

ACADEMIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES (C-LIB)

PROPOSAL FOR SENATE ACTION

The following action item is from the Committee on Libraries, as modified in the Steering Committee:

The Senate accepts the report of C-Lib and charges it and its subcommittees to engage with the Stanford University Libraries (SUL) concerning the following recommendations based on those of its Subcommittee on Digital Information Technologies in the Research Library Environment at Stanford.

The Senate requests a planning process to examine the costs and feasibility of potentially implementing the various recommendations of C-Lib. During this process, SUL should consult with the Budget Office, the Capital Planning and Management Group, and other relevant offices of the university. Special attention should go to the needs of the East Asian Library. Wide consultation with deans, development personnel, university officers and student leaders may lead to the addition of co-opted members. No fundamental decisions should be taken in absence of the following report to the Senate.”

Specific topics in the planning process ought to address include at least the following. What methods may guide decisions about the location of books on or off campus and how does the disposition of books interact with and balance against the development of digital book holdings? Given the cost factor of on-campus book storage and the limits imposed by the GUP on central campus building, what should be the role of browsable library stacks? What should be the relative priority among digitizing books, improved cataloging, virtual browsing, and other steps toward the electronic library? What would be the relative importance in any future on-campus library project among book storage, including books in non-Roman characters, and other uses of space such a research modules, faculty studies, open study areas, reference, or special collection areas?

The Senate charges C-Lib to monitor the progress of this process and to advise the Provost and the University Librarian on the implementation of options. C-Lib will report no later than the end of the academic year 2009-10 on the status of the planning process with regard to its original recommendations and may delineate new recommendations.

C-Lib presents these recommendations, as a starting point for this planning process.

- *Project for Catalogue Renewal*
A broad-based initiative to incorporate as quickly as possible both non-Roman characters and non-textual media materials into the catalogue with meaningful layers of indexing. The development of a new Graphical User Interface based on Web 2.0 protocols (e.g., Lens). Every catalogue entry should include scanned and searchable images of the title page, table of contents, and index (if it exists). Catalogue entries for older books originally listed on paper cards must be revisited, updated, and completed by library professionals. Entries for multi-volume sets and series must be regularized and completed so that users are given a full snapshot of the entire contents. This is particularly important when paging volumes from whole sets or series housed in off-campus storage. The sub-committee realizes that remedial work on the catalogue is expensive and time-consuming; nonetheless, the catalogue renewal project should become a constant, long-term budget item supported by appropriate levels of additional funding.
- *Research Modules*
The constitution of architectural spaces devoted to research modules assigned to classes or research projects, where off-site books can be stored and consulted, and where faculty and staff are able to work with the materials close at hand. These spaces should become part of any future architectural programming for the libraries. Faculty or classes or working groups of faculty and students will participate through a system of application that will make each of these spaces available for a specific lease with a time limit.
- *Research Portals*
The constitution of virtual spaces devoted to research center modules comprised of research portals customized to specific projects, on-line data storage for the materials gathered, and database design for accessing the material in complex ways. Part of this might involve developing templates that could be modified for specific purposes. We envision staff support similar to the current program of ATS working in departments, but on a much larger and more highly personalized scale.
- *Browsing Model Project*
Fast-track development of a working model in which the experience and intellectual yield of physically browsing books are replicated in an environment comprised of both paper and electronic materials. This will probably involve intense graphics and three-dimensional imaging. We believe that building such a model will convince skeptical faculty about the potential of working with new technologies, and force the library to deliver services that have, up to now, been mainly promises for the future. Budget for developing the model should be supported by incremental funding.

- *Researcher/Library Interaction*
The sub-committee believes that faculty and students will more readily adapt their research and teaching habits to the evolving technologies if encouraged to work in close cooperation with library curators and other academically oriented library staff. We want to encourage faculty and students to engage librarians and ATS personnel when designing and taking courses to reveal the many dimensions of research beyond a Google inquiry. To this end, we want to emphasize that academically oriented library professionals who interact significantly with faculty and students should remain on center campus and not be caught up in the exodus to off-campus offices.
- Given the expression of faculty dissatisfaction with the established criterion that specifies “lowest use material will be candidates for SAL3,” we recommend that serials become the first candidates for transfer to Livermore from Green, SAL1 and SAL2. Details about exceptions to this policy can be worked out between the library and interested faculty or departments.
- We recommend that SUL modify its emphasis on desktop access to content in order to provide the most supple and flexible support in a hybrid environment of print and electronic materials.
- We thus recommend the following to guide off-campus storage decisions:

At a minimum, no book is to be transferred to SAL3 (Livermore) until its cataloging has been updated and deepened when necessary, nor before its title page, table of contents, and index are scanned and fully searchable. As a corollary, any book recalled from SAL3 for use on campus must pass a catalogue review and scanning of its title page, table of contents, and index before being returned to off-site storage. In the longer term, full digitization of books stored remotely must be the goal.
- C-Lib recommends rethinking the use of auxiliary libraries. Given the center campus space constrictions currently in place under the GUP, we recommend repurposing the on-campus auxiliary libraries (SAL1 and SAL2), since they already possess the precious quality of being part of the core campus.
 - We believe they will more usefully serve the research needs of faculty and students if more closely integrated with the collections of Green. This means treating them less as auxiliary libraries and more as part of the core-campus collection.
 - C-Lib recommends a strenuous effort to improve the integration of SAL3. It is not sufficient to have “a goal of 24-hour turnaround and direct delivery” from Livermore to Green. A one-day turnaround must be delivered by whatever means.

- C-Lib endorses the subcommittee's recommendation that SAL 1 and SAL 2 be treated a surge space after the destruction of Meyer Library, and the East Asian Library be temporarily located there until the construction of appropriate central campus quarters can take place. Such quarters must remain high priority until the, probably distant, future time when books in non-Roman characters are machine searchable. The ultimate provision of permanent quarters for EAL is crucial.
- To modernize and consolidate on-campus book storage we recommend building a structure in close proximity to Green comprised of state-of-the-art compact shelving with books arranged by call number and accessible for browsing by users. It should hold about 4 million volumes, including all of East Asian, all of the capacity of the present SAL1 and SAL2 (which we advise be destroyed) and about one-half of the present contents of Green. Staff offices and reference areas for the East Asian Library could well find a place in this new structure, along with the research modules we have projected and increased faculty studies.
- C-Lib endorses the subcommittee's recommendation that, during the next negotiations, Stanford work to remove the areas devoted to book storage from the counted building area cap in the General Use Permit.

Note from C-Lib: The vote of C-Lib was unanimous except for the dissent of one member who attended one of the five relevant meetings before leaving Stanford for the quarter. He voted "no" on the basis of the email circulation of this action item.

11/4/08