

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON
LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION**

2020-21 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 2020-2021 via videoconference.

Elsevier Agreement

UCOLASC discussed the progress of negotiations with academic publishers around subscription contracts, and alternative paths to journal access supported by the UC Libraries. In March, after protracted negotiations, the University reached an open access agreement with Elsevier, the world's largest academic publisher. The agreement accomplished the University's two goals: enabling universal open access to all UC research, and containing the excessively high costs associated with journal licensing. The agreement doubles the number of articles covered by UC's open access agreements.

Alternative Access due to COVID-19

UCOLASC discussed the extension of last year's HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS) for all campuses due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. HathiTrust is a large-scale digital repository that includes over 17M volumes, with shared access by a community of over 150 academic and research libraries. Usage peaked in February 2021, and remained constant with an average 1,000 daily users. Lending through ETAS followed Controlled Digital Lending Principles, which limit usage based on the number of physical volumes available. As libraries planned to open to in-person use, questions arose regarding the deactivation of emergency access. The CDL plans additional analyses of the program once University libraries fully reopen.

Council of University Librarians (CoUL)

UCOLASC met with the Council of University Librarians at each meeting. Major topics of discussion included the following:

Coronavirus Pandemic Responses: The UC Libraries focused much energy on responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Ongoing access to library materials was facilitated through the HathiTrust's Emergency Temporary Access Service, and use increased throughout the year. Some libraries enabled curbside access to materials. Interlibrary loans will resume once libraries are open.

Contingency plans are in place should another COVID-19 surge take place. Budget concerns continue with varying levels of severity across many campuses.

Systemwide ILS Project: The Systemwide Integrated Library System (SILS), now known as UC Library Search, was implemented beginning in March 2020, and became available to UC faculty, staff, and students in July 2021. It provides a single, unified system for searching all UC libraries.

Consultation with the California Digital Library (CDL)

UCOLASC met with leadership from the California Digital Library at each meeting. Major topics of discussion included the following:

Budget Issues: In November, the CDL reported that it faced serious budget constraints, both pandemic-related and structural, and was being asked to model a 15% budget cut. In order to safeguard collections funding from an ongoing budget crisis at UCOP, CDL's collection budget moved to UCSD under an MOU. UCOLASC wrote a letter to the Academic Council expressing concern about the budget cuts and urging protection of the CDL budget. The Council endorsed the letter and forwarded it to Provost Brown. The letter positively impacted budget negotiations and was recognized as an example of shared governance and advocacy. By the end of the academic year, CDL was asked to model a three percent budget cut. The restoration of the full UC budget by the Governor should somewhat ease financial concerns for the CDL and UC libraries.

Project Transform Working Group: Project Transform, developed to negotiate and implement a set of transformative agreements with publishers of scholarly journals, reported continued success this year. Open-access agreements had been negotiated with a wide range of publishers, including Springer-Nature. This year's negotiations with Elsevier successfully concluded with an agreement, greatly increasing the number of UC research articles eligible for open-access publication. UCOLASC voted to approve the Elsevier agreement.

eScholarship Publishing: The UC's eScholarship Publishing program continues to provide comprehensive publication services for UC-affiliated researchers. The eScholarship program published 85 journals by the end of the 2020-21 academic year. Challenges of scale now confront the program, as budget constraints impact its ability to provide publishing services for a wider range of scholarship.

Systemwide Licensing: Beginning early in the pandemic, CDL worked to negotiate cost reductions in vendor licenses systemwide, while minimizing cancellations; locked in favorable licensing terms; shifted acquisitions to ebooks; and began a solution-focused dialogue with publishers. A total of \$1.2M in cost savings resulted from reductions, cancellations, and concessions based on new open access agreements.

Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC)

UCOLASC received an update on the SLASIAC final report investigating collaborative work by UC Libraries.¹ UCOLASC agreed that both qualitative and quantitative assessments were needed

¹ <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5174k245><https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5174k245>

to assess the impact of any cuts in libraries' budgets on faculty's research and teaching responsibilities.

Dryad Partnership

UCOLASC discussed the University's continued partnership with Dryad, a cross-disciplinary data repository with data preservation. The partnership has saved UC researchers \$70k in fees compared to subscription models. Data submissions have increased 800% since the beginning of the partnership in 2019, serving faculty and students across disciplines.

Cyber-Risk Governance Committee

In May, UCOLASC received a briefing from Systemwide Chief Information Security Officer David Rusting about a ransomware attack on UCSF. The Cyber-Risk Governance Committee is working to raise awareness of safe data storage options and cyber-security offerings and requirements. The group has proposed location-based research data protection workgroups and a scalable local data backup service.

Consultation with Senate Leadership

The Academic Council Chair and Vice Chair attended a portion of each UCOLASC meeting to brief the committee on business from Academic Council and Board of Regents meetings, and other systemwide issues, including news about Senate and University responses to COVID-19, curtailment proposals, a survey of instructor experiences with remote instruction, the effects of a systemwide data breach of the Accellion file transfer appliance, the effects of websites facilitating cheating and the theft of intellectual property, the work of various Senate task forces, and the University's response to the climate crisis.

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 touched on a wide array of topics, including ongoing plans for reopening to in-person service, library budget concerns, efforts to increase acceptance of open publishing on campuses, concerns regarding increasing prices for electronic books, and efforts to ensure that library committees are consulted in campus academic and budget planning. The graduate student representative was an active participant in a wide range of committee discussions, effectively conveying his personal views and concerns, as well as those of his student peers and colleagues.

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Scholarly Communication Education Librarian Martin Brennan, Systemwide Chief Information Security Officer David Rusting, and graduate student Guy Robinson.

Respectfully submitted:

Marta Margeta, Chair (UCSF)

Derjung Mimi Tarn, Vice Chair (UCLA)

Ellen Sims (UCB)

Eric Rauchway (UCD)

Bryan Reynolds (UCI)

Gregory Leazer (UCLA)

Maria DiPrano (UCM)

Alejandra Dubcovsky (UCR)

John Hildebrand (UCSD)

Keith Mostov (UCSF)

Karen Lunsford (UCSB)

Jin Zhang (UCSC)

Mary Gauvain, *ex officio*

Robert Horwitz, *ex officio*

Stefani Leto, Committee Analyst