LAUC Librarians Association of the University of California
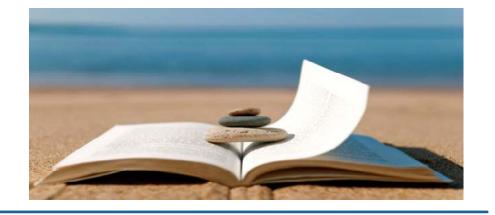
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A Message from LAUC President Diane Mizrachi

Greetings to all LAUC members! As our 2015-2016 term winds down, the Executive Board and I would like to thank you for your continued participation and support. To promote our theme of Celebrating Librarians, we began several initiatives this year, accomplished many goals, and continue to make progress on others. Several business issues also arose which we addressed. Below is a brief wrap-up of the 2015-2016 LAUC activities.

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LAUC Theme for 2015-2016: Celebrating Librarian Achievements

The LAUC President's theme for 2015-2016 has been celebrating and sharing librarian achievements. Publicizing our work is important for gaining recognition from our faculty and administrators – we are academics and we must be recognized as such through our body of work. It is also important for the morale of librarians and for improving communication among LAUC members. With our busy and focused professional lives it is too easy to be unaware of the amazing things our colleagues are doing in other departments, let alone on another UC campus. More public sharing of our work can inspire new projects and collaborations.

Three task forces were formed to promote our theme of celebration: LAUC Archives Task Force chaired by Kate Tasker (UCB), the Journal Task Force under the Chairship of Laura Smart (UCI), and the Web Content Committee (WCC) led by Cody Hennesy (UCB). As they completed their initial charges of investigating, reviewing, and developing recommendations they have evolved into implementation groups as described below.

At the Spring Assembly, LAUC celebrated the achievements of five librarians new to the UC system by inviting and funding them to present posters about their projects during the Assembly lunch break. We are also exploring the implementation of online media platforms such as Twitter and LinkedIn to publicize our work, and we have added a brief paragraph about LAUC with a link to our website to the Wikipedia entry on the University of California Libraries. It has been a productive year, and I want to thank all the Executive Board, committee members, and task force volunteers for their support and hard work.

Task Forces

The purpose of the LAUC Archives Task Force was to review current policies and practices and propose recommendations that would improve upon the current state. They completed this successfully as documented in their March 2016 report and were officially discharged. However, the same team, led by Kate Tasker (UCB), has been reconstituted as the LAUC Archives Implementation Task Force, and charged with carrying out the recommendations in their earlier report. See their March report at: http://tinyurl.com/laucarchives

The LAUC Journal Task Force surveyed Open Access and other publishing behaviors of UC Librarians, and investigated options to assist LAUC members disseminate their work using e-scholarship or other OA systems. Instead of founding a new LAUC OA journal, they proposed assembling a hub for the scholarly and creative output of LAUC members. The task force was discharged in March, but most members agreed to serve on the new E-Venue team, which is charged with executing the earlier recommendations and led by Dave Schmitt (UCSD). See their March report: http://tinyurl.com/laucjournal

The Web Content Committee (WCC) , chaired by Cody Hennesy in consultation with LAUC Web Manager Julie Lefevre, developed recommendations for workflow and content practices to highlight members' achievements, and to utilize social media for communication and outreach. As they complete their charge, mechanisms are being developed and three volunteers, Cody, Harrison Decker (UCB), and incoming Web Manager Jerrold Shiroma (UCM) have agreed to implement these recommendations.

For more information about the Task Forces and their work this year, see: https://lauc.ucop.edu/committees

New UCLAS Structure

Beginning November 2015, the UC Libraries Advisory Structure (UCLAS) was restructured and the three Strategic Action Groups (SAGs) disbanded. The primary components of the new structure include the Council of University Librarians (CoUL), the Direction and Oversight Committee (DOC), the Shared Content Leadership Group (SCLG), Shared Services Teams, and Common Knowledge Groups (CKG). Catherine Nelson (UCSB) is the LAUC representative to DOC, and Becky Imamoto (UCI) is the LAUC representative to SCLG. LAUC members will also be active on the Shared Services Teams and CKGs. For more information, please see: http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/advisory-structure

Spring Assembly @ UC Merced

The 2016 LAUC Spring Assembly, held at UC Merced, was attended by approximately 50 LAUC members in person, and additional participants remotely.

After UCM UL Haipeng Li welcomed the Assembly (left) we spent the morning session addressing LAUC business issues. Comments from attendees indicate that some found the Position Paper discussions "unexpectedly worthwhile," and "thought-provoking," but at least one attendee asked if the business portion could be done remotely in order spend more face-time interacting with colleagues. Others wrote of their appreciation for the LAUC Journal Task Force presentation by Dave Schmitt in which he detailed results from their survey of LAUC members' OA and publishing behaviors, and other factors that led to the recommendations in their report.

The poster presentations by new librarians during the lunch break (left) were well received by attendees. Members stated that this new feature should continue. Some noted that more time should be allotted in order to fully enjoy them. Perhaps in the future we can implement two presentations times: one during breakfast and one during lunch.

Donald Barclay (UCM) began the afternoon session with a presentation on the UCLAS reorganization and the structure of the Direction and Oversight Committee (DOC). Special guest speaker Dan Russell, senior research scientist at Google, then addressed the Assembly on "What Do You Need to Know? Learning and Knowing in the Age of Internet." Following his presentation, librarians broke into discussion groups to brainstorm the question: "How would librarians design Google?" and then shared their ideas (above right). Most attendees found this exercise very enjoyable and wished there was more time to explore the topic to greater depth.

Many delegates arrived in Merced the day before the Assembly and were treated to dinner at a local restaurant (below right), which provided the opportunity to socialize and network with UC colleagues in a relaxed environment.

Overall, feedback from the attendees on the Assembly was very positive – some expressed the desire to make them two-day events in the future!

LAUC Position Papers

LAUC Position Papers, which document our "association's position on crucial, broad and recurrent issues relating to the work and mission of librarians in the University of California," are subject to review every five years (see: https://lauc.ucop.edu/position-papers). In January our Committee on Profession Governance (CPG) gathered input from members throughout LAUC on Papers 1-4 for presentation at the Spring Assembly where we discussed and voted on their statuses. As a result, Papers 1 and 3 are now retired. Members voted to revise Papers 2 and 4 asking to keep their general principles without detailing specific procedures. Adam Siegel (UCD) is chairing the task force charged with revising Papers 2 and 4 for membership discussion and vote next year. Position Paper 5 addresses the definition of librarians in the UC system, and will not be reviewed until the outcome and implications of any changes to the APM 360-4 have been settled.

LAUC Standing Committees Projects

Besides reviewing and administering research grants to LAUC applicants, the Committee on Research and Professional Development, chaired by Dana Peterman (UCI), is assembling an informational slide show to assist members with their application process. They hope to roll it out early this summer.

The Committee on Diversity, Lia Friedman (UCSD) chair, is continuing with the 'Meet the Members' project with assistance from LAUC web manager.

Chair Deanna Johnson (UCD) and the Committee on Professional Governance gathered and prepared membership feedback on Position Papers 1-4 for the review and vote on their status at the Spring Assembly. They have also reviewed a number of divisional by-law changes to ensure compliance with statewide by-laws.

APM 360-4 Update

In March, the UC Office of the President (UCOP) issued a systemwide review of proposed revisions to the Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 210-4 and 360, which includes language on the definition of a librarian in the UC librarian series. LAUC members and other reviewers had 90 days to submit their comments to UCOP. Dean Rowan (UCB), Matt Conner (UCD), and Diane Mizrachi (UCLA) collected comments and feedback from members in all divisions, which they organized by theme for submission. They also included all the comments they received. As of this writing, UCOP is still analyzing the comments from all reviewers throughout the UC system.

New LAUC Travel Procedures

As of Fiscal Year 2015-2016, UCOP has requested that all LAUC travel procedures be handled by the Library Business Office of the current LAUC President. Members travelling on official LAUC business should make their own arrangements and request reimbursement through their division's office. The divisional offices will then request recharge from the LAUC President's library business office.

See https://lauc.ucop.edu/travel-reimbursement for more information.

The LAUC Newsletter

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