

February 21, 2020

Richard Preiss, English (co-chair)
Harriet Hopf (co-chair)

Barbara Brown, Family and Consumer Studies
Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell, Theatre
Doug Christensen, Biomedical Engineering
Leslie Francis, Law
Matt Haber, Philosophy
Mary Hartnett, Ophthalmology
Jeff Horton, PBS Utah
Caroline Milne, Medicine
Milan Oxspring, Kinesiology (*undergraduate representative*)
Karen Paisley, Health
Matt Sigman, Chemistry
Kathy Sward, Nursing
Marta Szulik, Medicine (*post-doctoral representative*)
Haley Wightman, Public Administration (*graduate student representative*)
Mark Winter, SVPAA

Consultants:

Melissa Bernstein, Faust Law Library
Alberta Comer, Marriott Library
Catherine Soehner, Eccles Health Science Library

The future of academic publishing is in flux, as new social, technical, and economic forces reshape how we review and assess, publish and disseminate, and curate and preserve new knowledge and creative insights. In turn, our expectations for academic libraries are also shifting, as they become sites for collaborative student study, repositories for digital scientific data, and navigators in an increasingly rich and diverse digital world.

Journals are proliferating, as are models of publishing. Research itself is becoming more collaborative and more international. Federal mandates for research data retention and open access are increasing. Many university presses are contracting or closing. Expectations for information access are shifting, all while publishing cultures across disciplines vary widely.

As the needs and expectations of students, faculty, and staff evolve concurrently with the shifting functions of libraries, it seems timely to examine both the challenges and the opportunities facing the University of Utah libraries, embracing the spirit of One U, as we pursue our strategic goal to be the University of Utah for Utah.

Hence, I am writing to ask you to serve as members of a campus taskforce to consider the future of our academic libraries, with particular focus on five major areas:

- Book acquisitions and University Press futures
- Open access and digital publication support
- Federal research mandates for open access and data retention
- Serials explosion, with journal and database prices increasing at non-sustainable rates
- Social change and expectations for information access and library usage

As you examine these issues, please consider the broader national and international context, including (a) the responses of our peer institutions, particularly the AAU, PAC12, and BIG10, (b) our USHE partners, (c) professional societies, and (d) research and scholarship funding agencies and foundations. In addition, recognize that needs and expectations for library services differ markedly across disciplines, with some dependent on books, others on online journals, and still others on professional society publications and archives. I encourage you to gather input widely (e.g., via surveys and town halls) and engage the entire campus to frame thoughtful recommendations for our academic, health, and law libraries.

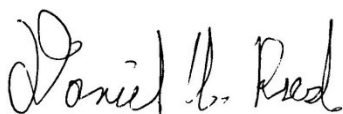
I ask that your report include

- A comparison of approaches and actions by peer institutions
- Suggestions on possible collaborative opportunities with other institutions
- Recommendations for digital data repositories and management
- Recommendations for financial sustainability, with emphasis on serial subscriptions and book acquisitions

I ask that you deliver your written report to me by October 16, 2020.

Finally, thank you for your commitment to the University of Utah. Your willingness to assist us this process is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Reed
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

You may find the following references of value

1. Open Science by Design, <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25116/open-science-by-design-realizing-a-vision-for-21st-century>
2. Commitment to an Interdependent Future: A Statement by the Big Ten Library Leadership, <https://www.btaa.org/docs/default-source/library/the-big-collection.pdf>
3. The Future of the University Press, <https://www.chronicle.com/specialreport/The-Future-of-the-University/118>

4. AAU-APLU Public Access Working Group Report and Recommendations, <https://www.aau.edu/key-issues/aau-aplu-public-access-working-group-report-and-recommendations>
5. Rules for Making Big Deals, <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/10/25/mit-framework-negotiating-scholarly-publishers-gains-wide-support>
6. A New Kind of 'Big Deal' for Elsevier, <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/11/22/new-kind-big-deal-elsevier-and-carnegie-mellon-university>
7. Additional Actions Needed to Improve Public Access to Research Results, <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-20-81>