



University Library Committee (ULC)

Minutes

December 16, 2025

Attendees: Will Hermann, Tessa Freeland, Ryan Rahinel, Michal Young, Micah Warren, Jack McGaughey, Lindsay Braun, Levi Whitter, Alicia Salaz (ex officio), Rebecca DesPrez (admin)

Absent: Cathy Wong

Welcome (Alicia)

Alicia welcomed the new members and everyone introduced themselves.

Alicia provided an overview of the current state of the library, highlighting the following focal points:

- **Space:** Since the pandemic, there has been a renewed appreciation for and emphasis on face-to-face interaction. More than 50,000 visitors come through the Knight Library each month, with many additional visits to the 6 branches. Library space creates opportunities for new and serendipitous discoveries and plays a crucial role in welcoming students.
- **Primary Source Education:** This remains a key focus for the library. Demand for classroom visits and hands-on learning experiences has increased, and the library continues to leverage its strong collections to support teaching and learning.
- **Rapidly Evolving Technology:** There is a growing sense of urgency around AI literacy. Supporting and educating students in this area is a core focus of the library.
- **Budget:** Alicia provided an overview of the library's funding sources. Most of the budget comes from the general fund allocated by the OtP, along with funds from the ICC, which are anticipated to decrease significantly this year. The library's budget has been tightly constrained annually. Membership in the Big Ten has been a significant advantage, providing cost savings and expanded access to collections. In addition, strong gift funds continue to support NSRC and collections, with NSRC being particularly successful in attracting donor support.
- Despite ongoing budget challenges, the library remains focused on student career preparation and AI literacy.

Committee Discussion Topics

Committee members asked questions and discussed possible priorities and a working agenda for the committee for the year ahead. Ideas included efforts to leverage Big Ten membership to fight for more fair and sustainable approaches to scholarly communications and publishing. The committee agreed to pick up this discussion at the next meeting.

**Action Items and Next Steps**

- The committee will elect a chair.
- The next meeting will take place in February; Rebecca will send a reminder in January.
- A future agenda item will include continuing the discussion on resisting large commercial publishers and promoting academy-owned publishers.

Next Meeting

- February 2026