The University of California Library Collection:
Content for the 21st Century and Beyond

UC Libraries' Collection Development Committee[1]

Definition:
The University of California Library Collection comprises all print and digital resources, archival collections, and shared purchases of the UC Libraries. It is an integrated, shareable user-centric collection that supports and enhances the mission of the University of California and whose strength is derived from the diverse nature of the individual campus library collections.

Vision:
The library and archival collections of the University of California (UC) are the fundamental building blocks for the University's teaching, research, patient care, and community services. Taken together, UC library collections comprise the largest academic library in the world and contribute significantly to the world's record of scholarship and its cultural and historical record. The UC Libraries have a long, successful history of developing collaborative progressive services and collections to better meet the needs of the UC community. In order to continue to support and enhance the mission of the University of California as one of the world's leading research and teaching institutions, the UC Libraries are re-focusing their strategic efforts to capitalize on the extent and scope of their collections. Emerging technologies promise the potential to create transparent access to and delivery of information across formats and collections and to improve the ability of libraries to coordinate acquisition of information to build the most effective collections. UC faculty, students, researchers, and scholars will benefit from the UC Library Collection by having increased and more seamless access to resources and services across the system. Developing a system-wide view of collections allows the Libraries to develop richer services, leverage resources to increase collection diversity, expose hidden resources, and take full advantage of library expertise on the individual campuses.

Building and managing a world-class UC Library Collection is increasingly challenging in the digital environment and requires the integration of print and digital collections, including published and non-published material of all types and formats. Extending the boundaries of collecting beyond physical objects has exploded the options and opportunities for building integrated collections that best meet the needs of UC students and faculty in the 21st century and beyond. In addition, UC faculty and researchers in collaboration with UC Libraries are increasingly engaged as creators of digital content that requires ongoing management and long-term stewardship. Some of this material will continue to be published through traditional means, but much will be presented in new formats and media. The new scholarly content includes blogs, research data, and a range of materials that will require curatorial engagement throughout their entire life cycle.[2]. Providing this curatorial role will ensure long-term availability and help UC address the downstream economic challenges associated with the commercialization of research output.

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[1] The CDC members list is available at http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/cdc.
[2] The content life cycle includes creation, ingestion or acquisition, documentation, organization, migration, protection, access, and disposition.

Developing and managing both traditional and non-traditional collections as an integrated and shareable UC Library Collection will present both opportunities and challenges. Budgetary priorities will have to be adjusted to meet the strategic needs of UC students, faculty, researchers, and scholars in order to take on long-term stewardship of diverse content, integrate collection development across collection types, and integrate services supporting discovery, access and curation of all formats. The Libraries expect to decrease the collections' total physical footprint by reducing duplication, and to expand its digital footprint by creating and capturing more unique content in all formats. In a world of exponentially increasing scholarly output, no individual library collection can claim to be a comprehensive repository of the entire scholarly record. Instead the Libraries will continue to leverage external and internal partnerships to ensure that UC has access to the most relevant array of world-class information resources in support of research, teaching, patient care, and community service.

As chief stewards of the UC Library Collection, the staffs of the UC Libraries are essential collaborators in the selection of relevant content and effectively service the life cycle of the scholarly record. As libraries continue to move towards building and expanding digital collections, the role of library staff will continue to evolve. Library staff increasingly will be called upon to engage with and develop partnerships with faculty and researchers in order to collect and create new digital content. Collecting and curating new digital formats will require that library staff continue to make strategic decisions about what to collect in what format and continue to expand their expertise in and understanding of metadata creation and long-term preservation and curation issues. The considered reduction of the overall physical collection footprint will require that systemwide groups of subject and format specialists work even more collaboratively and be supported with more training opportunities.

The UC Libraries have a long tradition of cooperative collection development. The digital sea change in the way scholarly output is published, collected, and preserved, in combination with today's constrained budgetary environment, demand that the next evolutionary steps now be taken to build a more cohesive UC Library Collection.

Goals:

1) Develop a well selected and high quality collection of the world's knowledge.
2) Expand the UC Library Collection to embrace new content types and formats produced at all stages of the information and scholarly record life cycle.
3) Maximize seamless access to the entire UC Library Collection for library users across the ten campuses and, to the extent possible, for California citizens and the broader public.
4) Develop sustainable collection development and management strategies to ensure the richest possible collections within existing resource constraints, rebalancing budgetary expenditures as necessary to embrace new format and service requirements.
5) Engage in regional, national, and international partnerships to facilitate broad access to and effective stewardship of research resources across the globe.
6) Curate and preserve the scholarly output of the University of California.
7) Support transformative, sustainable publishing models that help UC address the economic challenges associated with the commercial control of the scholarly record.

8) Develop viable strategies for realizing the benefits to UC students, faculty, and staff of having access to the most thoughtfully curated academic library collection in the world, in the context of the multifaceted research, instruction, knowledge creation, and patient care missions of UC.

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