



CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

October 2021

With this call for comment University Librarian Jeffrey MacKie-Mason and Dean of the School of Optometry John Flanagan encourage all interested parties to carefully read the proposed plan for the Pamela P. Fong Optometry and Health Sciences Library at UC Berkeley and to submit comments and recommendations for consideration. All suggestions will be given consideration; 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.

The comment period is open through November 18, 2021. We invite you to submit comments via email to libraryforum@lists.berkeley.edu.

In addition to aiding the university librarian and the dean of the School of Optometry, comments will be reviewed by the Academic Senate Library Committee (composed of faculty, students, and a representative of the campus's librarians). Revisions to the proposed plan may be made in light of public comment. The decision and planned next steps will be publicly announced this fall semester.

Proposal for the Optometry Library

We are pleased to share the proposed reconfiguration of the Optometry Library and the Marian Koshland Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library to better address current campus and research needs. Under the proposal, the Optometry Library space will be transferred to the School of Optometry to enhance its teaching and learning space, and the Optometry Library's services and collections will be combined with those of the Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library.

Alignment with university mission

Under this proposal, physical items in the optometry collection would be integrated into the collections at the Marian Koshland Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library, which is located in the Valley Life Sciences Building, part of the classical core of the campus. Both libraries' collections and research tools overlap in subject matter, and materials from these libraries would still be accessible from other campus locations. The University Library offers services to support the use of collections across locations, such as online paging, which allows patrons to request that items be delivered to any library of their choice, and universal return, which allows patrons to return items to any campus book drop. Students, faculty, and staff wishing to use optometry items may request, check out, and return physical library materials at any campus library; other campus libraries near the School of Optometry include the Business Library and the Environmental Design Library. Some of the physical items from the optometry collection will be shelved off-site at the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF); materials at NRLF may also be requested for delivery.

By turning the Fong Optometry Library space permanently over to the School of Optometry, the School will be able to expand its student study and meeting room spaces and provide patrons with longer

hours of access. By bringing Library staff together in one location, the Library can offer optometry students, faculty, and staff better-supported operations and services.

The proposed plan continues to support optometry students, faculty, and staff with:

- Research consultation and reference services by librarians
- Course-integrated instruction and open workshops taught by librarians
- A computer-equipped 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
- Computers for use by the UC Berkeley community and the public
- Individual and group study spaces available for longer hours
- Improved building security, as this will permit Minor Hall to be a locked building
- Assistance for researchers preparing data management plans; assistance with archiving researcher-produced data; and open access and publishing assistance

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.” This recommendation continues to guide the Library as we propose space changes in alignment with the Campus Master Plan and campus goals of promoting discovery and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The proposed changes are designed to enhance campus support for Berkeley faculty and students in this family of scientific disciplines through the expansion of local learning spaces, while continuing to provide access to specialized library expertise and scholarly resources.