Digital Library Services Task Force 2
Memo to SOPAG reflecting on CDL response
August 31, 2011

The DLSTF2 thanks the CDL for their insightful response to our *Final Report*. This memo takes the response into consideration to further clarify the DLSTF2 vision and implementation strategy for the UC Digital Collection. We have focused on three areas of discussion.

1. Vertical crawler

The DLSTF2 agrees with the CDL recommendation of using a vertical crawler as an alternative to the Phase 1 harvesting plan proposed by DLSTF2. We agree that this would be an effective means of creating a central access point for existing digital collections residing locally at UC campuses, and it could be a 'quick win' to jump starting this endeavor.

In addition to CDL, several campuses have worked with crawlers and developed discovery systems of this kind. We recommend that the experts at the CDL and campuses convene to determine the best vertical search technology for the UC Digital Collection.

2. DAMS framework

The DLSTF2 believes in the goal of a systemwide DAMS to be key in developing a UC Digital Collection by providing a common framework for all campuses to participate in, especially those that have not implemented a local solution. We appreciated learning more about CDL's plans for Merritt. Conceptually, we believe the DAMS should allow for flexible workflows for ingesting content into one core technical infrastructure. The variety of source content and the variety of workflows to generate it must be taken into consideration (and, hopefully, simplified or aggregated into a small set of ingest strategies). Therefore, to reiterate our *Final Report* recommendations, we believe requirements should first be drafted, and an independent assessment of DAMS platforms should be conducted (possibly by POT1). The requirements should include, broadly:

a. Technical infrastructure needs for a DAMS
b. Ingest workflows for the primary content types identified by DLSTF1, NGTS-NM
c. Interface expectations for end-user discovery, access, and use

3. User interface requirements/Melvyl

The Task Force feels strongly that the general user interface for the UC Digital Collection should accommodate different formats and be specific to user needs. Some basic user functionality should include: thumbnail references to objects stored elsewhere, special viewers for some formats, and sophisticated search/browse options such as refined result sets.

We do not believe Melvyl meets all of the conceptual components of access requirements, which encompass discovery *and* delivery/presentation, and thus it offers only a partial access platform, focused on discovery, rather than a full access platform for the UC Digital Collection. We recommend that the UC Digital Collection use Melvyl to leverage its strengths and continue to contain collection-level records.

Finally, as has been stated in previous reports, we would like to reiterate the importance of creating an advisory group to recommend strategic directions and oversee ongoing management of the UC Digital Collection.