

**LAUC-D Professional Issues Committee
Annual Report 2009-2010**

**David Michalski, Chair
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Last Year's Activities

The past year, 2009-2010, was a busy one for the committee. We took the year to contemplate a variety of issues affecting our profession and engaged in debates surrounding changes to UC Davis, UC Libraries and the library profession. It was a year when our library administration sought staff input into the challenges we face because of budget reductions, a year when LAUC system-wide's Professional Governance Committee questioned what it means to be a 21Century Library, a year when our campus faculty and students engaged the administration of the library, and a year we entertained candidates for our University Library position.

In this environment the LAUC Professional Issues Committee transformed itself into a think tank. It gathered ideas and proposals from various librarians. These are assembled in a portfolio called the *Library 21C: Notes on New Directions for the University Library*. Our documents are thought and not formal position papers. They address, reference, collection development budgets and personnel issues in the effort to spur new thinking.

Future Issues for the LAUC-D Professional Issues

There are at least three important professional issues that will surface next year.

One is a study of the librarian review process. Our review system needs to be transparent and fair. Librarian candidates, review initiators and others involved with the librarian candidates' review must be aware of the criteria on which judgments are made. This not only ensures fairness and promotes better professional work. It helps candidates provide clear evidence and documentation, and provides contributors and reviewers with a sound basis for their contributions to the review process. Are we following the MOU or the APM? Is Pearls explaining and extrapolating rather than transforming these foundation documents? Another question concerns out transition to electronic/paperless reviews. Are we altering our review process because the technology or are we making the technology work for us? This is a concern in relation to MyInfoVault. It appears this system was not structured with Librarians in mind. Can we use it for our system, and /or otherwise make it conform to our review process?

A second concerns the advancement of expertise that resides at the core of the librarian profession. Next year's committee will have to assess the challenges of advancing librarian

professional knowledge, in library and information technology, in scholarly communication, in educational techniques and in the academic fields we serve. We need to continue thinking about these issues broadly, as we have tried to do this year, but also more formally. We need to preserve and strengthen the historic avenues librarians have for increasing their creativity, knowledge and expertise, but we also ought to think about how our institution can integrate professional development into our daily practices. As an institution, we are responsible for preparing ourselves for the challenges of the future. Even when Libraries are able to hire people to replace librarians who move on, they can not expect candidates to possess all the needed skills and subject expertise. The LAUC D Professional Issues Committees and other groups ought to develop strategies for the cultural transmission of our expertise. This group can strategize on how the University Library can become a better thinking, adapting, and smart institution.

Lastly, the Professional Issues Committee can more fully contribute to the system-wide development of the library and its librarians by providing feedback to local and system-wide administration. Over the course of 2009-2010 our committee followed, on a local level, the call of the system-wide Professional Governance Committee. This is somewhat reflected in the documents that follow. The new year offers more opportunities to organize for the future of librarianship. Professional Issues of LAUC-D can contribute to this system-wide effort.

There is also place for this group to respond to System-Wide initiatives and documents that are produced by groups like SOPAG and CDC. The Professional Issues Committee can draft LAUC –D responses and send these along to its Executive Committee and General Membership. System-wide planning can benefit from the reactions and ideas forwarded by LAUC-D Professional Issues.