



August 29, 2018

LAUC President's Report, 2017/2018

I am pleased to report on the activities of LAUC for the 2017/2018 term.

LAUC: The Next 50 Years

The year 2017 marked the 50th Anniversary of LAUC, and so our focus was on remembering LAUC's history and the achievements of its members. This year, we looked forward to the future of LAUC, and will focus on how our organization can continue to serve the University of California, our campus libraries, and our librarians. This theme has manifested in several activities, which I will outline below.

Advisory to Statewide Committees

As LAUC President I attended the fall Council of University Librarians (CoUL) in-person meeting, and attended three meetings of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). A major focus of these groups continues to be open access, and how the UC libraries can address the growing cost of journal subscriptions. Both CoUL and UCOLASC have developed action-oriented plans, which were discussed throughout the year.

Spring Assembly

The LAUC Spring Assembly was held on March 23, 2018 at the UCSF Mission Bay Campus. Following a heartfelt welcome from UCSF University Librarian Chris Shaffer, the assembly conducted a business meeting. During that meeting, the Assembly approved a resolution in honor of the 150th Anniversary of UC Charter Day (attached). Following the business meeting, our afternoon sessions consisted of breakout groups for discussion of topics important to librarianship:

- Qualities of librarians
- New roles and job titles
- Professional activities
- Support for the University's mission
- Values of librarians

Each group had a lively and informative discussion about their topic. The notes and statements made by each group will be used to help frame the revision of Position Paper 5.

Task Forces Charged:

Review of "The Academic Librarian in the University of California," Position Paper 5

Part of looking ahead to the future of LAUC is to update our position paper that describes the role of librarians at UC. The last revision to PP5 was in 1988, and as librarianship has changed rather drastically since then, the paper is in need of an update. During the afternoon session of the Spring Assembly, attendees discussed the topics that PP5 addresses: qualities of librarians, new roles and job titles, professional activities, support for the university's mission, and the values of librarians. These discussions will help to inform the revision of the position paper. A task force was formed following the assembly to work on review of PP5; their work continues into the 2018/2019 LAUC year.

LAUC Connect

Jill Barr-Walker, LAUC-SF Chair for 2017/2018, proposed that LAUC create a system-wide program that would help librarians across campuses connect and communicate. This idea was developed into the LAUC Connect Program, which will pair librarians based on their need: to connect with a librarian doing similar work, to share research or project ideas, or to provide mentorship for early career or new-to-UC librarians. A working group to launch this program was formed in January. The group surveyed the LAUC membership on their interest and worked to further iron out the program details.

During the summer, the task force sent out a call for participation in the program, with plans to match librarians at a later date and conduct assessment of the program in spring 2019.

Website Usability

Since the LAUC website underwent a major redesign several years ago, I felt that it was time to take a look at the website's usability and organization. A task force was charged to accomplish this, with particular attention to top-level navigation. The task force was formed in summer 2018, and has quickly mobilized and conducted a survey of the LAUC membership. Recommendations for changes to the website should be forthcoming.

Standing Committee Charges

In addition to their regular charges, the standing committees are working on the following projects:

- Research & Professional Development: review of the new PDF forms used for the grant process and development of a list of outside funding sources for research.
- Professional Governance: assist with revision of PO5 (see above); the committee developed the topics for discussion at the Assembly
- Diversity: continue to run the Meet our Members project, and consider whether to re-name the committee "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

Please refer to the committee reports for more information.

Funding Special Events and Projects

This year, I was lucky to have ample funding for the LAUC President's budget, due to the fact that unspent funds from the 2015-2016 year were carried over. I chose to allocate some of this funding to support LAUC librarians in several ways:

1. I sponsored three travel awards in the amount of \$1500 for attendance at the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, which will be held September 26-30, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM.
2. I sponsored travel for the LAUC-SF librarians to visit the UC Santa Cruz libraries. It should be noted that LAUC-SF had an innovative approach to conducting meetings this year: instead of having a meeting room, they elected to travel to other regional libraries as a professional development and networking experience! I was pleased to sponsor this unique approach to conducting LAUC meetings.
3. LAUC "swag": I plan to purchase portable device chargers and tote bags with the LAUC logo, which will be distributed to all LAUC divisions. These items should prove fun and useful for librarians, and more importantly, increase the visibility of LAUC.

Advocacy for Librarians

I attended two meetings to represent LAUC librarians: the California State Assembly Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education in California fourth hearing (May 4, 2018) and the spring UC Regents meeting (May 23, 2018). At the Assembly hearing, I addressed members of the select committee, including Riverside Assemblyman and chair of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee, Jose Medina. I spoke to the importance of librarians and libraries to the mission of higher education in California. At the spring UC Regents meeting, I read an excerpt from the resolution passed during the LAUC Spring Assembly, which was well-received by Regents Secretary Ann Shaw. In addition to the Regents, also present at the meeting were State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, and UC President Janet Napolitano. It is my hope that by speaking to these groups on the importance and value of librarians, our state legislators and UC leaders will have a positive impression of LAUC librarians and will remember to consider librarians and libraries in their work.

Respectfully Submitted,
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LAUC President, 2017/2018
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