

**LAUC Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Attendees:** Mary-Michelle Moore, UCSB (President); Danielle Kane, UCI (President Elect & R&PD); Rachel Green, UCLA (Past President); Marlayna Christensen, UCSD (Secretary); Dean Rowan, UCB (Parliamentarian); Jesse Silva, UCB (Chair); Michelle Polchow, UCD (Chair); Stacy Brinkman, UCI (Chair); David Cappoli, UCLA (Chair); Jim Dooley, UCM (Chair); Xi Chen, UCSD (Chair); Anneliese Taylor, UCSF (Chair); Chizu Morihara, UCSB (Chair); Martha Stuit, UCSC (Chair); Sylvia Page, UCLA (Communication Chair, Co-Webmaster); Reid Otsuji, UCSD (Co-Webmaster); Sarah Buck Kachaluba, UCSD (CPG); Xaviera Flores, UCLA (Diversity); Cynthia Johnson, UCI (DOC); Lisa Spagnolo, UCD (SCLG)

**Absent:** Rachel Starry, UCR (Chair); Allegra Swift, UCSD (SLASIAC); Catherine Busselen, UCSB (SLFB);

**Guests:** Caitlin Hunter (LA); Katherine Kapsidelis (LA); Melinda Livas (D)

**Called to order by M. Moore at 10:03 am**

1. Roll Call (M. Christensen)
2. Secretary's Report (M. Christensen)  
*November 14, 2022 minutes were approved.*
3. Old/Continuing Business
  - A. Call for volunteers
    - i. Parliamentarian  
*Amy Roberts (UCR) has volunteered to serve as Co-Parliamentarian and will begin at the next Executive Board meeting.*
    - ii. Social Media Coordinator  
*Still looking for someone to serve in this role for a 2-year term.*
  - B. Task Force on Academic Status Update  
*M. Moore has drafted and shared with the Executive Board an email to send to UCOP regarding updates for the [Contract and Grant Manual](#). The Board discussed the content of the message and when to send.*  
***ACTION: Board will provide feedback through Tuesday, December 13.***  
***ACTION: M. Moore will send message to UCOP after comment period closes.***
  - C. Assembly Planning (M. Stuit)  
*The Assembly planning Committee held their initial meeting. They are planning a hybrid meeting and looking at April dates in order to avoid intersession, holidays, and the ACRL Conference. Planning will move into full force after the winter break.*  
*The group would like another 1-2 members of the Executive Board to join to help. Since Assembly next year will be hosted by UCLA, it was suggested that it would helpful for additional members come from that campus.*  
***ACTION: M. Christensen will look for attendance statistics for previous Assembly meetings and share with M. Stuit.***

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### A. Committee on Research & Professional Development (D. Kane)

*12 grant proposals for Fall - 6 research, 1 mini, and 5 presentation grants. LAUC R&PD meets Thursday to discuss and determine awards. Barring any unforeseen difficulties, we are on track to award grants for successful proposals in early January.*

##### B. Committee on Professional Governance (S. Buck-Kachaluba)

*Had second meeting 11/16 -- create a document to divide up research on key entities in UC Libraries' Governance Structure (e.g. CoUL, DOC, Leadership Groups, SLASIAC, LAUC CPG (and other committees), JSC) -- will regroup in Jan. and define/move onto next steps.*

*We will move into other 2 goals as (and if) we are able*

- 1) understanding roles and purview of represented/non-represented librarians within leadership/governance structure*
- 2) Comparing campus review procedures (and determining whether or not grievance procedures exist and what they look like)*

##### C. Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (X. Flores)

*Adding new resources and links to the DEI page on the LAUC website (Charge #1, creating hub of UC-wide information about DEI and libraries/librarians)*

*Survey on equity and advancement – brainstorming and building questions and goals*

##### D. Nominating (R. Green)

*The committee is now complete and met to review election guidelines and related bylaws. They will begin looking for candidates for the officer positions. For Vice-President/President-Elect, candidates from any campus except Irvine or Santa Barbara are eligible. For Secretary, candidates from all campuses, except San Diego, Irvine, and Berkeley are eligible. The committee would like to have some candidates from a northern campus, but all are welcome to self-nominate or nominate someone else.*

##### E. Communications Committee (S. Page)

*No updates other than still looking for a News and Social Media Coordinator.*

#### 5. Reports from Committee Representatives

##### A. SLASIAC - Systemwide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (A. Swift)

*No update, no meeting since last update.*

##### B. UCOLASC - University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (M. Moore)

*Met on November 30. They acknowledged the graduate student strike. They also discussed the idea that campus libraries may be viewed as a place to cut budgets to help balance the University's. The committee member from Berkeley was encouraging everyone to go back to their campus and advocate for the library and include the fact that the libraries have been underfunded.*

*eScholarship is no longer a small publisher anymore and is becoming more widely recognized as a place to publish, especially for DEI [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] and scholarly communication. They will be talking the Faculty Senate leadership to advocate for funding to keep it going and making money available to authors and easier to find.*

##### C. SCLG – Shared Content Leadership Group (L. Spagnolo)

*Official minutes from SCLG meetings have not been posted on the [SCLG page](#) since July, but should be updated soon.*

Since the last LAUC EB update, SCLG met on November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussions included proposals for support of OA resources through Reveal Digital and Lyrisis. CDL members presented progress on licensing negotiations, including the renewal for Taylor & Francis, and the renewal of the CDL-managed GOBI OCLC Cataloging Plus Service, which turned into a systemwide arrangement during the SILS implementation. There were also updates from the eBook Strategies Team, including discussion of potential trials.

D. SLFB – Shared Library Facilities Board (C. Busselen – absent)

No report.

E. DOC – Direction and Oversight Committee (C. Johnson)

November 1, 2022 meeting

1) Palace Proposal Working Group Proposal

- a) Guests: Lena Zenta, Judy Dobry, and Peter Brantley.
- b) Palace Project is software for managing e-collections from multiple licensed and open eContent sources. It aims to unify collections for easier management by libraries of their electronic contents as well as simplifying the user experience.
- c) UC Palace Project Team have been working informally for 3+ years with colleagues from Columbia, NYU and the non-profit service provider, Lyrisis, to understand how Palace's benefits can be brought to academic libraries. Idea is to contribute to Columbia's and NYU's negotiation with academic publishers to make their e-books available on the Palace platform.
- d) Plan: UC Libraries participate in a proposed IMLS grant; if the grant is funded it will start in late Summer 2023.
- e) DOC had questions regarding the hurdle of licensing vendors and who among those vendors may simply refuse; also questions about having a process for replacing members on the project team if there is turnover.

2) Continuing discussion around Emergency Contacts

- a) Bill Garrity will write a document to share with DOC

November 15, 2022 meeting

1) SILS Leadership Group assessment plan

- a) Guests: Aislinn Sotelo, Anna Seiffert, and Robin Gustafson
- b) Leadership Group has been charged in partnership with DOC and active consultation with the Operations Team and Operations Subteams, to complete an assessment to determine if the existing UCLAS integrated SILS structure and membership model should be adjusted by/before June 30, 2023.
- c) Discussion in DOC focused on the assessment plan and the actual questions that will be asked in the assessment.

2) Sara Davidson Squibb provided an update about UC Merced

- a) Extended hours to 104/week (able to staff Saturdays again)
- b) Had a light launch on a new room focusing on GIS, Data Carpentry, etc.
- c) Archives and Exhibits: upcoming photography exhibit David Bacon, as well as a separate photography exhibit with a newly acquired collection. NEH grant (Challenge Grant) received maximum grant 700K won and 750K matched, aimed at building out more archival space and a reading room, because they could be out of storage room by 2025.
- d) The library is working with the Academic Senate on a White paper about the library and its peer institutions. The group was charged by UCM's EVC and Provost.

- F. CoUL – Council of University Librarians (M. Moore)  
*Nothing to report.*
6. New Business (M. Moore)  
A. January Meeting – should we cancel?  
***DECISION: Cancel January meeting.*** Next meeting will be February 13, 2023.
7. Round Robin: Highlights and issues from the campuses
- A. UCB (J. Silva)  
*Held two events since the last meeting: Fall Assembly (12/1) and our Distinguished Librarian Award (12/9), which honored members [David Eifler](#) and [Elliott Smith](#).*  
*Our Fall Assembly was a facilitated discussion entitled “Making Meaning of Librarianship at UC Berkeley Today” and helped gather a lot of information from our members on a variety of issues. The event was very received and was the first of many such events over the next 6 months.*  
*LAUC-B continues to discuss morale issues with our UL. Some points raised during the assembly helped further these discussions.*  
*Work continues around out budget reduction and potential branch library closures. Academic Senate passed a resolution to increase funding for the library, with potentially more resolutions coming soon.*
- B. UCD (M. Polchow)  
*Relaunching mentorship program, welcoming 5 new librarians in last quarter*  
*Investigating use of LibGuides for LAUC-D website and updating archiving policy*  
*Exploring memorial tribute for Roberto Delgadillo, specifically from LAUC-D*  
*Program Committee hosted Lightning Talks with 10 librarians presenting on their research work (12/6/22)*
- C. UCI (S. Brinkman)  
*Held one event 11/18 led by our Program Committee on Preserving Acjachemen History and Legacy led by two local indigenous scholars*  
*We welcomed Suzanne Im as our new Curator for the Southeast Asian Archive*  
*Two HR positions that have been vacant have recently been filled, and we hope this helps with several pending recruitments.*
- D. UCLA (D. Cappoli)  
*Held our Fall Membership Meeting on December 1 during which we introduced nine new librarians whom had been hired since the December 9, 2022 membership meeting. The meeting was virtual with 63 in attendance*  
*Met with campus CoLASC during which we reviewed an early draft of the campus strategic plan and began to integrate areas in which the library should be noted as having key contributions*  
*Met with campus Committee on Academic Freedom and discusses having clear criteria and an impartial group to resolve academic freedom disputes with librarians and how a librarian’s work can be impacted by academic freedom. D. Cappoli will be working with Diane Mizrahi to develop a compilation of librarian research projects for the committee to show the type of work that we undertake*

- E. UCM (J. Dooley)  
*Recruiting a Head of Research and Learning Services. The job announcement and description have been posted. Otherwise, quiet for the moment.*
- F. UCR (R. Starry) – Absent  
*No report.*
- G. UCSD (X. Chen)  
*No updates on the strategic initiative proposals yet. The Senior Leadership Team has been reviewing all proposals during the past few weeks and will provide updates soon.*  
*December membership meeting was canceled due to no updates. The next meeting will be on 1/10.*  
*The job ad of [Arts & Humanities Collection Strategist/Visual Arts Liaison Librarian](#) was posted two weeks ago, 1<sup>st</sup> round of applications will be accepted until 1/13.*  
*Interviews for Life & Health Sciences Collection Strategist/Liaison Librarian will kick off this week.*  
*The electronic resources librarian search has been canceled. Will re-convene the hiring process in January.*
- H. UCSF (A. Taylor)  
*UCSF's Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost, Dan Lowenstein, is stepping back from his role at the end of 2022. The Library reports to the EVCP. Catherine Lucey, Vice Dean for Education and Executive Dean for the School of Medicine, will be the new EVCP as of January 2023.*
- I. UCSB (C. Morihara)  
*Held our first membership meeting for the year, where we discussed how LAUC-SB can be involved in our Strategic Planning implementation.*  
*The Library filled our vacation HR positions, but still dealing with delays because of their absence.*
- J. UCSC (M. Stuit)  
*Our first membership meeting of the year was November 29, and it was paired with a CAPA workshop on the review process, which took the majority of the time.*  
*Currently open is a vote to update our bylaws regarding our local R&PD committee. The bylaws state that the local R&PD committee has five (5) members (composed of the four (4) Exec Board and the R&PD statewide rep). The proposed change is to have a three (3) member R&PD local committee with the LAUC Chair-Elect, R&PD rep, and a third member appointed by LAUC. Voting closes 12/22/22.*  
*The LAUC-SC Exec Board is preparing a recommendation for how any remaining individual librarian R&PD funds at the end of the fiscal year are used in the following fiscal year.*

**Adjourned at 11:26 am**

**Dan Vaccaro**

December 5, 2022



“There is something about putting the right book (or electronic resource) in the right hands at the right time that simply can’t be beat,” says David Eifler, the environmental design librarian. (Photo by Jami Smith for the UC Berkeley Library)

David Eifler wants to give UC Berkeley what it gave to him: opportunity.

“I first came (here) when I was 19, and Cal took a chance by admitting this scrappy kid from New Jersey in the middle of the academic year,” said Eifler, the university’s environmental design librarian.

Eifler has spent his 15 years with the UC Berkeley Library paying that opportunity forward, providing exemplary service and building community in the Environmental Design Library, across campus, and beyond.

This week, Eifler will be honored for that work as he receives a Distinguished Librarian Award (DLA). He joins an [illustrious list of recipients](#) recognized for their commitment to fulfilling the twin missions of teaching and research at the university. [Elliott Smith](#), the emerging technologies and bioinformatics librarian at UC Berkeley, is the other DLA winner this year.

The biennial accolade — funded and presented by the [Librarians Association of the University of California's Berkeley chapter](#) — has recognized excellence in librarianship since 1990. Honorees are selected by a committee of peers and faculty members.

---

## 2022 Distinguished Librarian Award ceremony

**Where:** Morrison Library (in Doe Library)

**When:** Friday, Dec. 9, 4-6 p.m.

**Speakers:** Senior Associate University Librarian Elizabeth Dupuis, Chancellor Carol T. Christ, LAUC-B Chair Jesse Silva, and more.

---

“This year’s winners distinguished themselves in the areas of innovation and diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice,” said Ramona Collins, law librarian and chair of the selection committee for 2022. “David exudes inclusiveness as he builds community in his library.”

We caught up with Eifler to learn more about what drives him, his most memorable achievement at the Library, and what he digs (literally, in this case) outside of work.

### What do you like most about your job?

I became a librarian out of a personal desire to support one of our society’s most important social commons: the free and accessible knowledge embodied in the diverse collections of our public and academic libraries. I love sharing this accumulated wealth of knowledge with

undergrads, grad students, postdocs, and faculty members, and helping them navigate the richness of our collections in support of their work. I feel privileged to come to work and be surrounded by bright minds committed to understanding the world and addressing its challenges.

### **Which of your accomplishments at the Library makes you proudest?**

Since Phoebe Hearst first funded it in 1905, the Environmental Design Library has been built and curated by many notable librarians — most recently Elizabeth Byrne (also a DLA winner). They created one of the most renowned design libraries in the country. I'm proud of maintaining and enhancing our stellar collections, and in more than doubling our patron usage by expanding seating, hours, and programming during a period of declining material support.

For a smaller subject library, the Environmental Design Library continues to be a lively yet studious, austere yet artistic hub of activity with rich print and digital collections that support the pedagogical goals of the College of Environmental Design and the university.

### **What do you do for fun outside of work?**

I'm a big advocate of permaculture and try to practice it in my backyard urban garden, which has been a solace to me, especially during the pandemic. I also enjoy the quiet exuberance of long road trips, something I probably learned to appreciate in my youth when I hitchhiked coast to coast numerous times.

### **How does it feel to be honored with a Distinguished Librarian Award?**

It's an honor to get such recognition from my librarian peers, whose work I deeply respect and admire. I also have a tinge of impostor syndrome, which seems to be ubiquitous at Cal; I've known highly regarded senior faculty who still grapple with it. Additionally, our profession is somewhat self-effacing, so accepting honors doesn't come to us naturally. That said, hearing that I was one of the two honorees of the DLA brought tears to my eyes. I told my son, who plays in the National Football League, that receiving the award felt like being selected MVP of the Super Bowl. I am honored beyond words to receive this recognition from colleagues in such a noble profession.



## **Talk about your work as a community builder on the Cal campus.**

Berkeley has so many talented people, plus a richness of history and amazing library resources. It's actually quite easy to bring them all together to build community. I've tried a lot of things, many at the suggestion of other people: author book talks; "Hands On" exhibits, where we display artists' books and talk over wine and cheese; documentary movie nights; and presentations by alumni. Some have been great successes, with 70 to 80 people attending, and others abject failures. (We had one event where only one person showed up, and they left midway through.) But almost all of them have created connections among patrons and library staff, and increased the number of patrons that visit the Environmental Design Library.

## **One of your colleagues described you as "committed first and foremost to the student educational experience." Tell us more about the experience you had this year working with interns from the Undergraduate Research Advocates Program.**

It was actually the idea of another previous DLA winner — Susan Edwards, head of the Library's Social Science Division — to start a pilot Undergraduate Research Advocates internship, working with students from [Berkeley's NavCal program](#). But she gave me agency to run with it.

We provided stipends to three student interns to help us reach out to some of Berkeley's nontraditional students. Being a multicultural, multigenerational group just returning to campus (post-COVID closures) was challenging at times, but I think we developed a real fondness for one another, and, despite my best efforts to lead the process, I'm pretty sure I learned more from them than they did from me. We made some changes to the library space to make it more welcoming, and the interns provided instruction to their peers, which was very successful.

*This Q&A was edited for brevity and clarity.*

**Dan Vaccaro**

December 5, 2022



“I’m motivated by wanting to have a positive impact on people’s lives,” says Elliott Smith, the emerging technologies and bioinformatics librarian. (Photo by Jami Smith for the UC Berkeley Library)

Elliott Smith discovered his vocation as a librarian while helping a friend through a difficult time.

In the late 1990s, his friend’s wife was diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. Smith volunteered to find the latest medical research, and scoured databases at the UC Berkeley and UCSF libraries. The studies he tracked down were used to develop a treatment program that gave the friend’s wife several more precious years with her family.

“In searching the literature, I received crucial help from expert librarians,” Smith recalled. “It was an experience that made me want to help others in a similar way.”

For the past 12 years, Smith has done just that. As the emerging technologies and bioinformatics librarian at UC Berkeley, he supports students and scholars as they access

research that can impact their own lives, and the lives of others.

This week, Smith will be recognized for his excellence in service as he receives a Distinguished Librarian Award (DLA). Smith joins an impressive list of past recipients honored for their commitment to facilitating the university's teaching and research mission. David Eifler, the environmental design librarian at UC Berkeley, is the other DLA winner this year.

Since 1990, the biennial award from the Librarians Association of the University of California's Berkeley chapter has celebrated excellence in librarianship. Honorees are selected by a committee of peers and faculty members.

---

## **2022 Distinguished Librarian Award ceremony**

**Where:** Morrison Library (in Doe Library)

**When:** Friday, Dec. 9, 4-6 p.m.

**Speakers:** Senior Associate University Librarian Elizabeth Dupuis, Chancellor Carol T. Christ, LAUC-B Chair Jesse Silva, and more.

---

Ramona Collins, law librarian and chair of the selection committee for 2022, said this year's winners rose to the top because of their innovative work and dedication to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice. She lauded Smith as "a major force behind the transformation of library instruction."

We caught up with Smith to learn more about what motivates him and his passions outside of work. (Hint: A singer may be mentioned, but not the one with whom he shares a name.)

**What do you like most about your job?**

I look forward every day to the opportunity to work with my exceptional colleagues.

### **What motivates you in your work?**

I'm motivated by wanting to have a positive impact on people's lives. It's very satisfying to help someone find the information they need, but even more so, to help them develop the skills to do it on their own. It's about empowering the patrons we serve.

### **What accomplishment at the Library makes you proudest?**

In 2015, I was selected for an intensive course on bioinformatics for librarians, which involved six weeks of online instruction and a weeklong class at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in Washington, D.C. Out of that experience, I developed a workshop and an online guide to NCBI bioinformatics tools. To date, the guide has been viewed over 200,000 times, and it has been shared with and adapted by the national community of librarians who provide bioinformatics support.

### **What do you do for fun? Is there a fact about you that might surprise people?**

I'm passionate about 18th-century literature and music. I recently wrote a program note for the Baroque opera company Ars Minerva about Vittoria Tesi, who was the first Black *prima donna* (lead female singer in an opera). Born a servant, she became one of the greatest (and highest-paid) opera singers of the 18th century. Gluck, Hasse, and Vinci composed for her; Farinelli sang with her; royalty across Europe honored her; and the 6-year-old Mozart was taken to meet her. She should be much better known, as should the wonderful music that was written for her to perform.

### **How does it feel to be honored with a Distinguished Librarian Award?**

I was completely stunned when I learned that I had been selected. The Distinguished Librarian Award is especially meaningful to me because it's granted by my peers. I'm hugely honored and deeply humbled to think that my name will join those of the previous recipients, who are among the librarians I most admire. But my award should really be shared with the many colleagues in and beyond the Library who have so generously offered their guidance, support, and collaboration.

**Several of your colleagues described your commitment to service, going above and beyond to help others. Where does that commitment come from?**

I was fortunate in my first years at the Bioscience Library to have had the late Norma Kobzina (former head of the Bioscience & Natural Resources Library) as a supervisor and mentor. Whenever I'm faced with a patron needing help, I ask myself, "What would Norma do?" And the answer is always, "Go the extra mile." Her example of extraordinary service remains a constant inspiration.

**Your colleagues also called you a "major force behind the transformation of library instruction." Tell us more about your work in that area.**

Library instruction is not limited to formal classes or workshops. Almost every encounter we have with patrons can be a step toward the goal of helping them develop the skills to find, evaluate, organize, and share information effectively.

To help biology undergraduates achieve that goal, I developed a research skills assignment that is given to the 1,500 students who take Biology 1B each year. It's an example of flipped instruction and problem-based learning. We provide the assignment and support materials focused on finding, evaluating, and citing information on a biology topic. The students work through the problems at their own pace, and librarians are available to answer questions.

I inherited the original version of the assignment when I was hired, and a few semesters later, I moved it entirely online. I redesigned the questions and learned to code, so that the free-text answers can be accurately and flexibly autograded. Because the students get immediate feedback on their answers, the assignment isn't just an assessment of what they've learned, but a learning experience itself. And it's been great to have students contact us later, and tell us that they still remember the research skills they learned — that's really what we hope for.

*This Q&A was edited for brevity and clarity.*