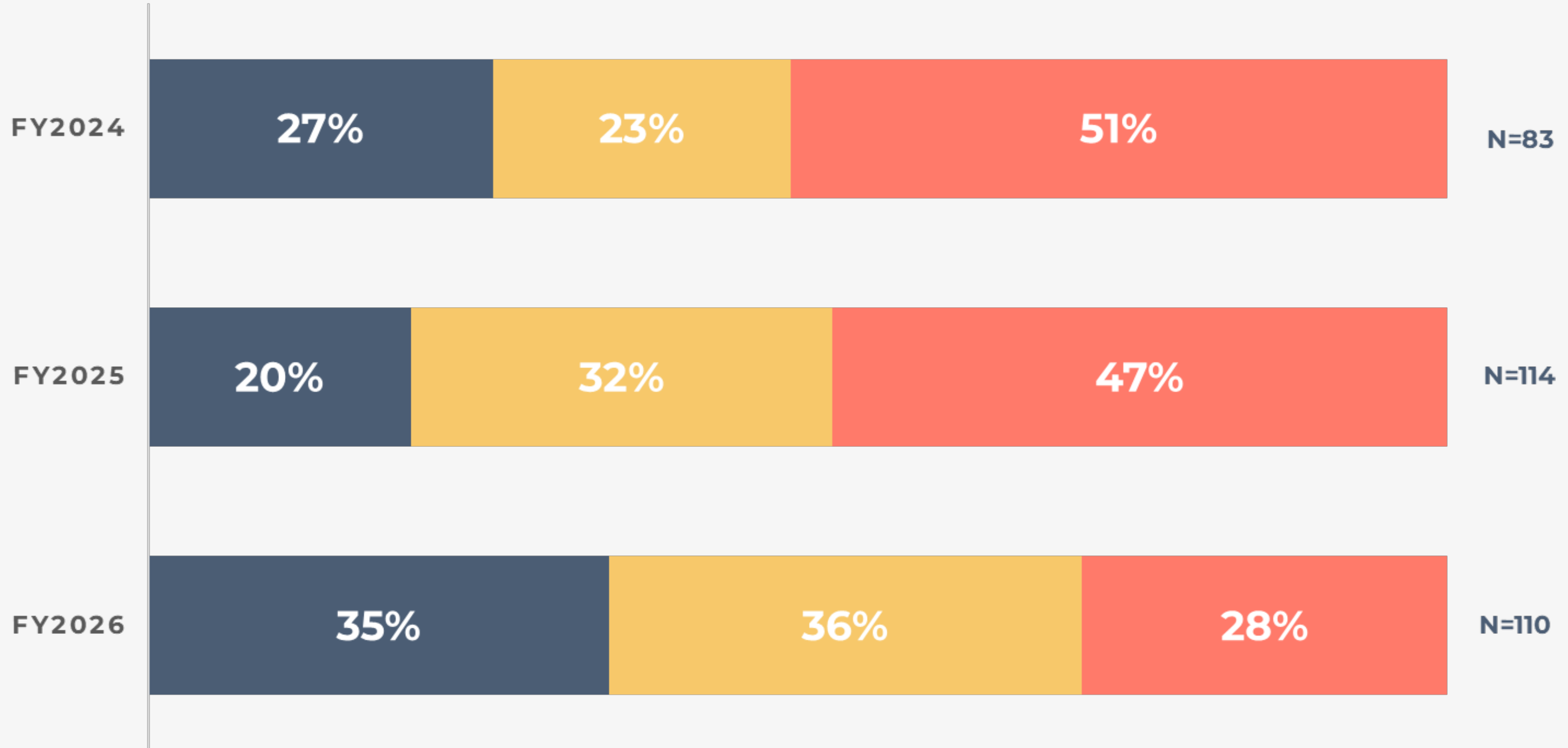
Uneven Capacity

Shrinking Budgets

Cost Center Mentality

SCELC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS BUDGET CHANGE DIRECTION

■ Decreased ■ Flat ■ Increased

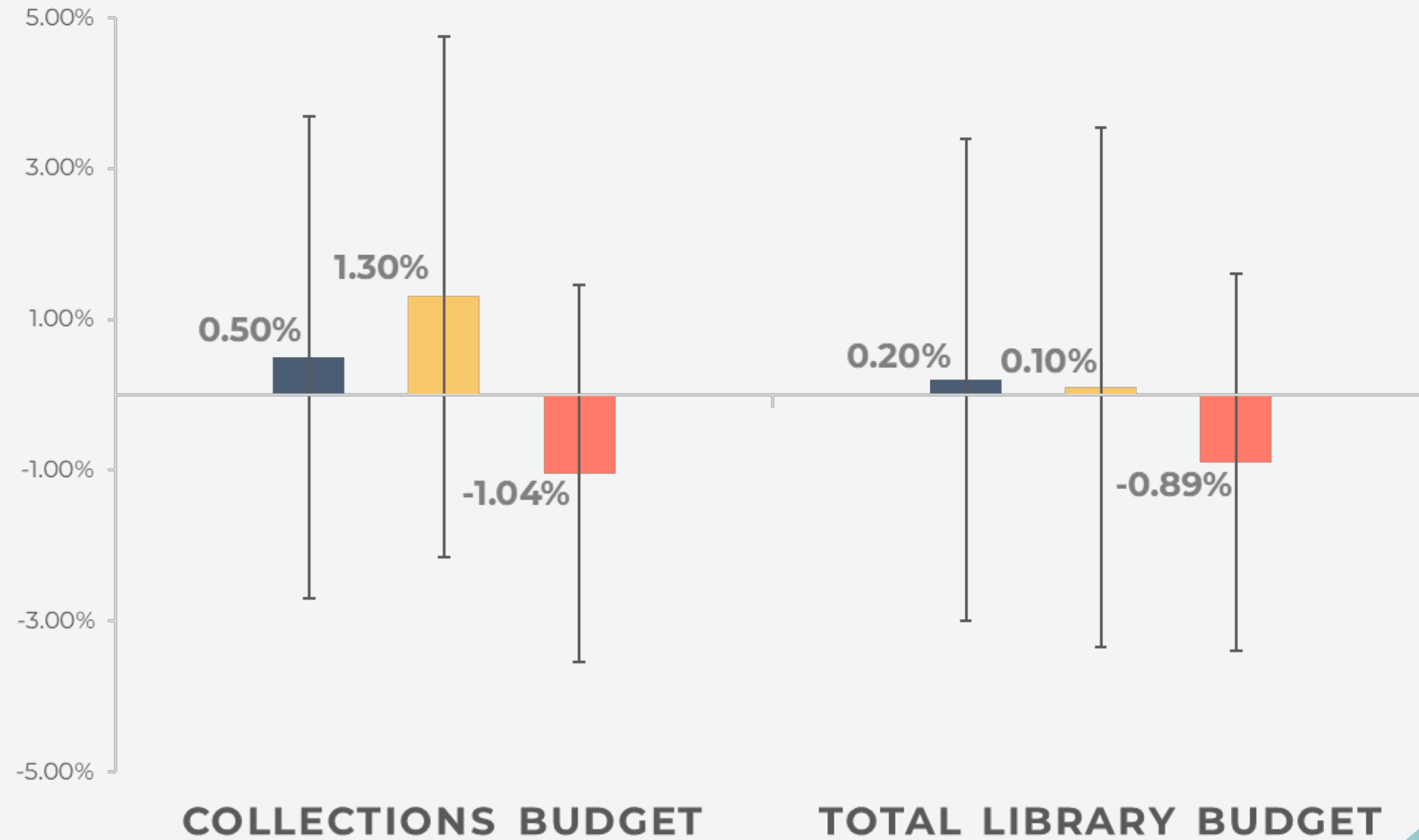


Library Budget Survey

AVERAGE % CHANGE IN SCELC INSTITUTION LIBRARY BUDGETS

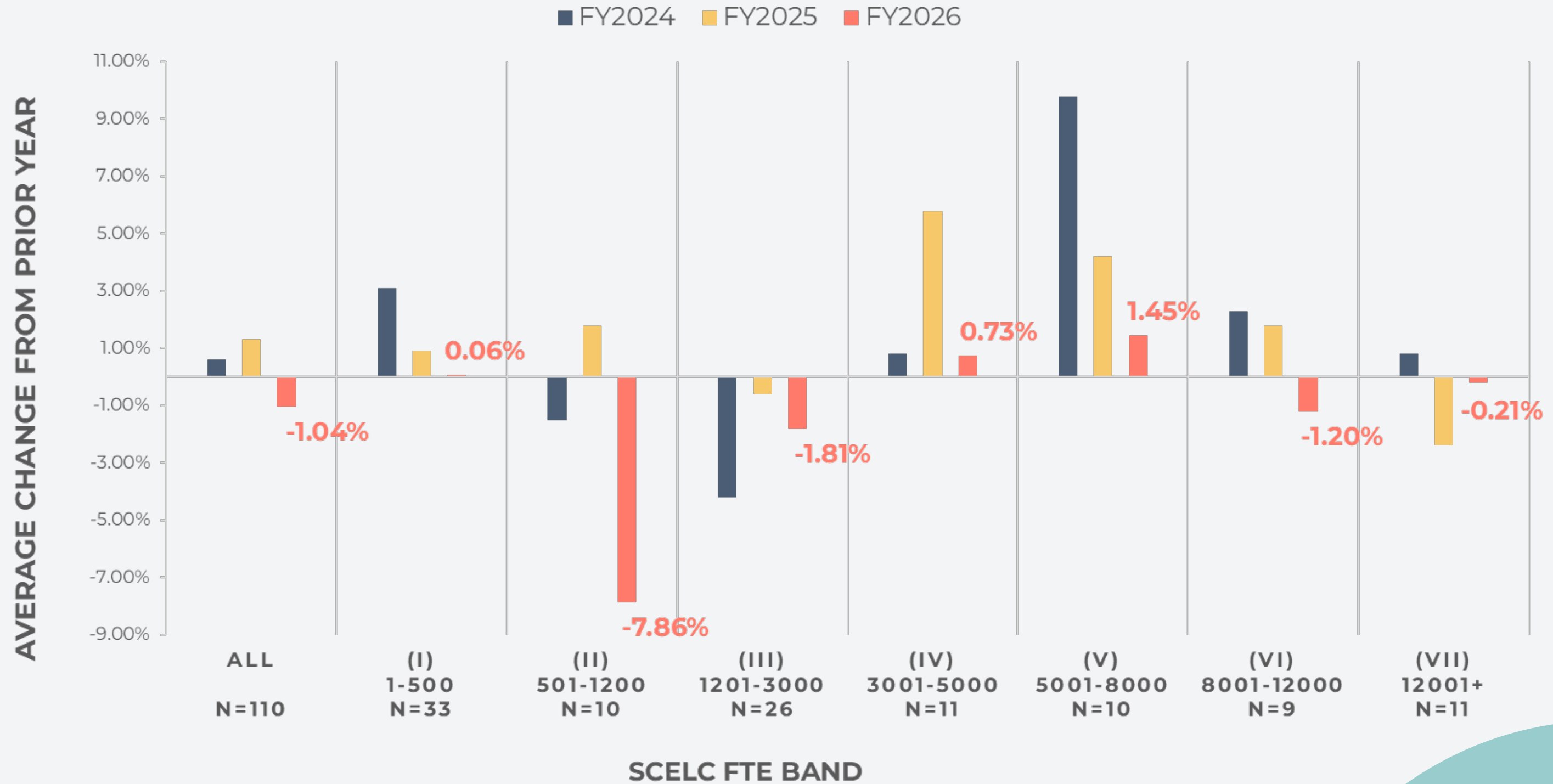
FY2024 FY2025 FY2026

AVERAGE CHANGE VS. PRIOR YEAR



Library Budget Survey

COLLECTIONS BUDGET CHANGE BY FTE BAND



Building trust through transparency:

Consortial lessons to support trust

Funding – who will pay?

Scope – what is included?

Governance – how are you making decisions?

Collaboration & Support – where are my opportunities to participate and learn?

Scaling – how will my participation support my organization?

What if we are
operating
without a trust
deficit?

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Recap & final thoughts

- Consortia connect and advocate, but often are in the middle
- Roles are shifting and libraries are struggling
- Libraries desire more transparency around AI features and products