

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication (LASC)**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 14, 2022

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications met at 2:00 pm on November 14, 2022 via Zoom, Chair Maria DePrano presiding.

Attendees: Chair Maria DePrano, Christopher Ojeda, Jessica Blois, Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement Squibb, and Library Consultant Olivia Olivares.

I. Chair's Report – Chair DePrano [2:00 – 2:20pm]**A. Progress on LASC White Paper**

Vice-Provost Spitzmueller has agreed to contribute to the drafting of the LASC white paper, and has suggested aspirational R1 universities and R2 universities. The current challenge is that most of the suggested peer institutions are not Association of Research Libraries in US & Canada (ARL) universities. The university library must be at a certain size and budget to qualify for membership. ARLs are surveyed for information, such as collections budget and space, which makes benchmarking easier. To compare the UC Merced to university libraries that are not ARL will be very difficult. The second issue is that it has been recommended that we use Return on Investment (ROI) and Return on Mission data (ROM). Chair DePrano stated that there is not much Return on Investment (ROI) data available due to the difficulty of the studies. Campuses that do this sort of research have dedicated librarians who do the research, while UC Merced Library does not have such a person. Also, ROI does not focus on the long-term research investment that university libraries specialize in facilitating. (<https://chrisbourg.wordpress.com/2012/12/18/how-roi-killed-the-academic-library/#comments>) So, benchmarking seems like one important method for showing that the UC Merced library is inadequately supported by the university. However, we are back to the original problem – how to get the benchmarking data from non-ARL libraries?

B. LASC retreat in January 2023

Chair DePrano emphasized the purpose of the LASC retreat, which is to learn about Open Access publishing and Transformative Agreements. Then we can answer questions regarding open access for our department colleagues. LASC members and Library liaisons will meet in January to gain knowledge about open access. LASC members will plan to make visitations during the Spring semester with Library liaisons to faculty meetings to explain Transformative Agreements and the Multi-payer model.

II. Consent Calendar [2:20 – 2:20pm]

A. Approval of today's agenda

Action requested: Approval of the Consent Calendar.

III. Consultation with Director, Strategic Initiatives, Archives & Special Collections – *Emily Lin* [2:20 – 2:40pm]

Director, Strategic Initiatives, Archives & Special Collections Lin shared a PowerPoint with LASC members. The core mission of the archive is to preserve and provide access to records of enduring value. UC Merced Library aims to become a premier Archives and Special Collections facility centered on the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada regions advancing interdisciplinary research, education, and public programming. This past year, UC Merced has acquired new collections. Director, Strategic Initiatives, Archives & Special Collections Lin also shared that the Library has been undertaking efforts to collect university's records such as the documentation showing the university's response to COVID-19. The Library was successful in obtaining the grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The maximum amount of \$750,000 was granted to the UC Merced Library. This grant will go towards the project to renovate space in the Library building to store and provide access to archive materials. The Library currently does not have a supervised reading room or a proper storage space to hold archive materials. Additional space in the Library is needed in order to grow the Library's collections. The Library plans to recruit a processing archivist this academic year to fill the archivist position. Director, Strategic Initiatives, Archives & Special Collections Lin projected the need for at least two other positions and an operations manager. The operations manager will serve to supervise the storage space and the reading room, as well as provide access to collections. In addition to the physical collections, there is an ongoing program to digitize the materials. This requires staff support, so another position will be dedicated to support the ongoing efforts. There is also an ongoing support for operational expenses.

The Library hopes to see funds allocated to the Library budget that would allow for growth and opportunity to acquire additional collections, as well as the opportunity to digitize the materials. Director, Strategic Initiatives, Archives & Special Collections Lin has outlined a minimum \$100,000 annual operating budget. She would like to work on building an endowment to generate additional income, which will allow the Library to support undergraduate and graduate students, acquire new technology such as scanning stations for digitization, and pursue other special projects.

IV. Consultation with Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement – *Sara Davidson Squibb* [2:40 – 3:20pm]

A. UC Merced uptake of the UC OA agreements

Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement Davidson Squibb showed a chart that displayed author OA uptake at UC Merced compared all the UC campuses. The chart consisted of journals which everything was published open access, and hybrid journals that were either published as open access or a subscription. Charts of the author OA uptake rates at UC Merced for the top publishers (Elsevier, Springer, Wiley) were shown. Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement Squibb held a discussion with LASC members on what may be preventing greater OA publishing uptake.

The following items will be presented by Associate University Librarian on behalf of University Librarian Li, who cannot attend this meeting:

A. Campus Strategic Plan Implementation update

Associate University Librarian for Research and Engagement Davidson Squibb reported that there are four implementation teams that are addressing different areas of the strategic plan. More updates will be shared with LASC.

B. Library Strategic Planning update

The Library has started to engage in revisiting the Library's values. There are plans to revisit the mission statement.

C. Budget Call Announcement – was planned for December 10th

The formal call was planned to send out on December 10, 2022. Departments and units will be notified of the decision sometime in May 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Attest: Maria DePrano, LASC Chair