**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

This Call for Comment, issued by Haas Business School Dean Richard Lyons and University Librarian Thomas Leonard, encourages all interested parties to carefully read the proposed plan for the Thomas J. Long Business 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 November 26, 2013 – January 13, 2014. We invite you to submit comments via email to [future@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:future@library.berkeley.edu). In addition to aiding the Haas Dean and the University Library, comments will be reviewed by the Academic Senate Library Committee (composed of faculty, a representative of campus Librarians, and students). Revisions to the proposed plan may be made in light of public comment. The ongoing planning in 2014 will be widely shared on campus and with members of the public who use this important campus library.

**Proposal for the UC Berkeley Business Library – November 2013**

We are excited to announce the reconfiguration of the Thomas J. Long Business Library into an innovative digital library, information center, and reading room. We have developed these plans in response to the 2012 Library Re-Envisioning Reports and the 2013 Report of the Commission on the Future of the UC Berkeley Library, and with the guidance of a survey of Haas faculty as well as strong and positive feedback from Haas students.

The Haas School of Business and the University Library agree that an innovative model with an emphasis on digital resources would serve the interests of both organizations. We propose that 30,000 of the 65,000 volumes currently held at the Business Library be moved to the Gardner Stacks beneath Doe Library, with the remainder made available in one of UC’s offsite shelving facilities. With the Library’s planned implementation of “universal paging” of items among libraries on campus in Fall 2014, the inconvenience of the core collection being located in another campus location will be minimized. The Business Library will remain a pickup point for any library materials requested by faculty, students, and staff from other campus collections as well as students’ course reserve items.

Removing the legacy print collection from the Business Library will allow the secure area of the Library to be made much smaller, with the remaining space open to students beyond our current operating hours. It will also allow Haas to build more of the group study rooms that are crucial to collaborative work required by the MBA and undergraduate business curricula. The advancement of experimental learning is the key objective. The Library space will remain open to the entire campus community and the general public during normal operating hours.

The proposed plan for the physical aspects of the Thomas J. Long Business Library includes:

Space and Services:

* Research and reference service by librarians in person, on call, or by appointment
* In-class instruction for Haas courses and open workshops taught by librarians
* Circulation services and pickup point for books and journals paged from other libraries on campus and from offsite shelving
* Course reserves supporting academic and professional programs
* Highlighting of new scholarship, such as a display of book jackets, so researchers will more quickly find this research
* Roll-down grate over circulation desk to keep library items secure when staff is not present
* Computers for use by the Berkeley community and the public
* New training room, with priority for Library workshops, training, and course-related instruction but available for reservations by others with approval
* Additional individual and group study spaces
* Cardkey access for the Haas community during extended hours

Staff located in the Business Library:

* Business Librarian
* Evening/Weekend MBA Program Librarian (50% time, Haas funded)
* Reference & Instruction Librarian (50% time, Haas funded)
* Library Assistant (as part of the Social Sciences Division, may have office in another library)
* Student employees

In recent years the Business Library’s most heavily used resources have been digital ones, and most of the librarians’ reference and instruction work has been focused on helping users navigate our many article indexes, professional market research databases, and statistical sources. We will continue to collect in print and are carefully evaluating which items will continue to be shelved on-campus and which will be shelved offsite.

The Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF) is an ideal location to shelve printed directories, serials and titles that we also have as online editions. By request and free of charge, NRLF staff provides scans of articles and directory entries on demand. We plan to shelve a majority of our bound academic journals, working paper series, and business resources such as Moodys/Mergent Manuals, S&P Industry Surveys, D&B Million Dollar Directories, and similar items at NRLF.

The Business Library collection is used by faculty and students from many academic departments and programs such as: Business Administration, Economics, Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, Political Science, Law, City and Regional Planning, Engineering Research, Social Welfare, Sociology, History, and Energy and Resources. The Library will rehouse the printed collection in alignment with the subject specialties of various campus libraries. The majority of the book collection will be integrated into the Gardner Stacks, which is the primary location for most social science collections on campus. The Head of the Business Library will oversee the collection review; faculty and instructors are encouraged to contact the Library if there are particular items they feel would be most useful in a particular location. The Business Library’s special collection of historical annual reports on microfiche will remain at the Business Library, along with a new microform scanner/printer.

We make this proposal after a period of study within the Library and the Haas School. In Spring 2013, Haas faculty were surveyed regarding their use of the Business Library. Although the response rate was low, an overwhelming majority of respondents said that online journals and online databases were the most important resources for their work at Haas. Surveys of students surfaced many negative comments about the Library’s limited hours and use of space, especially the space then reserved for legacy print collections.

The changes described in this proposal are critical for the Haas School of Business to provide the types of research and learning spaces demanded by the curriculum. The changes allow Library staff to focus their energies on high-level consultation, instruction services, and content delivery on demand. Haas competes with other institutions for top-tier faculty and students, and this model aims to implement best practices in the field while providing innovative library services.

The Academic Senate Library Committee is expected to take the lead in commenting on how this proposed change might have impact on interdisciplinary fields that use current Haas materials and the intellectual capital of its faculty, but that do not fall within the normal purview of the Haas Dean. For example, is cross-disciplinary work on the history of capitalism likely to be affected by such a change

in the footprint and operations of the Business Library? Could there be other unforeseen consequences of changing the look and feel of this campus library?

Construction planning is underway for the Haas School of Business, with the goal of completing work in time for the new cohort of students in fall 2014. As mentioned earlier, revisions to the proposed plan may be made in light of public comment. The refreshed Thomas J. Long Business Library will be a centerpiece of Haas improvements.

Thomas C. Leonard

University Librarian

Professor, Graduate School of Journalism

Richard K. Lyons

Dean, Haas School of Business