To: Campus and CDL all-library-staff listservs
Subject: Systemwide ILS investigation

Dear UC Libraries community,

Based on expert feedback and input from various working groups, including the Future of Resource Sharing project group and the Shared Regional Library Facility ILS team, the Council of University Librarians (CoUL) has concluded that the idea of deploying a shared, systemwide integrated library system is fundamental to continued and future collaboration involving library collections and collections-based operations and services.

The UC libraries' patchwork of library and resource sharing systems is increasingly becoming unsustainable. If the current configuration of systems is maintained, higher staff and system resource investments will be required to maintain the status quo, and even still, intercampus resource sharing risks becoming fragmented and no longer viable. Though a systemwide ILS migration will pose significant technology, policy, governance, management, and funding challenges, other university systems and consortia, including the Orbis Cascade Alliance, the University of Wisconsin, and the California State University, have successfully implemented shared solutions, providing us with examples and experiences to build upon.

Investigation of a systemwide ILS upholds our values of shared collaborative action and investment across the UC libraries, and reaffirms our commitment to allow our patrons to interact with the ten UC campus collections and the RLFs as if they were a single collection. We recognize that to reap the rewards of a systemwide ILS, we need to commit ourselves to a thorough review and realignment of policies, procedures, and workflows. Please find a list of further principles and shared assumptions CoUL has committed itself to below the signature block.

Given this context, CoUL has charged a Systemwide ILS Working Group to investigate and plan for a systemwide ILS implementation for the UC libraries ([see attached charge](#)), and CoUL thanks the members of the Working Group for their participation in this effort.

- Chris Shaffer, University Librarian, UC San Francisco (Co-Chair)
- Günter Waibel, Executive Director & Associate Vice Provost, California Digital Library (Co-Chair)
- Donald Barclay, Deputy University Librarian, UC Merced
- Christine Barone, Collections Project Coordinator, Southern Regional Library Facility (Project Co-Manager)
- John Bono, Associate University Librarian, UC Santa Cruz
- Peter Brantley, Director of Online Strategy, UC Davis
- Cathy Martyniak, Director, Southern Regional Library Facility
- Erik Mitchell, Associate University Librarian for Digital Initiatives and Collaborative Services, UC Berkeley, and Director, Northern Regional Library Facility
- Aislinn Sotelo, Program Director for Metadata Services, UC San Diego
- Virginia (Ginny) Steel, Norman and Armena Powell University Librarian, UCLA

- Lena Zentall, Project & Product Manager, California Digital Library (Project Co-Manager)

In exploring a systemwide ILS, we envision a transparent process. More information is forthcoming, as the Systemwide ILS Working Group commences activities this month and into the new year.

Sincerely,

Steven Mandeville-Gamble, University Librarian, UC Riverside (CoUL Chair)
M. Elizabeth Cowell, University Librarian, UC Santa Cruz (CoUL Vice-Chair)
Tammy Dearie, Interim University Librarian, UC San Diego
Alan Grosenheider, Interim University Librarian, UC Santa Barbara
Haipeng Li, University Librarian, UC Merced
Jeffrey MacKie-Mason, University Librarian, UC Berkeley
Chris Shaffer, University Librarian, UC San Francisco
MacKenzie Smith, University Librarian, UC Davis
Virginia (Ginny) Steel, University Librarian, UCLA
Lorelei Tanji, University Librarian, UC Irvine
Günter Waibel, Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, California Digital Library, UC Office of the President

Investigating a systemwide ILS:
CoUL principles and shared assumptions

1. We reaffirm the value of 1 UC Library Collection: the UC Library Collection is an integrated, shareable user-centric collection that supports and enhances the mission of the University of California and whose strength is derived from the diverse nature of the individual campus library collections.
2. We recognize the technical unsustainability and inherent risks of our present patchwork of library systems as highlighted in the Future of Resource Sharing (April 21, 2017) and Shared Regional Library Facility ILS (June 12, 2017) reports.
3. We desire a transformative level of integration and/or centralization of library business processes and workflows, at both the local and systemwide level, in core functional areas of library services such as circulation, the management of print, media, and electronic collections, and resource sharing.
4. We recognize that movement to a next-generation systemwide ILS is fundamental to continued and future collaborations involving the development and management of UC library collections and collections-based operations and services.
5. We see the critical dimensions of this ILS project as not just technical and financial, but also policy harmonization and building and supporting a staff work culture that sustains systemwide efforts.
6. We acknowledge that local campus ILS transitions may need to happen while we explore a systemwide ILS and those do not negate our collective commitment to a shared system.

7. We recognize that a systemwide ILS will require significant one-time implementation funding. We assume, and will confirm, that the ongoing operation and maintenance of a systemwide ILS will cost no more than what the campuses and CDL currently devote to our independent library systems.

8. We commit to transparent and open communications across the system as we move forward with the investigation.