

The University of California (UC) Libraries Systemwide Plans and Priorities for 2026-2027

Collaboratively developed by the University of California (UC) Council of University Librarians (CoUL) and UC Libraries Direction and Oversight Committee (DOC). Finalized and endorsed by CoUL and DOC on September 25, 2026.

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I. Introduction

The *UC Libraries Systemwide Plans and Priorities* document is co-developed each year by the University of California (UC or “University”) Council of University Librarians (CoUL) and Direction and Oversight Committee (DOC). Starting this year, CoUL and DOC have implemented some changes to this document: Section II (*new*) highlights and celebrates some of the recent accomplishments of UC’s expert librarians and library staff; section III (*expanded*) outlines the shared mission, vision and goals that guide and inform the work of all UC Libraries employees; and section IV (*continuing*) shares CoUL and DOC’s planned work areas for the upcoming year.

Given the breadth of library services and collaborative initiatives across UC, this document cannot encompass the full range of operational and exploratory local and systemwide work in information and data literacy, research support, discovery, collections, preservation, open access, research data management, digital initiatives and mass digitization. For library employees, as well as colleagues and administrators across the University, the *UC Libraries Systemwide Plans and Priorities* - as a high-level overview of accomplishments and strategy - speaks to the collective power and potential of the UC Libraries coalition.

II. Reflections on 2025-26 and looking ahead to 2026-27

In 2025-26, the dedicated and skillful teams of the UC Libraries demonstrated their resilience, creativity and adaptability through thoughtful and collaborative analysis and action. In the face of global, national, regional and local challenges, including local budget constraints and workforce reductions, the UC Libraries have continued to maintain and transform the information and data ecosystems depended upon by the University’s campuses, health centers, laboratories and broader communities.

Through our collective commitment to UC teaching, learning, research, patient care and public service, the UC Libraries provide a comprehensive and embedded network of essential library services, resources and systems, maintained at the local and systemwide levels. The success and impact of the UC Libraries depend on the collective strength of all aspects of our work, from longstanding core services to emerging areas of innovation.

Highlights and accomplishments from across the UC Libraries this past year include:

- UC Libraries Forum 2025 – Standing Up & Standing Out: Libraries During Turbulent Times
 - o The [October 2025 Forum](#) was a tremendous success, engaging over 650 library employees and showcasing the work of over 150 presenters. The time, effort and expertise of [the Planning Committee](#) was instrumental in bringing the Forum to fruition and ensured the community had a welcoming and inclusive virtual space to share new and expanded professional strategies, engage in dialogue and learn from one another.
- UC Tipasa go-live success in support of interlibrary lending
 - o Thanks to the hard work of interlibrary loan (ILL) staff, the Systemwide Integrated Library System (SILS) Resource Sharing Operations Subteam, SILS Operations Center and

Tipasa Implementation Project Team, the UC Libraries migrated from VDX to the Tipasa ILL system on July 01, 2025. While this migration was invisible to our patrons, it importantly provides UC with a more stable and efficient software solution, enhancing our ILL processing capabilities and workflows, and ensuring continued, seamless resource sharing.

- Digital Preservation Working Group (DPWG) gap analysis and digital preservation framework
 - o [UC digital preservation leaders](#) adeptly navigated a complex and evolving preservation landscape to successfully conclude their charge and complete both an internal UC gap analysis survey and UC Libraries Digital Preservation Framework. The analysis and framework will inform the digital preservation work of the Libraries at the local and systemwide levels.
- UC Libraries multi-effort Project to Advance Open Monograph Opportunities at UC
 - o The culmination of a year-long analysis led by UC Libraries' scholarly communication experts, the [Advancing Open Monograph Opportunities at UC](#) report (2025) provides a data-driven and values-based framework and strategies for advancing open access monograph publishing. While the analysis was primarily conducted for the UC Libraries and now informs local and systemwide investments, including by the Shared Content Leadership Group (SCLG) and Project Transform Working Group (PTWG), this public report also critically supports dialogue, experimentation and collaboration across the global scholarly communication community.
 - o Advanced by UC's experts in transformative publisher agreements and informed by the needs of UC faculty, [the UC Libraries have now also launched a series of pilot projects](#) to explore new business models with university presses to expand UC-authored retrospective and prospective open monographs over the next few years.
- Online Archive of California (OAC) migration and continued commitment to promoting the visibility of archival collections stewarded by California institutions.
 - o [In July 2025, the California Digital Library \(CDL\) Publishing, Archives, and Digitization \(PAD\) team launched an upgraded version of the OAC](#), completely rebuilt with community-supported open source technologies and a public interface that complies with the federal web accessibility requirements that come into effect in mid-2027. In service of not only Californians but also the global research community, OAC provides free public access to over 78,000 archival finding aids maintained by more than 350 statewide museums, libraries and other partners, including the ten UC campus libraries.
- UC Libraries' effort to mitigate the impact of budget cuts on UC-wide electronic collections
 - o Thanks to the hard work of the Shared Content Leadership Group (SCLG) and CDL Acquisitions and eResources team members, the UC Libraries managed the impact of local budget cuts in FY 25-26 on shared electronic journals, books and databases. Measured, data-informed cancellations were carried out in consultation with local stakeholders; and the use of time-limited bridge funds enabled the libraries to avoid greater resource cancellations while further analysis and advocacy is carried out.

CoUL and DOC deeply appreciate the commitment, ingenuity and hard work of UC's library employees, who are essential to the success and impact of the libraries at UC.

Looking ahead to 2026-27, the UC Libraries will continue to strengthen our collective resilience through systemwide collaboration and shared values, sustaining essential library services and infrastructure while empowering library employees and advancing the work and ambitions of UC faculty, learners, researchers, clinicians and staff.

As a coalition, we will: Continuously assess and transform our collaborative services and work to strategically embrace new technologies and approaches, including use of artificial intelligence and machine learning; and secure improved outcomes for the University and its scholars.

In these shared commitments – to advancing our systemwide vision, mission and long-range goals (see section III) in our everyday work, as well as CoUL and DOC's own work areas (see section IV) – the UC Libraries will remain responsive and flexible.

III. The UC Libraries' systemwide vision, mission and long-range goals

Through more than 75 years of active partnership, co-investment and service provision, UC's expert librarians and library staff have established and refined the hallmark traits of the UC Libraries:

- Collaborative problem-solving and innovation;
- Resourcefulness and resilience; and
- Shared services and stakeholder engagement.

To respond to current, emerging and future end-user and institutional needs and challenges, the work of UC library employees is guided by our shared vision, mission and goals.

Vision

Agile, focused, efficient, and data-driven, the UC Libraries will be leaders in providing the broadest access to the world's knowledge and in developing innovative services, strategies, and technological systems that promote discovery and preserve knowledge.

Mission

The UC Libraries provide information resources and services to UC faculty, students, and staff in direct support of the University of California's teaching, learning, research, patient care, and public service goals by:

- Enabling seamless discovery and access to scholarly information at the network level;
- Managing the building blocks and products of scholarship and research, including content created by UC scholars;
- Offering expert support and education to find, evaluate, use, and manage information resources;
- Creating and sustaining high-quality spaces for learning, collaboration, and research; and

- Leading and actively participating in partnerships for national and global initiatives that inform and shape the future of libraries and scholarly communications.

Long-range goals

The work, services and projects of the UC Libraries, at the local and systemwide levels, seek to:

1. **Enrich the systemwide library collection:** Print, digital, data, and archival collections of the University of California are fundamental building blocks for the University's teaching, research, patient care, and public service programs. Building and managing collections to provide access to a broad array of scholarly information resources in support of these programs remains one of the highest priorities for the UC libraries.
2. **Maximize discovery of and access to information resources:** Faculty and staff are adopting new techniques to identify, find, and use information resources. As user behaviors evolve, and we fulfill our shared commitment to accessibility, the UC libraries will implement systems to provide better, faster, and broader access and support.
3. **Optimize and develop shared services for operational efficiency and systemwide impact:** The libraries collaboratively build shared technical infrastructure, collections and services of distinction in response to end-user and institutional needs, and to eliminate duplication of effort and tap into our collective expertise. Systemwide efforts also broaden each individual library's capacity to invest in its disciplinary needs and the services and activities best advanced at the campus level.
4. **Expand engagement in scholarly communication:** The UC libraries are leading participants in regional, national and international efforts to enact sustainable scholarly communication transformation at-scale. The libraries collaboratively accelerate the transition away from traditional, high-cost subscriptions and pursue new publishing and reading models that realize the full potential of making scholarly information and outputs widely accessible.
5. **Strengthen and reflect diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in library services, resources and operations:** Like academic excellence, excellence in library services depends upon a plurality of ideas and perspectives, and cultivation of inclusive working and learning environments where diversity is respected and welcomed. As the UC Libraries collaboratively seek to further the teaching, research, health care and public service missions of the University, we will strengthen and reflect diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in all facets of our systemwide work, including our efforts to realize all long-range goals as well as employee retention, development, and governance.

IV. CoUL and DOC near-term goals and work areas for FY 2026-27

Each year, the Council of University Librarians (CoUL) and the Direction and Oversight Committee (DOC) co-develop specific and time-bound systemwide work areas and near-term goals that reflect the

libraries' shared mission, vision and long-range goals, intersect with the UC Libraries Advisory Structure (UCLAS) and require regular engagement with CoUL and/or DOC.¹

Table 1. Annual project-based priorities, as identified by CoUL and DOC.

Priority CoUL and DOC systemwide goals for FY 26-27	Directly accountable	Lead(s) responsible for work
1. Actively transform scholarly publishing and communication	CoUL	PTWG, DOC, SCLG and additional teams
2. Further pursue product, service and workstream improvements for existing, expanded and new UC Libraries shared services	CoUL, DOC	CoUL, DOC, SILS and applicable teams
3. Evaluate and adjust long-term planning for collection management	CoUL	CoUL, SLFB, PTWG, SCLG, SPST

1. Actively transform scholarly publishing and communication

Collaborate with a variety of partners and stakeholders to provide leadership in transforming scholarly publishing into a system that is economically sustainable and ensures the widest possible access to a range of scholarly outputs. Explore and experiment with local and systemwide initiatives to more strategically further the large-scale transition to open access. Expand UC authors' access to affordable open access publishing models.

Relevant Long-Term Goal(s):

- (4) Expand engagement in scholarly communication
- (5) Strengthen and reflect diversity, equity and inclusion in library services, resources and operations

Table 2. Goals for priority 1 (actively transform scholarly publishing and communication).

Near term goals:	New or continuing	Lead(s):
a) Continue to assess and advance the UC Transformative Open Access Publisher Agreements portfolio, ensuring alignment with UC's priorities of open access sustainability at scale; cost containment; author, reader, and researcher rights; compliance with funder mandates; and global equity in open access publishing.	Continuing work	PTWG
b) Continue implementation of the UC systemwide open access author fund pilot in support of open access journal article publishing costs where a UC transformative agreement is not in place with the publisher. One pilot goal is to support humanities and social sciences researchers, early-career researchers and other communities underserved by current and prior UC open access investments.	Continuing work	PTWG, pilot team

¹ Additional UC Libraries activities and goals are detailed in UCLAS group/team- and service-specific work plans.

Near term goals:	New or continuing	Lead(s):
c) Continue implementation of the pilots with university presses to explore new, sustainable and scalable open access monograph publishing models.	Continuing work	PTWG, pilot team
d) Launch a two-year, multi-phase assessment and consideration of new steps in furtherance of the UC Pathways to Open Access (2018). Phase 1 will focus on an impact assessment of UC's work towards advancing open access across all paths (e.g., Transformative OA, Green OA, Diamond OA, etc.), as well as an examination of changes to the broader open access landscape; Phase 1 will inform and shape phase 2's work, which will culminate in a <i>Pathways 2028</i> report.	New work	CoUL; phase 1 team to be charged

2. Further pursue product, service and workstream improvements for existing, expanded and new UC Libraries shared services

Consider, identify and advance opportunities to improve and expand the UC Libraries shared services portfolio (workflow, infrastructure and end-user outcomes) and the essential library services and activities provided for UC faculty, students, researchers and clinicians.

Relevant Long-Term Goal(s):

- (2) Maximize discovery of and access to information resources
- (3) Optimize and develop shared services for operational efficiency and maximal expertise
- (5) Strengthen and reflect diversity, equity and inclusion in library services, resources and operations

Table 3. Goals for priority 2 (pursue product, service and workstream improvements for shared services).

Near term goals:	New or continuing	Lead(s):
a) Collaboratively identify, prioritize and pursue development needs for the SILS platforms, Ex Libris Alma and Primo VE, to improve workflows, end-user access, digital accessibility, resource sharing and discovery across the UC Libraries.	Continuing work	SILS teams
b) Implement a shared repository of local library publisher agreements and continue to assess opportunities for new or expanded shared services based on capacity, shared need, available expertise, strategic value and potential efficiencies.	Continuing work	DOC-led, CoUL
c) Conduct a rapid landscape review of Artificial Intelligence (AI) uses across the UC libraries to identify best practices and opportunities for systemwide collaboration.	Continuing and new work	DOC

Near term goals:	New or continuing	Lead(s):
d) Continue to support ADA Title II digital accessibility compliance across UC Libraries shared and common services through information-sharing; explore development of common or aligned procedures and workflows (e.g., for local services, like ILL, as well as shared services).	Continuing and new work	CoUL, DOC

3. Evaluate and adjust long-term planning for collection management

Consider, assess and refine long-term planning and collaborative decision-making for physical and electronic collection management, including consideration of end-user requirements and – for physical holdings – local and shared storage capacity, as well as access and preservation needs.

Relevant Long-Term Goals:

- (1) Enrich the systemwide library collection
- (2) Maximize discovery of and access to information resources
- (5) Strengthen and reflect diversity, equity and inclusion in library services, resources and operations

Table 4. Goals for priority 3 (evaluate and adjust long-term planning for collection management).

Near term goals:	New or continuing	Lead(s):
a) Continue implementation of and advocacy regarding the Tiers 1 and 2 Budget Cuts Mitigation Strategy, currently planned as a three-year process (FY 25-26 to FY 27-28) to respond to local budget reductions impacting the ability of some libraries to maintain their investments in tiers 1-2 content.	Continuing work	CoUL, SCLG, PTWG
b) Complete implementation of the UC provost-endorsed Project to Analyze [SLF] Operations Funding phase 2 recommendations, including expanded budgetary oversight for the Systemwide Library Facilities Board (SLFB) and implementation of new, annual budget management and planning processes.	Continuing work	CoUL, SLFB
c) Advance development and implementation of new and revised systemwide policies and guidelines governing SLF deposits and allocations, as described in the 26-27 SLF annual plans and priorities .	Continuing work	CoUL, DOC, SLFB, SCLG, SPST, others

V. Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are referenced throughout the plans and priorities document:

- [CoUL](#) (Council of University Librarians)
- [DOC](#) (Direction and Oversight Committee)
- [PTWG](#) (Project Transform Working Group)
- [SCLG](#) (Shared Content Leadership Group)
- [SPST](#) (Shared Print Strategy Team)
- [SILS](#) (Systemwide Integrated Library System)
- [SLFB](#) (Systemwide Library Facilities Board)