UCI Libraries' Social Impact





A message from our University Librarian

I am pleased to present the UCI Libraries' inaugural Social Impact Report. This report highlights the variety of ways in which library employees make a positive difference on campus and in the broader community. The focus of this report is on the contributions to the "social good" that library employees make through their involvement with the UCI Libraries' organization, so it does not attempt to describe the numerous individual volunteer opportunities that our engaged employees pursue outside of the organization.

We are proud of our contributions and proud of our employees for their initiative in pursuing activities that make the world a better place!

Lorelei Tanji,
University Librarian



Information & Access

Access to Information

UCI Libraries is committed to making information as broadly accessible as possible. Our buildings, computer terminals, and most of our licensed resources are available to campus users and are available on a walk-in basis to our surrounding community. We provide reference assistance in person, via phone, and via our 24/7 AskChat Service to UC, UCI, and unaffiliated patrons.

Open Access

We help accelerate scientific discoveries by promoting a culture of Open Access publishing. Our efforts make a difference in our community as well as contribute to the quality of education worldwide by making our scientific findings accessible from anywhere. We provide systemwide, as well as local, repositories that make UCI's research openly available to the world.

Information and Data Literacy

We teach students critical thinking and research skills that are foundational to academic and career success. The ability to efficiently find needed information, evaluate its authenticity, and effectively put the information to use is an important skill at UCI and beyond.

Supporting Our Students



Support for First Generation Students

We are proud to show our commitment to support first generation students. In our latest survey 49% of patrons who use the libraries on a daily basis identified themselves as first generation students. Librarians lead workshops specifically for first-generation students in various programs such as the First Generation First Quarter Challenge and the Summer Academic Enrichment Program. These workshops increase research and information literacy skills as well as raise awareness of the library's resources.

Helping Students Manage Stress

Being a student is tough and, at times, stressful. But, the Libraries' employees don't hesitate to help. We organize a number of activities to help our students alleviate their stress during finals week, including pet therapy events and puzzles, coloring books, Legos, and board games in the library.

Reducing Food Insecurity

Food for Fines

UCI Libraries collects and donates non-perishable food items to UCI food pantry, in exchange for waiving library fines. Additionally, the UCI Libraries Diversity Team collects non-perishable food items for donations to the UCI food pantry as part of its annual potluck program, and the Cataloging and Metadata Department staff organized a food drive at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Helping Students Build their Professional Wardrobes

In February 2019, the Education and Outreach Department collected clothing donations in order to support UCI's Professional Clothes Drive and Love Boutique, which helps needy students bolster their professional wardrobes.

Leveling the Playing Field



We understand the financial challenges that some of ours students face, and do our best to help level the playing field for students across disciplines by providing access to technologies that they may not otherwise be able to afford, or have the opportunity to experiment with, including:

- Free checkout of high definition cameras, iPads, and laptops (including a laptop self-checkout kiosk).
- A Presentation Studio for students to visually record and practice public speaking for classroom projects, conference presentations, or job interviews.
- 3D printing for UCI affiliates, which has allowed many students to access this technology for the first time.
- Scanners that are free to use in the Libraries.
- Workshops that empower students with programming skills they can utilize in their classes and careers beyond UCI.



Charitable Causes

Participation in Anti-Cancer Challenge

UCI Libraries Fighting Cancer Team joined the UCI Anti-Cancer Challenge at Orange County Great Park in Irvine in May 2018. The team raised $650, surpassing their $500 fund raising goal. 100% of the funds raised went towards research.

Sponsoring Families

As part of UCI's Helping Hands initiative, the Librarians Association of the University of California – Irvine and the Healthy Workplace Working Group collect and gift wrap charitable donations, including monetary gifts, to support needy families during the winter holidays. For the 2017 holidays we sponsored three families, and for the 2018 holidays we sponsored two families, helping a total of 20 people.

Preserving our History



Drawing by Deborah Aschheim

The UCI Libraries play an important role in preserving the regional legacy, including special efforts to preserve the diversity of the experience in the Orange County Community.

Our Special Collections are home to the world-renowned Southeast Asian Archive, our Orange County Regional History Archive, and stories and recollections of the founders of surrounding cities and institutions.

Additionally, through our history internship program, we actively train students to work with these materials as they process collections, conduct research, and curate exhibits, which provides practical experiences that lead to career opportunities upon graduation.

We regularly participate in National History Day by providing workshops for 6th through 12th grade students on how to do research to develop the projects that they can then enter into a national competition.

And, we are actively engaged in building community-centered archives through programs such as our IMLS grant funded Transforming Knowledge/Transforming Libraries project, which partners with ethnic studies classes to provide undergraduates with first-hand experience in building and providing access to the digital cultural heritage of under-represented communities and preserves their stories for future generations.

Supporting our Diverse Community



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our employees' diverse backgrounds are a major contributor to our success. We celebrate the diversity of our employees in a variety of ways, and we annually charge a team of volunteers to proactively set goals and plan initiatives that contribute to our inclusive work environment and promote a welcoming environment for library visitors of all backgrounds.

Outreach to Underrepresented Groups and Individuals

We engage in variety of programs to support underrepresented groups and individuals by designating a librarian point of contact for individuals in the Dream Scholars program, conducting workshops for underrepresented high school students admitted to UCI, and participating in the Competitive Edge program for underrepresented graduate students.

Documenting Diverse Stories

We collect and preserve the histories of many diverse communities within the region. As one example, we are at the forefront of preserving the history of the LGBTQ community in Orange County. As home to the repository for the Orange County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Timeline and research files, we acknowledge that by preserving the voices of the LGBT community in their own words, we ensure that future generations have access to the historical record.

Highlighting Library Materials that Reflect the Libraries' Commitment to Inclusive Excellence

We have worked with student groups and library teams to present shelf displays that feature books from the UCI Libraries collection that raise awareness of social justice issues, including exhibits on feminism, Chicano/Latino labor, treatment of people who are undocumented, and LGBTQ writing 50 years after Stonewall. Additionally, we organized a film series in our Orange County and Southeast Asian Archive, which invited collaboration across campus and promoted dialogue around social issues impacting our community.

Looking Forward



Many of these contributions have happened organically through the interests and initiative of individuals, teams, and departments within the Libraries. Reviewing the great work that our employees are already doing has given us the opportunity to reflect on our potential for collective impact on the social good. Going forward, we are taking a more intentional approach and incorporating social impact into our goals. As an organization, we are consciously developing an infrastructure to facilitate, coordinate, and celebrate these and future projects to enhance their reach and impact.

We are excited to see the results of this initiative and look forward to sharing new ways that the UCI Libraries are making the world a better place.