



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON
LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION**

2024-25 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 2024-25 via videoconference.

Consultation with the California Digital Library (CDL)

UCOLASC met with representatives from the California Digital Library at each meeting. CDL Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Günter Waibel provided regular updates on CDL budget issues as well as efforts to inform UC authors of evolving federal policy requirements. He noted the cooperative relationship between CDL and UCOLASC, and the effective support the committee has offered to CDL priorities. AVP Waibel and other UC representatives attended the Berlin Open Access Conference focused on publisher negotiations to advance open access (OA) publishing. UC's Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC) has created a Journal Open Access Look-up Tool (JOLT), a new visual tool on the OSC blog page for UC authors to navigate pathways to supported (full coverage or discounted) OA publication on their campuses. UCOLASC members were asked to brief local committees on this new tool.

State and federal budget challenges to University funding will impact the CDL's and campus libraries' budgets. UCOLASC plays an important role in elevating the importance of libraries and their wide scope of resources and services to contribute to the scholarly mission of the UC.

UCOLASC received updates from Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC) working groups:

Diamond OA

Diamond OA, a scholarly publishing model that charges no fees to readers or authors, has been a UC priority for 20 years. Currently, the UC has nearly 100 affiliated Diamond OA journals. Because of capacity issues, the rate of journal acquisition has slowed. Representatives from CDL and the UC attended the UNESCO Global Summit for Diamond Access held in Toluca, Mexico and worked with colleagues from the

North American Consortia to advance Diamond OA. The consortia recently released a statement of joint commitment to strengthen Diamond OA in the US.

The CDL has established a Pilot eScholarship Advisory Council to provide a governing structure and expert guidance for strategic decisions about deployment of scarce resources for eScholarship® publishing and repository, one of the leading Diamond OA publishers in the US.

Project Transform

Project Transform has worked to improve online information about OA publisher agreements for UC authors, via campus and UC systemwide websites as well as publisher's portals. They are charged by the Council of University Librarians (CoUL) with advancing UC's OA strategy, shifting UC investment from a subscription model to publishing OA. The team shared updates of completed and ongoing negotiations with publishers and provided deep dives into individual cases. Authors can use the tool to see their open access publishing eligibility; librarians can enter journal titles to find if they are covered by open access agreements.

The Project Transform team will be working to address the likely effects on the publishing ecosystem from federal funding agencies' changed priorities, funding models, and general instability. Historically, publishers have relied on past performance to negotiate future costs, and this model is unlikely to hold in the future.

UC Publishing Services Joint Initiative

UCPUBS is a joint effort between UC Press and CDL to establish a coordinated suite of publishing services leveraging the strengths of both organizations to serve the publishing needs of the UC community. eScholarship has served the UC for 20 years, and UC Press has focused on publishing works by faculty. UC Publishing Services is a joint venture to combine the OA journal publishing and book publishing expertise and create synergies between them.

UCPUBS will offer pre-press services as well as leveraging distribution and fulfillment infrastructure. The publishing side works with eScholarship's repository services. This is not a self-publishing service; institutional backing for projects is expected. UC Press and eScholarship can offer mutual referrals for authors publishing various kinds of materials.

Open Access and AI Licensing

The UC invests more than \$60M each year in licensing system-wide electronic content used by UC scholars, plus additional spending by campuses. UC researchers have been utilizing both non-generative AI and generative AI tools as part of computational research for years. Courts have found that undertaking these acts for computational research is considered fair use. Although computational research is fair use, the US allows contractual override of rights under copyright law. Publishers have tried to remove text and data mining and other fair use rights, including the right to use and train AI for computational research, through license agreements they ask libraries to sign.

When negotiating to preserve AI usage and training rights, the UC addresses the full spectrum of AI research needs and tools. While legal, the sale of bodies of scholarly content, primarily monographs, to companies for AI training without author permission has been perceived as a violation of a perceived norm

between publishers and authors. The ability for publishers to strike those contracts is another undesirable by-product of the current scholarly communication system driven by subscriptions and the sale of content. The negotiating team also ensures that any creative commons license applied to articles are not overridden by more restrictive AI usage/training terms in the e-resource agreement.

It has been particularly effective to negotiate with publishers by demonstrating that agreements with European research institutions need to preserve AI usage and training rights for scientific research, pursuant to the EU's Copyright Digital Single Market Directive and AI Act. The UC is leading the nation in this kind of negotiations and the 2024 statement supporting AI use in research from UCOLASC, along with strong support from President Drake, further empower the negotiating team.

Machine-Actionable Data Management Plans (maDMPs)

The maDMP, a machine-readable narrative required by most grant applications, has been developed by the CDL. CDL has showcased the potential of the tool by having institutions test the technical features, providing iterative improvement opportunities. In the active pilot phase, the project piloted the integration of new machine-actionable plans, prototypes and workflows. The maDMP addressed two challenges partner institutions have identified: a lack of coordination across institutions for research tracking and difficulty complying with data security requirements.

Feedback from pilot participants indicated that DMPs can facilitate communication between libraries and other data related users on campus, that data security must be discussed early and often, especially considering changing requirements, and that communication among all stakeholders is critical.

Council of University Librarians (CoUL)

UCOLASC met jointly with the CoUL and received updates on a number of projects. The Regional Library Facilities (RLFs) are high density storage facilities with quick retrieval capacity. Funding has been secured for the RLFs through CoUL efforts, and the RLFs are transitioning to a single systemwide service center, the Systemwide Library Facilities (SLF).

A Project LEND webinar shared the results of a research study to investigate the potential for expanding legal use of digitized books held by academic and research libraries. Results from the focus groups and interviews across multiple campuses on how faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and others would ideally like to use digital books to advance their research added to the webinar. Project LEND will coordinate with UC Online to expand access to needed resources. CoUL shared plans to comply with the accelerated timeline for compliance with Title II of the ADA, which prohibits discrimination based on disability by [state and local governments](#). Although many had predicted that Federal public access policies (resulting from the "Nelson Memo") would be rescinded, NIH's public access plan (requiring the deposit of articles based on federally funded research into agency designated repositories on the day of publication) has been given accelerated implementation, with a new effective date of July 1, 2025. In August 2022, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) published new policy guidance, "Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research" as an update to the 2013 "Expanding Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research" memorandum. The new guidance eliminated the 12-month embargo period to accessing scholarly publication funded by the federal government. The 2022 OSTP memo also requires that such publications be deposited into agency-designated repositories. UCOLASC collaborated with Senate Leadership to communicate the accelerated deadline for depositing manuscripts. These policies are to

ensure that publications and underlying data funded by the federal government are freely and immediately available to the public.

Consultation with Senate Leadership

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

- Senior leadership changes, including a new President of the University, Chancellors at Santa Barbara and Riverside campuses, and a new Systemwide Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs and academic Programs.
- A report to the Regents by the working group on Faculty Discipline and the Regents proposed changes including addressing some disciplinary actions at the systemwide level: shortening the length of the investigative phase and creating a systemwide case monitoring system. The revisions will go out for systemwide review.
- The state and federal budgets and their impact on the UC.
- Federal granting agencies' changes in funding and likely impacts on UC research, graduate students, faculty advancement, and systemwide budget challenges.
- Cancellation and reinstatement of international student visas and likely impacts on the UC.
- Various Assembly meetings including special meetings, about the implementation of the Trellix IT security requirement, increase in healthcare premiums, and announcing Susannah Scott as the incoming Vice Chair of the Academic Council.
- The establishment of a new Systemwide committee on Adaptation to Disruptions.

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 budget challenges at libraries, space needs and repurposing library space for ancillary needs, concerns about grant cancellations, and efforts to spread information to local faculty about OA publishing.

Endorsements and Letters of Support

UCOLASC wrote a letter to the Project Transform Negotiating Team emphasizing their commitment to advancing the goals established in its 2018 "Declaration of Rights and Principles to Transform Scholarly Communication" and to uphold efforts of the Project Transform Negotiating Team (PTNT) and Project Transform Working Group (PTWG), and called for the UC to enter into OA agreements with publishers whereby OA publishing and Creative Commons Attribution licenses (CC BY) are the default for all UC authors.

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