

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

2022-23 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 2022-2023 via videoconference.

Consultation with the California Digital Library (CDL)

UCOLASC met with representatives from the California Digital Library at each meeting. CDL AVP Günter Waibel provided regular updates on their collections budget, which was returned to permanent funding via a set-aside in 2022, and efforts to maintain a full staff. New announcements about the future of work from OP may impact the CDL, as they hired remote workers to compete for qualified staff in highly specialized library as well as IT positions. UCOLASC noted that remote work is critical and appropriate for CDL's digital work and offered its advocacy support.

The UC's eScholarship Publishing program provides comprehensive publication services for UC-affiliated researchers. UC's open access repository and scholarly publishing platform receives many requests and the CDL hired an additional staffer to provide enhanced capability. The UC now hosts two preprint servers, EarthArXiv and EcoEvoRxiv. eScholarship provides an archive home for UC scholars without a discipline-specific preprint server. It was suggested that UCOLASC's feedback to the eScholarship team can function as an informal form of governance.

CDL participated in the National Academies of Science Open Science Community of Practice, which elevates development of open publishing incentives, as part of the Office of the President delegation.

AVP Waibel is a co-PI on a Mellon grant that funds investigations into lawful use of in-copyright digitized books, called Project LEND. The grant, led by UC Davis, is sponsored by the Council of University Librarians (CoUL), and engages two faculty experts from UCB and UCI in the critical research on legal and user requirements questions. This work builds on the success of the HathiTrust emergency temporary access service (ETAS) during the pandemic, which sparked great interest in finding ways to continue enhanced access to library materials.

HELIOS is a project of the National Academy of Sciences; a cohort of colleges and universities working to advance open scholarship across higher education. Maryanne Martone represents UCOP on behalf of the Academic Senate. AVP Waibel is a library representative, and other campuses also have sent representatives. Representatives to the project are preparing a survey to the UC community to reveal a high-level overview of services supporting OA scholarship. UCOLASC discussed ways to create an effective survey to capture the multitude of experiences across the university.

UCOLASC received updates from active OSC working groups:

OSC DEI Working Group

UCOLASC received updates on OSC work to create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Scholarly Publishing resource on their website to develop specific recommendations for faculty and others to address DEI issues within scholarly communication, create a more diverse and inclusive publishing environment, and enrich the scholarly record. The website resource was finalized this year and UCOLASC approved the final version of the resource and through Council, shared it with Vice Provos Haynes, the University Committee on Academic Personnel, the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity and Equity (UCAADE), and the divisional Senates.

Emeriti Works Archiving Project

The Emeriti working group focuses on helping scholars upload large collections of their own academic work to eScholarship. The Working Group finalized the Secure Your Own tool, including a systemwide self-help resource, publisher contact information, templates for requesting rights reversion, and instructions that guide users to ease the process. UCOLASC was asked to provide feedback on the finalized toolkit.

Project Transform

Project Transform is charged to negotiate and implement a set of transformative agreements with publishers of scholarly journals. The goal of these transformative agreements is to convert all subscription spending into open access publishing spending. UCOLASC discussed Project Transform's progress at each meeting.

Over 50 percent of all UC articles are eligible for open access publishing with financial support from the UC libraries. Roughly thirty-five percent of UC authors continue to opt-out of open access publishing, but efforts to educate authors continue.

A new issue surfaced this year as publishers have been asking UC authors to sign "License to Publish" (LTP) agreements that undermine the intention of the faculty as expressed by the Senate's Systemwide Open Access Policy of 2013, and the UCOLASC Declaration of Rights and Principles which was unanimously endorsed by eight Senate Committees and Academic Council in 2019. Publishers are allowing authors to retain copyright in name only. All rights therein are being transferred to publishers through LPT agreements that publishers require authors to sign as a condition for publication. Some publishers are also inserting language in their LTP agreements that sets conditions for manuscripts in eScholarship and preprint servers. The Project Transform negotiating team intends to continue pushing all publishers to alter their LTP agreements such that the original intentions and clearly stated goals of the faculty are fully achieved.

UCOLASC authored a statement urging the negotiating team to "exert the full leverage of the UC system, further demonstrate global leadership on a key priority for authors, and if necessary, stand on principles." The statement was presented to Council, endorsed and forwarded to President Drake and Provost Newman.

Project LEND (Library Expansion of Networked Delivery)

UCOLASC heard about Project LEND's efforts to expand lawful use of in-copyright digitized books within and beyond the UC, corresponding to the way HathiTrust expanded access through emergency access arrangements. The committee urged that the project roll out as a trial version, so updates from users can be incorporated into the final version.

Ongoing Impacts of Labor Agreements

Committee members shared how the new teaching assistant and graduate research assistant contracts will affect their campuses. Libraries fear that their budgets may be cut as campuses work to find additional funding for increased graduate labor costs. Members emphasized the importance of the libraries on the UC's reputation, based on world-class collections, librarians, and staff.

Council of University Librarians (CoUL)

UCOLASC met jointly with the Council of University Librarians. The first phase of the Regional Library Facilities Operations Funding Project is done. The current model does not reflect expanding costs and increased service needs. An equitable funding model is under consideration, taking into consideration the systemwide impact of the RLF.

Staff vacancies, due both to funding issues and to hybrid and remote preferences for work, impact the libraries' functioning. Campus libraries reported pressure to reframe library space as study/learning spaces rather than scholarly or archival spaces.

NIH Data Sharing Policy and Data Publication and Sharing

A policy by the National Institutes of Health establishing minimum requirements for data management and sharing is likely to be replicated by other federal funding agencies. Campus libraries and the CDL have resources to help faculty comply with these policies. One resource is the DMPTool, a free service of the CDL helping researchers and institutions create high-quality data management plans that meet funder requirements. The tool is used by 350 institutions nationally, including all R1 campuses in the US. Data repositories include the CDL's digital curation program, University of California Curation Center (UC3) and Dryad, a generalist repository, provide best practice data publishing for UC researchers.

The UC's Research Data Backup Service Program sent out an RFP to explore options for commercially available software for research data backup. UCOLASC hopes to provide input prior to the choice of any proposed software provider.

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:

- Labor issues and the effects of new agreements with the UAW on faculty.
- The benefits of UCOLASC considering ways to translate the committee's work into demonstrable public good.
- Ongoing interest in online education, including fully online degrees.
- UCOLASC's potential role in planned software purchases for a data backup system.
- OA publishers' overreach of copyright

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 library budget concerns, libraries transitioning to post-pandemic fully open status, efforts to increase acceptance of open publishing on campuses, unique challenges facing humanities researchers in open-access publishing, strategic plan development for libraries, Regional Library Facility costs shared by campuses, and efforts to ensure that library committees are consulted in campus academic and budget planning.

Endorsements and Letters of Support

In March, UCAADE provided Management Consultancy on a proposed change to APM 210 which adds “efforts to advance equitable access to information; library services that address the needs of California’s diverse population; the development of inclusive library collections that support the diverse needs for teaching, research, and patient care; or the fostering of welcoming and inclusive library spaces, services, programs, and operations” to the list of activities on which librarians’ appointments, merit increases, promotions, and career status actions can be evaluated.

In June, UCOLASC drafted and unanimously approved a statement authorizing the Project Transform Negotiating Team to uphold the intent of both the Senate’s Systemwide Open Access Policy of 2013, and the UCOLASC Declaration of Rights and Principles which was unanimously endorsed by eight Senate Committees and Academic Council in 2019 as they push back against publisher’s efforts to abrogate faculty’s retention of rights to their works through License to Publish agreements. UCOLASC wrote a letter strongly encouraging the negotiating team to negotiate Open Access agreements with publishers that preserve UC authors’ full control over the copyrights in their work, and Chair Hildebrand and Rich Schneider presented the issue at a Council meeting. After discussion, Council approved the letter and shared it with President Drake, Provost Newman, Systemwide Senate Director Lin, and Senate Division Executive Directors.

Also in June, UCOLASC wrote a letter asking the Council to share the OSC DEI resource with the Vice Provost, the University Committee on Academic Personnel (UCAP), the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (UCAADE), and the divisional Senates. Council approved and forwarded the letter.

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