

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

Under Senate Bylaw 185, the University Committee on Library (UCOL) is charged with advising the President concerning the administration of the libraries of the University in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Regents. UCOL met once during the 2003-2004 academic year. Highlights of the Committee's activities and accomplishments are noted in this report.

**Campus Reports**

UCOL members reported on the activities of the divisional academic senate library committees. The primary topics of concern for the campus committees this year have been budget cuts to the libraries and scholarly communications issues (e.g., the economics of scholarly publications, alternative means of publishing). Members shared ideas and best practices for dealing with various issues related to the libraries and scholarly communications.

**Information Literacy**

Linda Kennedy, President of the Librarians' Association of the University of California (LAUC), provided the committee with a report on LAUC's information literacy developments. The LAUC Task Force on Information Literacy has completed its work, and as a result has adopted a statement defining and affirming the importance of information literacy instruction, and which emphasizes the role of librarians, collaboration with faculty, and the library's role in instruction. LAUC is considering encouraging, through a grants program, projects in the area of information literacy.

UCOL members reported on the information literacy efforts being conducted on their campuses. A few of the members have discussed the information literacy issue and possible options for implementing solutions to the problem with their committees. Several of the campus libraries have also been active in informing the faculty and students of information literacy resources (e.g., information literacy exhibit).

**Shared Collections**

LAUC President Linda Kennedy informed members of her involvement as the chair of a committee on shared government collections. The committee determined that sharing every single title was not entirely feasible and that the libraries should instead concentrate on sharing large, widely used titles (e.g., journals). It is also important to allow each campus to make its own decision whether to rely on a shared copy or acquire its own. The campuses are currently conducting a pilot project in sharing government collections.

## **Joint Meeting with University Librarians**

UCOL met jointly with the University Librarians for half a day. The University Librarians presented the following topics to UCOL for information and recommendations:

### Strategic Planning for Libraries and Scholarly Information

The Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC) has drafted a strategic plan for the libraries and scholarly information. This plan identifies five strategic directions for the UC libraries and scholarly information:

1. Collection Management and Coordination
2. Shared Facilities
3. Shared Services
4. Persistent Access to Digital Information
5. Scholarly Communication

The University Librarians plan to publish this strategic plan when it has been finalized. Short summaries aimed a specific target audiences (e.g., faculty, library staff) will accompany the final document.

### Scholarly Communication

A summary of the outcome of the Elsevier negotiations was presented. While this short-term problem has been solved, the next step is to deal with the long-term problems with the nature of scholarly communication. The regional faculty forums on scholarly communication produced a variety of helpful input. From these discussions, four priorities have been identified:

1. Expand and extend current infrastructure, encouraging innovation (eScholarship and partnership with UC Press).
2. Expand communication efforts; seize attention and aggressively forward information about the costs, cost distribution, and economic service interdependencies among the university libraries in their selection, acquisition, processing, management, and provision of access the university's library collections.
3. Establish selection principles that account for scholarly value and economic sustainability and operate according to them.
4. Build expertise within and across the university libraries; create a network of highly engaged and informed library staff to shape and support systemwide as well as campus-based efforts.

### Regional Library Facility Planning

The Regional Library Facilities (RLFs) Task Force is preparing a final report for the University Librarians. This report identifies key issues for the RLFs, identifies the working group most appropriate to address each issue, and makes specific recommendations where appropriate. One purpose of the report is to

provide justification for expansion of the facilities, since, for example, it is projected that the South RLF will have reached full capacity by 2006.

#### Effects of Budget Cuts on the UC Libraries

The University Librarians presented to the UCOL members the effects of and actions taken as a result of the budget cuts from the last two years. Many of the campus libraries have received significant cuts to their permanent budgets and have had to layoff staff. A few of the libraries received some offset funding from enrollment growth allocations, however UC will not receive enrollment growth funding from the state in the coming year. Some Chancellors have protected the libraries by absorbing some of the general budget cuts. It is not yet clear how the future budget cuts will translate on the campuses, but all of the libraries anticipate significant reductions in their funding allocations.

#### **UCOL Representation**

UCOL is also represented on the University Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy – the UCOL Chair is an *ex officio* member of ITTP.

#### **Acknowledgment**

UCOL wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its administrative consultants: Karen Butter, Chair, University Librarians; Daniel Greenstein, Associate Vice Provost for Scholarly Information, University Librarian for Systemwide Library Planning, and Executive Director of the California Digital Library; Linda Kennedy, LAUC President; and Gary Lawrence, Director, Library Planning & Policy Development.

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