



Robert Horwitz
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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

April 7, 2022

**MICHAEL T. BROWN
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Re: Support for Reinstatement of the CDL Shared Collections Budget

Dear Michael:

At its March 2022 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached statement from the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). The statement asks UCOP to permanently reinstate funding for the California Digital Library (CDL) Collections budget.

The Council agrees that the UC libraries are a key component of UC's teaching, research, and public service missions that support UC's status as the premier public research university. The CDL's shared collections are critical to information access across all UC campuses, and CDL's ability to acquire and provide access to scholarly information depends on having a permanent and stable budget. We join UCOLASC in calling on the University to recognize and fund the libraries as a central academic service and to resume and protect permanent funding for the CDL Collections budget.

We understand that you will make budget decisions about the CDL this month, and we urge you to consider these concerns as part of your decision-making process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Horwitz".

Robert Horwitz, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council
UCOLASC
Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Waibel
Chief of Staff Peterson
Campus Senate Directors
Executive Director Baxter

Encl.



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
Derjung "Mimi" Tarn, Chair
Dtarn@mednet.ucla.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

March 16, 2022

ROBERT HORWITZ, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: UCOLASC statement supporting permanent funding for the California Digital Library

Dear Robert,

We are writing to share UCOLASC's unanimous support for the permanent reinstatement of the California Digital Library (CDL) collections budget at the Office of the President under campus assessment.

To provide some background, the Office of the President removed CDL's collections funds (\$11.7M) from the CDL budget in FY 2020-2021, with the goal of shifting these costs to the campuses. This transfer proved difficult, if not impossible for campuses struggling with budget cuts, necessitating coverage of the CDL collections budget through one-time Office of the President funds in FY 2020-2021 (through President's Endowment funds) and 2021-2022 (through TRIP funds). This use of one-time funds is unsustainable for ongoing contractual obligations, particularly those that directly advance UC teaching, learning and research. To this end, UCOLASC voted on February 16, 2022 to release a statement of support and call for permanent funding.

UCOLASC strongly supports restitution of the CDL collections budget at the Office of the President under campus assessment. We recognize the budget challenges faced at the Office of the President and across the system, but are deeply concerned about decreasing levels of support for core academic needs:

- In an increasingly complex information and scholarly communication landscape, the faculty rely on the UC libraries' resources and services now more than ever. And yet, UCOLASC has witnessed library budget cuts time and again over the past 10+ years. Ultimately, it is faculty, researchers, clinicians and students who most deeply experience these budget cuts as support for teaching, research and learning erodes systemwide.*

- *Our campus libraries have long been under-funded and now our systemwide coalition is threatened. The UC shared collections – that vast and seamless corpus crucial to our scholarly work – is at risk. How can we advance leading research and education on key contemporary challenges – climate change, health care, critical inquiry – without access to core existing and emerging scholarly literature? There is unanimous agreement by all parties that these collections are foundational to UC’s mission, yet the CDL’s portion of the cost-share is without permanent funding.*
- *The perilous state of CDL’s shared collections budget is of grave concern to faculty. Without it, reading and publishing access systemwide will immediately deteriorate. The loss will be felt by all, but it will be particularly dire for those less well funded amongst us: those seeking to advance course material affordability; those without grant funds or whose funds are already stretched; those students facing high financial barriers to attaining their UC degree.*
- *UCOLASC and the faculty have invested significant time and energy into our partnership with the UC Libraries to advance open access and eradicate the scholarly publishing racket that has long widened inequities and kept research and core knowledge from being widely distributed. The lack of ongoing funding for the CDL shared collections budget threatens both our ability to forge new open publishing models and our recent successes.*

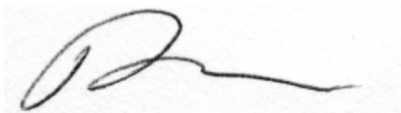
There is agreement across the wider University that the CDL and UC campus libraries are a significant and important component of UC’s status as the premier public research university in the world. And yet, each year we see instances where valued library services and collections are undercut due to flat or reduced budgets. Presently, the CDL waits to learn if their annual collections budget will be funded, at what level, and by what means. UCOLASC calls on the University to both recognize and fund the libraries as a central academic service. We ask that permanent funding be resumed for CDL and protected moving forward.

Action Item: UCOLASC requests that Academic Council endorse this statement of support for the permanent reinstatement of funding for the California Digital Library collections budget and forward the above statement to UC Provost Brown prior to May 01, 2022.

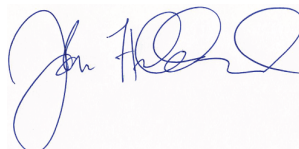
Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Derjung Mimi Tarn, **Chair**



John Hildebrand, **Vice-Chair**

Ellen Simms, **UC Berkeley**
Eric Rauchway, **UC Davis**
Brian Reynolds, **UC Irvine**
Robert Zeithammer, **UC Los Angeles**
Maria DePrano, **UC Merced**
Susan Laxton, **UC Riverside**
Mark Hanna, **UC San Diego**
Charles Hart, **UC San Francisco**
Karen Lunsford, **UC Santa Barbara**
Abraham Stone, **UC Santa Cruz**

cc: Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Associate Director
Günter Waibel, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director, California
Digital Library