Systemwide Library Facility (SLF) Long-Range Goals, Mid-Range Goals and Annual Priorities (2025/26)

Process, goals and priorities endorsed by the Systemwide Library Facilities Board (June 16, 2025)

Introduction

The northern and southern Systemwide Library Facilities (SLFs; formerly "Regional" Library Facilities, or 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 SLFs 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 SLFs 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 SLFs in systemwide success, see the Systemwide Library Facilities Board (SLFB) 2023 visioning document, The Regional Library Facilities (RLFs): Essential to core UC shared services & emerging innovations.

To support SLF 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 SLF goals and priorities also intersect with and augment the UC Libraries long-range goals and annual priorities. The SLFB monitors progress on the annual priorities and may adjust project timelines throughout the year as needed to respond to evolving or emerging needs.

Long-range SLFB/SLF goals

1. Advance sustainable, 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 SLF collections.
3. Maximize space reclamation and optimization to best serve UC's local and systemwide needs.

FY25/26 Mid-range goals and annual priorities

Mid-range goals	FY25/26 priorities	Responsible	Target Timeframe
1. Continue to support and participate in the implementation of the [SLF] Operations Funding Project phase 2 recommendations	i. Establish SLFB subcommittees, including the Admin and Budget subcommittees; consider potential roles and responsibilities for an Operations subcommittee.	**SLFB chair and vice chair**, consulting SLFB	Draft charges available for SLFB review by June 2025; subcommittees convene by August 2025
	ii. Further establish SLFB budget oversight practices and reporting, including reporting requirements for UCOP.	**SLFB Budget Subcommittee**, with SLFB Steering	By fall 2025/winter 2026
	iii. Support SLF director in their initial onboarding and further shifting strategy and operations from regional to systemwide.	**SLFB Steering, SLF operations leads**	Summer-fall 2025
	iv. Establish regular practices for identifying, tracking and prioritizing capital improvement projects to request UCOP support on.	**Subgroup** appointed by SLFB, with SLF director and consulting with campus and UCOP experts and SLFB as needed	Draft charge available for SLFB review by June 2025; initial list of priority projects available by December 2025 for SLFB review and feedback; draft internal practices for identifying, tracking and prioritizing CI projects established in collaboration with the SLF director and SLFB by March 2026
	v. In partnership with the SLF director and UCOP, build out the strategy and approach for the annual SLF report to UCOP.	**SLFB Steering**	Fall 2025/winter 2026 for overall design and scope; likely submission to UCOP spring 2026

Mid-range goals	FY25/26 priorities	Responsible	Target Timeframe
2. Develop new/revised systemwide policies and guidelines governing deposits and allocations (implementing *FY23/24 goal #2.iii deliverable - RLF Action Plan* [Policy Changes])	i. Develop processes and workflows to support expanded, regular cross-regional deposits to the SLFs, reflecting capacity and service needs at both facilities. Recommend operational work plans, with lessons learned from the existing cross-regional deposit program, JACS, and the guidelines/framework for prioritizing persistent deposits to the SLFs (FY24/25 Goal #2.i) serving as inputs. This effort will enable additional work to expand cross-regional deposits; the additional, operational and strategy work will be carried out in 2026/2027 (to support likely implementation of further cross-regional deposits in 2027/2028).	**SLF operations leads** and team members (consulting with campuses as needed), to propose to SLFB	Draft process / workflow(s) by September 2025, to be finalized by December 2025
	ii. Develop a new strategic SLF allocation methodology, acting on recommendations from the Systemwide Persistent Deposits Strategy (SPDS) working group and drawing on both the expanded, systemwide guidelines/framework for prioritizing persistent deposits to the SLFs (FY24/25 Goal #2.i, to inform policy needs) and the processes and workflows for cross-regional deposits (FY24/25 Goal #2.ii, to update SLF deposits workflows as needed to support the new allocation methodology). Build in assessment opportunities for new methodology/methodologies pursued. Build necessary analytical functionality to implement the methodology, as needed.	**SCLG/SPST task force**, with SLF representation (i.e., members from FY24/25 Goals #2.i and #2.ii), with additional experts as needed	Group charged by September 2025, SLFB consultation on high-level directions and priorities in December 2025, draft allocation methodology available for SLFB review in March 2026, soft implementation in FY26/27
	iii. Begin acting on recommendations from the Working Group for Cross-regional Deposits (FY24/25 Goal #2.ii) in support of implementing the new strategic SLF allocation methodology, including further investigation of feasibility and implementation of operations and logistics models (this may include pursuing pilot projects).	**SLF director and operations teams with campus leads**, with additional experts as needed	Workflow/process testing and implementation to begin in spring 2026 (in support of a soft implementation of the new allocation methodology in summer 2026)

Mid-range goals	FY25/26 priorities	Responsible	Target Timeframe
3. Implement scoped projects to maximize SLF storage space in the short term and investigate opportunities to extend storage capacity timelines (implementing *FY23/24 goal #2.iii deliverable - RLF Action Plan* [Service & Operational Changes])	i. Develop a project plan for deduplicating SLF-S collections against SLF-N-held JACS and WEST shared print retention commitments, including items for deaccession as well as items for contribution to fill gaps in the retained SLF-N holdings. Consider impacts on SLF-S and SLF-N staffing needs and shipping solutions for contributions, taking into account the work of the Cross-regional Deposits Working Group (FY24/25 Goal #2.ii and FY25/26 Goal #2.i). Consider impacts on annual allocations for campus deposits, taking into account the updated SLF allocations methodology (FY25/26 Goal #2.ii). Consider opportunities to pilot new cross-IZ processing workflows.	**SLF-S**, consulting SLF-N, SCLG, SPST, SPOT, SLFB	Begin planning and development in FY25/26, for implementation in FY26/27
	ii. Begin developing plans for optimizing Special Collections and archival collections management by the SLF. Consider one-time and ongoing projects to optimize shelving of current collections in both facilities as well as updating SLF and campus policy to sustainably support deposits of SCA collections to the SLFs in the long term. This work may inform future updates to the allocation methodology.	**SLF director and operations leads with HOSC**, with additional experts as needed	Begin planning and development in FY25/26

Note: All timeframes assume the end of the month unless otherwise specified. For months when SLFB holds their regular meetings (March, June, September, December), responsible parties may seek SLFB review of deliverables, with the remainder of the month set aside for adjustments or refinements based on the board's feedback.

Parking lot for future goals and priorities

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

- Consider the feasibility of additional one-time and long-term projects to reclaim and/or maximize shelving space at the SLFs (see RLF Action Plan for projects to consider).
- Consider whether to further capitalize on SLF 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.
- Further explore and pursue cross-SLF 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 SLF 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*)
  - Consider potential needs and opportunities regarding current and potential Alma Institution Zone and Network Zone configurations/implementations (or any future systemwide ILS)
- Ensure discovery of SLF collections is optimized systemwide in UC Library Search; to advance in FY26/27 as a priority when the SLF director is hired and on board
- Expand systemwide, data-informed strategies for determining SLF deposits (potential opportunity to build on the outcomes of FY24/25 priority 2.i)
- Consider and integrate new digitized content service models and explore potential opportunities to strategically expand mass digitization as it relates to our systemwide library facilities and access from these environments, drawing on the work of the UC Mass Digitization Capacity Project Team and building on the work of existing digitization operations (e.g., HathiTrust, Google Books Project, FedDoc Archives, etc.) and previous UC research (e.g., Project LEND)
- Begin planning for additional SLF storage capacity (e.g., a new module); initiate planning approximately five years before SLF-North capacity is reached

Processes for establishing and managing SLFB/SLF goals and priorities

1. SLFB reviews and, as necessary, revises the SLFB/SLF long-range goals, mid-range goals and annual priorities document on an annual basis, typically in the summer. SLFB monitors progress on the annual priorities and may adjust project timelines throughout the year as needed to respond to evolving or emerging needs.
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