

The UC shared print collections and role of the RLFs

Shared Library Facilities Board (SLFB)

The UC northern and southern Regional Library Facilities (RLFs) provide important services and spaces for information resources that support the teaching, research and patient care for numerous stakeholders across the ten campuses. A high-level overview of the essential role of the RLFs to systemwide success can be found on [the UC Libraries website](#).

Specific to the systemwide shared print collections vision, the RLFs play a key function:

“The overall aim of [shared print collections] is to further optimize the management of information resources for students and faculty by reducing unnecessary duplication, leveraging shared assets (such as regional library facilities), and expanding the information resources available systemwide, while meeting the information needs of library users at each campus.”

–[Systemwide Strategic Directions For Libraries 2004.04.01](#), University of California University Librarians (the Council of University Librarians). April 2004 Section 4.1, p.12.

The RLFs help to fulfill many of [the UC shared print goals](#):

- To facilitate the development of more comprehensive and diverse research collections available to UC library users throughout the system through efficient collaborative methods for the prospective acquisition of research resources.
- To accelerate the development of shared collections to provide substantial opportunities for campuses to avoid costs or to reallocate RLF and campus library space for other uses.
- To integrate UC Shared Print collections with broader regional, national and international shared collections.
- To preserve the scholarly printed record, where print remains the archival medium of choice, at the lowest possible unit cost.
- To ensure UC library users can readily discover and access shared print collections held within UC or by other libraries.
- To facilitate collaborative, holistic collection planning for physical resources in conjunction with broader collection planning among UC Libraries.

In addition, the RLFs support the specific goals for the development of shared print monograph collections:

- To develop and maintain a significant print collection of record to support the UC mission of teaching, research and patient care.
- To provide robust, efficient access to UC users to the formats (print and electronic) that best support research and teaching.
- To create an ecosystem of monograph collections and cooperative partnerships within which users can readily access shared, retained print monographs, and library staff can make local collection management decisions in a UC systemwide, regional or network-level context.

The RLFs also play an important role in our exploration of new services to expand digital access to physical books in our collections. The UC Libraries have launched the landmark, multi-phase Mellon-funded [Project LEND](#), and the RLFs will be the basis for testing and piloting potential delivery services. In future, the RLFs will likely be major service points for expanded digital access to the UC print corpus.