Regional Library Facility (RLF) Long-Range Goals, Mid-Range Goals and Annual Priorities (2023/24)

Process, goals and priorities endorsed by the Shared Library Facilities Board (Sept. 12, 2023)

Introduction

The northern and southern Regional Library Facilities (RLFs) preserve and provide access to the University's valued physical library collections of enduring scholarly importance, directly advancing the teaching, research and patient care of current and future generations of UC scholars. As primary cultural heritage repositories, the RLFs are also core to both national and global efforts to preserve human knowledge.

With a unified service environment and shared technical infrastructure, UC's high-density, climate-controlled storage facilities are designed and maintained to generate economies and efficiencies at scale. The RLFs play a longstanding and continuing role in enabling comprehensive and diverse library collection development across the system, and uniquely position UC leadership in print preservation, collective collection management (also referred to as "shared print"), mass digitization and new approaches to digital access. For further reflections on the role of the RLFs in systemwide success, please see the Shared Library Facilities Board (SLFB) 2023 visioning document, The Regional Library Facilities (RLFs): Essential to core UC shared services & emerging innovations.

To support RLF strategic management and planning, the SLFB maintains long-range goals, mid-range goals and annual priorities that reflect the UC Libraries' operational objectives and advance the work and ambitions of UC faculty, students, researchers and clinicians, systemwide. The RLF goals and priorities also intersect with and augment the UC Libraries long-range goals and annual priorities.

Long-range SLFB/RLF goals

1. Advance persistent retention and preservation of valued scholarly materials on behalf of the University (faculty, students and researchers across UC), state of California and partners across the region, country and globe.
2. Expand equitable UC access to RLF collections.
3. Maximize space reclamation and optimization to best serve UC's local and systemwide needs.

Mid-range goals and annual priorities

1. Supporting the work of the RLF Operations Funding Project (phases 1 and 2). Priorities for 23/24 include:

    i. Respond to data and information requests, provide consultation as needed and partner with the project on implementing required changes (e.g., changes to the business and/or operations models, changes to operational policies). *Phase 2 team members on SLFB; RLF Directors* *June – Nov/Dec. 2023*

2. Consider and implement new/revised service and operational models for when SRLF reaches its storage capacity in 2-3 year. Priorities for 23/24 include:

i. Establish a timeline that outlines the major decision-points and parties that are responsible, accountable, consulted with and informed;	*SLFB Steering Committee, with RLF directors as leads*	*By October 2023*
ii. Co-develop shared principles and agreements for considering service implications and pathways;	*SLFB subteam (RLF directors, SLFB vice chair, SP manager)*	*October – December 2023*
iii. Co-develop an action plan, including policy, service and operational changes, including short and medium-term planning for and changes to annual allocations and how deposits are managed for the system.	*SLFB subteam (continuing from 2-ii)*	*By April 2024*

3. Consider whether to further capitalize on RLF infrastructure and shared services to increase the proportion of annual allocations assigned to UC's special collections and archives over the next 2-4 years. Priority for 23/24 includes:

i. Further define and understand space needs across the system for special collections and archives, and paths/approaches to increase allocations for these items at the RLFs; co-develop a recommendation for board approval regarding whether there are RLF-based solutions.	*RLF directors and SLFB vice chair, consulting with SLFB Steering and HOSC*	*Engage SLFB in March 2024; for final recommendation at June 2024 board meeting.*

Parking lot for future goals and priorities

This parking lot includes potential and likely RLF goals and priorities that are anticipated but where implementation is not yet actively underway.

- Further explore and pursue cross-RLF efficiency and automation in light of Alma and CAIA (or any future successor shared system) functionality, including process and metadata management improvements to reduce workload related to accessioning and managing collections (*while a parking lot item, the RLF directors are asked to begin thinking and planning for this work item on behalf of SLFB, including how it should be prioritized and what this work would entail*)
- Ensure discovery of RLF collections is optimized systemwide in UC Library Search
- Expand systemwide, data-informed strategies for determining RLF deposits
- Integrate new digital book service models stemming from Project LEND (Library Expansion of Networked Delivery)
- Planning for additional RLF storage capacity (e.g., a new module); initiate planning five years before NRLF capacity is reached
- Outcomes/impacts on SLFB and the RLFs from the provost-charged RLF Operations Funding Project, including policy and operations changes

Processes for establishing and managing SLFB/RLF goals and priorities

1. SLFB reviews and revises the SLFB/RLF long-range goals, mid-range goals and annual priorities document on an annual basis, typically in the summer (and updates as needed throughout the year).
2. Prior to each review, the SLFB Steering Committee consults with SLFB members and incorporates their feedback as draft revisions for discussion.
3. The final version is affirmed by the board and posted on the SLFB website.