

More Than Just a Library - It's a Portal into the Unknown

By **Erik T. Mitchell**, Audrey Geisel University Librarian

The past few years have included some significant changes and challenges for libraries. The closure of physical libraries during the pandemic pushed us to think about ourselves as “digital first” organizations, and as academic, public and school libraries reopened, we found ourselves rediscovering how our space is needed and used. Over the same time period, our public and school libraries have seen a dramatic increase in challenges to intellectual freedom, with PEN America reporting book challenges in thirty-seven states and thousands of books impacted. In some of these states, legislation is also focused on higher education, seeking to block investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices and programs.



Erik T. Mitchell

Libraries have long sought to be places where curiosity and creativity can flourish, and where equal access, diversity, equity, and inclusion are foundational principles. There is an active conversation in the library profession about how we have and sometimes have not succeeded in living up to these principles. However, I believe, at the core, libraries are invested in being the network of support that makes our communities thrive.

In university libraries, helping our community thrive means a

lot of different things. It means providing access to the learning and research information resources students and faculty need to do their work and supporting our faculty and student authors in ensuring their research and creative works enjoy a far-reaching impact. It means following the lead of our users as they let us know their goals, creating opportunities for social, creative and academic connections, prioritizing inclusivity, and working to create services and physical environments where all are and feel welcome.

As libraries fulfill these roles, they also consider the future by envisioning whom they will serve in ten years or in one hundred years, while simultaneously delving into the past to safeguard information and knowledge at risk of being lost. Because planning for the past, the present, and the future is more than any one or

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ganization can fulfill on its own, libraries excel at the art of collaboration. Within UC, we are fortunate to have the library systems at each campus plus the California Digital Library working together to serve the learning and research mission of the university. In the San Diego region, we are doubly fortunate to have so many great public and academic libraries, and we all work closely together as partners to maximize the impact of our efforts for the larger community (more on that later).

With this framework in mind, I would like to share a few national library trends and how we are focusing our efforts at UC San Diego.

User-Centered

We value shared success and community engagement. We bring passion and expertise to our work in order to support our users.

Future-Focused

We explore and employ innovative techniques and ideas to support our mission and grow along with the needs of our community.

**Propelling Learning and Research for Today's University**

It goes without saying that UC San Diego has transformed considerably over the last decade. During this period, campus enrollment grew from approximately 29,000 to almost 43,000, and in 2023 the university's research funding exceeded \$1.76 billion.

At the same time, UC San Diego Library has also changed significantly. Through a review of space and service offerings, we consolidated our physical spaces while we invested deeply in providing digital access to content. As Geisel Library continues to reach capacity on a daily basis during peak times of the academic year, we have elevated the prominence of WongAvery Library (formerly the Bio-medical Library Building, which

was renamed in April 2022 in honor of alumna **Sally T. WongAvery** '75) to meet the growing student need for study and collaborative spaces. We built nationally recognized programs in research data management and data curation, and we worked across the UC library system to build national infrastructure, including HathiTrust, a digital book preservation and access platform.

Built with the books digitized through the [Google Books project](#), HathiTrust is where many academic libraries in the US keep our digitized copies. UC San Diego was an early partner in this project, sending our first books for digitization in 2008.

In [August 2023, the Library concluded its participation](#)

Collaboration

We cultivate partnerships on and off campus and work collaboratively within the Library. We believe that collaboration is fundamental to success.

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to creating a better world and incorporating these principles into every aspect of our work.

after sending 470,000 books for digitization, part of the over 4.7 million books digitized across UC libraries.

While the initial goal of HathiTrust was to ensure the long-term preservation of these digitized copies for future generations, our decade-long work paid off sooner than expected during the pandemic. By relying on elements of US copyright law, HathiTrust made digital copies of UC-owned materials available during the physical closure of our buildings, enabling faculty, students, and staff at each UC campus to access over thirteen million digitized volumes.

Through access to digital content, researchers are rediscovering the value held within our print materials, and libraries are working to explore how new use cases around digitized content will inform future research. [Project LEND](#), a UC Libraries project supported by the Mellon Foundation, seeks to examine this topic by studying how researchers can make use of this content for



The WongAvery Library

reading, computational analysis, and even artificial intelligence.

As library collections moved online throughout library closures, so did our library instruction and services. This shift enabled far greater reach and engagement by students. Additionally, we pivoted from services primarily located at our physical desks to a unified virtual service desk that includes a knowledge base, real-time chat and a variety of ways to connect with subject experts.

The implementation of these digital services does not replace in-person services; instead, the aim is to provide a common foundation for access whether you're in the physical library, conducting research abroad, or at home. While

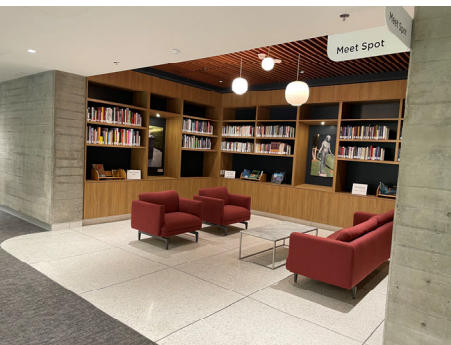


Students using new service hub.

The UC San Diego Library's online service portal combines and streamlines information and research services. Visit the [Service Portal here](#) and the [Library Answers portal here](#).

enhancing the integration and emphasis on digital access in our service redesign, we ensured that the Geisel Library renovation aligned with this vision. This was achieved by consolidating teams and service locations, creating what we refer to as the Service Hub.

This renovation and the shift to digital-first and self-service enabled the Library to think more creatively about how we utilize spaces in Geisel. As a result of the renovation, we added nearly 200 seats for students, recognizing that Geisel was usually at or over capacity throughout much of the quarter. We also repurposed areas that were previously designated for "physical first" services, including creating a Meet Spot which provides a place for visitors to browse new books and connect with friends. Additionally, we built an exhibit gallery and pop-up display area, enabling us to highlight library collections as well as the creative works of faculty and students. For example, in Winter Quarter 2023, the pop-up display area known as "The Nest" featured "Blacktronika: Afrofuturism in Electronic Music," an exhibit curated in partnership with King Britt – world-renowned DJ, record producer, and UC San Diego faculty member.



The Meet Spot holds new and notable collections including publications by UC San Diego authors

Collectively, these shifts towards digital collections, services, and



The pop-up exhibit space showcases the Blacktronika exhibit curated by King Britt

instruction, coupled with a revitalized perspective on the significance of dedicated physical places for learning, interaction, and research, are steering our library toward a fresh operational vision. In line with this, our Library is ensuring our spaces are aligned with those in the live-learn centers across campus as well as novel academic and collaborative spaces. Our goal is to realize a student-ready, academically-centered space that meets the needs of every student.

An Inclusive Library Driven by Students and Faculty

Two key stakeholders and input groups for the Library are the Library Student Advisory Committee (LSAC) and the Academic Senate Committee on the Library.

Comprising undergraduate and graduate student representatives from across the university, LSAC meets regularly throughout the academic year to provide input on Library space use and overall service design. Their feedback has guided furniture-purchasing decisions, helped us assess and advocate for improved Wi-Fi infrastructure, led to the installation of vending machines, and informed our approach to adopting "grab and go" models for everything from erasable mark-

ers to Chromebook laptops. Through LSAC, the Library keeps current on the resources and programming that UC San Diego students need to thrive. One example is our study break programming featuring [Love on a Leash](#), a therapy dog program that pays the Library a visit during midterms and finals.

Through the Committee on the Library, the Academic Senate en-



The 2022-23 Library Student Advisory Committee provided key insight and guidance for Library investments

dorsed an increased investment in open access. This assistance enables the efforts of the UC libraries to shift from purchasing journal subscriptions to supporting open access publishing fees for UC authors, making their work openly available to the whole world. Now

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five years in, the UC libraries have worked with each campus's Academic Senate committees, as well as at the systemwide committee level, to become an international leader in the transition to open access, with well over 50 percent of articles published by UC authors eligible for publication under an open access license.

As we work to make progress on open access publishing, we are already exploring what comes next. In upcoming years, federal funding agencies, at the direction of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), will put into action policies aimed at ensuring that publications and associated data resulting from federally-funded projects are made publicly accessible. Commonly referred to as the "[Nelson Memo](#)," the OSTP guidance is fundamentally changing how publicly-funded research results are shared.

LSAC and the Committee on the Library are just a few sources of feedback and guidance that the Library considers. Through the Staff@Work, Academics@UCSD, and campus customer satisfaction surveys, as well as UCUES data on the undergraduate experience, the Library actively gathers feedback and user stories to design our future-ready initiatives. Associated Students leaders are also key collaborators and creators of new initiatives. For instance, over the last two years, the Library has partnered with student leaders to introduce furniture to Geisel's outdoor forum level, install diaper changing stations in both Geisel Library and WongAvery Library, and launch a [menstrual equity project](#) led by Liane Barkhordar, a third-year Thurgood Marshall College student.

A recent partnership with the 2022-23 chair of the Academic Sen-

ate, Nancy Postero, brought together Academic Senate guidance, faculty inspiration, and student



Associated Students led by Liane Barkhordar established a new menstrual equity program in Geisel Library

scholarship. In this collaborative effort, the Library, Professor Postero, Professor Cathy Gere, and four undergraduate and graduate students orchestrated an event featuring author and alumnus Kim Stanley Robinson '74 for a discussion centered around the pressing need to address climate change, especially at the local level. These endeavors are an essential way for the Library to adapt to evolving needs and guarantee that our investments directly serve the needs of our students and faculty.



L to R: Emmet Norris, Alex Andriatis, Nancy Postero, Kim Stanley Robinson, Emma Rodriguez '23, Ke'La Kimble, Erik Mitchell, and Cathy Gere

A Global and Community-Engaged Library

The strength of today's library comes in part from our extensive global network of partners and strong ties to community-focused organizations like the San Diego Public and San Diego County li-

braries. Recognizing our role as a public research library, UC San Diego maintains reciprocal resource-sharing agreements with all California State University libraries. Additionally, we provide complimentary borrower cards to all post-secondary students and educators residing in the state of California.

We are equally proud of our unique partnership with fellow public and academic libraries in the San Diego region through the San Diego Circuit consortium. Formed more than 20 years ago with the aim of enabling any resident of San Diego County to gain access to our collective print resources, Circuit stands as a joint effort and shared commitment among the directors of UC San Diego, University of San Diego, San Diego State University, CSU San Marcos, San Diego Public, and San Diego County Libraries. In fact, during the past three years, Circuit's role has extended beyond resource sharing. It has actively taken on the responsibility of addressing vital societal concerns, such as mitigating health misinformation and bolstering climate change resilience among community members.



San Diego Circuit libraries collaborated to promote reliable health information via a public campaign on San Diego transit advertisements in May 2022

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While striving to enhance awareness of these issues, our collaboration has ventured into several interesting paths, including the launch of a public transit advertising campaign aimed at promoting reliable health information and mitigating health misinformation. This effort was made possible by a grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine.

While we are proud of our collaboration with Circuit, we take equal pride in our university-based collaborations, including the partnership with the Jewish Studies Program for the [Holocaust Living History Workshop](#). Beyond our local engagement across San Diego and California, the UC San Diego Library has also fostered and expanded global partnerships to cater to the research and learning needs of our scholars. Collaborations with institutions like [Fudan University](#), the [University of Göttingen](#), the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information,

and [Cambridge University Library](#) allow us to share expertise among library employees and provide a fertile ground for innovation and information exchange.

Our collaboration with Cambridge University Library takes our global endeavors even further. This joint initiative, known as the WongAvery East Asian Collections Collaboration between UC San Diego and Cambridge University Library, involves the exchange of expertise, a shared digitization program, and opportunities to support scholar exchanges. These interactions empower researchers from both institutions to benefit from immersive, in-person research experiences.

Exploring the Unknown

I warmly encourage you to pay us a visit at Geisel Library or WongAvery Library to witness the evolution of our spaces since your last campus visit. While you're

here, take advantage of your library card (yes, all retired campus employees can get one) by checking out a great book. If you require assistance with your library account, you can conveniently access our [online portal](#) or speak with one of our customer experience specialists to ensure your card remains active. Also, make sure to drop by Audrey's Cafe located on Geisel's second (main) floor for a delightful experience. To delve further into our support for learning and research, I invite you to subscribe to our monthly electronic newsletter and our bi-annual digital edition of Explore magazine. Throughout the year, we host numerous events and engagement opportunities, and we would be thrilled to have you join us. For more information and to join our mailing list, please visit library.ucsd.edu/news-events.



Emeriti Association Book Club

November 27,

The Island of Extraordinary Captives: A Painter, a Poet, an Heiress, and a Spy in a World War II British Internment Camp, by **Simon Parkin**.

The remarkable untold story of a Jewish orphan who fled Nazi Germany for London, only to be arrested there by the British government and sent to an internment camp for suspected foreign agents on the Isle of Man, alongside a renowned group of refugee musicians, intellectuals, artists, and—possibly—genuine spies. Drawing from unpublished first-person accounts and newly declassified documents from the British government, award-winning journalist Simon Parkin tells the story of this unlikely group of internees. *The Island of Extraordinary Captives* brings history to life in vivid detail, revealing the hidden truth of Britain's grave wartime mistake and showcasing how hope and creativity can flourish in even the darkest of circumstances.

December 18, *Astoria*, by **Peter Stark**

In 1810, **John Jacob Astor** sent out two advance parties to settle the wild, unclaimed western coast of

North America. More than half of his men died violent deaths. The others survived starvation, madness, and greed to shape the destiny of a continent. In the tradition of *The Lost City of Z* and *Skeletons on the Zahara*, *Astoria* is the thrilling, true-adventure tale of the 1810 Astor Expedition, an epic, now forgotten, three-year journey to forge an American empire on the Pacific Coast. Peter Stark offers a harrowing saga in which a band of explorers battled nature, starvation, and madness to establish the first American settlement in the Pacific Northwest and opened up what would become the Oregon trail, permanently altering the nation's landscape and its global standing. Author and correspondent for *Outside* magazine Peter Stark recreates this pivotal moment in American history for the first time for modern readers, drawing on original source material to tell the amazing true story of the Astor Expedition. Unfolding over the course of three years, from 1810 to 1813, *Astoria* is a tale of high adventure and incredible hardship in the wilderness and at sea. [RSVP today](#) to join fellow book lovers in attending these two fascinating Emeriti Association Book club meetings.

In Memoriam - Sandy Lakoff

By **Suzan Cioffi**, *Founding Director, UCSD RRC, retired, RTAD, and Managing Editor, Chronicles*

Remembering the Legacy of Professor Emeritus Sanford Lakoff

It is with a heavy heart that we remember the passing of Professor Emeritus Sanford Lakoff, fondly known as Sandy, who left us on September 26, at the age of 92. His peaceful departure occurred at his home in La Jolla, a place where he had lived and made a significant impact on the academic community for many years. Sandy Lakoff was more than just founding chair of the Department of Political Science; he was one of the greatest assets of the UCSD Emeriti Association, serving from 2005 to 2023 as editor of *Chronicles*, the journal of the EA. I was honored to work with him closely on *Chronicles* for many years, and I truly valued his friendship and mentorship. His deep understanding of political philosophy and his interest in democracy in the modern world helped make him a critical thinker whose every article he penned we read with deep interest. His thought-provoking feature articles coupled with the jokes and yarns he shared through his *Chronicles* column, "Anecdoteage," kept us all thinking deeply and then laughing and begging for more.

It is difficult to fully capture the immense contributions Sandy made to both his department and the broader scholarly and emeriti community. His dedication and passion were unmatched, and his presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of crossing paths with him.

Born with a keen intellect and an insatiable curiosity in 1931, Sandy's thirst for knowledge led him to pursue a distinguished aca-



Sanford (Sandy) Allen Lakoff
May 12, 1931 - September 25, 2023

ademic career. He obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard in 1959 and quickly established himself as a leading authority in his field. His groundbreaking research and insightful analysis helped shape the way we understand and approach political theories and perspectives. In addition to his scholarly contributions, Sandy was admired for his extraordinary teaching skills. Students flocked to his classes, eagerly absorbing his wisdom and inspiration. In retirement, Sandy regularly lectured for the Emeriti and Retirement Associations, as well as for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. For both the EA and RA, Sandy was always our biggest draw, filling our conference room with emeriti faculty and staff retirees shoulder to shoulder, who were thrilled to listen to Sandy's pearls of wisdom and then to engage in lively debate afterwards.

Sandy's commitment to his students extended beyond the classroom. He served as a compassionate mentor and advisor in the Department of Political Science, guiding countless young minds towards successful careers. Additionally, Sandy endowed an annual award in Political Science, The *Sanford Lakoff Award for the Most Outstanding Senior Thesis*. His influence was not limited to

the academic realm, as he tirelessly worked to foster a sense of civic engagement and social justice in his protégés. His impact on individual lives will continue to reverberate for generations to come.

As the founding chair of the Department of Political Science, Sandy was unwavering in his dedication to its growth and prosperity. Under his leadership, the department flourished, attracting talented faculty and nurturing a vibrant academic environment. He nurtured a sense of camaraderie among colleagues, encouraging collaboration and fostering a spirit of excellence.

Professor Lakoff was recognized with multiple awards at UCSD: in 2008, Sandy won the Dickson Award, and in 2018, Sandy was honored with both the system-wide **Panunzio** Award and the UCSD **Revelle** Medal.

In honor of Professor Emeritus Sanford Lakoff's remarkable life and achievements, the Lakoff family is organizing a memorial service to be held on **Friday, December 1, 2023, from 2 pm - 4 pm, in the Atkinson Pavilion at the UCSD Faculty Club**. Please [RSVP here](#). This service will provide an opportunity for colleagues, students, friends, and loved ones to come together and celebrate his legacy.

Today, as we mourn the loss of an exceptional scholar, mentor, and friend, let us remember and celebrate the incredible life of Professor Emeritus Sanford Lakoff. His profound impact on our association and academic community will forever be imprinted upon us.

May his spirit guide us as we strive to carry on his legacy of excellence, passion, and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge.

Rest in peace, Sandy Lakoff. You will be deeply missed.

How My Stars Aligned

Editor's Note: When I inherited the editorship of *Chronicles* from Sandy Lakoff, I quickly realized that I didn't possess the vast repository of jokes and wry observations that made up the "Anecdote" column. Rather than plagiarizing material from old copies of *Reader's Digest's* "Humor in Uniform" and similar sources, I thought to feature—at least for a few issues—short autobiographical sketches by emeriti, describing the "AHA!" moment that helped define their career paths. Bob Knox, of SIO, has graciously agreed to inaugurate the new column. Thanks, Bob! As we embark on this enlightening exploration, we invite others to contribute articles (500-750 words) to sadler@ucsd.edu. Let's celebrate the alignment of knowledge and inspiration! **Steven Adler**



By **Bob Knox, Ph.D.**,
Research Oceanographer and
Associate Director Emeritus,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

In my case, and I suspect others, no single moment was all-decisive; rather, there were a few important parts of my past that, in combination, led to a career of research in physical oceanography.

First was the family setting. My parents were college graduates with further degrees (MBA; MA). The broader family circle included other college graduates, some higher degrees, a couple of MDs, etc. So, the family context message was that I could and should go on to college, and perhaps beyond, in some worthy direction. There was no pressure toward any specific subject or field of study, just the shared value of taking intellectual challenges and effort seriously, go-



Bob Knox

ing to college, and getting a good, broad education there.

I did well in school years – all A's in high school academic subjects, 2nd in my graduating class, took a 2nd place in a New Jersey statewide physics exam competition. I liked what I saw of high school physics – you could figure out a lot of problems and processes from a few basics, e.g., Newton's Laws. I majored in physics in college (Amherst) and went on to graduate school in physics at UC Berkeley.

But only for academic year, 1964-5. By then I had had 1963 and 1964 summer jobs at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), encouraged by one of my Amherst professors and doubtless helped by recommendations he wrote – he was a WHOI-affiliated researcher and a WHOI trustee. The 1963 job took me out to sea for the first time, part of the hurriedly assembled WHOI contribution to the search for the submarine USS Thresher, which had vanished only a few months before. The Navy was marshaling its own assets, and those of institutions like WHOI, to

try to solve this mystery. This expedition gave me my first visual contact with the immensity of the ocean – standing on deck, seeing nothing but blue water all around. I had grown up near coasts and familiar with small boats near land, but a ship alone on the open ocean was different – and very attention-grabbing. We caught the edge of a hurricane during that trip – another basic lesson in the power of the ocean when the wind gets up.

So, the realization that meaningful physical science could be done in the context of the ocean, not in a Berkeley nuclear physics lab, grew on me and I left Berkeley for MIT and its PhD program in physical oceanography, closely connected to WHOI and the seagoing science possibilities I had encountered there by chance via summer jobs. Next came 2 years of postdoctoral work at MIT and then a researcher position at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Years of research projects in physical oceanography, many of them involving seagoing work, followed. Looking back from my current vantage point as research oceanographer and associate director (emeritus) of Scripps, it has been a fine run – no regrets.



A much younger Knox, circa 1974, on the deck of a RAF pinnace.

Marine Toys for Tots Drive



*Please bring your unwrapped toy
with you to the
**Retirement & Emeriti Association
Holiday Party**
Saturday, December 9, 2023 (see below)
RA Board members will deliver them to
The Marine Corps Depot*

Chronicles

Newsletter of the UCSD Emeriti Association



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Forward queries, changes in mailing/email address to:

*Vania Bailon, Director, UCSD Retirement Resource Center,
UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, #0020, La Jolla, CA 92093-0020.*

Mark your calendar for Winter 2023/2024 events!

Winter Emeriti Association Meetings

RSVP [here](#) to receive the Zoom event link for the January 2024 lecture.
For the Holiday event in December, payment must be made electronically.



Emeriti & Retirement Associations' Festive Holiday Party

\$10 per member \$50 for non-members
Saturday, December 9, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
In-person at the Ida & Cecil Green Faculty Club

Online Payment Links:

\$10 – Members - <https://quickclick.com/r/aroek>
\$50 – Guests - <https://quickclick.com/r/0r8aj>



Emeriti Association General Meeting and Lecture:

The Truths and Myths of Aging Well for Women
presented by **Andrea Z. LaCroix, PhD,**
Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM
Participate via Zoom. RSVP here: <https://hrweb.ucsd.edu/ea/>