

## WHAT IS THE UC PORTAL?

The new UC portal will enable anyone anywhere to virtually “attend” the world’s largest public university, discover its treasures, and participate in discussions of topical issues. The multimedia portal will simultaneously provide scholars and students with unique reference tools for advancing teaching and research. We hope to have a prototype of the portal, focused initially on climate change, available by the end of the year.

The portal will include automated reference tools that compile information from UC databases and display it in user-friendly ways. One tool being developed is an expert finder that allows scholars, legislators and policy analysts, companies, public and private funders, students, and the general public to locate relevant UC faculty across the system.

An editorial layer of the portal will focus on multidisciplinary issues of public concern, such as climate change and global health. The portal is also being designed to include short articles authored by UC participants, ultimately on thousands of topics and people. Each article will include annotated multimedia bibliographies, allowing faculty and grad students to append relevant books, articles, and broadcasts.

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

In the coming months, we will work with UC faculty and departments to identify existing intellectual databases. The portal will be primarily focused on source materials, as opposed to news articles or press releases. Faculty members and departments will also be invited to include topical and/or biographical articles. We will also be working with relevant faculty to identify stories of broad interest in climate change.

## HOW WILL THE PORTAL BENEFIT UC?

The portal is designed to become a valuable reference tool for faculty, staff, and students, as well as the general public. It will inform public discussion of new technologies, the environment, science, and policy for a wider public, including prospective students, California voters, and legislators. And it will assist K-12 teachers and students, policy analysts, or anyone else researching academic topics. As an educational resource, the portal will help build public trust, supporting UC communication efforts to explain our critical role in enriching the economic, ecological, and cultural life of the state, nation, and world.

## WHO IS BEHIND THE PORTAL?

With assistance from campuses and other UCOP units, the UC portal is being developed by the Information, Publishing & Broadcasting Services, a group within the Academic Affairs division. IPBS is designed to magnify the combined services of the California Digital Library, UC Press, UCTV, UC College Prep, and the UC Consortium for Language Learning and Teaching. The project is the culmination of over a decade of conversations and research on UC’s information and communication needs and opportunities.

## ***INFORMATION, PUBLISHING & BROADCAST SERVICES***

Information, Publishing and Broadcast Services—a program of Academic Planning, Programs and Coordination (APPC) in the division of Academic Affairs—was established to extend scholarly and public access to the University’s intellectual and cultural resources. The program multiplies the effectiveness of UC’s teaching and research missions while opening up new channels for telling UC’s story more broadly.

IPBS draws upon the competencies of UC’s systemwide services—California Digital Library, UC Press, UCTV, UCCP and UCCLLT—as well as campus faculties and educational technology services to 1) Bring the results of UC research to bear on the challenges facing contemporary California and the world; 2) Disseminate instructional content beyond UC classrooms to California’s schools and colleges; 3) Support innovation in research, teaching and all scholarly communications; and 4) Garner support for UC’s mission by enabling the legislature, business community, outside funders, and the public to easily learn about and use the University’s research and archives.

### ***Associated Projects of the UC Portal:***

- **Open Courses/Open Textbooks** Online courses and textbooks are the fastest growing, most essential resource routinely created by UC faculty. Strategic support to the varied efforts across the UC system is needed to optimize development of affordable, accessible and truly superior educational resources. IPBS provides oversight and coordination to a range of projects and initiatives at UC, including those of UC College Prep, which provides online A-G and AP courses to California public schools, and the UC Language Consortium, which provides online language courses for systemwide use at UC and beyond. IPBS also coordinates work between the Community College Open Textbook Project and UC. Later in May, a joint faculty and administrative group will begin to shape strategy for this arena.
- **Expert Finder** The Office of Technology Transfer (OTT), California Digital Library (CDL), Institutional Research (IR), and Information, Resources & Communication (IR&C) have come together to address the single most tractable problem of 21<sup>st</sup> century research institutions: finding research colleagues, around the corner or across the institution. The Expert Finder will allow easy identification of UC researchers by field and specialty and institutional efforts to profile research strengths and trends. The public-facing tool will also allow legislators and citizens, business partners and funders, to discover who is working on what and how to get involved.
- **UCPubS** - UC Press and the eScholarship Publishing Group at the CDL are working together to provide a suite of publishing services for faculty and student publishing entities in the UC system. Whether for familiar forms like books and journals, or digital publishing services for the increasingly multi-disciplinary, multi-media works emerging across arts and humanities, the UCPubS aim to support innovation and advance scholarship where commercialization has taken the greatest toll. The service will launch officially in fall 2009.
- **UC Faculty Seminar Network** – IPBS is coordinating systemwide support for this faculty-led initiative to Webcast some of the 10,000 faculty seminars delivered each year at UC. Led by UC faculty keen to enrich research exchange between campuses and among departments, the standardized capture and asynchronous availability of the seminars will add substantially to the institutional content surfaced through the UC Portal.