



---

Academic Senate

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

[senate.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu)

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION  
(UCOLASC)  
Abraham Stone  
[abestone@ucsc.edu](mailto:abestone@ucsc.edu)

---

February 13, 2026

CAMPUSES

- [Berkeley](#)
- [Davis](#)
- [Irvine](#)
- [UCLA](#)
- [Merced](#)
- [Riverside](#)
- [San Diego](#)
- [San Francisco](#)
- [Santa Barbara](#)
- [Santa Cruz](#)

Erik Mitchell, Mathew Willmott, Miranda Bennett, Co-Chairs  
Project Transform Negotiating Team (PTNT), Project Transform Working Group  
(PTWG), UC Council of University Librarians (CoUL)

**Re: UCOLASC Statement on the UC Libraries Negotiations with  
Publishers Regarding Fair Use, Text and Data Mining, and Artificial  
Intelligence Usage Rights**

MEDICAL CENTERS

- [Davis](#)
- [Irvine](#)
- [UCLA](#)
- [San Diego](#)
- [San Francisco](#)

Dear Erik, Mat, Miranda, and CoUL colleagues,

In the [UCOLASC 2018 Statement of Principles](#), the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) voiced the importance of protecting the fair use exception to copyright for research, educational, and scholarly purposes, and expressed its support for protecting fair use rights in negotiations with publishers.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- [Lawrence Berkeley](#)
- [Lawrence Livermore](#)
- [Los Alamos](#)

UCOLASC recognizes the significant leadership and expertise the UC Libraries have established with regards to this licensing issue, particularly in the face of a worrying trend of publishers attempting to use library license agreements to limit fair use of content for computational research (like text and data mining or TDM) and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in that research, even when that use is for research, education, and scholarship. We are pleased that UC has successfully concluded negotiations for acceptable TDM/AI terms with two of the largest commercial academic publishers in the world, [Elsevier](#) and [Springer Nature](#). These contracts, as well as UC [authored position statements](#), have established a template we hope other libraries and academic publishers can adopt.

Despite this significant progress, we are aware that some publishers, including society publishers, continue to present UC with content license agreements or addenda to those agreements that attempt to preclude, or charge additional fees for, rights to use content for training AI tools in the course of conducting TDM in non-profit academic settings even when such activities would otherwise fall under fair use. **To this end, UCOLASC reiterates its strong support for the UC Libraries' efforts to preserve fair use rights when licensing electronic resources, including the rights to conduct computational research and utilize artificial intelligence tools in academic scholarship.** This stance has the unambiguous and publicly documented support of our UC faculty and administration.

- In March 2024, UCOLASC advanced the following [statement](#) to UC's Academic Council:

*The Academic Council of the Academic Senate of the University of California (UC) hereby communicates its commitment to support the UC Libraries negotiating position to preserve fair use rights when licensing electronic resources—including the fair use rights to conduct computational research and utilize artificial intelligence tools in academic studies and scholarship. Preserving fair use in research and teaching will protect UC scholars' abilities to make discoveries that further the pursuit of knowledge.*

- The UC Academic Council endorsed the statement on May 7th 2024, [noting](#):

*The Academic Council strongly supports the UC Libraries' efforts to preserve fair use exception rights when licensing electronic resources, including the rights for computational research and the use of AI tools in academic scholarship.*

- UC's President and Provost in turn issued a [response](#) fully affirming this stance from the other side of UC shared governance:

*As administrators and authors, we agree with UC faculty and libraries: Scholars, not publishers, should determine which research methodologies best advance their scholarly work.*

The University of California's research mission relies on the unfettered ability to utilize modern computational tools. From large-scale sentiment analysis in sociology and pattern recognition in climate science to the molecular modeling and automated discovery pipelines driving modern

chemistry, our faculty require autonomy over their research methods. Any license that seeks to dictate which tools a scholar may use to interpret literature creates a dangerous precedent for all disciplines.

Moreover, we face a growing inequity: while researchers in the European Union and other jurisdictions enjoy explicit statutory protections for these methodologies, US scholars in general and UC scholars in particular are being targeted with contractual restrictions that create a significant competitive disadvantage. We view with great concern recent attempts by publishers to gatekeep or restrict the abilities of researchers to engage in research methods that would be protected by fair use without these contractual restrictions.

We thank you for your continued commitment to protect UC researcher rights and appreciate the disciplined stand UC's negotiation team is taking with any publisher who fails to prioritize the advancement of knowledge creation and science.

Sincerely,



Abraham Stone  
Chair, UCOLASC

Déborah Blocker, **Vice Chair**

Mark Hanna, **Past Chair**

Richard A. Schneider, **Past Chair**

Jennifer LaFleur, **UC Berkeley**

Michael Foster, **UC Davis**

Nicola Ulibarrí, **UC Irvine**

Alan Fiske, **UC Los Angeles**

Sholeh Quinn, **UC Merced**

Joseph Genereux, **UC Riverside**

Sebastian Saiegh, **UC San Diego**

Michael Oldham, **UC San Francisco**

Teresa Shewry, **UC Santa Barbara**

Michael Hance, **UC Santa Cruz**

cc: UCOLASC