



UC San Diego Library Student Advisory Council January 19, 2016 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Maedha B., Hannah F., Catherine F., Kymberly G., Lauren F., Taylor, H., Julia L., Lorraine L., Hatchly M., Sean P., Ellen S. (for Lisa R.), JJ S., Ulric Y., Jonathan Y., Riley Z., and Stella Z.

I. Welcome and Library Updates

Newly attending Council members were introduced and welcomed.

A. Events & Exhibits

1. The Library is presenting an exhibit called *The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental* which explores the lives of the Chinese railroad workers who were essential in building the United States' first Transcontinental Railroad. It is already on display in the Seuss Room foyer and will remain there through February 29. There will be a reception and afternoon program on Friday, January 22, from 3-5pm which will include remarks from scholars at Stanford University, UCSD and the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum.
2. On January 27, Dr. Bruce Bekkar, a UC San Diego alumnus and a member of the American Lung Association's Doctors for Climate Health group, will discuss how climate change is affecting human health, and what we can do to prevent a climate crisis. The lecture will take place in the BLB Events Room from 12 – 1pm.
3. On January 28, the Library is holding an event to celebrate National Kazoo Day. The kazoo dates back hundreds of years when it was first used in Africa, and its popularity in America started in the late 1800's. The event will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the *Seuss Room*.
4. The Library recently added a series of oil paintings focusing on campus buildings and structures by local artist Paula McColl to the walls leading into the East Learning Commons. The exhibit will be on display through the end of winter quarter.
5. There was a Dr. Seuss-themed episode of the reality show "Cake Wars," which aired on the Food Network channel on the evening of January 18. The winning cake was re-constructed at Geisel and then consumed by a large group of UC San Diego Library student employees.
6. In December, the Library hosted a sold-out Lecture event featuring award-winning journalist and author Bob Woodward and former Nixon aide Alex Butterfield, who discussed Woodward's latest book *The Last of the President's Men*, which focuses on Butterfield's experiences in the Nixon White House and the lingering effects of the Watergate scandal. The

Library Channel is now streaming the event. [<http://www.uctv.tv/shows/The-Last-of-the-Presidents-Men-with-Bob-Woodward-Alex-Butterfield-and-Michael-Bernstein-The-Library-Channel-30187>]

7. Right before Thanksgiving, the Library hosted its annual Turkey Calling Show in the Seuss Room. Library staff performed Thanksgiving-themed radio-drama roles, and audience members contributed to the performance with riddle readings and turkey calls. A looped slide-show relayed turkey imagery and November-notable facts (gathered in a manner that only a research library like ours can pull off!). There was a live band and the local newspaper, the Union-Tribune declared: "...it's just not Thanksgiving without this show!" The event was free and open to the public and more than 70 people attended

B. Collections

1. The Library recently added the J. Robert Beyster Papers to the Library's Special Collections. Mr. Beyster, a founder of the important local company SAIC, was a renowned business innovator who developed a successful blueprint for entrepreneurial, employee-owned companies. Included in his many achievements is the establishment of the Beyster Institute at the UC San Diego Rady School of Management. The collection includes correspondence, SAIC business records, committee meeting minutes and materials related to employee ownership, as well as records on the founding of the Leidos Corporation and the Foundation for Enterprise Development (FED).

2. The entire music print (books and scores) collection has been moved from the lower level of the west wing to its new home in the east wing of Geisel. The collection of approximately 70,000 volumes was moved in a remarkably quick 2 days. This was done to allow for the construction of the Teaching + Learning Commons.

C. Services

1. As you may recall, the entire East Commons (including its computers and the DML) was closed for the rest of 2015 starting on December 14. The closure was needed to allow installation of more electrical and data, as well as the relocation of computers from the future Teaching + Learning Commons space. Well, we're happy to announce that there are now many more electrical outlets available to students. The East Commons has 120 new outlets (34 floor monuments with 2 outlets each, plus 10 power poles offering another 52 outlets mounted along the structural columns). Additionally you may notice that we removed the previously-existing stand-alone power poles to open up the space, and 126 data lines were added or relocated to power poles on the concrete columns. We also added more power to the Brody Collaborative Study space on the 1st floor. Brody has 221 new outlets: 49 floor boxes with 4 outlets each, plus 25 outlets along the whiteboard wall. Thanks go to Kymberly and her crew, and the Library's Facilities staff for coordinating and completing this complex and challenging project so quickly and with so little disruption to students.

2. If you haven't seen them already, check out the new study tables located in Geisel's West Learning Commons. There a lot of additional electrical outlets and table lamps are forthcoming. Additionally, more furniture for the area will be installed around the end of January in an effort to update the aesthetics and functionality of the space.

3. The Zone's Relaxation & Rescue Squad will again provide chair massages in Geisel each Monday evening in Winter term, except on February 1. The massages will be offered in the Academic Partnership Cubicle in the East Commons, in addition to alternating between the West Commons (same floor), the Media Desk area and the Brody Space on the first floor.

4. Given the heavy use they get in the East Commons, the Library has installed a second set of foam rollers in the Brody collaborative space (1st Floor).

D. Construction/Space Renovations

As you may recall, Geisel was closed the three days before the campus winter holiday in order to jumpstart several of the Library's construction projects. Having these three days closed the public allowed us to make a lot of progress on various projects.

1. A lot of electrical and data work has taken place.
2. We began the Geisel Elevator Refurbishment project. This will continue throughout 2016. Elevators will be shut down one at a time, but at least two public elevators will remain in operation at all times during the refurbishment.
3. We completed the Geisel HVAC Air Handler Replacement. These are the large devices used to regulate and circulate air as part of the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system of Geisel.
4. We installed a test zone for LED Lighting on the 6th floor. As a reminder, for energy efficiency reasons, the Campus is investigating replacing all of Geisel's current lighting fixtures with LED lighting, but they want to test out the lights first.
5. Work on the Geisel Café has begun. A temporary wall to cordon off the café construction area has been constructed. Most of the noisy work on this should be over. Anticipated completion date of the construction is currently the end of March.
6. Lastly, the Campus is in the process of selecting an architect to perform design, bid, and construction phase services for the restroom upgrades within Geisel. Primary scope will include incorporation of Accessible and Gender Inclusive restroom facilities in the core of the original building, as well as upgrading associated infrastructure and updating finishes in the existing restrooms. Anticipated completion of the restrooms project is currently Spring 2017. [Update: the architect has been selected.]

E. Other

1. Hours Display on the Library's Website Study - update

The purpose of this study was to better understand the reasons why users view Library hours on the Library website and whether the current hour display causes confusion. As you might recall, we gathered input via Survey Monkey and asked LSAC members to respond to the survey. A total of 89 users responded to the survey.

Major Findings

- Users view Library hours primarily to determine when the buildings are open for study.
- There is considerable confusion about when the Library is open overnight and during special hours.
- Users are primarily interested in seeing short term hours (today, this week and next week), though there is interest in hours for next month and next quarter.

Top Recommendations

- Use a calendar format to display hours rather than the current format.
- Keep the design simple. Let users get today and/or this week's hours at a glance.
- Use "Geisel 2nd Floor East" rather than "Geisel Overnight Study Commons" to indicate the area open 24/5.

- Display only 3 spaces on the Library Hours page: Geisel Library Building, Geisel 2nd Floor East, and the Biomedical Library Building.

2. Geisel Gate Count Comparisons, 2010-2015

Geisel is busier now than before. [See document below.]

II. Tour of the Library's Special Collections & Archives (SC&A)

Heather Smedberg, SC&A's Reference & Instruction Librarian, welcomed LSAC members into the Special Collections area in the Library and distributed an informational handout [see below]. Heather provided an explanation of what special collections are and why they exist. She then spoke about the Library's Special Collections & Archives and what it offers to the UCSD community and how students (and others) can use it. She then described several items out for display, covering more than a dozen collections of likely interest to LSAC members. These included items from the Archive for New Poetry, historic pamphlets from San Diego history, rare books from the Hill Collection of Pacific Voyages, rare cookbooks from Mexico, letters and slide rules of Leo Szilard, and photos related to UCSD and Scripps Institution of Oceanography history. Members were then given time to have a closer look. LSAC members were interested in many of the items on display and fascinated by some. Several expressed a plan to return when a research need arose.

[III. Break]

IV. Arrangement of online subject guides

SuHui Ho, the Library's Digital User Experience Librarian, joined the Council to get feedback on the arrangement of the Library's online subject guides. SuHui displayed and gave an overview of the Library's collection of Course and Subject Guides, demonstrated where to find them through the Library's website, and then described two different ways of organizing and presenting the list of guides – a single, alphabetical list of subjects (<http://ucsd.libguides.com/>) or a hierarchical, drill-down list of broad subject areas (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/transitions/subject-areas/>). SuHui sought LSAC member feedback on the navigation and information architecture, terminology, homepage location, preferences for the structure for presenting the lists, whether available guides represented subjects that students might actually use or need, and what might spur them to click on something from the homepage that would lead them to these guides.

- A. **Question: Do the subject listings represent your disciplines or what you normally look for?**
One student mentioned there was no 'computer engineering.' Another couldn't find 'operations research,' but thought maybe it could be found under 'statistics.'
- B. **Comments on the hierarchical, drill-down list of broad subject areas:**
(<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/transitions/subject-areas/>)
 - Two preferred this one, saying that "I would rather scroll a little than a lot" and "this is a less overwhelming list."
- C. **Comments on the single, alphabetical list of subjects** (<http://ucsd.libguides.com/>):

- Five specifically mentioned preferring this version, though others chimed in with support as well.
- Two said that they wouldn't know where to look if using the broad categories listing.
- "I use this one more often. It has more direct access to what I'm after."
- "This one is good for looking for a specific area; you can narrow down your subject quickly."
- "I like how this one seems really organized."
- "If I had no clue what I was looking for, I would use this one; the other is too broad."
- "This one is good if you don't know what you're looking for."
- "It's easier here to scroll to see what you want."
- "You may also see something here that sparks your interest."
- One suggested adding a search box to the top of the page to easily jump to a particular subject in the list.
- Another suggested adding an alphabetical listing across the top of the page to jump to that part of the list (A-C | D-F | G-I | J-L | M-O | P-R | S-U | V-Z).
- One asked what the numbers by each entry mean, and suggested that be explained somewhere on the page.

D. Questions: If the list were linked from the Library homepage, what language might prompt you to click on something like that? What terms would you use to describe the list?

- "Search by topic [or subject]"
- "Categories"
- Two said "Academic Subjects"
- "I would want something more direct just to what I want."
- "Where to start"
- "Suggestions from librarians"
- "I would likely skip over it."
- "I would use Google first, or go to JStor or PubMed."
- "What do they link to? I'm unfamiliar with these guides."
- "I would likely only use that if I already knew what I was looking for." • One recommended putting it on the main homepage tool bar.
- Some recommended mentioning the guides in MMW classes and other introductory research classes.
- One said "Subjects A-Z" is fine, but others thought it too general and vague.
- One mentioned hearing about the guides when a librarian visited her course, finding them useful ever since. She accessed them currently from the 'Research Tools' tab, and cautioned not to move them from there without a redirect or indication there of where they've moved.
- One suggested differentiating this from the catalog search box.
- Some mentioned they were unlikely to click on anything like this.

- Most felt they were unlikely to notice or use something like this, though others thought the guides useful, if they ever were to learn about them.
- One suggested putting it in a box with a logo like for the Ask-a-Librarian and suggested it say something like “Researching? Start with these guides.”

➤ **ACTION:** Catherine suggested that SuHui prepare a subsequent brief survey or list of follow-up questions to send to LSAC members, once they’ve been able to think about this a bit more.

V. What’s on your mind? What have you heard from other students about the Library? What advice do you want to give us?

No time remained to cover these questions formally, but LSAC members were encouraged to contact Catherine if they had heard from other students about the Library or if they had advice they would like to provide.

VI. Planning the next LSAC meeting

The next meeting is February 23, 2016, 5-6:30pm, in the Seuss Room, Geisel Library.

Council members were reminded to send possible agenda items or things they would like to discuss to Catherine.