Looking at the Mountaintop Public Library system, not a lot was explained about their budgetary needs when it comes to janitorial or other services, so I tried not to alter those numbers. I thought about removing some budget from travel, but it doesn’t seem like an incredibly high number as it is. Therefore, what I chose to focus on was the fact that they have a full time weekend librarian when they are only open on Saturday for limited hours. I considered cutting this position entirely, but if the position were left only to volunteers, the quality of the library on Saturdays might suffer.

Thus I made the very difficult decision to cut the third library assistant down to part time, which also eliminated this employee’s benefits as well. I also removed a little bit of the computer budget as well as small amounts of the library materials budget, as even with the number of people homeschooling their children and seniors attending this library, the amount of public computers at the library is still quite high. There could be more emphasis on private work spaces and meeting rooms that don’t require additional computers in the budget– people can be encouraged to bring their own devices if possible and reserve the public computers for those with the greatest need.

I assume that the cuts in the library materials would be minimally painful as I am sure there are items that need to be weeded or eliminated anyway, given that oftentimes weeding materials seems to fall by the wayside at many library branches, if the library management scenarios we have been studying this semester are any indication.

At the end of the day, library budget cuts are always difficult however, and I don’t think there are many good ways to absorb even a small cut like 5%, let alone a higher one.

I suppose the moral of the story here is that libraries require careful budgeting in order to keep money flowing into the library in the first place. If the wrong types of cuts are made, attendance to the library could suffer further, leading to chaotic results.