



Academic Senate

December 1, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Joseph Genereux, Chair
Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications

Re: UCR's WAS Self Study and Institutional Report for Reaffirmation

The committee considers that the areas under our purview are inadequately discussed in the draft Self Study. First, a benefit of being a student at a research-intensive institution such as UCR is that the resources and opportunity are available to develop and publish ground-breaking new knowledge. It would be worthwhile to quantitatively describe the scholarly communications output of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Secondly, many of the resources discussed in the Self Study are provided through the libraries, and yet the libraries are hardly mentioned in the document. When the contributions of our library infrastructure are made invisible, it can have real effects on the resources made available to them to continue to support our campus mission. Furthermore, library infrastructure and activities are important for "promoting the success of all students" and hence are relevant to the report. Towards that end, we asked the University Librarian to prepare a concise summary of how the library contributes to the standards highlighted in this Self-Study. She and her staff prepared the text below relevant to the second Institutional Essay, "**B.2. Standard 2 – Achieving Educational Objectives and Student Success**" which we endorse in its entirety.

B.2. Standard 2 – Achieving Educational Objectives and Student Success

UCR Library

The UCR Library serves as an information commons and intellectual center for the campus and is the nexus for research and study at UCR. The Library ranks among the 120 largest research libraries in the U.S. and Canada and is a member of the [Association of Research Libraries](#). The libraries are comprised of two physical locations: [Tomás Rivera Library](#), which includes the [Special Collections & Manuscripts](#), and the [Raymond L. Orbach Science Library](#). The UCR Library has an annual operating budget of \$19,000,000 and employs 100 staff, including 26 librarians and 20 professional staff most of whom hold master's and/or PhD degrees. The library collections include more than 4 million print volumes, more than 1 million e-books, and thousands of multimedia materials. The UCR Library also provides access to hundreds of databases and state-of-the-art information technology.

The UCR Library's Department of Teaching and Learning (T&L) provides a wide array of services that contribute directly to student success, including 350-400 instruction sessions annually across UCR. Many of these sessions entail working closely with disciplinary faculty to

embed key information literacy (IL) skills into course instruction. In 2024, T&L launched the [Information Literacy Teaching Toolkit](#), which provides instructors with a [set of five learning outcomes and 25 learning objectives](#). These outcomes align with national IL standards and the [American Association of Colleges and Universities \(AAC&U\) Information Literacy Value Rubric](#). Post-pandemic, T&L developed a new [University Writing Program \(UWP\)](#) Library Instruction curriculum, which is integrated into core [UCR writing requirements, WRIT 10/20](#).

Additionally, the Library's T&L Department supports institutional educational objectives through high-impact partnerships—including [CHASS F1RST](#) (Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences), BIO 5LA (Biology), CHEM 5 (Chemistry), NASC 093/94 (STEM), and EDU 093/94 (Education), [TRIO](#), McNair Scholars, and [Highlander Early Start Academy](#)—that embed information literacy and academic preparedness into early student experiences. These programs address equity, access, and hidden-curriculum barriers, strengthening UCR's commitment to inclusive student success. The UCR Library has achieved nearly a 100% touch-rate for first year students in these programs. Additionally, T&L recently launched UGRD 040- *Information Now: Current Topics in Information & Society*, a 2-unit topics course, aiming to connect students' academic information practices to lifelong learning. T&L has also worked closely with several UCR programs, such as [XCITE](#), to integrate AI literacy instruction into instructor development.

The UCR Library's Department of Research and Technology serves as a vital nexus for student academic achievement and career preparation, integrating cutting-edge technologies with foundational research support services. For example, the Department offers interdisciplinary AI and Digital Literacy programs, the [Creat'R Lab Makerspace](#), [Robotics Lab](#), [3DXP Lab](#), and geospatial resources. These initiatives have served over one thousand students through integrated programming, such as a UCR Robotics Summer Camp. Additionally, Research and Technology partners with the School of Medicine, clinical sites across the Inland Empire, and other departments such as Music, Native American Student Programs to support UCR students in these fields. In 2023, the Department launched the [Digital Scholarship Certificate](#) program in collaboration with the Career Center and others to contribute to student success and career development. Furthermore, the Department hosts the Open Research and Creative Activities Forum (ORCA) quarterly, showcasing outstanding interdisciplinary student research projects from all colleges and schools at UCR, as well as Maker Week annually, integrating coding, sound design, and digital tools, enabling undergraduate creativity and career advancement.

Through these and other services, the UCR Library contributes to student success, transforms learning experiences, collaborates across the campus, encourages critical thinking, and bridges knowledge with practical, career-ready competencies through technologies and library services.