

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

According to Senate Bylaw 185, the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) shall:

1. Advise the President concerning the administration of the libraries of the University in accordance with the Standing Orders of The Regents and issues related to innovations in forms of scholarly communication.
2. Perform such other appropriate duties as may be committed to the Academic Senate by proper authority.

UCOLASC met three times in 2023-2024 via videoconference.

Consultation with the California Digital Library (CDL)

UCOLASC met with representatives from the California Digital Library at each meeting. CDL AVP/ED Günter Waibel provided regular updates on CDL budget issues as well as efforts to inform UC authors of evolving federal policy requirements. In February, UCOLASC agreed to ask the Academic Council to co-sponsor a webinar with the UC Libraries and the not-for-profit Authors Alliance to inform authors about Federal funding agencies' requirements that articles must be deposited in agency designated repositories, and efforts to advance a legal framework for authors to retain their rights. A pre-existing federal regulation called the federal purpose license can uniformly allow all federal grantees to deposit their articles, regardless of any subsequent publisher paperwork an author signs.

UCOLASC agreed to support the Project Transform negotiating team stance in publisher negotiations as well as fair use rights for text and data mining and artificial intelligence in licensed content contracts by submitting memos to Council, both endorsed. In addition, UCOLASC received the Academic Council's co-sponsorship for the Right to Deposit Webinar.

The Systemwide Office of Scholarly Communications launched the Legacy Toolkit for faculty to gather their scholarly work in one place, openly available to be read by others. The project was introduced to UCOLASC in November of 2022 and addressed again in October 2024. Committee members were encouraged to provide feedback about their experience with the toolkit.

UCOLASC received updates from OSC working groups:

OSC's DEI in Scholarly Communication resource, endorsed by Academic Council and UCOLASC, provides information about the topic as well as suggesting actions that stakeholders can take to positively impact DEI in academic publishing. A new training module has been developed for CDL's eScholarship journal editors to move their publications toward greater inclusivity.

An open access publishing decision tree, intended to help faculty navigate the complicated open access publishing environment, was completed by an OSC workgroup. The resource will be distributed widely to faculty next fall.

Diamond Open Access, a scholarly publishing model that charges no fees to readers or authors, was introduced to UCOLASC members in the February 2024 meeting. The CDL has functioned as UC's Diamond open access publisher for over 20 years through the eScholarship publishing program for journals. The UC's commitment to Diamond OA was confirmed in April in a statement by representatives from the Big Ten Academic Alliance Libraries (BTAA), California Digital Library (CDL), and Lyris. These organizations will work to further Diamond OA publishing in North America.

Project Transform

Project Transform has worked to improve online information about open access (OA) publisher agreements for UC authors, via campus and UC systemwide websites as well as publisher's portals. UCOLASC agreed to collaborate with Project Transform and campus libraries by bringing presentations on OA publisher agreements to local library committees. They encouraged library committee members to make presentations to department chairs and other leaders within their colleges and schools. This practice informs authors about open access options and the benefits available to authors at UC through publisher contracts.

UCOLASC asked the Academic Council to empower the Project Transform Negotiating team stance in negotiations with publishers. Academic Council endorsed the statement, and the negotiation team reported back that the clarity of the Academic Council's position strengthened UC's negotiation posture. Negotiations, both new contracts and renewal of existing ones, are ongoing with various publishers.

In addition to negotiating financial terms, this year's negotiations deliberately articulated a list of non-commercial topics, such as author rights retention, improvements to the author experience, author workflow, and diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.

Project Transform is also working on licensing agreements with publishers that preserve fair use rights for LLM and for AI training research projects that utilize licensed materials. Some publishers have attempted to limit these AI and LLM fair uses through amendments to contracts.

Project LEND (Library Expansion of Networked Delivery)

University Librarian Erik Mitchell, AVP/ED Günter Waibel, and Project LEND PI and UC Davis Associate University Librarian Rice Majors noted that Project LEND, designed to expand lawful access of digitized books, is focusing on four expanded use areas: 1) User requirements; understanding what uses are most important to faculty and students; 2) Legal analysis examining the frameworks around digital borrowing; 3) Technology requirements to serve digital use; and 4) Collection scope, to clarify which materials are key to the project. Artificial intelligence has added richness to some of the work of the group. The project hopes to spark a national discussion on these topics. Findings and draft recommendations from the project are anticipated in late fall 2024.

Council of University Librarians (CoUL)

UCOLASC met jointly with the Council of University Librarians. Library priorities for the year include:

- the transformation of scholarly publishing and communications
- improving access to digital books,
- long-term planning for collection management,
- investigating expansion into new UC Libraries shared services,
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning as emerging areas of interest to the libraries.

Two new open access projects include open access monograph funding and a systemwide OA publishing fund (for journal publishing).

Project to Analyze Regional Library Facilities (RLF) Operations Funding

The university has two RLFs, high-density, climate-controlled storage for over 15 million books, journals, maps and other materials. Holdings are searchable and available UC-wide. Phase 1 of the RLF Operations Funding project determined that total operational costs for 2022-23 were \$5.67M, less expensive than other choices, but a significant cost for the University.

In Phase 2 of the RLF Operations Funding project, the team affirmed shared principles, such as maintaining the RLF's as a shared common good, managing the RLF operating budgets as a single, systemwide budget co-located with a systemwide director, and a strengthened budgetary oversight and advisory role for SFLB. The ongoing consultation with stakeholders, including UCOLASC, supported the team in making their final recommendations.

UC3 CDL Digital Curation

The UC3 team is working to make the information gathered in the DMPTool (Data Management Tool) machine actionable to ease data sharing. This will enhance compliance. The team is currently running a pilot program with various institutions.

Publishing, Archives, and Digitization Program

UCOLASC received an update on the Building a National Finding Aid Network (NAFAN <https://ucopedu.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NAFAN/overview>) research and development project, which aims to create inclusive, comprehensive, and persistent access to finding aids for archival materials. CDL coordinated the project with the Chain Bridge Group, OCLS, Shift Collective, and the University of Virginia Library (UVA). Five reports summarize the research findings including: results of a pop-up survey on aggregator websites, interviews with users, results from archivist focus groups, and Encoded Archival Descriptions (EAD) analysis. Final reports will be issued this summer. In the next five years the project envisions creating a home for the service and establishing a meaningful coalition of stakeholders to lead to the launch of the network.

UC Press/ UCHRI Publishing Symposium

The UC Press Director Erich van Rijn gave a brief history of the Press and presented plans to support Open Access monograph publishing in addition to supporting OA humanities publishing more generally. Currently, the Press supports OA monograph publishing through its cost-sharing Luminos program. In a one-day symposium with the UC Humanities Research Institute, participants considered how to sustainably support innovative OA humanities publishing.

Consultation with Senate Leadership

UCOLASC received updates by Senate leadership on matters of interest to the committee as well as to the wider UC community. Topics covered included:

- Increasing pressure for the UC to offer fully-online undergraduate degrees. The Regents' rejection of Senate Regulation 630 devolved the authority for new degree programs to campuses. An ongoing Senate-Administration task group on UC Quality has been meeting. CoUL (the Council of University Librarians) was identified as the appropriate group to send a letter addressing the impact of fully online instruction options on libraries and library budgets.

- The Academic Planning Council Joint Administration-Senate Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Education at the UC has completed its work and will submit the final report to the Provost.
- An APC group on faculty workload balance post-pandemic was scheduled to meet.

Campus Reports

UCOLASC set aside a portion of each meeting for updates from members about issues under discussion on campuses and local library committees. These briefings included updates on infrastructure needs at campuses, including damage caused by water incursions at libraries; campus libraries' efforts to better serve their campus and community constituencies; efforts to spread information about OA publishing support for UC authors, funding concerns and efforts to raise the importance of library funding's profile on campus; white papers evaluating library functions; safety plans for librarians and staff; and data management efforts.

Endorsements and Letters of Support

As noted above, UCOLASC wrote three memos requesting Council support of ongoing efforts:

1. Endorsement of AI Fair Use,
2. Endorsement of the Project Transform Negotiating Team for the Taylor & Francis negotiations,
3. Co-Sponsorship of the Right to Deposit Webinar.

UCOLASC opined on two systemwide review items:

1. Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality,
2. Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Website.

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