

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON
LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION**

2019-20 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. (Am 9 May 2003; Am 9 May 2007)
2. Perform such other appropriate duties as may be committed to the Academic Senate by proper authority.

Springer Nature Agreement

In June, UC reached an open access agreement with Springer Nature. This was the result of considerable time in negotiations. It is the first open access agreement Springer Nature has in the United States, and the largest one in North America. The agreement will enable UC authors who publish with Springer Nature to make their research freely available to the world to read, and will also expand UC's access to Springer Nature's subscription journals.

There are four recent open access agreements in various stages of implementation: Cambridge University Press, ACM, PLoS, and JMIR. PTWG is working on assessing the implementation of these agreements and indicators of success. The University has put together a comprehensive assessment plan with helpful information on the OSC website (which has undergone a successful redesign) pertaining to these agreements. UC is also working very actively with publishers on the workflow design associated with each of the agreements.

Elsevier Negotiations

UC and Elsevier have not returned to the negotiation table, though the UC negotiation team remains hard at work to determine a productive and sustainable path forward.

The 2018/2019 funds allocated for the Elsevier agreement were carried forward by the campus libraries and California Digital Library (CDL). The goal was to negotiate an agreement with Elsevier and reinvest any resulting savings into other open access activities. Some libraries were put at-risk of their 2018/2019 carry-forward and/or their 2019/2020 Elsevier allocation being swept back if unspent by the end of this fiscal year.

The committee voted unanimously that it would like to address a letter to the Council saying that it would like to make sure that the library funds are safeguarded for access backfill (if needed) and for Open Access. The Chair agreed to draft a letter and said he would circulate it for committee review and then would submit it to the Academic Council.

Alternative Access due to COVID-19

HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service

When the UC libraries closed in response to COVID in March, providing access to collections became a high priority. ETAS (Emergency Temporary Access Service) has allowed access to the physical materials that have been digitized; 161 out of 164 HathiTrust libraries were activated. HathiTrust is a large-scale

digital repository that includes over 17M volumes, with shared by a community of over 150 academic and research libraries. Some materials are not yet available due to copyright restrictions. All UC campuses have access to HathiTrust's digitized materials, which are provided based on fair-use, which, in turn, means the library cannot provide digital access to materials to which it does not have physical access. Thus, HathiTrust is providing temporary access to in-copyright items under certain restrictions.

National Emergency Library

The Internet Archives is a non-profit library founded in 1996, comprised of 1.5M books as well as movies, music, and other media. As of April 1, the Internet Archive loosened its lending policies for the short-term, and created the National Emergency Library (NEL). In so doing, it eliminated its waitlist to allow more than one user to access the same material at a time; in other words, it did not adhere to the one-copy/one-access rule that HathiTrust employs.

Systemwide ILS Project

This is an integrated library system that manages all the physical and digital collections of the library. Until now, all of the UC libraries have had 10 independent ILSs, and that no longer makes sense – it would be better to have a single system for all 10 campuses. It has been a sizable project but not very visible because the team is putting all the things in place behind the scenes to be able to launch. OP has approved a multi-year funding package of support. It is planned to be implemented and launched to all of the campuses in August 2021.

The libraries have contributed over 60 staff to the project right now, and that will grow to 110 as UC moves into systems implementation. It is enormously exciting and is very forward-looking. CSU has already done it and UC has the opportunity to learn from their experience

Consultation with the California Digital Library

OSTP Policy

In late December, publishers heard that OSTP was thinking of building on a policy that came out of the Obama administration. There were two policies put in place at that time; one was a memo from OSTP and the other was an Executive Order. They were geared toward ensuring that any research that the government funds is immediately publicly accessible. During this year, there was a conversation within OSTP about how to accomplish that goal. The Europeans have done a lot of work in this area. They are very prescriptive about what OA means. The active discussion is around building on what has been done in the US to date, including a zero embargo for authors' accepted manuscripts. The publishers lobbied against such an outcome, and they issued a dissenting letter towards the end of December with signatories from societies and society publishers. CDL and other pro-OA organizations responded to the letter. Subsequently, many of the societies recanted.

OSTP has scheduled a series of meetings. There was a meeting of librarians and VCs of Research recommending the zero-embargo path. OSTP consulted further with society and commercial publishers. OSTP also issued an RFI through the federal register and CoUL agreed that they would coordinate a systemwide response under the Office of the Research and Graduate Studies, with individual campuses issuing separate responses. Chair Ventry drafted a letter on behalf of UCOLASC.

OA Tipping Point (OATIP) Workshop

The OATIP Workshop was co-sponsored by the UC Academic Senate and the UC Libraries. In addition to 16 universities and consortia, four European guests attended to discuss their prior, current, and planned transformative work. Participating institutions brought two attendees each: a faculty member and a university librarian or library leader. The workshop went incredibly well.

Project Transform Working Group

The goal of Project Transform is to transform academic publishing from “pay to read” to “pay to publish” with full and perpetual OA upon publication. If the University is successful, everyone will be signing publishing agreements, all scientific publications will be open access, and everything will be open and pay-to-publish. The strategic plan – Pathways to Open Access – was developed from 2016-2018 and was intended to bring all 10 campuses and CDL together on shared strategies and objectives. Moreover, it was accomplished in collaboration with faculty, largely through UCOLASC. Meanwhile, UCOLASC developed its Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities published in 2018. For its part, SLASIAC published a Call to Action charging the libraries and faculty to negotiate a new set of contracts – that effort has been named Project Transform.

Most of the agreements of the sort UC is looking for have been consummated by European consortia with a combination of publishing- and reading-intensive institutions. UC, as a publishing-intensive institution, has been in discussions with CSU, a reading-intensive institution, since fall 2019. These talks have been very productive – both sides see big advantages in working together, and would make a UC-CSU partnership more like a European consortia. SCCLC is another consortium of primarily private institutions located (overwhelmingly) in California that is interested in joining forces and broadening the coalition still further.

Some of the major publishers have very high-prestige journals – e.g., Nature, Science, Cell, Lancet – with considerably different business models than most academic journals. For example, they publish a lot non-peer-reviewed material, they do their own writing, and they have paid editors and thus have higher costs. Turning those journals into a pay-to-publish journals – at least without disaggregating the front material from the research material – is close to a deal-breaker at the price UC is willing to pay. The publishers’ default is simply to exclude those journals from transformative agreements, and continue publishing them as subscription journals. The UC Negotiation Team is working hard to break that impulse, and to put these journals (and publishers) onto a pay-to-publish path.

New Publishing Models Supported by CDL

CDL is developing exciting new publishing models within the eScholarship publishing program, the open access publishing platform for researchers at all UC campuses. Currently, the platform holds over 220K items, all of which are open access and which have enjoyed over 70M views. CDL publishes 85 UC-affiliated journals in eScholarship. CDL’s new projects include: (i) efforts by researchers at the UC Davis Medical Center to create a field guide for the proper use of ultrasound equipment with videos being converted to animated gifs organized by anatomical category and published in real time. CDL has advanced this break-through project with the help of the Manifold team, a Mellon-funded project; and (ii) a partnership with Earth ArXiv to support and host its pre-print service, a platform that is playing an increasingly important role in scholarly communication.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Academic Council Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Vice Chair Mary Gauvain, and Senate Executive Director Hilary Baxter. Thanks also to the consultants who provided indispensable expertise and contributed so much of their valuable time to helping UCOLASC fulfill its mission.

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis Ventry, Chair (UCD)
Karen Ottemann, Vice Chair (UCSC)
Ellen Simms (UCB)
Katherine Olmstead (UCD)
Rebecca Davis (UCI)
Derjung Mimi Tarn (UCLA)

Maria DePrano (UCM)
Leonid Pryadko (UCR)
John Hildebrand (UCSD)
Marta Margeta (UCSF)
Paul Berkowitz (UCSB)
Jin Zhang (UCSC)