

# **Draft vision for libraries and a list of near term library innovations for possible inclusion in a future systemwide library budget initiative**

The document builds on discussions at the ULs retreat (11/14-15, 2003) by offering a Straw Vision for the UC libraries (as supplied by Sarah Pritchard with one minor modification as suggested by Brian Schottlaender) and possible hooks for a future systemwide library budget initiative.

## **1. The Straw Vision**

The libraries ensure the productivity of UC faculty, students, and staff in teaching, research, and patient care by acquiring and delivering all formats of information, in a very wide range of subjects and languages, as efficiently as possible, in an environment that is decentralized, interdependent, and heavily mediated by technology. Library services actively promote the highest quality of instruction and educational outcomes at the graduate and undergraduate levels, through information literacy, instructional collaboration, research consultation, provision of study services and facilities, and opportunities to increase the integration of educational and information technologies and new forms of teaching. The library is a major mechanism to position UC as a unique creator and disseminator of research, by playing an active role in developing resources and tools that promote new digital collections, new forms of scholarly communication and publishing, and new partnerships among faculty, the university press, the libraries, and educational technology groups. The libraries have an important evolving role as facilitators and coordinators of knowledge management on campus, leveraging the value of and access to information resources produced across the campus, through support and expertise for documentation, archiving, preservation, and access.

## **2. Near term innovations**

### **2.1. Integration of digital library and educational technologies will:**

- ❑ Ensure that online information made available by the library can be seamlessly integrated into instructional learning and course materials. Online library information includes catalog records that actively link to holdings and circulation data and to interlibrary loan services (for course syllabus), electronic reserves and electronic journal articles (that satisfy course requirements), specialist teaching resources such as databases of biomedical or art historical images
- ❑ Leverage library content management infrastructure and expertise to provide long-term care for and (rights permitting) re-use of the learning and course materials that are created by faculty
- ❑ Ensure that online library information, including any course materials that it may manage can, (rights permitting) be readily integrated into instructional learning and course materials developed for use in other educational (K-12, community college, and university) settings

### **2.2. Large-scale digitization capacity will enable UC libraries to do three things simultaneously**

- ❑ support for curriculum through the creation of online instructional materials that will be essential to meeting the teaching demands created by tidal wave 2, and provide benefit in K-12, community colleges, and universities. May be especially important in the

development of instructional materials that will be required to satisfy teaching in learning needs in core and common parts of the undergraduate curriculum

- ❑ promote broader public access to the wealth of UC library holdings
- ❑ support shared collection management and enable new and more effective modes of stewardship (ability to capture and persistently manage digitally reformatted content allows libraries to shift dependency for access to some resources – back-run periodical titles, commonly held out-of-copyright print, government publications – away from the redundantly held print and onto the digital)

**2.3. Broader and more effective capacity to acquire, manage, and encourage re-use of the data that result from research that is based at UC** will enable libraries more effectively to support innovative research and teaching, and enhance the reputation of the university and its faculty usage new forms of scholarly publishing. The University of California invests substantially in research and receives a disproportionate share of federal and philanthropic research funding. Typically, research results are made available through publication. In many cases, the information that is gathered or created in the course of the research represent equal or greater intellectual investment than the publications themselves. That value, however, is only realized if the evidence is persistently managed and made accessible for re-use. Where the evidence exists as so much of it does in electronic form (for example, as databases, simulations, geospatial information systems, etc.) it is substantially at risk. At best these data are likely to reside on departmental computers where they are un-indexed, unknown to the broader scholarly community, potentially under-managed, and consequently unrecognized and unused by the broader scholarly community. Given their advanced technology infrastructure, their experience in digital asset management, and their historic and professional stewardship over the university's scholarly record, the UC libraries are ideally suited to manage these essential scholarly information assets and to fully realize their value for the university.

**2.3. Contributing to the preservation of the university's digital information.** The university is also at risk of losing other forms of highly valuable digital information. Increasingly the university's scholarly record – that is its faculty's publications, course and instructional materials, research data, and a growing share of the libraries holdings – is available exclusively in digital formats. The same is true for the university's organizational and transactional records. Despite this, the University of California has no means of ensuring the longevity of these essential information assets. Given the extreme volatility of digital information (even if "good" magnetic – gold-plated CDs, digital tapes – survive for 10 years, the software able to interpret the data they contain becomes obsolete in 3-5) it is essential that the university leverage the infrastructure and information management expertise that is found in its libraries to address this problem. The alternative is to deprive future generations of scholars and students of having access to the same great information resources that their predecessors have enjoyed.

**2.4. Scholarly communications** Networked information technology is effecting fundamental changes in the manner in which the results of research and scholarship are recorded, communicated, archived, accessed and used. Over the next decade, the emergence of digital publication and communication methods will have a profound impact on the way faculty publish and use the results of their work, and on the way that the quality of this work is assessed. At the same time, it is evident that these technologies are already having a significant influence on the practices and prospects of the traditional scholarly communication system, including among others commercial and society journal publishers and university presses. New technologies

provide an opportunity to address some of the longstanding problems with the current system, such as hyperinflation in the costs of scientific and medical journals, but also present significant challenges. Through its libraries, and in partnership with the UC Press and with the faculty leadership, the University of California has an opportunity both to influence the direction of change in order to maximize benefits for the academic community, and to begin to anticipate the effect of change on its own policies and practices and plan for their adaptation to a new scholarly communication environment.

This paper does refer yet include reference to other visioning issues discussed by the ULs at the 11/14-15 retreat under the headings”

- The library as place (is this realistically be made part of a systemwide library planning initiative)? Bullets captured form the retreat are as follows:
  - Library as place – enabled, comfortable, conducive, safe, inviting, unrestricted
  - Technology to link students to the Internet and information resources of all kinds
  - Infrastructure to support team-based learning
  
- “teaching, learning, and enrollment” and including
  - Information literacy
  - Undergraduate writing programs
  - Dissertations
  - Multiculturalism and globalization
  
- “Whiz-bang”
  - Getting credit for what we’ve already created
  - Technology transfer for economic development)
  - Terrorism prevention
  - Contribution to the “cyber-initiative”
  - Leveraging UC’s infrastructure in the national interest