

**University Libraries Advisory Council (ULAC)  
Briefing Paper for President Ross  
December 14, 2010**

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**University of North Carolina Libraries (UNC Libraries)**

By providing access to humankind's intellectual, scientific, and artistic record, and by offering services related to its discovery and use, UNC Libraries support the learning, teaching, and research of the students, faculty and staff of the University. Through resource sharing and cooperative initiatives, they supply all members of the University community seamless, timely, and effective access to information regardless of format and irrespective of campus location. By supporting the acquisition of learning and the production of knowledge and scholarship, the UNC Libraries inspire the individual and the intellect, fostering progressive personal, professional, and social growth.

More specifically, to encourage and support all forms of learning, discovery, and instruction, the UNC Libraries do the following:

- Collect and make accessible humankind's vast recorded record, balanced across all published formats --print, electronic, audio, visual, graphic, data, etc.
- Provide access to their own State-acquired resources and the broader global resources available over the Internet, permitting information access 24/7.
- Offer 21<sup>st</sup> century learning spaces for groups and individuals - - student-centered, technology-rich environments that advance the University's mission and vision.
- Provide state-of-the-art delivery of information, resources and services to support 21<sup>st</sup> century learners.
- Build capacities for thinking, inferring, imagining, synthesizing, understanding, and creating through support and encouragement of literacy and reading.
- Support classroom instruction directly through diverse service offerings such as course specific handouts and research guides; individual research consultations; online chat sessions; information services integrated into learning management systems; exhibition space to showcase class projects, library resources, and faculty research; collaborative learning spaces; and technology-rich digital learning and composition labs.
- Provide the infrastructure for compliance with new legal and ethical demands related to digital media, intellectual property, and electronic and print records management.
- Support enhanced understanding of open access and scholarly communication issues.

The University's mission underscores the value of teaching and learning. By providing high quality instructional and research services, UNC librarians and library staff make a difference in the lives of thousands of students, faculty, and state residents every day. In particular, library staff

- Teach critical thinking and information literacy skills that improve global readiness of students and community members who become researchers, community leaders, businessmen, problem solvers, and change agents.
- Engage students and faculty in building an intellectual community.

Additionally, within the scope of their missions, the UNC Libraries reach out to and assist the diverse educational communities in the State, supporting their information and research needs. UNC Libraries:

- Build collaborative partnerships with K12 education and community colleges for the creative and efficient use of resources.

- Build working relationships with local communities and state businesses and research organizations by providing access to information resources and cultural enrichment opportunities.

Increasingly, the Internet is becoming the dominant infrastructure for knowledge development and dissemination. As a result, today's student expects, and indeed increasingly requires, a very different model of higher education. In combination, the Internet, the new generation of learners, the demands of a global knowledge economy and the current economic crisis have created unparalleled challenges and opportunities for our universities. Reinvention and innovation are key to UNC's surviving and flourishing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Therefore, in the diverse ways they support the educational, research and public service programs of the University of North Carolina, the UNC Libraries are more than important symbols of UNC's learning mission and the life of the mind. As stakeholders and partners in the transformation of our colleges and universities, they are essential and strategic in changing times.

### **University Libraries: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead**

With increasing pressures on the State budget, the University Libraries are not only directly relevant to UNC's meeting its statutory responsibility, they are also key to the fulfillment of our system's vision and mission. UNC Libraries serve as an important factor in the growing competition for the best faculty, staff, and students. The Libraries' tradition of resource sharing and cooperation will continue to provide compelling return-on-investment as the University implements budget reduction scenarios.

The UNC Libraries face unprecedented challenges and opportunities in the years ahead, including the following - -

- Explosive growth in information resources and new resource types
- Equally explosive growth of mobile devices and applications and their impact on service design and delivery
- Increase in the digitization of unique library collections will require a larger share of resources, or significant re-purposing/reallocation
- Increased collaboration will expand the role of the library within the institution, the state, and the nation
- Effective use of technology will continue to drive new service models and needed skill sets
- Increased need for leadership to develop comprehensive scholarly communication and intellectual property services that serve students as well as faculty
- Evolving concept of the academic library, including its role and function, as physical spaces are repurposed and virtual spaces expand
- Changes in higher education and the skills required to adapt
- Increased demand for accountability and assessment
- Budget challenges and adaptation to new budget realities

### **University Libraries Advisory Council (ULAC)**

ULAC is composed of the directors of the 17 University Libraries and a representative from UNC General Administration. The current Chair is Larry Boyer, Dean, Academic Library and Learning Resources, Joyner Library, East Carolina University.

<http://www.northcarolina.edu/academics/ulac/index.htm> (accessed 7 December 2010).

Information about members can be found at

<http://www.northcarolina.edu/academics/ulac/members.htm> (accessed 7 December 2010)