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Sessions

Title

A New Era for Shared Access and Print Management - From Regional to Systemwide Library Facilities

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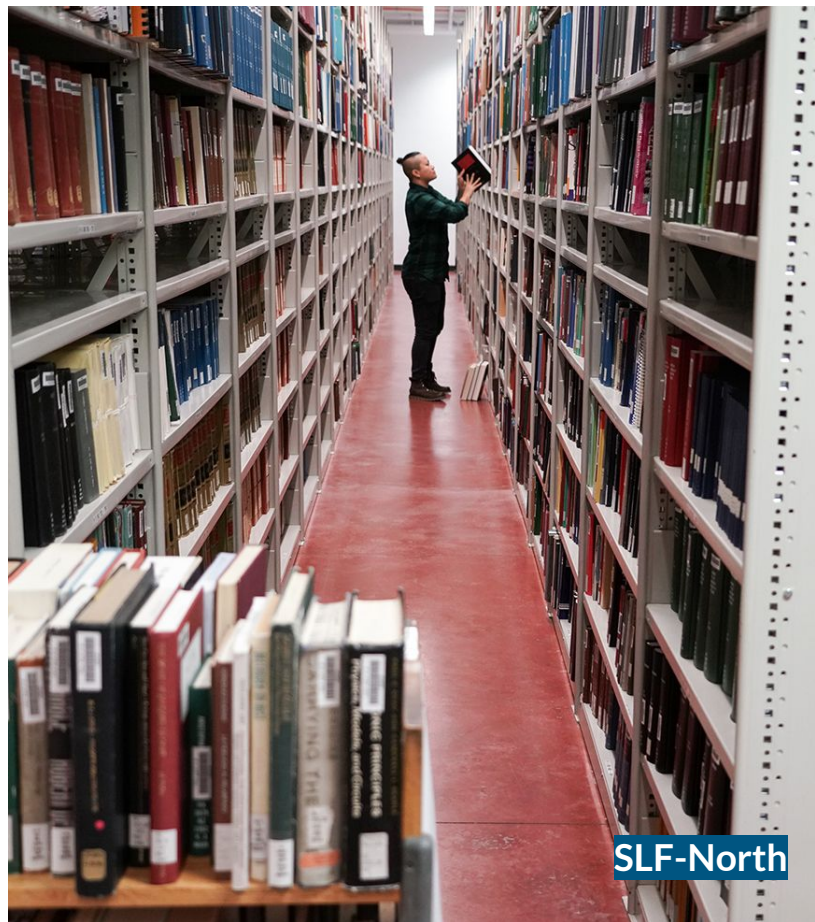
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A New Era for Shared Access and Print Management

From Regional to Systemwide Library Facilities

Panel Presentation & Discussion
UC Libraries Forum
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
10:30-11:45am PT

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On the panel



Lorelei Tanji
University Librarian
UC Irvine



Suzanne Wones
University Librarian
UC Berkeley



Athena Jackson
University Librarian
UC Los Angeles



Alison Wohlers
Assistant Director for
Shared Print
California Digital Library

This session will include

- A. Brief historical overview of the Regional Library Facilities (RLFs)
- B. Multi-Phase Project to Analyze the RLF Operating Budget (2022 - 2024)
- C. Transformation into the UC Systemwide Library Facilities (SLF)
- D. Panel discussion
- E. Audience questions



What are the UC regional library facilities (RLFs)?

- Two (2) high-density, climate-controlled storage facilities that preserve over 15 million books, journals, maps, special collections and other materials, accessible to end-users within the UC Libraries' unified service environment.
- Northern RLF (NRLF) built in 1982, Southern RLF (SRLF) in 1987; operated by host campuses since early 1990s.
- Designed for UC-wide operational and cost efficiencies.
 - Costs 75% less and requires 65% less space, when compared to campus libraries.
 - Lower cost than Iron Mountain for storage and access.



RLFs: A unique, shared asset

- Equitable intercampus lending
- Shared digitization efforts
- Collaboratively optimizing the management of our physical information resources



The journey from regional to systemwide facilities

A systemwide effort to ensure the resilience of critical shared services

				'One RLF, two locations'			The SLF
Persistence policy affirms UC Libraries' shared stake in RLF collections				The RLFs lead the selection and implementation of an inventory management software (IMS) and participate in SILS migration			Deep collaboration across the system and SLF locations to transform culture, workflows, and services
1982	1987	1993-1994	2004	2019	2022	2024	2025
NRLF built at UCB by OP	SRLF built at UCLA by OP	Budget and oversight transfers (OP → hosts)		Host funding shortfall ; LA & B request new model & approach	Multi-phase project to analyze budgets, find new solution	Project Rec's endorsed ; new funding, new structure	Implementation for fully systemwide facilities (SLF)
UCOP operated		Host campus (UCB, UCLA) operated					Systemwide service administratively hosted by UCB

Project to Analyze the RLF Operating Budget (2022 - 2024)

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Establishment of a project team to develop systemwide solutions

In November 2022, former UC Provost Michael Brown charged a systemwide project to immediately begin work to address the RLF operations funding issue.

Project to Analyze RLF Operations Funding

Phase 1 (Dec. 2022 - May 2023)

- Develop an overview of the RLF operating budgets and cost to run facilities and services
- Chaired by UC Irvine University Librarian Lorelei Tanji

Phase 2 (June 2023 - February 2024)

- Affirm UC principles; consider and recommend new funding solutions
- Chaired by former UC Vice Provost Doug Haynes

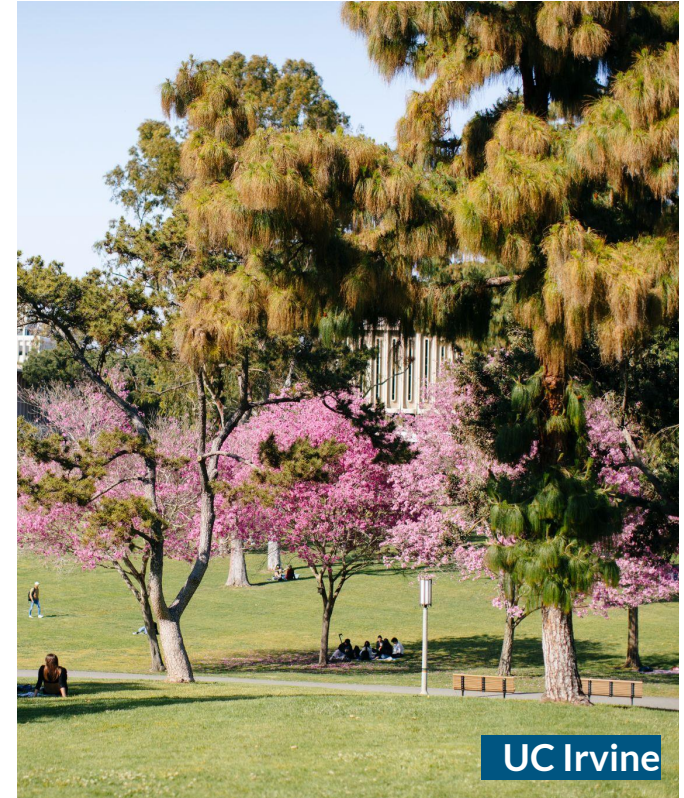
Project to Analyze RLF Operations Funding

- Across both phases of work, the project teams consisted of library, finance and RLF experts.
 - Consultation took place with a broad group of stakeholders, which **universally affirmed the importance of the facilities and their expert staff**
- Provost Katherine Newman provided considerable support for the project after her arrival in January 2023; ultimately approving the project teams' recommendations in March 2025



Recommendations: A meaningful foundation for change

- Maintain the RLFs as shared, economical, common goods.
- Manage the NRLF and SRLF operating budgets as a single, systemwide budget, and create a systemwide director (1 FTE).
- Expand Shared Library Facility Board (SLFB) budgetary oversight and advisory role.
- More proactively manage RLF capital and deferred maintenance costs.
- Establish a new RLF MOU, to replace the 1993/94 agreements
- Utilize a single UCOP funding source for RLF operations.



Transformation into the UC Systemwide Library Facilities (SLF)

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Where are we headed?

From collection storage...
to collection strategy

— **Implementing our vision**

With the multiphase project recommendations as a key touchpoint the Shared Library Facilities Board (SLFB) has defined a set of goals and priorities to enable transformation of the regional facilities into Systemwide Library Facilities.

Partnership

- 10 campuses + CDL
 - UC Libraries Advisory Structure
- UC Office of the President
 - Budgeting
 - Capital improvements
- External partners of UC
 - Shared print library partners
 - Agreements to share responsibility for preserving print and providing access
 - Peer facilities
 - Staying current and leading in the space of access facilities like ours



Communication & transparency

Millions of materials, one mission: University of California Libraries' facilities chart unified course

Library Communications
August 13, 2025

SHARE



Systemwide Library Facility (SLF) Long-Range Goals, Mid-Range Goals and Annual Priorities (2025/26)

Process, goals and priorities endorsed by the Systemwide Library Facilities Board (June 16, 2025)

[Introduction](#)

[Long-range SLFB/SLF goals](#)

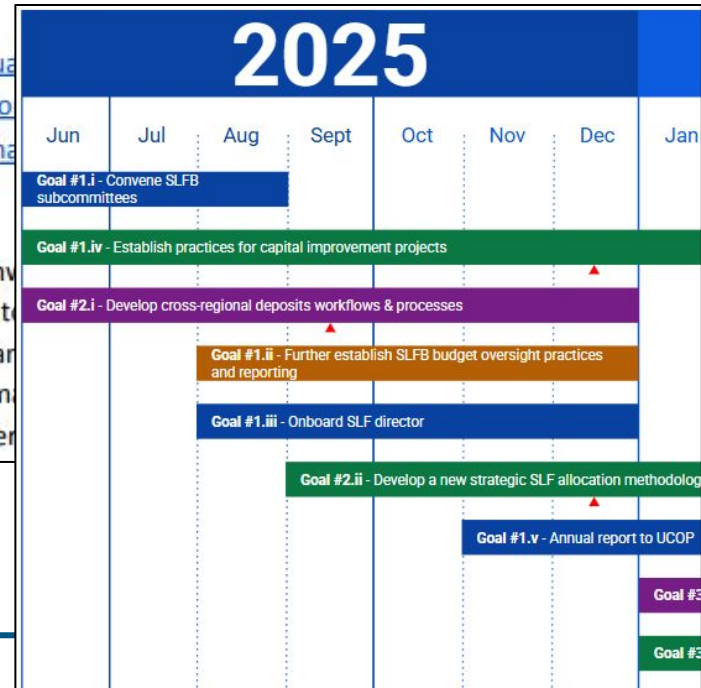
[FY25/26 Mid-range goals and annual priorities](#)

[Parking lot for future goals and priorities](#)

[Processes for establishing and managing goals](#)

Introduction

The [northern](#) and [southern](#) Systemwide Library Facilities (SLF) are working to improve access to and the quality of our collections. As primary service centers, we are committed to providing high-quality preservation and access services, UC-wide, for our Systemwide Library Facility (SLF) held materials. Both facilities will continue to be governed by the [Systemwide Library Facilities Board \(SLFB\)](#).

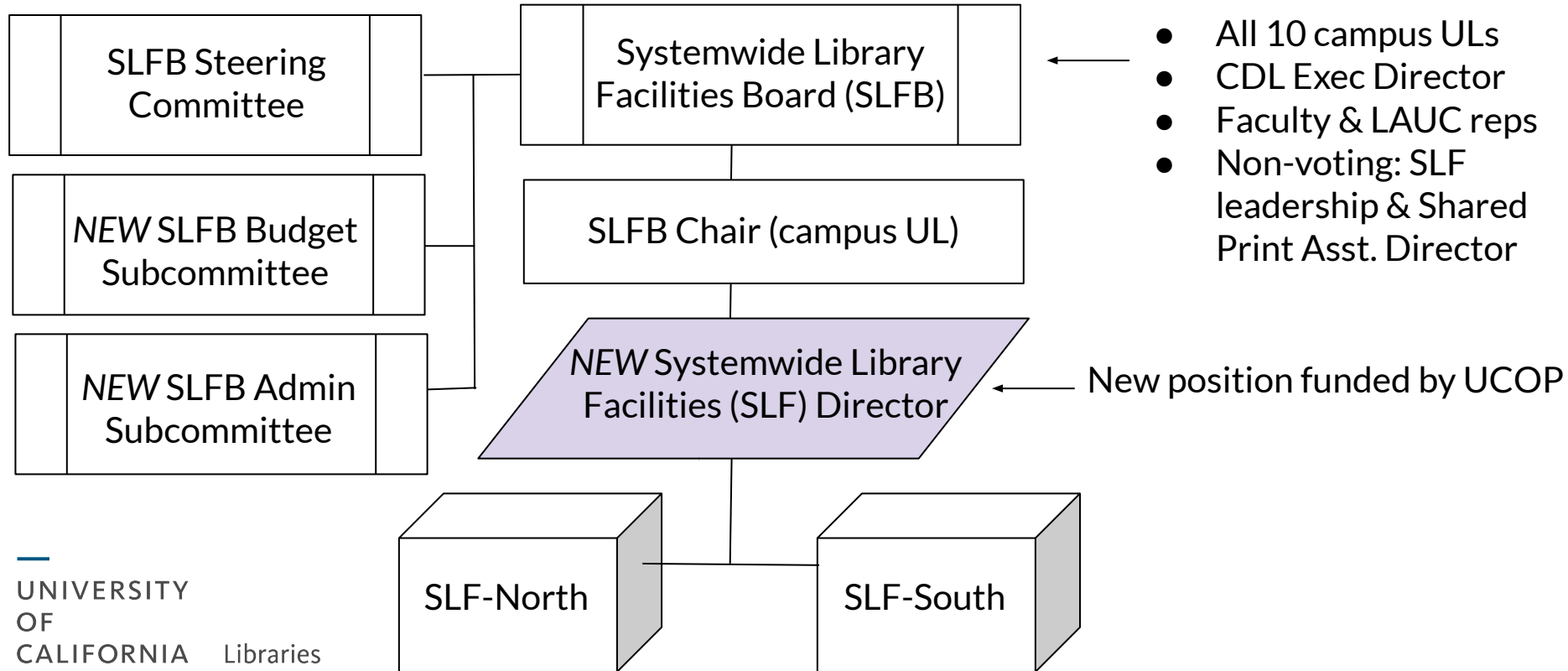


UC Libraries > Systemwide Library Facilities Board (SLFB) > Systemwide Library Facilities: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Systemwide Library Facilities: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The UC Libraries are shifting operational and strategic oversight of our regional library facilities to become fully systemwide service centers. This change builds on the existing "one RLF, two locations" ethos and work practices; and our experts at both facilities already collaborate and partner closely. In now further shifting our strategic planning, budget management and service provision to the systemwide level, the UC Libraries will be better able to explore new operational opportunities while maintaining high-quality preservation and access services, UC-wide, for our Systemwide Library Facility (SLF) held materials. Both facilities will continue to be governed by the [Systemwide Library Facilities Board \(SLFB\)](#).

Leadership and Governance





Long-term space and service planning and assessment for the SLF

Strategically reclaiming shelf space in the SLF-S for more collection deposits

- Targeted, internal deduplication at SLF-S is underway
- Planning for SLF-S deduplication based on SLF-N shared print holdings (vetted bibliographically and physically)
- Forthcoming work to
 - better understand Special Collections space needs
 - plan for additional SLF storage capacity

Maximize space reclamation and optimization to best serve UC's local and systemwide needs. - SLFB/SLF long-range goal



Develop new systemwide policies

Finalized principles & collection framework for systemwide deposits

- Research and teaching value
- Non-duplication, condition, and cataloging
- Rarity- and shared collections-based prioritization

Affirming two locations, one SLF

- Investigating additional cross-regional shipping support
- Seeking to harmonize expectations and processes

Advance sustainable, persistent retention and preservation of valued scholarly materials on behalf of the University (faculty, students and researchers across UC), state of California and partners across the region, country and globe
- SLFB/SLF long-range goal

Where are we headed?

Improve user experience, discovery, and access to shared collections

- Ensure discovery of SLF collections is optimized systemwide in UC Library Search
- Consider and integrate new digitized content service models

Expand equitable UC access to SLF collections. - SLFB/SLF long-range goal



Where are we headed?

Develop innovative systemwide preservation efforts

- Expand mass digitization strategy
- Explore additional systemwide approaches to supporting preservation of collections



Advance sustainable, persistent retention and preservation of valued scholarly materials on behalf of the University (faculty, students and researchers across UC), state of California and partners across the region, country and globe

Libraries - *SLFB/SLF long-range goal*

Where are we headed?

Deepen UC's interdependence with shared print partners

- Expand access to tools and reports to enable campus and systemwide decision-making based on shared print collections
- Strengthen discovery and access for shared print collections stewarded by libraries outside of UC



Panel Discussion

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