Donor Gifts to Double in Value

THANKS TO $1.5 MILLION SKIRBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

The University Library is delighted to announce that the Skirball Foundation has generously awarded a challenge grant to support the revitalization project at Moffitt Library. The terms of the grant call for the Library to match the $1.5 million dollar gift in private support. Now is a great opportunity to donate to the library, as your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling in value.

The revitalized Moffitt Library will be a dynamic hub for learning, research, and community. This popular library at the center of campus will become a cutting-edge information center uniquely adapted for the study and social needs of the diverse, talented students at Berkeley.

The Skirball Foundation awarded the grant in honor of Robert D. Haas ’64, co-chair of the Campaign for the University Library. More information on the Moffitt revitalization plans can be found at www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/moffitt.html. Gifts can be made online at givetocal.berkeley.edu, or by mail to Library Development, 131 Doe Library, Berkeley CA 94720-6000.
When it is getting dark on Friday, and a young person says, “I am going out to the Library,” the truth value of the statement is often low. But several hundred students were as good as their word in October, staging “study-ins” at our Anthropology and then our Education-Psychology libraries after the normal closing time of five o’clock. Posters announcing the event were so slick, many people on campus thought that the Library was trying to lure students. In fact we had only the most informal notice, from protesters who disclaimed the role of leaders. The organizers had booked faculty speakers. Talks about the University’s financial crisis were given as the young people spread out their books, their food, and their pillows. This is surely the first protest gathering in Cal’s history where the intricacies of bond financing kept people up all night talking.

The happy ending to these improbable events is well known across campus. Understanding that students do mean it when they say they are going out for a night to the library, Richard and Lisa Steiny wrote a check to the Chancellor that allows us to keep Moffitt Library and the Gardner Stacks (1000 seats, 2 million books) open during finals past their normal closing time of two o’clock in the morning. The Chancellor also tapped the Parents Fund to allow us to keep branch libraries open on normal Saturday hours for the rest of the school year (this was the direct response to the study-ins, supplementing Moffitt/Gardner spaces that have always been open Saturdays).

Less visible are the exhausted volunteers from across the libraries who listened to the protesters, set some limits, and showed the right touch in allowing what might be called rambunctious learning to go forward. The Anthropology Library study-in lasted 24 hours; in Ed-Psych we stretched the closing time, but visitors saw the logic of leaving so we could open as scheduled on Saturday. Given the finances of the state of California and the meager budget Cal has to work with, we are going to have to adjust where we can to rambunctious learning. The Anthropology Library was cleaned up beautifully by the tired protesters; visitors exited the Ed-Psych Library with their books and pillows (we had checked their food at the door).

This Fiat Lux contains the heartening news of donor support for students through the Moffitt Project, our effort to create “active learning” with experts and collections at hand and great use made of students’ own social networks. We have tapped the ideas of more than 500 students in the past year. We might have more time to think about this project if students today were apathetic, but we will certainly come up with better ideas if we engage them while they are fully charged.

Thomas C. Leonard
Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian
Kelly Fabian's enthusiasm for Renaissance art was the spark that caused her to request Andreas Vesalius's *Epitome* from the Bancroft Library vault for her Undergraduate Seminar on Archival Research project. Published in 1543 as an anatomy textbook for medical students, the *Epitome* is a monument in the history of printing and culture.

Kelly says she was immediately “hooked” when she held the item; its size and the image quality of its renowned woodcuts were impressive. She adds, “Even better, the pages were stained with the memories of dissections long ago, something I found simultaneously revolting and fascinating. I immediately wanted to know more about the book. Dozens of books, articles and conversations later, I still want to know more.”

Her research paper focuses on the image of the female cadaver on the title page, relating it to the role of the female form in Renaissance art. Kelly found resources through the Art History, Classics and Bioscience Libraries to support her analysis that Vesalius was attempting to probe the secret of human creation in his dissection of the female reproductive organs. Kelly, who is now a junior, also made extensive use of online scholarly articles and the interlibrary loan service.

“What I have learned,” Kelly says, “has truly made me feel as if I am participating in a 500 year old conversation. I will always be grateful to the libraries at Berkeley for exposing me to the world of research, a world I have no intention of leaving.” Kelly’s impressive research was recognized with a Library Prize for Undergraduate Research.

Read more about student research projects at www.lib.berkeley.edu/researchprize, which profiles the winners of the Library Prize for Undergraduate Research. Thanks to chemistry librarian Mary Ann Mahoney, this year’s chair of the prize committee, for her assistance.
In January 2008, with library collection funds flat and scholarly-journal costs soaring, the campus launched the Berkeley Research Impact Initiative (BRII), a pilot program to subsidize scholars who choose to make their work available online at no cost to readers.

Now, as even Ivy League institutions find themselves on shaky financial ground, four elite private universities have joined Berkeley in a commitment to so-called “open access” journals. Declaring that “the economic downturn underscores the significance of open-access publications,” Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Berkeley have formed a five-member compact aimed at providing “barrier-free access to information”—from DNA-sequencing data to medical research to sociological studies—to academics and the general public alike.

The traditional business model for academic publishing—that is, for-profit journals owned by publishing giants like Elsevier and Springer, which lock their content behind often-hefty subscription rates and download fees—“is creating new walls around discoveries,” explains University Librarian Tom Leonard. “Universities can really help take down these walls, and the open-access compact is a highly significant tool for the job.”

With Beth Burnside, then the campus’s vice chancellor for research, Leonard launched the BRII, offering to subsidize the fees charged to researchers by such open-access publishers as the for-profit BioMed Central and the nonprofit Public Library of Science (PLoS), founded by a group of scientists that includes Berkeley evolutionary biologist Michael Eisen. The program also covered up to half the amount charged for publications.
by so-called hybrids, pay-for-access journals that give authors the option of making their work freely available immediately upon publication.

SHIFTING COSTS TO PRODUCERS

Under the new compact, all five universities promise to underwrite “reasonable publication charges” for faculty-written articles in open-access journals when such fees — essentially, a shift of publication costs from consumers of information to producers — are not covered by the funder of the research grant or contract. (In its first 18 months, the BRII ended up subsidizing just 16 percent of open-access articles by Berkeley authors published by BioMed Central and 25 percent of those by PLoS, whose contents can legally be copied and redistributed under Creative Commons licensing protocols.)

Berkeley will fulfill its compact pledge by extending the BRII for another year. Beth Weil, head librarian for the campus’s Marian Koshland Bioscience and Natural Resources Library, says Berkeley’s program covers a broader range of journals than, say, Harvard’s new fund — an effort, she explains, “to encourage our authors and editors to experiment with open access and new business models.”

She cites as examples two journals edited by Berkeley faculty: Environmental Research Letters, an open-access journal now in its third year of publication under energy expert Dan Kammen, and the venerable Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, or PNAS, headed by Randy Schekman, a professor of cell and developmental biology. A paid-subscription “society” journal, PNAS, now offers an “open access option” to authors who prefer to have their articles posted online immediately at no charge to users.

Over the 18 months of the pilot program, the BRII allocated just over $70,000 to defray the publishing costs of 52 articles by Berkeley researchers, of which 27 appeared in conventional open-access journals and 25 in so-called hybrids like PNAS. The median reimbursement amount was $1,500 for open-access journals and $1,280 for hybrids. Roughly one-third of the beneficiaries were full or associate professors; most came from the junior research ranks, such as assistant professors, postdocs, and grad students.

The campus’s ongoing commitment to open access, says Weil — who serves on the PLoS board of directors — means the new compact is “more of a game-changer for open access than it is for Berkeley.” But given the

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“Now is the time to rethink fund flows in creative ways that might remove barriers to access.”
— Chuck Eckman
financial pressures facing academic-research libraries nowadays, she adds, the need to find ways of making scholarly work freely available online is greater than ever before.

GALLOPING INFLATION

While the Berkeley library’s collections budget has been spared from cuts the past few years, its operating budget this year was chopped 18 percent, or nearly $1.7 million, according to Associate University Librarian Chuck Eckman. Now, beset with galloping inflation in journal prices, the Library plans to trim its collections budget by $1.3 million over the next two years.

The Library spends about $6.3 million annually on journals alone, reports Eckman, who notes that a year’s worth of open-access subsidies represents just 1 percent of that total. The numbers, he adds, suggest that “now is the time to rethink fund flows in creative ways that might remove barriers to access.”

Peter Suber, a fellow at Harvard’s Office for Scholarly Communication who writes about open access for the Washington, D.C.-based Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), was among those who applauded the compact, calling universities’ support for open-access journals “an investment in a superior system of scholarly communication.”

“Before this compact, a number of funding agencies and universities were willing to pay [open-access] journal processing fees on behalf of their grantees and faculty,” he said. “It’s significant that five major universities recognize the need to join the effort, extend fee subsidies to a wider range of publishing scholars, enlist other institutions, and start to catch up with their long practice of supporting traditional — or non-OA — journals.”

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Visitors to the University Library can access thousands of journals, both in print and online. Topics range from African studies and archaeology to mass communications, Thomas Pynchon, and wind power, with numerous subjects in between.
Sather Gate: New Life for a New Century

This issue of Fiat Lux presents images and texts from a Library exhibition on Sather Gate (closing February 5), depicting the landmark's storied history and its 2008-09 renovation. Sather Gate's history dates back to 1908, when University Architect John Galen Howard designed an elegant Beaux Arts gate to mark the southern Telegraph Avenue entrance to this campus, "the Athens of the West." Where once there had been only a wooden footbridge across Strawberry Creek, Howard erected four granite piers topped by illuminated glass globes, and three bronze gateways. Eight marble bas-relief panels depict male and female nudes, and the gate is topped by a star with the university motto, Fiat lux (let there be light).

Throughout the years, Sather Gate has served as a focus for campus activities: festooned with holiday lights, draped with protest banners, sprayed with tear gas, plastered with leaflets—and endured tempests, heat waves, and earthquakes. After a century at the very center of the University's story, it was badly in need of restoration.

Fundraising efforts spearheaded by the Class of 1950, and later joined by the Class

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of 1954, enabled the campus to undertake a six-month renovation project. From the lone activist offering flyers to those passing through the portal, to thousands of students hurrying to classes, campus life went on around the gate during construction. The construction crew kept at least one entrance open for the near ceaseless flow of pedestrians, bicyclists, and even large trucks and fire engines. Student groups, including a capella groups like the California Golden Overtones accustomed to regularly singing at the gate, continued their activities nearby.

The renovation project was completed in April 2009, giving Sather Gate new life for a new century.

— Adapted from an essay by William Benemann
The 2009-10 Library exhibit on Sather Gate, titled “Amazing Gate: Rescuing a Campus Icon,” was curated by William Benemann, archivist at the School of Law; Steven Finacom, planning analyst at UC Berkeley’s Capital Projects; and Kathryn M. Neal of University Archives at the Bancroft Library. Their insights and expertise are greatly appreciated.

The exhibit was mounted by the Bancroft Library in the Joseph Cummings Rowell exhibition cases on the second floor of Doe Library, just outside the Roger W. Heyns Reading Room. The Rowell cases honor the memory of the first University Librarian (1875-1919), first University Archivist (1919-1938), and member of the Class of 1874.
SERVING ON THE LIBRARY BOARD
“We students can help inform board members about our perspective on libraries, especially how much has changed. For instance, I have described to board members how essential computers are to the way we live and study these days. Students do everything on computers, at all times—research, writing, catching up on the news, and email. Equipping library spaces to universally support computer use—as is planned for the Moffitt renovation—is really important for us.”

STUDIES AT BERKELEY
A major in comparative literature, Tara is planning a senior thesis on Walt Whitman, César Vallejo, and Pablo Neruda. Tara has read her own poetry at the Library’s Lunch Poems series.

A STUDENT VIEW ON THE MOFFITT LIBRARY PROJECT
One of several students who advise the library board, Tara is excited by the fundraising campaign to revitalize Moffitt Library, especially the plans to allow food and drink, to bring in more natural light, and to “green” the building with environment-friendly features. 🌿
The Library Associates
Join more than 6,000 other friends, book lovers, alumni and faculty who recognize that the influence of a great research library extends beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

The Library adds an astounding amount of printed and electronic resources each year, including rare and unique materials. In order to continue to acquire, organize, and make accessible new information, the Library depends on the support of those who understand how important a world-class library is to the education of students who will one day shape our future. Your gift is crucial to the continued excellence of the University Library.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information or to make a gift, contact us at (510) 642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu. Or visit our website at www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/

Then & Now
1914 and 2009

Sather Tower, a beloved icon on the Berkeley campus, underwent a repair and cleaning project last year for its roof, marble spire, and lantern. The image below shows the crane that replaced the lantern and stone tiles—some of which weigh more than 100 pounds—atop the tower, 307 feet in the air. The project was paid for with deferred maintenance funds that were allocated by the campus over a year ago. Now that the work is completed, Sather Tower—better known as the Campanile—is ready to serve for another 100 years as the campus icon that’s visible from all around the bay.
Have you heard?

GET YOUR EMAIL UPDATES!
You can now keep in touch with the UC Berkeley Library online. All you need to do is sign up and you will receive timely updates on Library programs, invitations to special events, notifications on available webcasts, and more.

If you’d like to take advantage of this opportunity to receive occasional email updates from the Library, please send your email contact information directly to stesch@library.berkeley.edu

We want you to know that we respect your privacy rights and will never share your information with any other organization.

Thank you for your interest in the University Library!

STORY HOUR IN THE LIBRARY
A monthly reading series celebrating prose writers from Berkeley and beyond, hosted by Melanie Abrams and Vikram Chandra.

Dave Eggers
Thursday, February 11, 2010
Morrison Library, 5 – 6 pm
Dave Eggers is the author of several novels and other books, including What Is the What, A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, and most recently, Zeitoun, an account of Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath as experienced by Syrian-born Abdulrahman Zeitoun. Eggers co-authored the screenplay for the 2009 Spike Jonze film Where the Wild Things Are, a version of which was published as The Wild Things. Founder and editor of McSweeney’s, Eggers is also co-founder of 826 Valencia, a nonprofit writing and tutoring center for youth in San Francisco.

Recent Story Hour in the Library readers have included Daniel Handler, Annie Barrows, and Daniel Alarcón; past readings can be enjoyed online at webcast.berkeley.edu.

More Library events and exhibits can be found at www.lib.berkeley.edu/give