



UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA Academic
Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION (UCOLASC)

Minutes of Meeting

9 May 2025

In attendance: Mark Hanna (Chair), Kathrin Plath (Vice Chair), Mark Haiman (Berkeley), Naoki Sato (Davis), Zili Liu (Los Angeles), Jessica Blos (Merced), Curt Burgess (Riverside), Thomas Liu (San Diego), Julia Challinor (San Francisco), Michael Oldham (San Francisco), Thomas Weimbs (Santa Barbara), Jeffrey Erbig (Santa Cruz), Jenson Wong (Chair, UCACC), Günter Waibel (Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, California Digital Library), Maria Praetzellis (Associate Director, UC Curation Center), Katie Fortney (Copyright Policy & Education Officer, CDL), Steven Cheung (Chair, Academic Council), Ahmet Palazoglu (Vice Chair, Academic Council), Jennifer Nelson (President, LAUC), Danielle Watters-Westbrook (Director, of Systemwide Library Planning, CDL), Catherine Mitchell (Director, Publishing, Archives and Digitization, CDL), Lorelei Tanji (CoUL Chair), Rice Majors (AUL, UC Davis), Erik Mitchell (UC San Diego), Miranda Bennet (Director of Shared Collections, CDL), Mat Willmott (Assistant Director for OA Agreements, Shared Collections), Stefani Leto, Analyst.

I. Consent Calendar

Action: The committee approved the consent calendar

II. Chair's Announcements

There is almost universal uncertainty about the state and UC budget, plans to deal with the ongoing disruptions, and what direction the new UC president will follow. This meeting will focus on what UCOLASC can offer to ongoing projects and how to deal with ongoing uncertainties.

III. CDL Update

AVP Waibel announced that the new VP for Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs, Monica Varsanyi will be the direct supervisor of CDL. She has a strong scholarly background and is deeply familiar with the area. OP announced a five percent cut to the CDL supply and expense budget. This cut will be magnified to an effective 12 percent cut, should CDL fail with a request that their budget increase to cover contractual yearly increases. In addition, CDL has an outstanding request to the budget office that grant-funded permanent staff salaries should return to the state budget on grant termination. If the University does not approve the salary returns the effective budget cut will rise to 20 percent.

In the portion of CDL's budget that has state set-aside funding as its source, no inflationary increases will be provided. These items add up to a roughly 2.6 percent cut to the budget.

The systemwide hiring freeze has only impacted one position to date. CDL is looking for more clarity on whether Salaries for vacant positions are being swept by the budget office or will be reinstated if a hiring freeze exemption is granted. Of course, all budget decisions are not final.

- How does the new climate for universities affect contracts with publishers? Publishers are intransigent about the costs of services they provide.

IV. Machine Actionable Data Management Plans (maDMPs)

Maria Praetzellis, Associate Director, UC Curation Center provided an update on the maDMP, which is a machine-readable narrative required by most grant applications. CDL is the primary developer of a free machine-readable Data Management Plan (DMP) tool used widely. CDL has been supportive of showcasing the potential by having institutions test the technical features, providing iterative improvement opportunities.

Over an active pilot phase, the project piloted the integration of new machine actionable plans, prototypes and workflows. The team worked to implement, build and implement new standards and functionalities for these plans. Partner institutions were selected by applications, and enough interest existed to double the cohort testing out the plans. Challenges partner institutions identified included a lack of coordination across institutions for research tracking and difficulty complying with data security requirements. The DMP proved a useful tool to address both challenges. Making the DMP available for excellent AI-driven research also was an outgrowth of the pilot.

A specific area of inquiry is data security plans, which are separate from and more complex than DMPs , and must be addressed prior to funding projects. DMPs can be used to support campuses as they address security issues. DMPs can also provide immediate AI-generated feedback to requests about DMPs, thus freeing staff for other activities. Concerns included AI responses missing nuances about tribal or indigenous data, and highlighting the need for staff to review all AI products.

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

V. UC open access policies and eScholarship deposits

Catherine Mitchell, Director of Publishing, Archives, and Digitization and Katie Fortney, CDL Copyright Policy & Education Officer followed up on concerns about the fragility of publisher sites and Federal repositories considering recent actions by the Trump administration.

UC OA policies require that authors deposit their work in an open access (OA) repository, ensuring global access to their research. UC's OA policy license empowers authors to make their work openly available regardless of their publisher's policy, raising the visibility of UC-affiliated research and contributing to the common good. As UC's OA repository, eScholarship both supports UC authors' participation in these OA policies and ensures ongoing access to and preservation of their research output, regardless of what may happen to publisher sites or federal repositories. Publications in eScholarship are available to anyone with an internet connection and reach a wide range of readers globally. The repository also provides access to other academic materials including student theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, preprints, and working papers. All these materials are preserved

according to best practices within the Merritt preservation repository. Mitchell and Fortney encourage the faculty to think of eScholarship as an insurance policy for ensuring on-going and future access to UC-affiliated academic research.

Authors do not need to manually enter metadata for deposit; the publication management system manages that. In some cases, eScholarship even collects the article so faculty only need to “claim” publications in the system.

Answers to questions:

- eScholarship interfaces with search tools beyond Google such as WorldCat and library indexes. While Google and Google Scholar are primary portals for searches, the staff has cross-indexed eScholarship to increase discoverability.
- Concerns about uploading articles in image-heavy disciplines like art history include the need to consider image permissions. Contact eScholarship at help@escholarship.org with any further questions.
- A member asked about interactions with arXiv or other preprint servers. Wherever possible, eScholarship provides a link to the publication of record, enabling readers to cite that version.

VI. Senate Leadership Update

Steven Cheung, Chair, Academic Council and Ahmet Palazgolu, Vice Chair, Academic Council announced that the University has a new incoming President, James “JB” Milliken. At their May meeting the Regents will announce new Chancellors at Santa Barbara and Riverside. Monica Varsanyi will be the new Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs. Senate leadership looks forward to a vigorous relationship with VP Varsanyi.

At the April Assembly meeting, Susannah Scott was named the incoming Council Vice Chair. The BOARS bylaw revision was approved; it codified the expectation that BOARS will consult with California K-12 leadership on matters that affect them. A proposal for a requirement for ethnic studies as an overlay for the A-G requirements did not pass an Assembly vote. A member amended a statement on the defense of the University to include the welfare of international students and scholars.

In response to a grim state budget outlook, CFO Brostrom proposes a pause to the increase in employer contributions to the UC Retirement Plan (UCRP) and the planned transfer from STIP to UCRP. The Regents will likely approve the proposal, increasing cash available to campuses.

Council endorsed a proposal from UCSF for the formation of a Systemwide Senate committee on clinicians to address their concerns through shared governance, and the creation of divisional and systemwide Clinical Affairs Committees including clinical and non-clinical faculty to increase cross-disciplinary cooperation.

The Joint Senate-Administration workgroup charged to study APM 016 will report to the Regents in the May meeting. One of the work products of the group is a systemwide calibration of guidelines around faculty discipline. If these are endorsed, a 30-day review will take place. Guidelines will include severity of conduct with three tiers: the 1st factor would be severity of conduct, which was divided into 3 three separate tiers: the first relates to violations of the faculty code of conduct and violations of campus time, place, and manner policies the second factor is severity of the impact gauging whether the conduct has minor or major

impact on damage to UC property, community members and harm to others by physical or other means; and the third is whether there are mitigating or aggravating factors with a non-exhaustive list of considerations.

By late April, 159 international UC students had their visas cancelled, then the Trump administration reversed the action and 157 were restored. For students who cannot complete their degrees on a campus, leadership consulted with the appropriate Systemwide committees to find ways for them to complete their degrees remotely, and there is no Senate policy disallowing this.

A new systemwide committee, the University Committee on Addressing Disruptions (UCAD), will focus on supporting the UC mission in the context of disruptive Federal orders. The committee has four areas of inquiry:

1. Restructuring of academic programs
2. Resizing of programs and the workforce
3. Recalibration of growth objectives
4. Realignment of funding sources with mission activities

Within the next few weeks, recommendations will be delivered to the administration.

The Total Remuneration Study will be available soon, and Chair Cheung asked faculty to complete the present benefits survey as that will inform health plans in the future.

- A member asked about the shared calendar workgroup, and Chair Cheung noted that the focus of the group evolved to an examination of the proposal rather than an actionable project.

VII. Recent Federal Actions Impacting Authors and Editors

Günter Waibel and Katie Fortney noted that the Department of Justice sent letters to some medical journals raising some First Amendment concerns; eScholarship journals have not yet received letters such as these, to the best of our knowledge.

Federal and publisher policies are not always aligned, so UC authors should ensure that their publisher will not try to force them into open access publishing, or that the library provides an OA support option, or that the author has budgeted for OA in their grant. Authors who have not done these things may find publishers requiring OA publishing, which sometimes involves payment. The UC Libraries are working on more detailed guidance

- Approximately 40 percent of all academic publishing is federally funded and therefore under the federal policies. OA publishing removes any potential conflict with publishers over deposit.
- The largest publishers who might have conflicts with the deposit requirements are those with whom the UC has OA agreements, so authors can take advantage of those agreements and simplify compliance.
- The authors accepted manuscript (post peer review) version is required for deposit to the agency-designated repository.
- Authors are also encouraged to keep depositing their articles into UC's repository eScholarship.

VIII. Project Lend briefing

Rice Majors, AUL, UC Davis, updated Project LEND's advancement of lawful use of digital resources through a two-year project funded by the Mellon Foundation. Project

LEND began with a user needs assessment and legal analysis and involved both librarians and faculty. The project's goal is to increase digital access and usefulness to UC faculty as well as beyond the UC. The Covid-19 pandemic jump started this effort, after the HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS) was discontinued, work on Project Lend advanced.

A public webinar was held last November, and two more outcomes are still forthcoming. The first is a white paper describing user research findings. Members hope to empower other institutions to use Project LEND's data to improve their products or do advocacy in areas not specific to the project. The second is a service plan, distilled from the research, which will point to improvements and advancements in digital access and use. All services were rooted in respect to copyright as the group was cognizant of the tension between user access and author rights as they worked.

The group plans to meet with CoUL to discuss the project and possible UC uses based on the findings.

IX. UC Libraries Shared Print Briefing

Steve Mandeville-Gamble, UL, UC Riverside, and Alison Wohlers, Assistant Director, CDL, updated UCOLASC on the Systemwide Library Facilities (SLF). These facilities and the collective shared print efforts are critical to the functioning of UC libraries, and key to the vision to be leaders providing the broadest access to the world's knowledge, not only to scholars in the UC System, but worldwide. The systemwide facilities provide the ability to save a large amount of money through eliminating duplication of facilities or holdings.

The two systemwide library facilities are hosted by UC Berkeley and UCLA, who realized after thirty years of hosting that there was a large funding shortfall. A multi-phase budget analysis followed, and in 2024, a new funding structure was endorsed and fully implemented in 2025 with central funding. The facilities are now understood as a systemwide good rather than separate facilities. They enable equitable intercampus lending, mass digitization, preservation through digitization and preservation of fragile or deteriorating materials and optimize physical information resources like campus library space and long-term retention strategies.

The shared print strategy means no single library is responsible for preservation and access. Outcomes include cost avoidance, resource reallocation, holistic collection building, and new value-add services. Risk analysis can be done systemwide to identify collection retention needs. The UC partners with other academic and research libraries, regionally, nationally, and even internationally, through Canada.

Cost savings are realized through the Journal Archiving Campaign service (JAX) has enabled campus libraries to use the SLF for duplication, realizing \$2.7M in cost savings over the past nine years, as well as freeing up 9000 square feet, or over 250 library seats' worth of space. Through the Western Regional Storage Trust (WRST), the UC has guaranteed access to over 450,000 volumes held by Trust partners like Stanford and the University of Washington.

Through the SLF and Trust partnerships, the UC system plays a pivotal role in scholarly print preservation and access in the ecosystem. One example of partner investment is JSTOR, which has significantly invested in the preservation of over 90,000 volumes brought together from across the UC system. In addition, through their partnership with WRST Archive, the UC has expanded the digital safety net and access options for users through a project to direct additional copies of WRST-shared print titles to the Internet Archive for digitization and ongoing access through interlibrary loan. Internet Archive pays for the shipping and digitization costs for this project. Over 6000 of those titles lacked digital copies in trusted repositories. In addition, books not digitized in the initial push with HathiTrust are now being digitized and made available in case there is need for expanded digital access like there was during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project hopes to expand text mining and other uses such as digitized non-book content such as plant genomics.

X. CoUL update

The UC libraries have been directly impacted from funding cuts and grant cancellations. At the time of the meeting, eight of the eleven UC libraries have received grant termination letters, including ones that affected grant-funded staff.

The Regional Library Facilities are transitioning to becoming a single systemwide service center or Systemwide Library Facilities (SLF). The SLF will support library collections strategies as a whole and increase systemwide resilience and expand the library's operational efficiencies. OP has provided funding for operations including a recent budget augmentation that will cover some of the fixed costs for SLF operations. And it will cover the recruitment of a systemwide library director overseeing the SLF teams. An updated MOU will document revised term services and financial agreements supporting SLF.

XI. Project to Expand Open Access Monograph Opportunities for UC Authors: Landscape Analysis

Erik Mitchell, UL and Project Chair, UC San Diego, and Lidia Uziel, AUL and Project Co-Chair UC Santa Barbara presented a progress update of the OA Monograph projects, seeking to advance OA publishing of monographs through direct partnerships with select UC presses and a broader review of the monograph publishing landscape and pathways to OA to develop a decision-making framework and plan. The group will report their final recommendations to CoUL in July 2025.

UC authors are prolific monograph publishers, with an average of 660 books published annually, in a wide range of publishers, over many disciplines. OA monographs are downloaded ten times more than non-OA monographs, as well as being cited more often. The group found obtaining accurate data about monograph publishing challenging. There is no single OA monograph funding model that has scaled successfully thus far.

The groups' recommendations start with an acknowledgement that no single solution will meet all needs. They recommend UC libraries support OA publishing models and initiatives that align with UC OA principles and closely align with UC Scholarly activity. The UC should encourage initiatives that favor scholar-led community-owned infrastructure. If book processing charges (BPC) are levied, efforts should be made to provide UC-affiliated authors with a discount or full charge payment of any BPC. This will lead to supporting OA monograph initiatives that directly serve UC-affiliated scholars, either by enabling them to publish OA books or by delivering content that is highly used in research, teaching, and learning.

Criteria for selecting publications include high quality peer review, editorial transparency, and ethical standards aligned with organizations such as the OAB or OASPA. All initiatives should also undergo review, by the Shared Content Leadership Group (SCLG), and also where appropriate, the UC Star team. These criteria acknowledge the high costs of BPCs for monographs and therefore also do not recommend using campus library collection funds for them. UCCDL Augmentation Funds can be used for specific high-profile examples and libraries should emphasize diamond, OA and other free-to-read models when using library collection funds and campus funds.

The group presented draft ideas for recommendations and engaged UCOLASC in discussion. The group intends to complete its work by the end of June 2025 and will look forward to sharing an update with UCOLASC in the fall.

- Members noted that humanities research remains relevant over long periods of time, so reviving back catalog titles can make older research available to students. Finding the funding to do so might be challenging.

XII. Project Transform

The Project Transform team has negotiated 21 agreements, as a result, approximately 60 percent of UC scholarly output can be published under an OA license. As Project Transform continues, we are closely studying the changing federal funding landscape and its potential impact. In addition to continuing progress with journal-focused agreements, Project Transform is advancing programs to promote OA book publishing by UC authors through pilot projects; two efforts were reported on in separate areas of the UCOLASC agenda during this meeting.

Author rights issues are a continuing area of focus as Project Transform focuses on federal funder OA requirements. The team reported that some publishers are implementing fees for authors who must comply with a federal funder OA mandate and shared some preliminary analysis of how to handle this development.

Presenters also gave a deep dive into the direction of changes in American Chemical Society (ACS) agreements. Due to factors including lower than expected author grant funding contributions, and escalating costs in the agreement that exceeded the Library's funding capacity, the current UC/CSU/SCELCCC agreement with ACS will transition to a new model. On July 1, 2025, UC author support will be changed –

authors who want to publish OA will be responsible for paying the full discounted OA fee. A new agreement will be negotiated to start January 1, 2026.

XIII. Executive Meeting to Discuss Budget and Local Campus Issues

Members discussed challenges and opportunities of the current budget environment for their campus libraries and systemwide libraries. Members modeled various scenarios to evaluate possible ways to meet the challenges.

The committee briefly discussed the proposed changes to APM 360 – Librarian Series and will respond. In addition, they discussed writing a letter to incoming President Millikin outlining issues facing UC libraries.

The committee adjourned at 3:55.

Minutes prepared by Stefani Leto, Committee Analyst
Attest: Mark Hanna, UCOLASC Chair