

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Annual Report 2013-14

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) worked throughout 2013-14 to understand the rapidly evolving climate for our library. The committee explored a variety of ways to adapt library services to the changing academic environment. COLASC also consulted on a Faculty Start-Up proposal, which would link start-up packages to both one-time and ongoing library collections funding.

I. Library Budget & Services

Currently, the Library budget is split primarily between operations (including staffing) and collections. In 2013-14 there were approximately 65 employees running the entire library operation, which limits its ability to respond to departmental and individual staff requests.

UCSC receives digital content through both systemwide and local licensing agreements. The CDL manages the systemwide license agreements, and UCSC currently pays ~\$1.97 million annually for these subscriptions. These are packages including thousands of titles from which UCSC cannot necessarily pick and choose. Systemwide licenses are beneficial to campus in two ways: they are cheaper than local licenses and they give the campus access to CDL staff and support.

COLASC was concerned about the rationale behind the library budget cuts over the last five years. The committee was surprised to learn that other UC campuses have as much as eight times the staffing levels of the UCSC Library. Many library operations, such as interlibrary loan, are difficult to run with only a few staff members. The increase in graduate study on campus (especially with the current graduate growth mandate tied to Rebenching) has not come with any increase in funding for library services.

COLASC contends that the library's collection budget is currently as low as it can possibly go, given that campus needs ~\$2 million for systemwide subscriptions through CDL and the total collection budget is only ~\$2.3 million.

Library Operating Hours

Although library operating hours have been relatively stable after the infusion of some new central funding in 2012-13, it is clear that with the current demand for study-space on campus, it would be beneficial to come as close as possible to 24/7 service in the library. COLASC is encouraged that the current plans for the Science and Engineering Library remodel incorporate the possibility of creating space, perhaps even an entire floor, which can be open for student use late nights and weekends. We look forward to the outcome of this planning process.

Faculty Start-Up Proposal

COLASC consulted with Planning & Budget to develop a proposal which would transition the campus from a one-time allocation of library startup funds to some permanent allocation of funding per ladder rank faculty hire.

The committee believes that the best mechanism to fund the Library collections is via a permanent allocation from the overhead funds that are generated from campus research grants, as well as tuition and gifts. This would directly tie the amount to the number of students served, and to the research produced. Many other UCs support the library via overhead funds, something that is not happening at UCSC.

Although the proposal was reviewed by related Senate committees, it has not yet been approved. COLASC itself recommended several alterations to the draft policy, and we look forward to continued discussion in 2014-15.

II. Open Access

On July 24, 2013, Academic Council voted to approve the UC Open Access Policy that was discussed at length by COLASC in 2012-13. COLASC assisted with the testing the new faculty interface for eScholarship, the online repository for scholarly articles. The new interface is much easier to use than the previous version. Early drafts of the Open Access Policy called for mandatory upload of articles regardless of a publisher's disposition on open access. The final version of the policy, though, allows faculty to opt out of the upload of any scholarly articles.

COLASC reviewed two related issues, eScholarship and the campus Biobibnet. The committee was not certain that pursuing this connection is a worthwhile use of resources.

COLASC believes that harvesting eScholarship to populate Biobibnet would lead to extra work for faculty, who would have to cross-check the harvested publications against their own master list to ensure that everything is included for the personnel review.

III. Other COLASC Business

As a part of the UCSC Librarian candidate selection process, members of the Committee on the Library & Scholarly Communication (COLASC) met with each of the three candidates. The three conversations focused on the following topics:

- How to make the libraries more visible and relevant to the whole campus.
- Decision-making strategies.
- Determining library priorities.
- Determining how to provide services that relate to faculty, researchers, graduate students, and undergraduates.
- Fundraising.
- Past experience (notable achievements, areas of expertise).

COLASC discussed and commented on Presidential Policy on Copyright and Fair Use which was circulated in spring.

Respectfully submitted;

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