

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)

Monday, October 18, 2021

10:00 – 11:30 am

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 10:00 am on October 18 via Zoom, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, Virginia Adán-Lifante, Chih-Wen Ni, Kenichi Yoshida, Jessica Blois, University Librarian Haipeng Li, and Library Consultant Elizabeth Salmon.

I. Consultation with Emily Lin, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Archives & Special Collections

- A. NEH Challenge Grant
- B. Preserving UCANR Film Reels
- C. Valley/Mountain Archive

Director Lin shared a PowerPoint, which was made available to members on the LASC Box site.

Director Lin consulted with LASC members regarding the proposal to establish a Sierra Nevada and Central Valley Research Archive.

Director Lin shared that the Library installed an exhibit to mark the end of a collaborative NEH Grant funded project with the UCSF library, to digitize documents that demonstrate the response to the AIDS epidemic in 1983. These records show how the broader community responded through activism to educate the public. Director Lin emphasized that the past has many echoes to the present time.

Director Lin indicated that a wildfire destroyed priceless documents, films, and books documenting African cultures and histories at the Library of the University of Cape Town.

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/04/18/south-africa-fire-university-cape-town/>)

(<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2021/04/19/cape-town-wildfire-guts-university-library-that-houses-anti-apartheid-archives-and-one-of-the-worlds-largest-african-film-collections>)

Director Lin shared that the discussions with the curator at the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) (the second-oldest national park) have been about providing access to archival records digitally. Due to the threat of wildfires, a concern was expressed by the curator if UC Merced could at some point house more of the collections on campus. The wildfire threats became very real in 2019, and Director Lin shared photos of national park service employees evacuating boxes of valuable records onto a UC Merced vehicle, to bring those collections to the Library. Director Lin shared that the pandemic has allowed the Library to receive and store those collections, as the Library currently does not have sufficient space for collections. The collections are currently being held in an unused classroom in the Library.

The Library has been collecting other resources that reflect the Central Valley region. Director Lin shared some photos of these resources that the Library successfully digitized. The Library has worked with 14 offices so far to digitize the documents. The Library has been funded by UCANR, along with a three-year grant from the funding of the national archives, which has allowed the digitization of many documents and photographs. The Library is continuing this work. Although ANR has suspended funding

due to their budget, the Library has received a one-year grant from the NEH funding.

Jim Snyder, a former Yosemite National Park historian, will donate his private library of Central and Southern Sierra Nevada materials to UC Merced Library, contingent on the availability of appropriate space to preserve and process the collection. Snyder's substantial library encompasses archival materials that document wide-ranging topics. Jim Snyder's library, as well as other collections that have been offered to UC Merced by former national park service employees and affiliated organizations, provide more inclusive perspectives than the official records of the national parks. A Sierra Nevada-Central Valley Research Archive at UC Merced will bring together information about the entities that have shaped the region's land, water, ecosystems, policies, and public perceptions. The current collections, however, will exceed the present storage capacity. The proposed capital project not only will retrofit and expand space to securely house these special collections, but also will create spaces in the library for research, instruction, and public programming using archives and special collections. This will increase the university's capacity to advance its mission of teaching, research, and public service.

Director Lin stated that the focus of the proposal is to address the space issue in the Library. Director Lin shared the details of the proposal, showing which room was reserved for compact shelving to store the collections. However, it was discovered that the room had water pipes over the space, which was contrary to the original architectural specifications. This delay has limited the growth of Library collections and archives. The emphasis behind the proposal is to be able to renovate the space to accommodate more collections, preserve them in appropriate space, and to provide access to the physical collections.

Beyond storage needs, the Library currently does not have a special collections reading room. Due to the value of these special collections, Director Lin emphasized that the Library will need a supervised reading room to ensure that there will be adequate security. Director Lin showed LASC members examples of reading rooms at other campus libraries. There will be some space on the second floor that has been allocated to the Library for processing collections. Director Lin explained that there are plans to create space for staff in the Library as well. The university has also allocated a space on the second floor to the Library, as an instruction and public programming space, which will be used for special collections and exhibits. The goal is to fulfill the service mission by using these facilities to host events and workshops for other cultural heritage organizations. Director Lin shared a work plan that showed the fundraising and project activities. The plan is to complete the renovation, if the Library gets funded by NEH. If the Library gets funded, the notice will be received during April of next year, and the Library will start the project in the summer. Director Lin stated that the Chancellor has already committed the full amount of matching funds.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. Approval of draft September 15 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. LASC Goals for Academic Year 2021–2022

1. Liaise with UGC, GC, and CAPRA to ensure and/or encourage authors of proposals for new

programs, schools, and ORUs to consult with the library leadership early in the process of writing their proposal. N.B. In late AY 2020-2021, DivCo and CAPRA proposed that “the Library develop and implement a formula for future budget requests that ties the Library budget to the number of students, faculty, and the number of academic programs of a specific type” (Chair DeLugan Memo to LASC, June 4, 2021). The Library has wanted to use this “integrated approach” for some time. If the UC Merced administration allows the Library to devise such a formula, then LASC will: Collaborate with CAPRA and the Library to determine appropriate Library funding formula so that the Library budget grows to the appropriate level to support research, teaching and learning for a R1 university.

2. Advocate for increased budgets for Library collections, staffing, and operating costs. Determining adequate budgets for the library will provide crucial support to reach the university’s research goals.
3. Argue for increased space for the Library for student study space, Library administration, digital projects, data management, GIS, archives, and special collections. Similarly, determining adequate space for the Library will support the university’s research goals.
4. Promote the establishment of the Sierra Nevada / Central Valley Archival Hub. This archival hub will provide crucial research resources.
5. Support the Library through the program review process, especially the review visit, if it happens in AY 21-22.
6. Communicate about open access, especially Gold OA, and transformative agreements with the university community with the support of Project Transform members.
7. Address Library support for research, teaching, and learning within the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Chair DePrano shared and discussed the LASC goals for the academic year 2021-2022. Chair DePrano asked LASC members to keep in mind which goals should be prioritized, and to brainstorm potential means to address those goals. Chair DePrano would like to continue the discussion over email, and kindly asked for input regarding which goals should be LASC’s top 3 priorities, and strategies to direct guidance. LASC members will plan to further this discussion at the next November 17th LASC meeting.

Chair DePrano believed that the Sierra Nevada-Central Valley Archive is an important goal and asked for LASC members’ input on potential grants to which the UC Merced Library could apply for funding to further the development of the archive. A LASC member suggested the digitization grants through NSF, which the information has been relayed to Director Lin and Librarian Li.

The LASC analyst will reach out to members via email to continue this discussion.

IV. Consultation with University Librarian – Haipeng Li

- A. Academic Planning - Library Plan. Abbreviated PowerPoint available here.
- B. Library budget model development

University Librarian Li shared a PowerPoint, which was made available to members on the LASC Box site. University Librarian Li included the UC Merced academic planning indices of success, which was developed by the academic planning taskforce. The academic planning process used these indices of success as indicators for moving forward.

- UC Quality Scholarship
 - UC Scholarly and Creative Activity
 - Research and Development Expenditures
 - Research Staff

- UC Quality Academic Programs
 - UC Quality Education
 - Doctoral Conferrals
 - Student Success

- Diversity
 - Breadth in Research and Teaching Programs
 - Diversity of Faculty and Staff

As part of the academic planning process, the Library developed its mission and vision statements, based on the indices that were relevant. University Librarian discussed ways that the Library can fit into these indices.

- Library Mission Statement
 - Advancing UC Merced's mission of teaching, research, and public service through expert management of information resources, timely delivery of services, and long-term preservation of scholarship.

- Library Vision Statement
 - To become an indispensable partner in learning, discovery, and the creation of new knowledge.

The Library developed 5 goals which were aligned to the academic goals in the academic planning process. Providing collections that support scholarly and creative activity as well as student learning and success is an example of a core library mission. The Library has provided 5 goals, each with various strategies in order to reach these goals. These strategies can be found, [here](#).

- Library Strategic Goals 2021-2023
 1. Provide collections and services to support UC quality scholarly and creative activity
 2. Provide collections and services to support UC quality academic programs
 3. Champion information/data literacy throughout the campus
 4. Support and promote the transition to open-access scholarship
 5. Support diversity, equity, and inclusion

V. Consultation with Professor Paul Maglio, Gallo School pre-proposal

Professor Maglio and his team proposed to establish the Ernest & Julio Gallo School of

Management, which will combine the departments of Cognitive and Information Sciences, Economics and Business Management, and Management of Complex Systems, incorporating programs in cognitive science, economics, philosophy, and management. The plan is to establish a Data Science and Analytics degree program. The related documents can be found [here](#).

Professor Petersen mentioned that the LASC comments that have been provided last academic year have been acknowledged by the team. Professor Maglio stated that the goal was to get LASC's input and feedback to work on the revision of the pre-proposal. Professor Maglio would like to submit the revision of the pre-proposal to the administration in early Spring of next year. Chair DePrano brought the current LASC members up to date regarding the pre-proposal process that occurred last academic year. Chair DePrano emphasized that LASC's main concern was that if there are additional funds to be put into the new Gallo school, perhaps these funds should be allocated to the Library as a priority, before allocating the funds to the new school. Chair DePrano emphasized that the Library has been inadequately funded over the years. Because of budget cuts, the UC Merced Library is now closed on Saturdays. Although LASC was in favor of the proposal, LASC strongly argued that the Library should be funded properly to support its services before there are additional expenditures.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair