

Report on Systemwide Library Planning and the California Digital Library

Presented to the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee for their meeting on April 29, 2003

April 14, 2003

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1. Systemwide library planning

University Committee on Library. The Academic Council has announced that Abdelmonem Afifi, Professor of Public Health – Biostatistics, UCLA, has agreed to serve as chair of UCOL for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Discussions are underway among Professor Afifi, the Academic Council offices in Oakland, and University Librarians Greenstein and Koyama to help shape the UCOL agenda, schedule a UCOL meeting, and consider the feasibility of a joint UL/UCOL meeting before the end of the current academic year. Some additional information, including a current UCOL roster, is available on the UCOL Web page (<<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/committees/ucol/>>) at the Academic Senate's newly-redesigned Web site (<<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/>>).

2. Report on selected CDL initiatives

Melvyl-T release. On April 3rd, the CDL announced an initial release of the new Melvyl online catalog and also that legacy Melvyl would be available for an additional month to August 1, 2003. A calendar will soon be in place for education and outreach activities aimed at campus library staff. In the meantime, guides aimed at beginning and intermediate users and library practitioners are available from the CDL Adaptable Outreach and Instructional Materials Web page (<http://www.cdlib.org/libstaff/comm/outreach/>) and also available from the CDL Guides page (<http://www.cdlib.org/guides/>).

The CDL will develop a schedule of bug fixes and anticipated future releases, receiving input from the appropriate advisory committees. Releases representing significant changes to database content or functionality will most likely be done on a regular schedule, bearing in mind the academic calendars and teaching and training needs.

Colleagues are encouraged to test Melvyl-T and use the feedback link to send comments to CDL.

Thanks once again to the many, many campus library staff members who contributed to the building of Melvyl-T. This enormous and complex project would not have been possible without their many contributions.

Online delivery of digital image surrogates for works in architecture and the visual arts. In its September report to the ULs, the CDL indicated its intention to develop a prototype service to deliver digital surrogates for works in architecture and the visual arts. The service, mounted on Luna's Insight software should be available in May 2003. Initially it will comprise some 150-250k images from Amico and Saskia, from Luna (which distributes several collections as well as that from UC libraries and museums). The initiative responds to an immediate practical problem: delivering the c.100k digital images that result from the Museums and the Online Archive of California project. It also anticipates growth in the number of images that CDL needs to distribute online. Like other explorations into the delivery of digital images (e.g. at San Diego and Berkeley) the initiative will provide practical experience as a complement to the planning currently being undertaken by the SOPAG task force on digital visual resources.

Electronic dissertations ProQuest/UMI is launching a program for UC and other graduate divisions to submit dissertations digitally to its collection. The electronic submission process uses bepress software – the same software behind the eScholarship Repository. Accordingly, it is possible for graduate divisions that choose to use the Repository to build, maintain locally (e.g. in an appropriately badged instance of the Repository) and distribute openly (at no cost to end users) the same digital dissertations that are being deposited with ProQuest/UMI and distributed to subscribers. To do this, the graduate divisions who are negotiating directly with ProQuest/UMI must acquire from ProQuest/UMI the right to a copy of every dissertation that is submitted digitally to it.

We are informed that electronic dissertations will be discussed at the May 9 Council of Graduate Deans meeting. Given that ProQuest/UMI is aggressively expanding this program and that some campus graduate offices are eager to join it, it may be advisable for campus libraries that are interested in this and that are not already discussing it with their graduate office, to begin discussions with their graduate office sooner rather than later.

Escholarship staff, meantime, is available to assist campus libraries or graduate divisions that wish to build local collections of their digital dissertations, and is currently working with UCSF in this regard.

Escholarship repository and peer-reviewed journals. There has been some considerable discussion of late about the prospects for and viability of finding a home in the eScholarship program for some kind of infrastructure capable of supporting low-cost production and distribution of peer-reviewed scholarly journals that are managed by or under the editorial control of UC faculty within UC academic departments, ORUs, etc. At present the eScholarship Repository is able to support production of peer reviewed journals at some basic level (using the bepress edikit tools). It will add to that

functionality a basic template that will distinguish (in look, feel, and functionality) any peer reviewed journals from other Repository content (e.g. working paper series). IT does not propose at this stage to develop additional features but would not discourage those ORUs, academic departments etc. that wish to use the existing Repository infrastructure for peer reviewed journal content from doing so.