

Background:

The UC Libraries' Regional Library Facilities are close to reaching full capacity. The UC Council of University Librarians (CoUL) have been exploring various space and collection management options, and raised the issue with the UC Academic Senate University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (**UCOLASC**).

UCOLASC submitted a letter of support (May 5, 2015) for expanding RLF space to the Chair of the Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC). SLASIAC similarly sent a letter to Provost Dorr (June 16, 2015). Provost Dorr responded with recommendations (August 11, 2015).

Update:

Thanks to the support from UCOLASC and SLASIAC for raising visibility on this important issue. Since the receipt of Provost Dorr's letter, CoUL has taken a number of steps. What follows is a brief update.

Shared Libraries Facilities Board. The SLFB has been reconvened. This includes CoUL members, plus RLF Directors, a Librarians Association of UC (LAUC) representative, the California Digital Library Shared Print Manager, and other staff. In addition, one of its members is Prof. Thomas Cogswell (Department of History, UC Riverside), who is also a SLASIAC member. They recently had a conference call to discuss space management strategies, facility expansion strategies, and collection management strategies. Per Provost Dorr's recommendations, we will be identifying the viable options and will be crafting some recommendations to address the RLF space issues.

Space Management strategies

The Southern Regional Library Facility (SRLF) was recently able to free up storage space for nearly 1 Million volumes with the transfer of the Film and Television Archive. Prior to this transfer the SRLF was unable to receive new items since mid-2014. While this is good news in the short term for SRLF, the fact that UC Los Angeles, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara have been unable to store for the past year means that there is pent up storage need to be addressed.

The NRLF and SRLF continue to assess our available storage capacity and believe that at best we have 2 years of capacity at NRLF and 5 years of capacity at SRLF based on recent deposit allocations. The NRLF did discuss the option of adding more shelving to the buildings as a way of adding some capacity but based on our consultation with a shelving provider we found that only one phase of NRLF may have the proper construction to allow this (e.g. other phases use a multi-floor shelving system that

cannot accommodate expansion). While the NRLF continues to examine this option it does not appear as viable as we initially thought.

Facility expansion strategies

Over the last year the RLF directors and CoUL members have explored potential paths for expanding current facilities, building new facilities and engaging in storage partnerships with external vendors. Each of these options for expansion remains a possibility and the SLFB has recently discussed strategies for moving forward with options one and two (e.g. expanding NRLF and exploring external vendor options).

In order to address this area, the SLFB recently agreed to study and potentially update a 2012 projection of storage needs of the UC libraries, engage in a cost study for the expansion of NRLF and is study potential external providers of storage services. Based on the findings of this work the SLFB will decide on the best path to follow.

Collection Management strategies

The RLFs are active participants in the UC Shared Print programs including the Journal Archiving Campaign, WEST, JSTOR, the UC Federal Document Archive and the Journal Licensed Content archives. Collectively these shared print programs are enabling UC libraries to make better informed collection management decisions locally and are enabling the UCs to leverage RLF services to store, preserve, and provide access to important collections. In the case of the UC Federal Document Archive, the RLFs are helping build a print and digital archive through retention commitments and digitization efforts.

In addition to shared print, the RLFs are actively studying duplication across our collections. With the approval of CoUL we are working towards a pilot project to de-duplicate journal holdings associated with the WEST shared print program that are duplicated across the RLFs. While limited in scope to low-risk journals that are already part of a regional shared print initiative, we hope this project will help us understand the real costs of de-accessioning of items from our collection so that we can better project the real costs of a more substantial de-duplication process.

Finally, the RLFs are engaged in a UC-wide project to study our workflows and data sharing practices to ensure that we are providing an efficient and valuable service to the UC libraries. The working group for this project is currently working directly with campus partners to understand how each campus interacts with the RLFs and we will be reporting our findings to CoUL and the SLFB in the spring. It is hoped that this group identifies opportunities to increase the value that RLF provides to the system.