

UC Office of the President

Critical Conversations and Workshops

Title

Leaning on Library Values: Library Workers Protecting Academic and Intellectual Freedom at UC

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Leaning on Library Values: Library Workers Protecting Academic and Intellectual Freedom at UC

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**Standing Up
& Standing Out:**
Libraries During Turbulent Times

Welcome!

While we're waiting...



Making this a safe place to share...

- Please use raise hand feature
- Feel free to use the chat function to add ideas
- Facilitators will pause to read the chat
- Be present, respectful and engaged
 - Actively listen
 - Avoid distractions (e.g., email, texts, Slack messages, etc.)
 - Allow speakers to complete their thought before jumping in
 - Be mindful of your air time (step forward and back as needed)

Making this a safe place to share...

- Take ownership of your intentions and impact
- Use “I” statements without generalizing about others
- Hear the truth in others’ experiences and avoid judgement
- Maintain confidentiality and use discretion
- Hold each other and ourselves accountable around microaggressions, implicit biases and oppressive comments

What brought me to this conversation

Carly Garzón Vargas- UCSD

The values and ethics of librarianship facilitate democracy, fostering community engagement and drew me to the profession.

The ALA code of ethics-These principles have been targeted through funding cuts and governmental actions

- Equitable access
- Intellectual freedom
- Privacy for users

Access Services is Instrumental to operationalizing these values.

- The impact of budget cuts on library workers reduces the scope of work
- Impacts the UC community and the community beyond the university
- Human connection is still essential for library work.

What brought me to this conversation

Lisa Schiff - CDL

Government censorship and the dismantling of the national research and education infrastructure present an attack on the core values of librarianship

- Access
- Equity
- Intellectual freedom and privacy
- Public good
- Sustainability

Now is the time moment for libraries and library workers to stand up for those values in order to

- Defend the ability of faculty, students, and staff to fully pursue academic inquiry;
- Protect the global public good that scholarship generates; and
- Support the development of the minds of the next generation.

What brought you to this conversation?

- Your name
- Your UC location
- What inspired you to attend this session

Let's talk about it...

Where do the issues of privacy and intellectual freedom show up in day to day work? For example, what forms of censorship or research interference are faculty and students experiencing?

Are there barriers to access that have come up?

What type of support have library workers been able to provide in these situations?

Let's talk about it...

What are the roles of academic libraries and library workers in protecting freedom of speech and intellectual freedom on individual campuses and across the UC system as a whole?

What practical steps can academic libraries take to protect students' ability to exercise intellectual freedom on UC campuses?

Let's pause to ...

BREATH IN



Breathe deeply

Move and stretch

Grab a snack

Take a bio break



Let's talk about it...

What actions can we take to resist the constraints being imposed on higher education communities?

How can we center intellectual freedom and freedom of speech in the face of change and challenges to universities and libraries?

Let's talk about it...

How can we ensure that UC library leadership keeps the core values of our profession top of mind when facing difficult decisions about organizational changes and possible cuts?

Let's pause to ...

BREATH IN



Breathe deeply

Move and stretch

Grab a snack

Take a bio break



Let's talk about it...

Are there partners in the community, region, or parallel fields that we can turn to for mutual support and strength?

Let's talk about it...

How can we ensure that libraries and universities are places of curiosity and inquiry that also recognize the value of equity, inclusion, and diversity of representation and thought?

Let's pause to ...

BREATH IN



Breathe deeply

Move and stretch

Grab a snack

Take a bio break



Hope & possibility

Hope in Connection, Collaboration & Community:

We are not alone, showing up matters. Within your region there may be multiple potential partners: (San Diego regional examples)

- San Diego Public Library- [SDPL](#)
- San Diego County Library- [SDCL](#)
- San Diego Community College District- [SDCCD](#)
- San Diego State University- [SDSU](#)
- [Southwestern University library](#)
- [Chula Vista Public Library](#)

Hope & possibility

Hope in Academic Library Work

Examples from UCSD and beyond:

- Civil rights awareness through access services
- LibGuide documenting changes to government info Government Docs retention and preservation
- Leveraging shared resources ([Circuit](#))
- Partnerships with community in library spaces
- Amplifying work of community organizations
- International conversations ([UN Open Science and Open Scholarship Conference](#))

Hope & possibility

Hope Through Community Outreach and Collaboration:

Relationships with outside organizations to provide access & leverage funding

- Examples from UCSD library:
 - Relationship with Basic Needs Hub
 - Peer to peer listening space with support from Campus mental health
- Creative solutions past, present, and future:
 - Creative access solutions created during COVID
 - [Biblioteca en Camino](#)-Community outreach, supported by partner nonprofits
 - [CALM @ CSUSM](#)-Student textbook affordability

Hope & possibility

Hope in Connection and Community:

- [Milwaukee](#) & [Aram](#) public library–social media advocacy
- [Digital Library Federation \(DLF\) Working Groups](#)
- Michael Threets-[Reading Rainbow Reboot](#)
- [Libelula Books](#)
- [We Here](#)
- [EveryLibrary Institute](#)
- [For The People](#)
- [Library Freedom Project](#)
- [PEN](#)
- [DefendResearch.org](#)

Hope & possibility

Hope Through?

What else is giving you hope? Share other examples of library workers protecting ALA values on a Zoom whiteboard (slide 22).

Participant Shared Thoughts

Sources of Hope and Possibility

Hearing from everyone today!

Participating in protests, union actions, postcard-writing events with co-workers

The continued work/collaboration with colleagues on these topics both formally and informally

The Data Rescue Project, please volunteer if you have the time: <https://www.datarescueproject.org/>

Seeing people show up for our immigrant neighbors and friends

SILS teams collaborating with UCOP on options/solutions around customs

Seconding supporting local journalism. LA Taco in LA has changed its focus from food to food + community reporting, and its fabulous

local media, sort of off the beaten path. There's a local paper that is published with more of a focus on Black and Indigenous communities - I reached out to them about resources our local public library has, so they could mention it.

PEN America

Public library memes going viral :) centering joy

Knowing there are so many people out there already fighting the good fight

Cancel your Netflix/hulu/hbo subscription and pick up Hoopla or PBS's streaming service (it's \$5 a mo).

Sacramento recently had an "anarchist book fair" focused on alternative methods for sharing information and knowledge within community (e.g., via zines, plays, etc)