BIANNUAL UPDATE ON NEW SERVICES AND RESOURCES FROM THE UC SAN DIEGO LIBRARY

REGULAR FEATURES

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This fall has ushered in some significant changes for the campus, including the appointment of a new chancellor, Pradeep K. Khosla, who officially became UC San Diego’s new leader in August, and has been highly visible on and off campus since then. This issue of Faculty File includes an interview with Suresh Subramani, executive vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, who provides some thoughtful insight into the university’s trajectory and what new challenges and opportunities might be encountered by new campus leadership at this point in time. We look forward to featuring Chancellor Khosla soon in an upcoming Q&A.

Also in this issue you will find updates on our ongoing collection consolidation efforts and the opening of our new 24/5 study commons in Geisel Library. The latter—long at the top of students’ wish lists—is an initiative we announced last year when we received a generous bequest that could assist us in covering the ongoing costs of providing such a service. Not surprisingly, the study commons, which provides more than 500 seats for UC faculty, students, and staff on a 24-hour basis from Sunday through Thursday, has already proven to be highly popular.

In this issue we also bring you a new column—“Perspectives.” This occasional column will present various perspectives from university faculty members and scholars about relevant library, academic, research, instruction, and digital technology issues. If you would like to share an opinion—in 600 words or less—with your fellow faculty members, we would like to hear from you. Our inaugural column is written by Literature Professor Lisa Lampert-Weissig, chair of the campus’s Academic Senate Committee on the Library. Lisa’s piece is on open access and the publishing challenges facing UC and other university campuses.

With best regards,
Brian E. C. Schottlaender
The Audrey Geisel University Librarian

Rare Melanesian Archive Named for UCSD Anthropologist Don Tuzin

In spring 2012, the UC San Diego Library held a symposium and related exhibit in Geisel Library to mark the 30-year anniversary of its world-renowned Melanesian Archive with the renaming of the archive for UC San Diego anthropologist Donald Tuzin, who played an instrumental role in its development.
In fall 2011, the Library embarked on a 3-year effort to consolidate its print collections in order to accommodate our smaller footprint on campus. After a great deal of work this summer, we have now completed the first phase of our compact shelving installation on the first floor of the East Wing of Geisel Library, and expect to complete the second phase of that installation during winter quarter. As we’ve communicated previously, the installation of compact shelving in Geisel Library is absolutely essential, as it allows us to maximize the number of volumes that can be accommodated.

This first phase of shelving now accommodates the majority of the Q-Z call numbers in one combined sequence. Books and journals are shelved separately to allow ease of access within this new shelving area. Meanwhile, on the upper floors of the Geisel tower, materials from the collection that had been located at IR/PS are being merged from their present location on the 8th floor into the A-P call number sequence on floors 5-7 and into the Q-Z sequence in the new first floor compact shelving. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language materials from the collection formerly located at IR/PS are being combined with other similar language materials on the 4th floor of Geisel in order to form a comprehensive East Asia Collection. The Library made the decision to arrange the Asian language materials in this way as a result of feedback received last spring from IR/PS faculty and others who use these materials.

The Library has also received many requests for the return of the oversize materials, formerly located on the 8th floor, from the Annex back to Geisel. These materials had been temporarily moved to offsite storage last year, in order to accommodate—on the 8th floor—materials from IR/PS. As soon as the 8th floor is ready, we plan to install dedicated oversize shelving on a portion of the 8th floor in order to accommodate the oversize titles that users have been requesting. We hope to have this completed in spring 2013.

Along with these efforts, we are continuing our efforts to reduce duplication in our print collections. As we review and consolidate our science journal collections, we are, in many cases, moving print journals offsite in instances where digital versions are widely available. While print copies will continue to be available from offsite storage, either at our Library Annex or in one of the UC Regional Library Facilities, our goal remains to provide our primary user community—our faculty, students, and staff—with access to what they need, when and where they need it, and in the form most useful to them. Increasingly, our users expect content to be available anytime and anywhere in a digital and mobile form. We are therefore making concerted efforts to obtain scholarly journal electronic backfile content as well as current ebooks when our patrons need them.

We greatly value and welcome input, comments, and suggestions from faculty and other members of the campus community on how we can continue to provide the access you need to the array of information resources and collections we manage. We also welcome your recommendations for library acquisitions to further enhance and refine our range of collections in order to meet the increasingly electronic needs of our campus. Please send comments to us at: http://libraries.ucsd.edu/collections/consolidation-qa-feedback.html You may also contact us via your library liaison at: http://libraries.ucsd.edu/contacts/subject-specialists.html

Papua New Guinea is considered one of the world’s most culturally, linguistically, and geographically diverse places on earth, with more than 800 languages spoken and terrain ranging from glaciers to coastal lowlands. The archive, which features the personal papers of some of the world’s most prominent anthropologists and linguists who have worked in the region, includes a variety of native art, as well as photographs, manuscripts, correspondence, sound recordings, and film and video.

According to Kathy Creely, the Library’s Melanesian studies librarian since 1983, the Melanesian Archive has grown to include research materials from about 40 different anthropologists, linguists, missionaries, colonial officers, and others. It also includes photographs, films and other materials produced by scholars who have studied Melanesian cultures. In addition, the Library is continuing to digitize materials from the collection to enhance access. To date, some 6500 photographs from the Melanesian Archive have been digitized and are available to scholars and others over the Internet via the Library’s Web site: https://libraries.ucsd.edu/digital.
Q. You have now been serving as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for about 1.5 years, and, before that, you were the acting senior vice chancellor for six months. Now that you’ve settled into the job a bit, you have a new boss – Chancellor Pradeep Khosla. How does that feel?

A. I am delighted that we at UC San Diego have gained an outstanding new leader in Chancellor Pradeep Khosla. Chancellor Khosla has a deep interest in all areas of the campus, including research and education. I believe that he and I have a shared vision of UC San Diego’s mission of service and community impact—regionally, nationally and globally. Well before his official start date, Chancellor Khosla immersed himself in engaging with faculty, administrators, staff and community leaders to gain an understanding of our campus community and what makes UC San Diego unique. We are indeed fortunate to have him here at UC San Diego.

Every change presents an opportunity to reflect on our past accomplishments and to reshape our future. The Chancellor and I along with the campus leadership are beginning to engage the campus in a strategic planning process that will seek to establish a vision for our future from the bottom up. This will be an inclusive process that involves all of our campus constituents—students, staff, faculty and community. I am excited by the prospect of a developing a campus wide long-term strategic plan. Our landscape has changed dramatically over the course of the last 50 years, and our growth plan for the campus was halted overnight at the outset of the last cycle of budget reductions.

We are challenged to repurpose ourselves to rely less on state funding while enhancing our commitment as a public institution to provide societal impact in all that we do—teaching, research and service. We have what we need to get there—visionary leadership in our new Chancellor and his cabinet, brilliant faculty, resilient and outstanding staff, supportive and generous community partners, and some of the best and brightest students in the world all constantly inspiring us.

Q. As a molecular biologist who has been with UC San Diego for 30 years, how have you seen the role of the library in the academic enterprise change over the years?

A. Libraries in general have a rapidly evolving role in the world. For my first 15-20 years on campus following my arrival in 1981, I made it a weekly occurrence to visit the library to review journal articles and keep up with the latest information in my field. Today, with wireless access I can do this anywhere in the world! The availability of technology has vastly changed the way I use the library as a faculty member.

Here at UC San Diego, I feel that the library has two distinct roles: one as a repository for information and another as a safe place for students to study. As budget cuts have necessitated library consolidations, we have worked collectively to ensure that students have sufficient comfortable and safe study space by creating distributed study spaces both in the Libraries and across the campus.

The Library also serves as a technological hub. Federal guidelines require universities to maintain data for public access for a specified duration. Standards for storage are being developed to allow the entire world to benefit from the data we collect. We at UC San Diego have an ongoing experiment as part of our Research Cyberinfrastructure Initiative in which the UC San Diego Library is piloting a data curation project to assist faculty with storing and retrieving data. Data from around the globe will be at our fingertips. I can envision that staff will need to be available to provide assistance to those who need it—for example—an engineer with an interest in music, or a biologist interested in visualizing large data sets. I also envision a future in which course materials are provided in newer formats—either online or portable devices. The Library will also be a repository of unique and valuable digital collections. In this sense, the library will also take on a research instruction and facilitation role.

Q. As a member of the university’s leadership team, you have helped to guide UC San Diego’s response to budget cuts over the past few years. What do you see on the horizon?

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Lisa Lampert-Weissig is the chair of the UC San Diego Academic Senate Committee on the Library. She is a professor of English Literature and Comparative Medieval Studies and holds the Katzin Endowed Chair in Jewish Civilization.

I spent much of my summer in the thirteenth century. I was deep into study of Matthew Paris, chronicler for the Abbey of St. Albans, who created his wonderfully illustrated texts within abbey walls, primarily for the edification of his fellow monks. It was not until his Chronica Majora was transferred from one of a handful of manuscript copies to print in 1571 that it became the inspiration for many writers, including the creator of the Wandering Jew legend, my current object of study.

The significance of the transition from manuscript to print and the role of this revolution in knowledge production and dissemination was therefore on my mind when I left the Middle Ages to resume my role as the chair of our campus Senate Library Committee. This is a busy year for us: UC campuses are considering a new policy on Open Access. What is Open Access? It is a new publishing model that relies on our own information revolution, digitization, to make scholarly work available to anyone with an internet connection.

To be honest, I had never even heard of Open Access until I joined the library committee. I think many of my colleagues must be in the same position as I was a year ago and, to a certain extent, still am. I’m inspired by the goals of Open Access, but I’m not quite sure what my own role is or should be in this digital revolution. I urge my colleagues to consider carefully the newly proposed Senate Open Access policy and to use this occasion to think about other aspects of publishing that they may never before have had the opportunity to consider.

What are the true costs of publishing? Each time I access research information I am now curious about just how much it costs my library to make this work available to me. I suggest a little experiment. Try to look up one of your own articles without using a UCSD internet connection. ($39.95 for something I published in 2001? Really?) This little exercise may get you thinking about the costs of access to scholarship for our institution and for individuals who aren’t connected with large research institutions.

When I consider publishing venues I am now interested in the access policies of publishers. Do I still want to publish in what I consider to be the best and most prestigious venues? Absolutely. If I have an opportunity to do so, I will not hesitate to publish in the venue I consider best for my career. But I am also now actively seeking Open Access venues for my work and considering publisher practice when I accept requests to review work. I would encourage all of my colleagues to think about these issues as they consider publication, review work and work on editorial boards. I have begun to talk to colleagues in my field about the access status of society publications and to encourage them to think strategically about our publication practices. I think it is important for all of us to do the same with our respective disciplinary groups.

Matthew Paris was convinced that the Apocalypse would arrive in 1250, but when it didn’t he continued on with his chronicle until his death in 1253, assisted at the last by his brethren, to whom he dictated his work from his deathbed. While I sometimes feel, like Matthew, that the end is nigh, I am also heartened by progress and new opportunities. When I read Matthew’s work and other medieval texts, I cannot sometimes help but think about how, at the time they were written, I would have likely been actively excluded from reading them. Various types of revolutions and struggle intervened to make access possible for me. Open Access is, to my mind, a central part of the digital revolution. It is also an important new step in breaking down the abbey walls and making scholarly work available to everyone.

A link to the proposed University policy and background documents, as well as links to our own campus Committee on Library’s response, can be found at: http://senate.ucsd.edu/committees/library/oa.htm.

If you have a perspective you’d like to share in this column, we’d love to hear from you. Contact Dolores Davies at ddavies@ucsd.edu or call x40667

The study commons, located on the main floor of Geisel Library’s East Wing (currently known as the Science & Engineering Library) boasts seating for more than 500 and is open to UC students, faculty, and staff only.

Students have been thrilled with the addition of all-night study space, especially in light of the recent library consolidations which have lead to reductions in study space on campus. The 24/5 study commons, which expands the hours available for study in Geisel Library by nearly 40%, includes large and small study tables, individual study carrels, comfortable chairs, groups study rooms, and computer workstations.
Despite these inauspicious times, we have maintained our commitment to excellence and to preserving UC San Diego’s academic core. We continue to grow an excellent and diverse faculty and beginning last year have committed to a three-year recruitment plan of allocating 125-130 FTE for general campus searches, which will support new and exciting areas of research and education and improve our faculty to student ratio. Our faculty, with the support of outstanding staff and students, have garnered total research funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, of more than $1,010,000,000—coming close to or surpassing the billion dollar mark for the past three years! For three years running, a UC San Diego faculty member has been recognized for remarkable achievements with a National Medal of Science. For the third consecutive year, UC San Diego was recognized by Washington Monthly’s 2012 College Guide as the nation’s #1 college based on its research, social mobility and student commitment to service. We have much to be proud of and we have much at stake.

Our future undoubtedly holds greater uncertainty with regard to the state budget, less reliance on state funds, increased emphasis on philanthropy, and a greater necessity for revenue generation models of education for people of all ages. We must, and will continue uncompromisingly with our focus on quality, uniqueness, societal impact and diversity. Each of these is a key ingredient for the maintenance of our pre-eminence in higher education. The selection of Professor Linda Greene, our new Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, will greatly aid our efforts.

Last fall, you joined with David Brenner, dean of the School of Medicine, and Tony Haymet, director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, in announcing a three-year faculty hiring plan to recruit up to 130 new faculty members. Also discussed was the possibility of launching a new design center or design institute. Could you update us on that initiative?

This time last year, the general campus deans and I began a strategic planning exercise with the goal of developing a long-term vision for education and research that will sustain us for the next decade and beyond. I involved my Health Sciences and Marine Sciences colleagues in this conversation to seek opportunities to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries. From these discussions, three new research initiatives emerged in the areas of Design, Advanced Energy, and Quantitative Biology, as well as an initiative in Education.

All of these initiatives are off the ground in terms of faculty hiring over three years, beginning with last year. The 2011-12 recruitment cycle yielded five new faculty members in support of the Quantitative Biology initiative—the best in their field. Similar progress has been made in the Energy and Design initiatives, including the recruitment of faculty from the Stanford University Design School. Faculty from across the campus have come together for planning sessions and retreats focusing on Design over the last several months. I am eagerly awaiting the details of their planning document outlining the next steps in research, education and experiential learning in this area.

So many dramatic changes have occurred over the last decade, many of them spurred by technological advances like the Internet, computers, and mobile phones. How do you see teaching and research transitioning over the next decade, as a result of these changes?

Technological advancements and interdisciplinary work have already transformed our world. With personalized medical devices, genomic medicine, state-of-the-art imaging and visualization, we can address monumental problems with a greater impact on society. Many of these will deal with large data sets and big data, but in the midst of this we will have the brilliant mathematician, musician or theorist who toils alone. This means that interdisciplinary and individuality often flourish side by side. The university has often been viewed as the ivory tower of advanced learning, reasoning and creative thinking, but funding restrictions will force us to think more and more about societal impact. This means naturally, that our students will need to learn their subject matter, while also being able to fit seamlessly into a multicultural, global society with real-world knowledge of budgets, timelines and efficient design.

This month the campus celebrated the opening of our newest—and possibly last—state-funded building for some time, the Structural and Materials Engineering building. Within this building, nanomechanic, structural engineers and visual artists interested in urban and architectural design are working hand-in-hand to imagine and create new possibilities. This building will also house the Arthur C. Clarke Center for the Imagination.

Please send your comments and suggestions to: Dolores Davies, editor ddavies@ucsd.edu or 858.534.0667