DATA SERVICES TASK FORCE

The Doe/Moffitt Libraries are at a critical juncture for determining the future vision of support for the research, teaching, and learning needs of UC Berkeley faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students using data and statistical analysis software for social science and interdisciplinary research purposes. Currently the Data Lab is housed in a temporary location which has provided an opportunity to learn more about the local needs of the Berkeley academic community for collections, software, documentation, and consultative support needed for the identification, manipulation, and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data. The Library must consider how the services, staffing, and facilities of the Library can be best designed to meet the campus' academic needs, match the Library’s mission, and complement related campus services.

The Data Services Task Force is charged to identify models and gather ideas related to data services, spaces, and staffing at research institutions with similar education missions as UC Berkeley; identify the types of traditional and innovative data services activities that may take place within in-person and online support for campus undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty; describe the characteristics and functions necessary within the physical space to support those activities; describe the types of staffing and skills needed to support the recommended services; describe the workstation hardware and software necessary to fulfill the campus academic needs; consult with campus students, faculty, and related support units as well as off-campus experts as deemed informative; and develop recommendations appropriate for the UC Berkeley Library to consider as it continues to evolve its data services in support of campus research and teaching needs. The task force might productively begin its discussions by reviewing the status of projects initiated by the Task Force on Electronic Data for the Social Sciences (EDTF) chaired by Bob Barde and Bob Price during 2001-2002.

Invitations to serve on the task force were sent to individuals who have significant connections to data and statistical analysis software for social science and interdisciplinary research in their primary responsibilities within the Library or in other campus units. Members of the Data Services Task Force are:

Harrison Dekker, Data Services, Doe/Moffitt Libraries (Chair)
Jim Church, International Documents, Doe/Moffitt Libraries
Frank Lester, Institute for Governmental Studies
Gary Peete, Business Library
Jesse Silva, Federal Documents, Doe/Moffitt Libraries
Jon Stiles, UC Data
Chuck Eckman, AUL for Collections (ex-officio)

The Task Force will submit a final report to the Associate University Librarian for Educational Initiatives by February 2007.