

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
(Final; Information)

LB.25.06 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on the Library (LB) during the 2024-2025 academic year. LB held four meetings during the fall 2024 semester (September 13, October 4, November 8, December 13) and four meetings during the spring 2025 semester (January 17, February 21, March 14, April 18). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

LB received relevant updates from *ex officio* members including representatives from the Dean of Libraries and University Librarian.

I. ITEMS APPROVED BY THE SENATE

LB.25.02, Resolution on CARLI Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries

LB drafted a resolution in support of the Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries, that was issued by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries (CARLI) on September 18, 2024. The proposal was approved by LB on 10/04/2024 and approved by the Senate on 02/10/2025.

II. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

LB.25.01, Amended Proposed Revision to the *Statutes* (USC ST-83 Revised)

LB approved LB.25.01 on 10/15/2025 and forwarded the response to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures.

LB.25.03, Update on Integrating Primo Central Discovery Index (CDI) into Easy Search Bento and the Primo Library Catalog

Michael Norman, Discovery Services Librarian and Integrated Library System, University Library, gave a presentation on the integration of Primo CDI into Easy Search Bento and the Primo Library Catalog. Easy Search is a discovery system created by William Mischo, Research Professor, Library. Ex Libris' Primo CDI is a central, unified index for scholarly and academic material.

III. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

LB.22.01, Pressure on the Collection Budget

The University Library is looking at possible 2%, 4%, and 6% reductions in budgets in FY2026 and FY2027. LB drafted a letter to the Office of the Provost on October 30, 2024, expressing concern and advocating for the University Library.

LB.22.04, Open Access and Transformative Agreements

The renegotiation of the Elsevier contract saved University of Illinois authors more than \$700,000 in publishing charges for open access content in the first 8 months. Negotiations with Springer are ongoing.

LB.22.05, Pressure on Library Storage Space

LB toured the Oak Street Library on November 11, 2024. Staff members at Oak Street Library discussed increasing constraints on storage space and how they are managed.

LB.24.01, Status of the Archives and Special Collections Construction Project

The Board of Trustees approved the requested increase in budget on March 20, 2025 for the Archives and Special Collections construction project. The project is slated to begin in the fall of 2025 and be completed in the summer or fall of 2027.

LB.24.02, Provision of Space and Services for Undergraduates

The University Library is anticipating the freeing up of space for undergraduates and undergraduate services in the Main Library that will accrue when the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Archives, and the Lincoln Libraries are moved from the Main Library to the new Archives and Special Collections facility. Plans are underway regarding how this newly available space will be utilized.

LB.24.03, Maintenance and Servicing of the Main Library

Planning continues on updating and reallocating the space in the Main Library stacks that will suffice until such time that funding is made available for a much-needed total renovation of the stacks area. Issues to be dealt with include stabilizing the structure, stopping leaks, and updates to masonry, windows, and lighting.

LB.24.04, Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Utilization of Library Materials and Services

The University Library continues to offer services that support the use of AI technologies by University faculty, staff, and students.

LB.24.05, Heavy Metals Remediation

During the 19th century heavy metals, including arsenic, chromium, and mercury, were sometimes used in pigment colors for book cloth. Books published during this time period are tested for heavy metals using X-ray Fluorescence (XRF).

LB.24.06, Open Educational Resources and Affordable Course Content

The University Library spent approximately \$62,000 on ebook licenses from fall of 2022 through fall of 2024. This resulted in a student savings of about \$700K, for about a 10:1 return on investment.

LB.24.07, Open Forums for the University Library

An Open Forum for the University Library was held on March 12, 2025. The event was attended by 30 people in person and 55 online. Claire Stewart, Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, provided a space project update and led a discussion on strategic planning and the state of the University Library. Mary Ton, Digital Humanities Librarian, University Library, discussed support for digital research tools and strategies. Megan Sapp-Nelson, Professor, University Library, spoke on evidence synthesis/systematic reviews. Dan Tracy, Head of Scholarly Communication and Publishing, University Library, presented on library open scholarship efforts and savings for Illinois authors through Wiley and Elsevier agreements. Michael Norman, Discovery Services Librarian and Integrated Library System, University Library, spoke on upcoming changes in University Library discovery tools. Tom Teper, Associate Dean of Libraries, University Library, reviewed the University Library collections budget.

LB.25.04, Discussion on Fees for Online Students

A new fee for students enrolled in fully online programs will be phased in for the fall semester of 2025. The rate will start at \$3 per credit hour and increase to \$4 per credit hour in 2026. The share of the fee for the University Library is estimated at 1/3.

LB.25.05, Discussion on the Effects of Changing Federal Regulations on Library Collections, Programs, and Services

A general discussion was held on the effects of changing federal regulations on the University Library.

LIBRARY
Ralph Mathisen, Chair

Mattox Beckman
Rabin Bhattarai
Jessie Cleverly
Amanda Good
Justin Kern
Benny Lum
Bonnie Mak
Laura Payne
Kirsten Pullen
Victoria Quirk
Courtney Segota
Elle Wroblewski
Claire Stewart, *ex officio*