DEFINITIONS
“Interdisciplinary research (IDR) is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice…Multidisciplinary research is taken to mean research that involves more than a single discipline in which each discipline makes a separate contribution” (2004 NAS Study)
“Interdisciplinary thinking is rapidly becoming an integral feature of research as a result of four powerful drivers: the inherent complexity of nature and society; the desire to explore problems and questions that are not tied to a single discipline; the need to solve societal problems; and the power of new technologies.” (2004 NAS Study)

OVERVIEW
Berkeley Library programs in support of research, teaching and learning at have been and remain structured around the traditional disciplinary-based model. We model our library liaison and communication programs, collection fund structures, library service units (subject specialty libraries), technical services (subject cataloging approach), and our internal advisory structures (subject councils) along traditional disciplinary lines. Meanwhile, Berkeley scholars are working across disciplinary and organizational boundaries in ways that challenge the traditional campus departmental, administrative and indeed physical (building, workspace, etc.) structures. Faculty comments reported in the New Directions surveys reflected frustration with barriers to interdisciplinary research: 1) discovery of collaboration partners across campus; 2) lack of shared vocabulary; 3) professional incentive structures that reinforce traditional divisions; 4) physical barriers; and 5) need for unique resources.

NATIONAL TRENDS
• Government and foundation grants increasingly encourage if not require inter- or multidisciplinary-based approaches.
• Broad disciplinary organizations acknowledge and endorse this trend and are recommending approaches to support and sustain it (NAS 2004 Report)
• Cyberinfrastructure is key component to many of the emerging projects (eScience)
• Increased reliance on full-text and keyword searching to discover relevant content.
• Berkeley is one of nine institutions (University of Minnesota is lead) studying the challenges and opportunities of interdisciplinary research, teaching and scholarship (Tom Leonard involved)

LOCAL ISSUES
Campuswide
• External partnerships: BP, CITRIS, Siebel Stem Cell Institute, Joint BioEnergy Institute, Health Sciences Initiative, QB3 Institute for Bioengineering, Biotechnology, and Quantitative Biomedical Research; etc.
• Internal partnerships: BDRI, CIDER, Metro Studies, HSPA, CUE, Women’s Studies, Energy Resources Group; etc.
• Facilities: Stanley Hall; CITRIS headquarters; Li Ka Shing Biomedical and Health Sciences Center; Potter Street Lab; Calvin Lab; etc.
• Redefining Area Studies: Professor Wen-hsin Yeh's (Director, IEAS) speech on the opening of the East Asian Library in which she states that in the context of globalization, area studies are moving beyond boundaries such as physical, national, linguistic, format and disciplines.
• Cyberinfrastructure at core of some of these: HART.

Library
• Supporting IDR research with physical and virtual presence
• Defining liaison relationships for new IDR enterprises
• How to build collections around emerging IDR areas (cost, licensing issues)
• Structuring selection assignments (maintain departmental approach or consolidate at broad disciplinary levels)
• New job qualifications requiring interdisciplinary education and experience

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW DIRECTIONS
• Stanley Hall information outpost pilot
• LBL licensing support study
• Redesigning library spaces to foster IDR and MDR
• Redesigning collection fund structure toward broader subject groupings
• New model job postings: Molecular and Cell Biology Librarian
• Rethink the branch library model
• Embed librarians in departments and program facilities
• Need for new services around digital content that cross disciplinary, organizational boundaries: (1) numeric, scientific, geospatial datasets; (2) images; (3) texts.
• Redesign of liaison program
• Review our array of metadata, cataloging and wayfinding services including subject guides to see how they support or hinder IDR and MDR

READINGS
• “Pushing the Frontiers of Interdisciplinary Research.” Nature. http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v404/n6775/full/404313a0.html
• Denda Kayo, "Beyond Subject Headings: A Structured Information Retrieval Tool for Interdisciplinary Fields", LRTS 49 (4):266-75.
• Juris Dilevko and Karen Dali, "Improving Collection Development and Reference Services for Interdisciplinary Fields through Analysis of Citation