

Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee*

Resolution H: Planned Expansion of Regional Storage Facilities

Resolved: *Recognizing the central and growing role of the UC Regional Storage Facilities in optimizing the management of the University's library collections to ensure the continued expansion of the breadth, depth and accessibility of the information resources needed to support the University's distinguished research and teaching programs, the Committee endorses Phase 3 of the UC Southern Regional Library Facility as a building priority for the University, with construction to be completed by the end of 2006.*

Background:

The University's Regional Library Facilities at Berkeley (Richmond) and Los Angeles have, for over 20 years, played a central and essential role in UC's strategy to sustain the quality of its research collections through continued investment in campus library resources and collaboration to optimize the management of those collections on a systemwide basis. In the past, this role has been served by providing shared, high-quality, secure, environmentally controlled low-cost space in which campus libraries could deposit infrequently-used material of enduring research value, thus making space available on campuses for the continued growth of Universitywide library collections. To allow the University to sustain the breadth and depth of collections needed to support the University's distinguished teaching and research programs in the face of severe budget constraints, continuing increases in the cost of scholarly information, and the new demands and opportunities afforded by digital information resources, the University Libraries will need to collaborate and share resources even more deeply, leveraging all possible opportunities to achieve economies of scale, spread operating and capital costs across a systemwide base, and coordinate and optimize their collections and services.

In this environment, the RLFs will be called upon to assume new and innovative roles. For example, when the digital version of a journal is available on a systemwide basis through the University's California Digital Library, in many cases it is no longer necessary for multiple campuses to maintain their subscriptions to the print versions of the same journal. In an experimental program now underway, the Libraries are arranging to acquire a single print copy of the journals provided in digital form by selected publishers, and to deposit this shared print copy in one of the RLFs as a safety net in the event that the digital version becomes unavailable. Owing to the characteristics of the RLFs – security, environmental control, rapid delivery of requested material to any campus, and responsive service – they are the ideal location to house these shared archival print journals. Similar roles for the RLFs can be envisioned for other physical collections that might be developed on a shared Universitywide basis, and for other functions that could be provided to all campuses as part of the Universitywide service infrastructure. Ultimately, the RLFs represent a shared resource that provides the

campuses greater flexibility to manage their local collections and services in ways that better meet campus needs and respond to campus opportunities and constraints.

While UCLA and UCB have day-to-day management responsibility for their respective RLFs, including the responsibility to manage the planning and construction of RLF projects, all campuses have an interest in insuring that the RLF's have adequate space to continuously add materials and to assume new roles on behalf of the library system. It is for this reason that the RLF's are considered systemwide programs and the buildings are a part of the Universitywide capital program, not the capital programs of the host campuses.

The SRLF is projected to be full at the end of 2006 for general library materials. In view of the importance of the current and prospective roles of the RLFs in the continuing development of the UC library system, the Committee strongly recommends the inclusion of Phase 3 of the SRLF in the University's 2005-06 Budget for Capital Improvements and that the project be scheduled for completion as quickly as possible in order to avoid disruption to the ongoing program of the University Libraries.

* Systemwide Library Planning 9/26/03, rev. 9/30/03.