



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

BERKELEY LOS ANGELES LONDON

1 August 2011

Subject: University of California Press Publishing Services

I am writing today to tell you that University of California Press is, regretfully, ceasing to operate its print distribution services for its University affiliates. The current environment is a challenging one for university presses in general and we are no exception. Like many UC departments and programs we are seeing a reduction in our financial support from the University, and we have also been hit by the impact of the global economic recession of the past few years and, in particular, the further decimation of library spending. It is also a time of dynamic and fundamental change in scholarly publishing, and we need to retool to build an organization that can continue to keep pace in an ever-changing market and to produce and deliver content of enduring value to our communities.

In such an environment difficult decisions are unavoidable in the short term in order to ensure that UC Press is strong enough to fulfill its mission in the long term. We are refocusing on our core programs over the next year or two, and unfortunately this decision will bear on our Publishing Services Agreements with our publishing partners. I deeply appreciate the relationship that we have had with these partners, and want to show all due respect by advising them early of this necessary decision, and offering our best efforts in making this termination of our partnerships a smooth process.

I would like to outline below how this will impact these publication programs and clarify that UC Press is endeavoring to facilitate a satisfactory transition of the publishing services to a new vendor. As you are aware, this has always been a partnership with the California Digital Library, which has faithfully made works available electronically on the eScholarship platform on an open-access basis. The CDL will continue to support the digital dissemination of publications through its platform. In addition, the CDL's eScholarship platform will continue to develop its capacity to provide robust digital publishing services for UC-affiliated publishing programs, faculty and students. In the next year, The CDL expects to be positioned to support streaming media, journal subscriptions and data/publication integration for materials published in eScholarship.

The CDL is also, in fact, collaborating with UC Press to evaluate and determine whether a vendor may be found to take over distribution of the print component of the publications program. Together we are trying to locate vendors which can best supply the necessary services for print works, which include manufacturing, distribution via retailers and wholesalers of print books, e-commerce, order fulfillment, and accounting. Over the next couple of months, the CDL will explore the feasibility of providing these services through an outside vendor and will notify

you of the outcome of this exploration by mid-October. If a suitable vendor is identified, the CDL will hope to have new POD and distribution services available by January 2012.

Regardless of the outcome of this analysis, UC Press and the CDL will be available to work with each of the partners to transition their programs to an alternative distribution option. Obviously, affiliates are under no obligation to continue to submit publications to UC Press, and they may remove publications from our warehouse or from our print-on-demand distribution services at any time. We will gladly arrange for the transfer of any physical stock.

For publications that they wish to continue to deliver publications for print-on-demand or to maintain in our warehouse, the timeline for transition is the following.

If partners wish, UC Press will continue to provide manufacturing for any new publication until September 30, 2011, (we will need final, press-ready files before Sept 30, 2011), and UC Press will continue to manufacture (via print-on-demand), warehouse, and distribute those works until June 30, 2012, unless an alternative new vendor is found sooner by the CDL.

UC Press will continue to support books that have already been published and are being distributed by UC Press until June 30, 2012, again, unless an alternative new vendor is found sooner by CDL.

Of course, publishing partners are free to find an alternative source of print distribution at any time now. We would encourage them to explore any viable options they may have, and we will gladly, if applicable, return files and any remaining physical stock or transfer it to another distributor's warehouse at any time as publishing partners dictate. At the point at which partners withdraw publications, UC Press will remove the publications from its electronic catalog and inform business partners of any new source of distribution.

As of June 30, 2012 if there is no new vendor in place, and publishing partners have not already arranged for the removal of existing stock, the Press will contact them to discuss the transfer or liquidation of any existing stock, if applicable.

I recognize that no transition is without challenges, but we hope to work with partners to minimize the effect to your constituents and customers. For more information about the transition, please contact Laura Cerruti at University of California Press (lcerruti@ucpress.edu, 510-761-6439) and Catherine Mitchell at the California Digital Library (catherine.mitchell@ucop.edu, 510-587-6132). Please also feel free to contact me to discuss any concerns you may have.

All best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison Mudditt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Alison Mudditt  
University of California Press