



A Brief Guide to the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC)

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF LAUC

The Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC), founded in 1967, is a statewide organization of all librarians employed at least half time by the University. Membership is automatic and entails no dues. In 1971, the Association was authorized to use the name of the University, and in 1975 LAUC was formally recognized as an official unit of the University. The formal objectives of LAUC are: to advise the University on professional and governance matters, to make recommendations concerning the UC librarians' rights, privileges and obligations, and to promote full use of UC librarians' professional abilities.

IMPROVING UC LIBRARIES

Perhaps LAUC's most important function is the advice it provides to the system-wide, campus and library administrations on the best course for the University's libraries. Because the front-line librarians who work most closely with faculty and students in fulfilling the University's educational mission are often leaders in LAUC, the organization is able to convey user needs to senior management. LAUC has provided leadership in such crucial areas as: cooperative collection development and resource sharing during a period of retrenchment; the impact of new information technologies on libraries; enhanced bibliographic access to diverse collections and service to diverse users.

ORGANIZATION

The LAUC statewide organization is composed of an Executive Board, including the President, Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, immediate Past President, and the chairs of the nine campus divisions. The Executive Board meets about six times each year. Larger assemblies, to which each division sends delegated in proportion to the size of its membership, are held in the fall and spring. The assembly hears reports from guest speakers, the President and the chairs of committees, discusses current issues, and debates and voted on resolutions and recommendations.

COMMITTEES

LAUC has five standing committees, each with representatives from all nine campus divisions: the Committee on Committees, Rules and Jurisdiction, which oversees the bylaws of the Association; the Committee on Cultural Diversity; the Library Plans and Policies Committee; the Professional Governance Committee; and the Research and Professional Development Committee. LAUC has a representative to the System-wide Library and Scholarly Information Advisory Committee (SLASIAC) and the LAUC President acts as an ex-officio member on the Academic Senate University Committee on the Library (UCOL). LAUC is also represented on the system-wide committees for such areas as public and technical services, collection development, personnel, and regional libraries.

AD HOC COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Recent LAUC ad hoc committees have explored the following aspects of policy, practice or planning at the nine campuses: the impact of electronic publishing; options and rewards for library managers; cultural diversity; shared resources; and librarians' role in University governance.

RESEARCH

LAUC annually administers a research program with funding provided by the Office of the President. Since 1980, this program has supported over 150 projects. Among the products of the LAUC research program are the following publications: "The Use of Books within the Library." Sustainable Agriculture for California: a Guide to Information. Michael Tippet: a Bio-bibliography. Reference Tools for Fine Arts Visual Resources Collection. The program has also supported several research and instructional activities related to the changing California Digital Library system and scholarly communications.

ACADEMIC STATUS

Librarians are academic appointees at the University of California. Academic status confers privileges, rights and responsibilities on librarians as professional employees whose work is closely related to the teaching and research functions of the University. Self-governance, University support of professional development and discretionary use of time in the fulfillment of responsibilities reflect this status, based on academic traditions of autonomy and sustained professional growth. Academic status therefore includes but is not limited to: the freedom to perform a range of functions within the profession, a choice of avenues for professional development, performance evaluation based on activities relevant to the profession, review by one's peers and job security as stated in University policies and contracts.

PEER REVIEW

Librarians, like other academic staff, are evaluated for appointment, advancement, and promotion by committees of their peers, elected or appointed at each of the campus divisions. Like faculty, librarians are required to progress through a three-part series, consisting of the ranks of Assistant, Associate, and full Librarian.

MORE INFORMATION

LAUC Statewide: <http://www.ucop.edu/lauc/>

LAUC at UCSD: <http://gort.ucsd.edu/lauc/lauc.html>