

April 17, 2006

TO: Linda Kennedy, UC Davis
Harold Colson, UC San Diego
Elliott Kanter, UC San Diego
Kay Collins, UC Irvine

FROM: Lucia Snowhill, Chair, UC Collection Development Committee (CDC)

RE: Charge for the SOPAG/CDC Task Force on CDL-Licensed News Resources

SOPAG and CDC are appointing you as members of the SOPAG/CDC Task Force on CDL-Licensed News Resources. Linda Kennedy will chair the task force. I will also serve as a member of the task force as the JSC representative, and Wendy Parfrey will be the CDL contact for comparative licensing and business issues. The task force charge follows below.

Thank you in advance for your participation on this task force. Please let me know if there are any questions. We look forward to your reports.

Charge
SOPAG/CDC Task Force on CDL-Licensed News Resources

The UC libraries subscribe to a number of online news sources that provide indexing and full text coverage, either selectively or comprehensively, for newspapers in the US and throughout the world. While UC would like to maintain the most comprehensive coverage possible, it is also desirable to minimize duplication of coverage, if possible, to allow resources to be spent on other digital resources. The goal of task force is to provide an assessment of UC's online news resources to clarify historical and current coverage and content overlap among resources, highlight features of specific resources that are either barriers or ease use, and provide recommendations for the most comprehensive and economical news coverage for UC.

Methodology:

- Identify all CDL-licensed news resources, online only (not print or microfilm)
- Identify which resources have indices, abstracts, full text content
- Identify individual titles or sources contained within each resource
- Identify dates of coverage for each source
- Assess completeness of content (e.g. does it include all editions; is it cover-to-cover including advertisements; variation in coverage—some comprehensive, some selective)
- Assess the reliability/stability of content included (do titles move in and out of the resource regularly, or is the title list stable?)
- Assess licensing features, e.g. perpetual access
- Assess method of presentation (e.g. simple pdf, HTML, ranges of pages, extent it is searchable)
- Assess unique platform features where there is overlap of content across vendors
- Highlight any barriers to use, e.g., do users need special training to print a single item; is the item you print easily identified as to paper, page, date; if the vendor provides multiple papers, can these be search simultaneously?; limits to the number of hits? It would be helpful to have these ranked in some way, even something as simple as major problem vs. minor annoyance.

The task force should include in its report:

1. Inventory (Excel spreadsheet) showing data, and brief summary/analysis of findings.
2. Statement of whether the current news collection meets UC needs. If not, identify the content gaps and recommend alternative or additional news sources for potential licensing. This might include both commercial and open access sources.
3. Clear recommendations to CDC for options to reduce news coverage overlap, if present, between system-wide resources.
4. If possible, recommendations as to how CDL or UC libraries might better enable end users to discover news resources. (e.g., Recommendations of “best practices” for campus library web pages that list news sources? Are there instructional materials that may be useful? Do we need a news metasearch?)
5. If possible, recommend ongoing mechanisms for maintaining an understanding of our news resources and consulting with the appropriate bibliographer groups about changes.

Selected CDL licensed news resources, including Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources, current and historic, national/international/local news, English and other languages:

- Access World News (NewsBank)
- Business Source Premier (EBSCO), including Regional Business News
- Ethnic NewsWatch, Left Index, etc.
- Expanded Academic ASAP
- FACTIVA
- LexisNexis Academic (NOTE: locally licensed by campuses)

Task Force members:

Kay Collins, UC Irvine
Harold Colson, UC San Diego
Elliott Kanter, UC San Diego
Linda Kennedy, UC Davis (Chair)
Lucia Snowhill, UC Santa Barbara (JSC Representative)
Wendy Parfrey (CDL Contact)

Timeframe: Progress report due July 1, 2006.
Final report due September 1, 2006.

Please submit your reports to CDC.