To be adopted:


This year was a time of transition. UCR has a new Chancellor, Dr. France Córdova, who has shown much stronger support of the library system than did the previous chancellor. Also, University Librarian James Thompson retired last year after a long tenure. We were very fortunate to be able to hire Dr. Ruth Jackson as the new University Librarian. She faces a situation in which the staff is almost a skeleton staff. In addition to Mr. Thompson, many senior figures have retired recently or are retiring, including Assistant University Librarian John Tanno and Collections Development head Peter Briscoe. The old guard is gone, and with it a large amount of institutional memory. This comes at a time when libraries are fast changing everywhere, as electronic forms become more and more important—partially replacing print media in many fields. Students today seem more adept at using electronic media than print. Libraries are changing to deal with this.

After a long period of extremely slender funding for the library, new funds were promised by incoming Chancellor France Cordova. $1,000,000 was tentatively allocated, “permanent budget augmentation...for...new academic and staff positions, book acquisitions,” etc., as well as further increases to cover inflation in book and binding prices. A promise was made to add, also, $600 per student (new FTE). This would provide desperately needed funding for the library, which has had to cancel journals, leave staff positions open, etc., for years now.

Unfortunately, as of May 5, the situation appears desperate again. The state budget crisis led to huge cuts to higher education. The current proposal is for the UCR Library to suffer reductions of 4-13% (depending on whether Option 1, 2 or 3 is adopted). These would obviously be devastating to the library system here, undoing most or all of the previously promised funding augmentation. Given that inflation of book and journal prices is running 8-13% a year, the cuts would have about twice the effect their dollar amount would suggest. This would devastate the library.

At last report (2001 figures, from the Chronicle of Higher Education, vol. 49, no. 1, Aug. 30, 2002, Almanac for 2002-3), UCR stood 99th in library holdings of the 113 ARL libraries, with a total of 2,081,146 volumes, and a staff of 118 (one of the lowest among these research libraries).

A statement by Dr. Jackson is appended to this report.

It has been decided that the collections and acquisitions personnel of the library will work directly with departments in future; the plan of coordinating through the Deans’ offices is abandoned.

A proposal for an MFA in Art was examined and sent back for further input on the library resources needed and available. This was received, and the proposal sent onward.
A proposal for a program of graduate study in financial management was received from Anderson Graduate School of Management. Comments were made, but the proposal has not resurfaced in our purview, so no action was taken.

A serious concern arose over electronic reserves. In summer 2002, a publisher contacted the university over the possibility of downloading copyrighted documents from reserves. This led to a freeze on placing articles on electronic reserves, while discussion and planning took place, involving David Rios and Dr. Jackson in the library system. The latest word we have on this (and some related matters), as of May 5, is attached, courtesy of Dr. Jackson and Library Rep. Judy Lee. Other UC campuses have dealt with the problem, and we expect a policy to emerge in the near future.

Questions of information literacy were raised at all meetings. There is a continuing need to provide instruction to undergraduates in use of the library and the many electronic databases, search engines, etc., that currently make the search for information so different from that of even a very few years ago. The California State University system and most or all of the community colleges have required courses or workshops for new students. Similar programs for UC have been discussed for years now, but nothing has come of it—although the library system continues to do everything possible (given limited resources and staffing) to train all students who can be lured in. The Library Committee views this with concern, and hopes to see the relevant committees (Educational Policy, college executive committees, etc.) taking up this question.

Questions of further workstations and of carrels for graduate students were raised, but the funding situation puts all such issues on hold for the present.

Another question addressed was that of hiring packages for new faculty. New science hires routinely get six-figure packages for laboratory startup expenses. In the past, humanities and social science hires could expect packages including funds for ordering books and journals for the library, up to or around $40,000. This custom has long been discontinued; new hires are lucky to receive any funds at all for this purpose. The Library Committee has thus passed a resolution to request that new hires in those areas, as well as the sciences, include packages for funding of library purchases of books and subscriptions to journals.

Attachment 1: Full accounts from University Librarian Dr. Ruth Jackson and Judy Lee, the Library representative to the committee, of matters noted above:

We note that both Melvyl-T and “legacy” Melvyl (the "old" web Melvyl) will run simultaneously this summer but legacy-Melvyl is slated to end this Fall. Watch for library efforts toward Melvyl-T training this summer and fall.

Electronic Reserves: Dr. Jackson reported on the status of the library's investigation of a useful system to use: new SCOTTY software, a software package called "Documentation", and the use of Blackboard. Dr. Jackson thinks the analysis of these options will continue and looks toward a decision being made before next Fall.

Copyright issues: There have been problems stemming from unchecked constant downloading of articles from a specific server w/i CHASS. This resulted in a complaint from
JSTOR that the party in question was violating the fair use intent of copyright. Computing and Communications had to "shut down" the server's access to JSTOR items. Copyright has become a sensitive area w/ variations in definition and practice on college and university campuses. Dr. Jackson pointed to the need for copyright education on this campus and suggested that the library arrange jointly with C&C for seminars to orient UCR faculty and academics on the issues as a component of the faculty development series. It is important for faculty to understand the copyright situation and when an action is considered a violation due to 1) potential lawsuits against the University by the publisher (something we can ill afford in this budgetary climate) and 2) publishers shutting off our access to the electronic resources.

The Graduate Student Association's recommendation to reinstate library carrels for graduate students: Dr. Jackson reported on a meeting between her and the GSA President and that a Chancellor's appointed task force on graduate students had been formed to identify the needs of this group. Discussion ensued about library carrels for graduate students and faculty. Dr. Jackson expressed the observation that should library carrels be reinstated for faculty that a faculty group, like the Academic Senate Library Committee might be asked by the libraries to take the responsibility for the determination of carrel assignment.

Information Literacy: J. Lee reported that there are two task forces working on information literacy on the UC campuses, one through LAUC (the Librarians Association of the University of California) and one appointed by the University Librarians. Both task forces want to work with campus administrators and faculty to address this issue which has received sustained attention within the CSU system and California community colleges. We hope to insure that our students are information literate and prepared for lifelong learning, attaining a set of prescribed set of research and critical thinking skills. Working together to accomplish this goal is more important now as WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) has written information literacy into its guidelines for accreditation. UCR had its last WASC accreditation in 1997-1998. WASC is now operating on a ten-year cycle, so UCR would be reviewed w/ a decision to be made in 2008. The process is now a two-year to three-year process, with a plan for self-study due October 15, 2005. The self-study report itself would be due October 15, 2007. UCR should start now to make sure it meets the information literacy requirements for WASC reaccreditation.

Attachment 2

The following resolutions were passed by the Committee.

1. Whereas, in past years, hiring packages for new faculty routinely contained significant funds for new faculty to order new books and journals for the library; and whereas, this tradition has lapsed over recent years, while hiring-package laboratory startup funds have increased significantly;

   RESOLVED< that the Library Committee supports restoring hiring packages for new faculty, such packages to include significant funding for books and journals for the library.

2. Recognizing that these are difficult budgetary times for all of us, the Library Committee respectfully submits the observation that the UCR Library System has suffered
extremely low funding over recent years, unlike other campus units. We have been informed that the cuts proposed for the Library System are on the order of 4-13% (depending on whether Option 1, 2 or 3 is adopted). These are in line with what is happening to the rest of the campus, but would be utterly devastating to the Libraries.

Be it RESOLVED, therefore, that we urge that funding for the Library System be preserved from extreme funding reductions in the proposed ranges.

Attachment 3

Statement by Dr. Ruth Jackson, April 18, 2003

The University Libraries are committed to serving the goals of UCR to support excellence in:

Undergraduate Education
Graduate Education
Research
Public Service
Partnership with the state in advancing knowledge, economic development, and technology transfer

To accomplish these goals, the Libraries must function as an intellectual center, and information commons, and as A PORTAL to the world’s store of information relevant to UCR programs. We serve as a foundation for bringing students and faculty together in an environment which is both physical (library as place) and digital (meaning with web, electronic, and Internet resources). Libraries face tremendous challenges in this new information environment, not the least of which is the fact that information is no longer viewed solely as an intellectual resource but more so as an economic commodity.

The current budget reductions that we face as a library system, and as an institution, are enormous. It means that the Libraries must not only absorb the 4-13% reduction in funding at Levels 1, 2, and 3, but also an 8-13% increase in the cost of journal titles and electronic resources, just to maintain the collections in their existing state. This translates not just into $532,435 at a Level 1 budget cut, but $532,435 plus more than $324,000 to cover inflation. At level 2, it’s not just $1,198,014, but $1,552,014 to cover inflation. At level 3, the figures exceed $2 million.

Simply stated, UCR cannot absorb library reductions at these levels and remain a viable tier I research institution. The reductions will ultimately mean deep cuts in the book budget, lead to drastic cuts in the serials and electronic resources budget, and impact hours of services. This will happen at the same time that enrollments are increasing and that UCR is working toward preeminence in nanotechnology, genome research, Mexican/American initiatives, enhancing the undergraduate experience and the humanities, expanding graduate education, establishing stronger programs through development of professional schools, and seeking membership in the prestigious AAU. A strong library system is basic to the quality of education and research at UCR and to attaining each of these goals. At minimum, 38% of the $1,000,000 added to the library base budget during FY2003 will have to be rescinded. At maximum, 100% of the addition to the base will have to be rescinded plus more than $1.2
additional when inflation is included. We also run the risk of losing Association of Research Library status, impacting faculty recruiting, grant eligibility, damage to graduate education, and diminishing opportunities for AAU membership.

For these reasons, and given the initiatives that are at stake, cuts to the Libraries must be held to a minimum.

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J. N. Bailey-Seres
W. Bracken
D. E. MacLaughlin
A. Maryanski
R. Jackson, University Librarian, ex officio
W. Butler, ASUCR Rep.
W. Wilkie, GSA Rep.