COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
Annual Report 2023-2024

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) is charged with advising the campus administration on local and systemwide library and scholarly communication policies. Scholarly communication refers to the multi-faceted modalities by which research and creative work are made public and encompasses issues related to publishing, technology, archiving, and copyright. The committee also advises on the administration of campus libraries and on matters concerning acquisition and management policies for collections. The committee meets biweekly to support this charge and to better understand and learn about the challenges and opportunities facing our libraries. Below we summarize our actions for the 2023-24 academic year.

I.   Library Budget, Collections and Space Orientations

At the November 16, 2023 COLASC meeting, John Bono (Associate University Librarian for Planning and Resource Management) and Kerry Scott (Associate University Librarian for Collections & Services) provided the committee with an overview of the University of California, Santa Cruz Library's budget and collections. The library budget is based on the previous year's allocation, not the number of faculty full time equivalents (FTE) or student enrollment. The presentation clarified the distinction between recurring and one-time library funds. Bono noted that there was a budget surplus, a situation unlikely to continue in the following year. The meeting also covered the shift in the library's collection strategies from a predictive to a demand-driven model. This change is in response to the academic community's evolving needs, as seen in the increasing requests for electronic resources, though physical books continue to be in demand. The committee found the combination of resources from the California Digital Library (CDL), Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services, and campus collections effective in maximizing access. The relevance of these updates to COLASC lies in their impact on library resource management and budget utilization. This trend underscores the need for the library to continually adapt to changing academic requirements.

II.   COLASC tour of renovations to the Science & Engineering Library

On Thursday, November 2, 2023, COLASC members toured the completed renovations to the Science & Engineering Library. Kristy Golubiewski-Davis, the Head of Digital Scholarship, guided committee members and answered questions on the renovations. The renovations included in the tour included the Active Learning Classroom and Digital Scholarship Innovation Studio, where student workers supported projects for various courses and individual student projects using laser cutters, 3D printers, and virtual reality tools.

III.   Consultations

On October 19, 2023 COLASC received a **Baytree Campus Store Update** from Doug Lang, Director Bay Tree Campus Store, and Dionne Latta, Course Material Strategist. Topics discussed included:

- Inclusive Access: This program has been in operation since Winter 2023. Digital textbooks are provided at a reduced cost to students, delivered directly to them by the first day of class. So far 18 courses have been enrolled in the program and the results are promising.
- Scholarships: For the 2022-23 academic year, the store awarded $19,350 in scholarship vouchers to 93 undergrads and 36 grads. In 2023-24, the amount was increased to $21,300 provided to 128 undergrads and 85 grads. Some of this money is donated by the online textbook provider the store works with, Akademos.
- Library Partnership: Since summer of 2022, the bookstore has been checking every required international standard book number (ISBN) to see if it is available as an "unlimited" eBook through the library. If so, this information is provided on the course information page so that students can use the library copy instead. They continue to work on close collaborations with the library to provide zero cost materials to students.
- Student savings: Overall, between Akademos, student scholarships, directing students to library eBooks, and the inclusive access program, the BayTree estimates that students have saved about $606,064 since January of 2022.
- Surveys: The BayTree is planning student and faculty surveys for November of 2023 to gather feedback on functionality and usability.
- Advisory committee: The bookstore has student and faculty advisory committees which meet occasionally throughout the year. COLASC member Madeleine Fairbairn volunteered to serve on the faculty advisory committee this year. (Note: This advisory committee meeting was ultimately not convened in 2023-2024).

COLASC had the following questions for continued dialogue:

- When does the Akademos agreement expire and will it be automatically renewed? What is the process for choosing a company to work with?
- What privacy agreements are in place around Akademos's use of student data? Could it be shifted to an opt-in model of data sharing?
- Does it potentially create a conflict of interest that Akademos donates to the scholarship program? How do those contributions affect the sustainability of the scholarship program? What other sources of funding for scholarships are available once the contract expires?
- Can the library partnership be taken a step further with BayTree actually prompting the purchase of popular textbooks by the library?
- Would it be possible to estimate student savings on an individual level?

On November 30, 2023 COLASC consulted with Kristen Ratan, Library Consultant on the **Year of Open Science/Scholarship** campaign - a collaboration between the Library, Information Technology Services (ITS), and the Office of Research. The presentation provided an overview of how federal policy mandates regarding open and equitable research could impact UC Santa Cruz. It addressed the amount of research at UCSC that is being published open access and the timeline and potential pathways to broader compliance with new policies.

During the meeting, the committee raised questions about the sources used to quantify the Open Access (OA) publishing rate on campus and in the country, as the definition of OA can differ from source to source. Members also asked how open scholarship policy will be shaped in the future for qualitative research data, especially for community-based research, and how federal policies may interact with current Institutional Review Board (IRB) procedures and rules to protect the identity

and privacy of the participants. Lastly, the committee asked if the new federal policy included recommendations on avoiding using proprietary software formats for data. Members also highlighted the importance of having data librarians and data stewards available in our libraries at UCSC to be able to provide necessary support to researchers opening their data.

On January 18, 2024, COLASC consulted with **Online Learning Librarian** Sheila García Mazari to discuss her support of online learning at UC Santa Cruz. The presentation included an overview of how student feedback is helping shape course neutral information literacy modules and resources and how emphasis has been placed on accessibility, sustainability, and inclusion. Likewise, it detailed the pilot materials being shared with two sections of WRIT 2 and a module developed to support transfer students in pre-work for KRSG 25. In discussing this work, the committee became aware of the challenges of balancing asynchronous work that adheres to universal design principles with synchronous modes of engagement that foster inclusion and community building.

On February 1, 2024, COLASC consulted with **Open Educational Resources (OER) Librarian** Sarah Hare, who provided an overview of the common sentiments about OER expressed by students, instructors and publishers broadly, and how they compare to her preliminary findings from interviews with UC Santa Cruz faculty members and focus groups with UC Santa Cruz students. The institution found several items to be of particular note. The presentation also explained efforts to reduce Drop, Fail, Withdraw (DFW) rates via the adoption of OER, as well as the benefits of OER's ability to be adapted to a ten-week quarter when considering that most textbooks are built for a fifteen-week semester. During the discussion of this work, committee members noted challenges in the promotion and adoption of OER given their uneven, and sometimes low, quality. Several committee members likewise mentioned that these resources often include errors or uphold canons in hegemonic and uncritical ways. The committee thus expressed appreciation of efforts to simultaneously support OER, library-licensed resources, and free materials available online.

On May 23, 2024, COLASC consulted with **Community Archivist** Rebecca Hernandez, who updated the committee on her work since the creation of her position in Winter 2022. Hernandez emphasized the Regional History Project she has been overseeing and her role in developing partnerships with stakeholders from numerous communities in Santa Cruz County who have been underrepresented in traditional archiving practices. She explained how community archiving differs from more traditional archiving, and she illustrated the numerous forms that community archives can take. COLASC discussed potential collaborations on campus, such as with the History Department for public history and archival training opportunities for undergraduate students.

IV.   Analysis and Promotion of Open Access Publishing at UCSC

On February 15, 2024, Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC) representative Martha Stuit, who sits with COLASC, along with Associate University Librarian, Kerry Scott, presented COLASC with data regarding the uptake of Transformative Agreements at UC Santa Cruz. In advance of the meeting, COLASC members reviewed OA actions undertaken by previous iterations of the committee, viewed a previous presentation by Stuit explaining OA publishing at the UCs, and completed a survey about their own experiences with OA. During the meeting, committee members discussed how OA needs vary across divisions. For example, while

faculty in the Basking School of Engineering often value preprints, preprints are of less use to faculty in the Humanities and Arts divisions because of the importance of prose and page citations of final works (in Humanities) and of the need to show images (in Arts) that would have to be redacted in a preprint. Moreover, faculty across numerous divisions are in fields that prioritize book monographs as the principal form of publication or depend upon small nonprofit publishers as the principal venue for article publications.

During both the February 15 and February 29, 2024, meetings, committee members considered next steps to support and advance OA publishing on campus. This included more outreach regarding Transformative Agreements and other existing mechanisms of institutional support for OA publishing, such as eScholarship. While the committee discussed recommendations for local funding support, it recognized the need for systemwide support, given the budgetary challenges of supporting OA publishing beyond the Transformative agreements. Fortunately, as reported to the systemwide University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC), several such initiatives are in the works.

On April 4, 2025, Catherine Mitchell of the California Digital Library, along with Rich Schneider of UC San Francisco, visited COLASC to present a draft systemwide Open Access Decision Tree. This document, which will be made available in Fall 2024, is meant to be an easily accessible poster and/or flier that both guides viewers through the OA process and connects them to resources. Committee members provided comments on the document, many of which were incorporated into future versions.

V.   COLASC and the Disabilities & Chronic Illness Faculty Group feedback

During the 2023-24 academic year, COLASC did an informal review of accessibility for UC Santa Cruz's libraries. On November 2, 2023, during the COLASC tour of the renovated Science & Engineering Library, member Cynthia Ling Lee did an accessibility check of the library, noting its features (such as the presence of all-gender, wheelchair accessible single stall bathrooms) and areas of challenge (such as limited Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking and the requirement for keycard access at the ADA entrance). She then interviewed members of the networking group for faculty with disabilities and chronic illnesses about their needs and suggestions related to the library and scholarly communication. Cynthia wrote up a report combining these findings from the tour and networking group, which she shared with COLASC on March 14, 2024. University Librarian Elizabeth Cowell shared the library's response to this report on May 23, 2024. (Both of these reports are available within the COLASC internal archive, and general info on access services helpful for patrons with disabilities is available here[1].) We originally intended to do an accessibility check of McHenry Library on March 23, 2024, but our in-person tour was canceled due to protest activities on campus.

VI.   Reviews

This academic year, COLASC reviewed and responded to the following:

Divisional:

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[1] Services Available Through the Library - Patrons with Disabilities - Library Guides at University of California, Santa Cruz

- Leading The Change (LTC) Strategic Plan Final Report, November 30, 2023.
- Divisional Review: New Policy on Income Disposition for UC-owned Copyrighted Materials, Data, and Tangible Research Property, December 13, 2023

Systemwide
- (Systemwide Senate Review) Final report of the University of California Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities, May 1, 2024

VII.   Other Correspondence

- Budget Collections: Post Consultation 11/16/23
- Post Consultation: Open Educational Resources (OER) Librarian 2/1/24
- Post Consultation: Online Learning Librarian 01/18/24

VIII.   Recommendations to COLASC 2024-25

- Continue to inform the campus of open-access policies and resources
  - Distribute OA materials prepared for UCOLASC, including OA decision tree
  - Consider OA outreach to departments/divisions/other campus units. Please include grad students and postdoc groups in this effort.
  - Consider ways to collaborate with other Senate committees, such as the Committees on Faculty Welfare (CFW), Academic Personnel (CAP), and Research (COR), to promote OA.
- Follow up on assessment of faculty access to UCSC Libraries
  - Schedule tour of McHenry Library, with attention to accessibility
- Library events calendar promotion.
- Schedule follow up consultation with Online Learning Librarian regarding how to build upon the pilot materials shared with WRIT 2 and the module created for KRSG 25 to support students who do not pass through these courses.
- Possible consultations: OER Librarian; any other new Library hires; possibly another update from the Bay Tree Campus Store, Kerry Scott re: library acquisitions process.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 31, 2024