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Eric Baković, the vice chair of UC San Diego’s Committee on Library and the campus’ Divisional representative to the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication, is vice chair of the UC San Diego Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication. He is a professor of Linguistics, specializing in the theory and analysis of linguistic sound patterns.

This fall marks the completion of the UC San Diego Library’s transition from a distributed system of discipline-based libraries to a single comprehensive Library, offering a full suite of services and resources to our many users across campus. While I realize that some of these changes have been challenging for some of our users, I’m confident that our faculty and library patrons will benefit from a more integrated and centralized suite of services and resources.

In spite of the many transitions the Library has experienced over the last several years, I assure you that faculty, students, and other users continue to have access to many of the Library services and resources—both virtually and on-site—that they have come to value from the Library. Also, our Library staff are continuing to work diligently to support campus teaching and research, with much of the same expert and subject-based support and advice and the same high level of excellent and responsive user services.

The Library is now in the final stages of consolidating print collections, primarily in the Geisel Library building. Last year, we began the complicated process of transferring Scripps Library materials—including approximately 150,000 books—to the Geisel Library. Now that that substantial undertaking is behind us, we expect to complete our collection consolidation efforts later this year. We’ve said it before, but I’ll say it again: We appreciate your patience and support during this process—your feedback has been instrumental in our decision making about the placement and arrangement of our physical collections. For more details on our collection consolidation efforts, please visit: http://libraries.ucsd.edu/collections/consolidation/index.html.

As many of you know, this August, the University of California Academic Senate approved an Open Access policy that will ensure that all future UC faculty publications will be freely available and accessible to members of the public. For a faculty perspective on this, please see the article in this issue by Eric Baković, the vice chair of UC San Diego’s Committee on Library and the campus’ Divisional representative to the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication.

In this issue, I am also pleased to be featuring a fabulous UC San Diego colleague and one of our truly great innovators—Larry Smarr, the director of Calit2. An astute futurist, Larry is also appreciative of libraries and the knowledge they deliver that fuels inventive thinking and research.

I fantasize about a world in which scholarly communications undergo all of the same overall publishing landscape. Two parallel developments led me to seek this education. One was the UC Academic Senate’s proposal for an Open Access policy, passed in July (bit.ly/Pzgc2K). The other was a significant move on the part of my scholarly society, the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), to commit to an Open Access program for all of its publications (bit.ly/165M9ZZ).

In both cases, the ramifications of these developments were (and still are) not fully known. How will the UC policy be implemented, and will the implementation affect the freedom of the faculty to publish their work in the best venues possible? How will the LSA publishing program be implemented, and will the implementation affect the ability of the society to remain on a stable financial footing? As it turns out, these and other important questions were prominent in the minds of the people who worked on both of these developments, as it was in the minds of the people who worked on related policies and publishing programs elsewhere.

Eric Baković is vice chair of the UC San Diego Academic Senate Committee on the Library, and the San Diego Divisional representative to the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication. He is a professor of Linguistics, specializing in the theory and analysis of linguistic sound patterns.

I’ve long been a convert to the ideals of Open Access publishing. I fantasize about a world in which scholarly communications undergo all of the same processes of review and editing that they do now, but in which the resulting publications are freely accessible to any and all interested readers with an Internet connection. (OK, I’ll admit that in my fantasy world the review and editing processes are improvements over what we appear to have currently, but that’s a topic for another day.) Who wouldn’t want this, given that we scholars provide the intellectual labor that is then packaged in ways that our libraries have an increasingly difficult time paying for?

But it wasn’t until relatively recently that I began to really educate myself about the realities of Open Access—the opportunities and the challenges that it faces in the current...
In 2012, the UC San Diego Library began a concerted effort to acquire more electronic backfiles for journals and book series. In the library world, a backfile is an older run of a journal or book series that has been digitized and is available electronically for purchase. Many faculty members have expressed a desire to have electronic resources like this available for quick and easy access. Whenever possible, the Library purchases perpetual access to this content, thereby ensuring that our researchers will continue to have access in the years to come.

There were numerous reasons why the Library decided to embark on this effort to purchase backfiles. First, in light of the physical book and journal consolidations underway, the Library wanted to provide online access to additional resources for our scholarly community, which would allow our faculty, researchers, and students to access these materials from any location, 24/7. We were also able to add new titles and additional years to our holdings, giving our users access to content previously unavailable either online or in print. Also, by securing perpetual online access to content, while ensuring that print versions of these materials remained accessible, the Library could free up valuable shelf space at our facilities, even as our collection expands and the demand for more on-site student study space increases.

These purchases were funded by specially designated one-time funds, which enabled us to effectively leverage bulk purchases through various publishers, thereby maximizing the value of each dollar spent. By negotiating these bulk purchases with publishers, the Library was able to secure an aggregate discount of more than 50% off the list prices.

In the case of the UC policy, for example, there is an opt-out waiver that can be requested by a faculty member for any article they wish to publish. Opting out of the policy is an additional step for faculty who choose it, but it is a step we are free to take. It has been argued that this takes the teeth out of the policy, but I disagree. The fact remains that the largest public research university in the world, responsible for an estimated “2-3% of the peer-reviewed articles published in the world every year” (bit.ly/16pyYpg), will now by default ensure that those articles are as freely and immediately available as possible.

In the case of the LSA publishing program, a couple of Open Access publication initiatives are being undertaken simultaneously as part of the new program. A new journal of the LSA, Semantics & Pragmatics, will chart the boldest possible course, whereby it is free for anyone to both publish and read articles in the journal. The flagship journal of the LSA, Language, will follow a more conservative path: a 12-month embargo on published articles will be imposed, during which time they will only be available to society members and other subscribers to the journal, but after which time they will be freely accessible. (The embargo is lifted if the author pays a modest article processing charge.)

I am excited to be involved in both of these developments, because I still believe in the ideals of Open Access and I want to figure out ways to bring them into being in the real world. I have found that educating myself about the various issues involved has led to a much deeper understanding and appreciation of why we do what we do when we choose to share the results of our research, as well as of how we need to adapt our methods as different modes of scholarly communication become available. I hope you’ll join me in learning a little more than you previously did about the opportunities and challenges facing scholarly communication.
Larry Smarr is the founding director of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), a partnership between UC San Diego and UC Irvine, and holds the Harry E. Gruber professorship in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the University’s Jacobs School of Engineering. Before joining UC San Diego about 13 years ago, he was a professor of astronomy and physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he co-authored the successful proposal under which the National Science Foundation created its supercomputer program, and the lead centers, the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at UIUC, where Smarr became the founding director. An internationally recognized leader in Internet infrastructure, supercomputer applications, and scientific computing, Smarr leads the Moore Foundation’s CAMERA project, a high performance computing resource for genomic research. Over the last few years, Smarr has been a pioneer in the Quantified Self movement, and has utilized various technological advances to examine and track the mechanics of his own body. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Austin and Master of Science and BA degrees from the University of Missouri.

Q. Long before you joined Calit2 as founding director in 2000, you played a significant role in driving innovation in information infrastructure—including the Internet, web, and supercomputing. Describe some of your most significant projects.

A. I was PI on the earliest proposal to NSF to advocate setting up national supercomputer centers on university campuses, then became an early backer of NSF adopting TCP/IP which is the universal Internet protocol, and supported Marc Andreessen and Eric Bina in developing Mosaic, which led directly to Netscape, Microsoft’s Internet Explorer, and Apache’s web server software.

Q. You have also been a leader in getting the University to develop and invest in its own information infrastructure. Where is the University in this process and how far does it have to go?

A. UC San Diego is fortunate to have one of the National Science Foundation supercomputer centers (San Diego Supercomputer Center), the digitally driven California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), and a pioneering digital Library. New grants are putting UCSD at the national forefront of high performance cyberinfrastructure: the NSF PRISM 10,000 megabit/sec optical campus “Big Data” freeways, the NSF CHERuB 100,000 megabit/sec connection of UCSD’s network to the world, the NSF Gordon Big Data supercomputer at SDSC, combined with scalable visualization walls at Calit2. The real challenge now is to coordinate all these new capabilities and begin to get our faculty, staff, and students using it to make new discoveries.

Q. Have you worked with the Library in these efforts? What role do you see the Library playing in the future in terms of supporting and advancing faculty research?

A. I have worked closely with UC San Diego University Librarian Brian Schottlaender, who is one of the national leaders in the application of digital technologies to libraries. Besides maintaining its essential access to journals, an emerging Library role will be curating, annotating, and making available increasing amounts of research data. As the digital transformation of research continues, more and more of our knowledge will reside in vast amounts of experimental and computational data. Imagine reading a research article and then clicking on figures and going directly to the underlying data, perhaps even being able to carry out new computations on it to verify the results with new algorithms or to extend the research into new discoveries. Who better than the Library to carry out this function?

Q. You are known as a futurist so please tell us how you envision the library of the future.

A. The library will increasingly become more digital and multimedia, with access anywhere anytime on any device. There will be a blurring between Google search, Google books, and the deep content of the library mentioned above. Also, during the next 5-10 years Google search will become more voice activated (starting with the MotoX “OK Google Now”) and intelligent (thanks to Ray Kurzweil’s joining Google). So a user will ask a question and then quickly dive into a multimedia experience which uses all the world’s searchable knowledge, social networks, plus the deeper content and human assistance provided by the library.

Q. Please tell us about how Library resources support your research.

A. In the last five years, I have done extensive research on emerging areas of medicine made possible by the revolution in genetic sequencing. This has required me to find and read hundreds of scientific journal articles, which is only possible because of the UCSD Library’s electronic journal system. If you are outside of the campus it can cost anywhere from $30-$50 per article from the journals. But because of the economy of scale of the UCSD Library, they can “buy wholesale” hundreds of journals and then make their digital content available to our faculty, students, and staff. I can access them on-line while I travel as well. My discoveries would simply not have been possible without this critical service the Library provides.
The papers of Chicano activist Herman Baca, acquired by the UC San Diego Library in 2004, have been digitized and are now available for teaching and research purposes at http://tinyurl.com/UCSD-Baca. The digitization of the archive, which chronicles the struggles and achievements of San Diego’s Chicano Movement from 1964 to 2006, was made possible by a $56,000 grant awarded to the Library in February of 2012 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

More than 40,000 items—including correspondence, photographs, posters, slides, and audio interviews—are now freely available and discoverable on the Internet. The digitization effort has resulted in 1,500 minutes of audio interviews, 3,643 photographs, and some 38,000 pages of documents.

“By digitizing this collection,” said Brian E. C. Schottlaender, The Audrey Geisel University Librarian, “we hope to make the materials available to all segments of the community. A top goal of the UC San Diego Library is to make our collections as accessible as possible to our users and members of the public. Digitization of our holdings helps us to reach that goal.”

According to Lynda Claassen, director of the Library’s Special Collections & Archives, the Baca collection is used each quarter by students in many disciplines, including History, Anthropology, and Ethnic Studies.

“A major benefit of digitizing the collection is that it will make it more accessible not only to these students, but also to the K-12 and regional Chicano communities, which have expressed great interest in incorporating materials from the Baca collection into lesson plans and teaching opportunities,” said Claassen. “This provides an important new resource for teachers, students, and scholars and citizens beyond the campus.”

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When the Baca collection was acquired in 2004, it was the Library’s first archival collection on Chicano activism. Since then, the materials documenting Chicano history have grown to include the American Friends Service Committee, United States-Mexico Border Program Records (1974-2004), and the Roberto Martinez Papers (1969-2009).

In the 1960s, Herman Baca, who grew up in National City, CA, became a prolific Chicano activist, political organizer, printer, and founder, as well as chairman, of the Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR). Baca, who brought the emerging Chicano movement
Q What book is currently on your night table?
A What Hath God Wrought? The Transformation of America, 1815-1848 by Daniel Walker Howe. It is a detailed history of the period showing that so many of the cultural divides in the U.S. today have been with us since the childhood of the Republic.

Your feedback on faculty file is welcome
Please send your comments and suggestions to:
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Baca continued...

into local electoral politics through his work with the Mexican-American Political Association (MAPA), is known and admired for his community-based grassroots organizing in support of civil rights and political and judicial equality. In the 1970s, noting the lack of Chicanos represented by either the Republican or Democratic parties, Baca organized the San Diego County chapter of La Raza Unida Party, a national third-party effort to increase the number of registered voters and political candidates in the Chicano community. Over the years, Baca worked closely with other leading figures of the Chicano movement—including César Chávez, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, Humberto Noé “Bert” Corona, Francisco “Kiki” Martinez, and José Angel Gutiérrez—to address immigration, civil and political rights, educational opportunities, and other issues affecting Chicano communities. Over the nearly 40-year time span represented in the archive, Baca gathered a surprising array of materials, from meeting minutes and fundraising brochures to court case files and Chicano artworks, tracing the grassroots activities and events that defined the Chicano movement.

Q You have also been a leader in the Quantified Self movement. What would you like people to know about this and how do you envision this transforming the health care industry?
A The ongoing digital revolution is making it possible to read out amazing details of the inner workings of our bodies in ways hardly dreamed of ten years ago. Just as a Fitbit can give us individualized feedback on how much exercise we are getting, genomic techniques are letting us understand the incredible variety of bacteria that live inside of us. Our bodies contain ten times more microbial cells than human cells, and many of them were largely unknown until now.