



THE LIBRARY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-6000

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

September 2017

This Call for Comment, issued by the School of Public Health Dean Stefano Bertozzi, College of Natural Resources Dean J. Keith Gilles, College of Letters & Science's Division of Biological Sciences Dean Michael Botchan, and University Librarian Jeffrey MacKie-Mason, encourages all interested parties to carefully read the proposed plan for the Sheldon Margen Public Health Library and the Marian Koshland Bioscience & Natural Resources Library at UC Berkeley and to share comments and recommendations.

The comment period is open through Friday October 6, 2017. We invite you to submit comments via email to libraryforum@lists.berkeley.edu.

In addition to aiding Dean Bertozzi, Dean Gilles, Dean Botchan and University Librarian MacKie-Mason, comments will be reviewed by the Academic Senate Library Committee (composed of faculty, a representative of campus librarians, and students). Consideration will be given to all suggestions; most helpful are ideas that take into account the academic and scholarly needs of students and faculty at UC Berkeley and enhance the mission of the Library and the University. Revisions to the proposed plan may be made in light of public comment. The development and planning for this project in 2018 will be widely shared on campus and with members of the public who use these campus libraries.

Proposal for the Public Health Library and the Bioscience & Natural Resources Library

We are sharing the proposed reconfiguration of these two important libraries in the Life & Health Sciences Division of the University Library to better address current campus and research needs. Part of the classical core of the campus, the Valley Life Sciences Building is home to the Marian Koshland Bioscience & Natural Resources Library, and the future home of the "Marian Koshland Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library". The public health collection would be identified with a plaque that commemorates the contributions that Sheldon Margen made to health information. The Commission on the Future of the UC Berkeley Library report (2013) asserted that the consolidation of campus libraries "could reduce costs, increase efficiency, and improve the quality of collection development and service delivery to both students and faculty," and encouraged the University Librarian to work with academic leaders to "identify where and how space usage can be improved for user communities and service delivery better attuned to the needs of users."

The Public Health Library moved from Warren Hall in 2007 to its temporary home in University Hall with the expectation that it would move to a new, permanent location along the same timeline as the School of Public Health. In spring 2018, the School will partially move from University Hall to the new Berkeley Way building. Although early plans included a library in that space, the budget for the building did not enable a library to be included and additional resources have not been identified that would enable us to support a library in the upper floors of the building. Based on a review of the disciplinary ties, trends in scholarly resources supporting these fields, and new directions of library services for the life and health sciences, we propose to bring together the collections, services, and staff into one shared location.

The library in the Valley Life Sciences Building was renovated and modernized in 1992 which allowed consolidation of several libraries and collections into the Marian Koshland Bioscience and Natural Resources Library; subject areas grew to include the biological sciences, integrative biology, molecular and cell biology, forestry, botany, zoology, agriculture, environmental science, plant and microbial biology, nutrition, toxicology, and energy.

Together the Marian Koshland Bioscience, Natural Resources and Public Health Library will offer strong support for the increasing multidisciplinary in classes and research. It will support collaboration of students and faculty across departments, and provide support for special initiatives and programs such as the Berkeley Alliance for Global Health, a partnership between UC Berkeley's Biological Sciences Division and the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, which seeks to build scientific and public health research capacity. Patrons will be better served under this large umbrella library in the Valley Life Sciences Building central to the campus and still close to the new School of Public Health home on Berkeley Way.

Both Library collections share close relationships and overlap in subjects through materials that come in digital and print formats. Research resources and tools often share licensing and purchase agreements, such as Sage Research Methods and JMAEvidence. The University Library offers services to support the broader use of collections and tools across locations, such as online paging that allow patrons to request items from any campus library to be delivered to the library of their choice, and universal return that allows library items to be returned to any book drop on campus. School of Public Health students and faculty can make use of special services such as the laptop-lending program, the media center, and study space available in the new Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library.

Collaboratively, the Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library will continue to build accessible, digital and print research-level collections with the integration of high-use material into a convenient browsable collection. The Library has conducted a careful analysis of the usage of the collection in the Public Health Library, and found a steady decrease in book circulation and a correspondingly large increase in the use of digital resources (e-journals, e-books, and databases). These criteria will allow us to review books and print journals to determine where materials will be shelved; lower-use books and selected bound journals would be available at the Northern Regional Library Facility. For UC Berkeley borrowers, off-site journal articles can be scanned and emailed on request. Print course reserves would be available in the Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library. Digital resources can be accessed in the library, on campus, and by students and faculty at any off-campus location.

Additional benefits will be gained by bringing these library staff together in one location with well-supported services and operations, such as longer hours and accessible course reserves. The development of the Library's Life & Health Sciences Division has offered an opportunity for staff and librarians to work closely to develop services and collections across units. Library staff meet monthly to develop best practices for library technical and circulation services, as well as collection development and shared teaching.

The proposed plan continues to support the departments and disciplines with:

- Research and reference service by librarians
- In-class instruction for courses and open workshops taught by librarians
- A training room available for Library workshops, training, and course-related instruction
- Circulation services and pickup for books and journals paged on campus and from off-site shelving
- Highlights of new scholarship with the display of journal covers and current events
- Computers for use by the UC Berkeley community and the public
- Individual and group study spaces available with longer hours
- Assistance for researchers preparing data management plans; assistance with archiving researcher-produced data; open access and publishing assistance

In addition, the Library will provide librarian hours in the Berkeley Way building to serve students, staff, and faculty of the Schools of Public Health and Education as well as the Department of Psychology. The details of this service are still under discussion between the units.

The creation of a more inclusive Marian Koshland Bioscience, Natural Resources, & Public Health Library builds on research and teaching trends with access to emerging technologies in these disciplines, and aligns with the vision identified in the [University Library Strategic Plan 2017-2021](#). The proposed changes to collections, space planning and usage are designed to support faculty and students in this family of scientific disciplines with relevant library expertise, scholarly resources, and user-focused spaces and to ensure the viability and integrity of library support for the future.