

ANNUAL



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REPORT

UC Irvine Libraries

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AND CREATE NEW
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Letter from the Endowed University Librarian

THE RISE OF AI is fundamentally transforming educational and professional environments, forcing entire sectors to rethink how we learn and work. In this rapidly changing world, libraries have a pivotal role to play as critical thinking skills become more essential than ever. By embracing innovation while upholding the core values of scholarship, UC Irvine Libraries remain steadfast in our enduring commitment to digital literacy and equitable access to information.

Each year, the Libraries' Annual Report is a testament to the remarkable work our talented librarians and staff accomplish in service to our campus and community. The stories and projects highlighted here reflect the ways in which we are growing, evolving, and deepening our impact. By preserving rare and fragile materials, expanding digital access to historical collections, and finding new ways to support students in our physical spaces, we continue to meet the evolving needs of 21st-century scholars and healthcare professionals.

A major theme throughout this report is how we are enhancing and sustaining capacity — the organizational infrastructure and staffing that allow us to do this work at scale. A prime example is our new cross-departmental digitization program. Dedicated, full-time positions and a collaborative task force have helped us create a more proactive, strategic model to preserve and share our distinctive archival collections. Partnering with institutions such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Radio Free Asia and making materials available through online platforms are helping to amplify the reach and impact of this work for generations to come.

Elevating the student experience is another common thread of this year's highlights. From the success of our Loanable Technology Program — with more than 10,000 items

checked out each academic year — to increasingly popular student stress relief events and skills-building workshops, we are meeting students where they are and providing the tools they need to thrive. New reservable quiet rooms and solo study pods further reflect our dedication to creating welcoming, productive spaces for UC Irvine's students and healthcare professionals.

Across all these efforts, we are forging best practices that center accessibility as a core value. Our librarians and staff are committed to ensuring the UC Irvine community of scholars, here and abroad, can fully engage with the resources and services we offer.

I am deeply grateful to the campus and community partners whose support makes our work possible. As you read through these pages, I hope you will share in our pride and excitement for all that lies ahead.



Lorelei Tanji

Endowed University Librarian

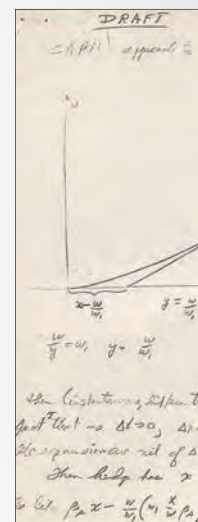
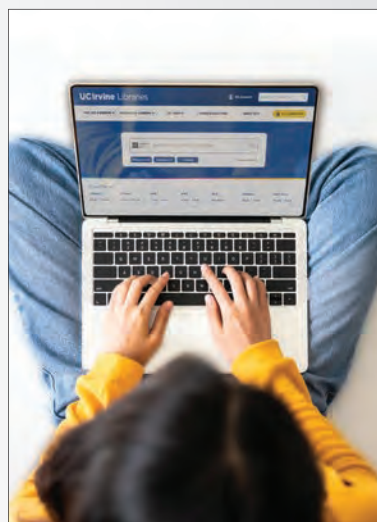


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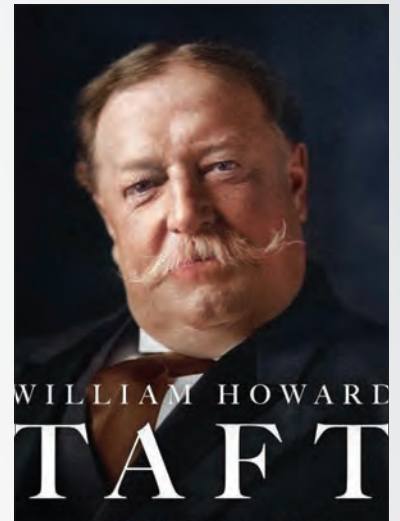
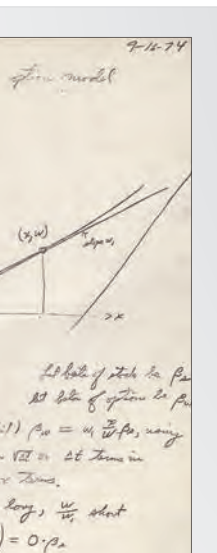
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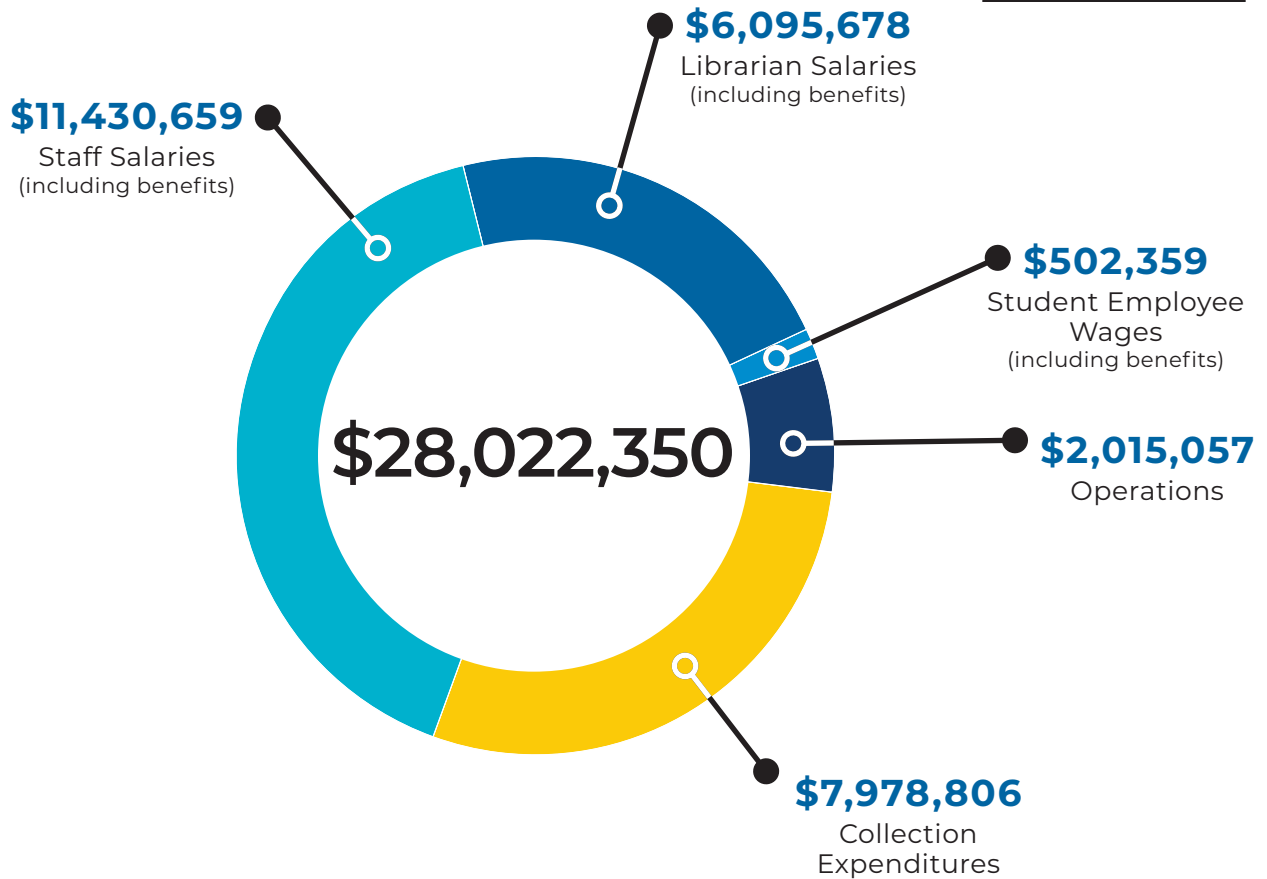
Current and Upcoming Exhibits

Credits

Writing and editing by Cheryl Baltes and Jennifer Stout
Photography by Allan Helmick, Luisa Lee, and Kathy Tran
Back and front cover photo credit: Steve Zylus
Inside front cover photo credit: Daniel Anderson
Design by Sylvia Irving

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

\$28
Million
Budget



FACILITIES

350,000

square feet across
four locations

More than **2,800**
public seats

300 public and
loanable computers



Up to **19 hours**
during a typical day

Up to **111 hours**
during a typical week

24 hours a day during finals
and in Grunigen Medical Library
research lounge

SITE TRAFFIC

2.5 million Libraries website visits

1.2 million Libraries building visits

610,000 Libraries online catalog visits

96,000 study room reservations

17,000 loanable technology and equipment checkouts

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

420 total presentations and workshops

18,364 total students served

REFERENCE SERVICES

2,691

library questions answered via chat and email

4,307

research consultations

1,075

Answers chatbot messages



EMPLOYEES

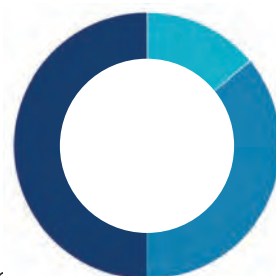
268

total employees

38 Librarians

96 Staff

134 Student worker



ELECTRONIC & PRINT COLLECTIONS

2

million

physical volumes

950,000

journals and serials

2.2

million

microfiche/microfilms

90,000

government documents

290,000

audiovisual materials, maps, photographs, and other graphic materials

2.6

million

ebooks

AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

estimated student cost savings per year

\$520,000

Year in Review

COMICS BEYOND THE MARGINS EXHIBIT OPENING



IN SPRING 2026, the UC Irvine campus and community were invited to celebrate the installation of Langson Library's latest exhibit, *Comics Beyond the Margins*, curated by Research Librarian for Performing Arts Scott Stone and Head of Data, Publishing, and Digital Scholarship Madelynn Dickerson. Featuring comics from the Libraries' general collections, the exhibit traced the underground comics that emerged in the 1960s and later efforts to represent a diverse range of identities. From heart-breaking memoirs to surreal, intergalactic tales, the examples in the exhibit illustrate the current realities of our world and what a better future might look like for all.

The exhibit opening included remarks from Rocío Pichon-Rivière, an assistant professor in the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures and the founding director of the Graphic Narratives Research Cluster at UC Irvine. She gave a brief history of comics as alternative media and their role in disseminating transformative ideas. Following Pichon-Rivière's talk, guests were invited to stay for a reception and to make their own comic panel as part of a DIY comic activity.

Comics Beyond the Margins exhibit opening (top) attendees and (bottom) guest speaker Rocío Pichon-Rivière with Endowed University Librarian Lorelei Tanji.

OC&SEAA BOOK TALK WITH VINH NGUYEN

LAST FALL, writer and educator Vinh Nguyen sat down with Julia Huỳnh, curator for the Southeast Asian Archive (SEAA), in UC Irvine's Orange County and Southeast Asian Archive (OC&SEAA) Center. They discussed his memoir, *The Migrant Rain Falls in Reverse*, at an event cosponsored by the Libraries' Special Collections and Archives and UC Irvine's Humanities Center, Department of Asian American Studies, and Department of Global and International Studies. The wide-ranging discussion touched on finding oneself and one's history in the archives, the stories we create into being, and the longings of a diaspora.

During the discussion, the award-winning author explained that his latest book, which he described as fiction anchored in historical realities, or a "speculative memoir," is a meditation on four photographs. The book began as a creative writing exercise, where he started by describing a photo in detail, with no analysis, and then let his mind wander to what was missing



Vinh Nguyen and Julia Huỳnh at a book talk in the OC&SEAA.

and what might be going on beyond the photo's borders. One of the four photographs is of his mother in a Thai refugee camp that he discovered while digging through files in the SEAA during a research visit in 2012.

When asked about his time researching at the OC&SEAA and with the Libraries' SEAA curator at the time, he stated simply, "Archivists and librarians are the best people on Earth. They deliver."

LOANABLE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM REDUCES EDUCATION COSTS

THE LIBRARIES' LOANABLE TECHNOLOGY

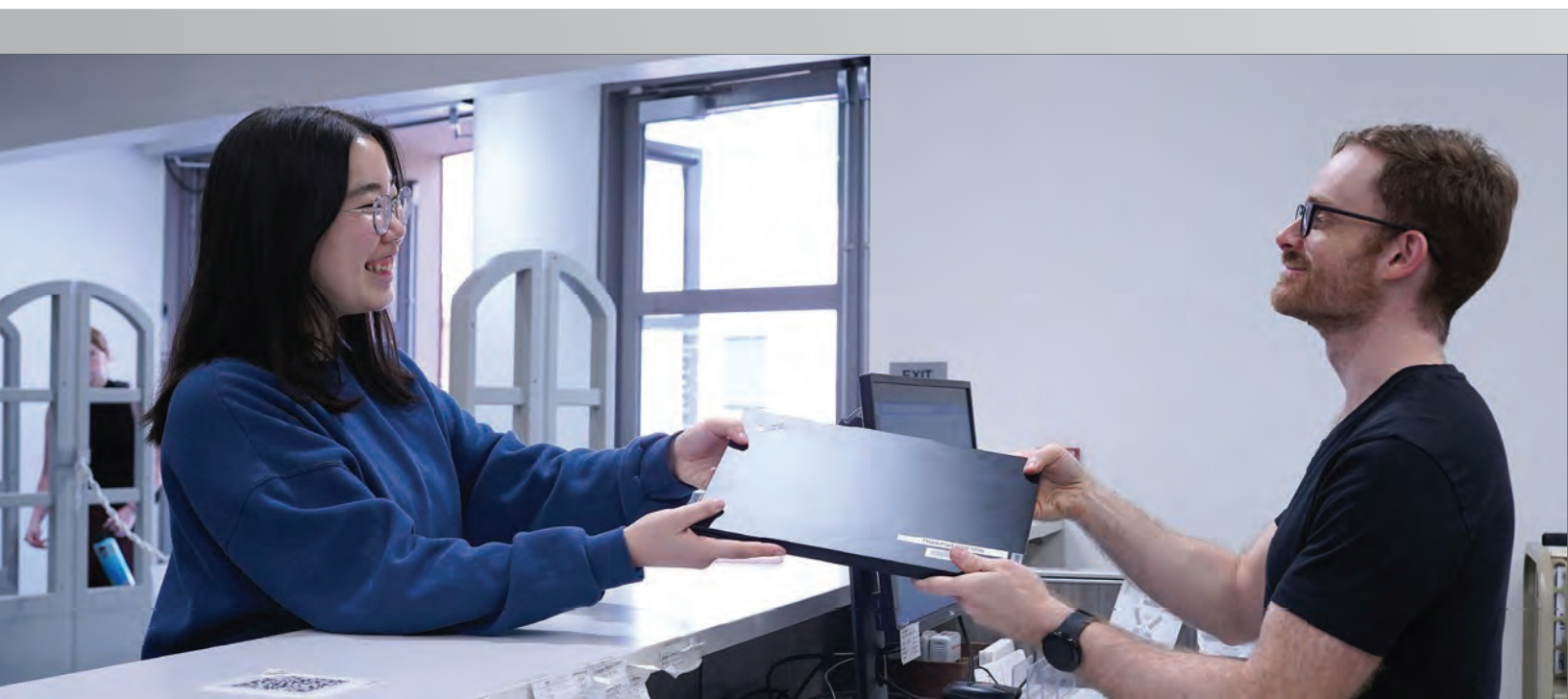
Program offers students short-term loans of dependable and up-to-date equipment. With costs rising across the board, the ability to borrow scientific calculators, chargers, and other devices can be a lifeline in emergencies and helps reduce the overall costs of higher education.

Demand for the Libraries' loanable technology has continued to grow over the last few years. In the 2025–2026 academic year alone, items were checked out more than 17,000 times, including more than 8,700 charger, 8,600 laptop, 2,000 scientific calculator, and 800 iPad checkouts. Other devices available include headphones, camera equipment, gaming consoles, VR headsets, bike locks,

and wellness devices such as white noise machines and light therapy lamps.

Thanks to generous community support, the program has been able to meet the increasing demand. Over the last three years, the Associated Students of the University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) has donated more than \$15,000 in items to the Libraries to bolster and expand the types of equipment available for checkout. The most recent ASUCI donations in spring 2026 included a camera, a telescope, Bluetooth headphones, and power banks.

The program was also the focus of last year's Giving Day. The most successful Giving Day yet for the Libraries, the 24-hour campaign in 2026 raised more than \$24,500 to replace and upgrade equipment.



NEW RESERVABLE QUIET ROOM

THE GRUNIGEN MEDICAL LIBRARY (GML)

on the UCI Health — Orange campus has a new reservable quiet room. Similar to the popular solo study pods installed in the Science and Langson Libraries on the main UC Irvine campus, the GML quiet room may be reserved by UC Irvine faculty, staff, and students for two hours up to one week in advance. The room includes a worktable, collaboration screen, power outlets, and soft seating for two people.

Operations Manager Irene Morris explained that reservations for GML's bookable rooms more than doubled since 2022, signaling the need for more private collaboration spaces. GML also has a classroom with built-in computers as well



as multiple work and study rooms for groups of varying sizes.

The purchase of the new quiet room was made possible through the generosity of Dolores S. Grunigen and funds from the naming of GML's Angela J. Rios Memorial Conference Room.

STUDENT STRESS RELIEF EVENTS AND SKILLS WORKSHOPS

DURING THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR, the Libraries' student engagement and outreach working group hosted more than a dozen stress relief programs for UC Irvine students. Held primarily during midterm and finals weeks, the group designed the meetups to help students build community and decompress. More than 500 students attended these engagement programs, which included button making, drawing, affirmation boards, and a video game tournament. New for this year,



a “Getting Crafty with a Librarian” series also taught crocheting. At the beginner’s workshops, students learned the basics and met fellow makers, while creating something fun.

Throughout the year, the Libraries also hosted nearly 80 skills-building workshops. Ranging from Python programming to grant writing and research tips, the workshops were held both in person and online, with more than 2,200 total registered attendees.



FROM IMAGINATION TO REALITY EXHIBIT

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, books have not only reflected the technological possibilities of their time but also predicted and even directly influenced later innovations. The *From Imagination to Reality* exhibit, which was on display in the Science Library from April through August 2026, was a tribute to these visionary writers who imagine worlds where space travel, medical advancements, and other technological marvels are part of everyday life.

The exhibit curators — Stephen Anderson (exhibits coordinator), Anastasia Armendariz (rare books and special collections librarian), Devorah Bader

(library assistant 4), and Cynthia Johnson (head of reference and the Grunigen Medical Library) — selected books from the Libraries' collections and paired them with realized advances and innovations. In each case, the technologies in these books predated the real world by decades or, in one case, over a century. The science fiction and fantasy authors highlighted in the exhibit envisioned the myriad ways humanity's existence might be altered, improved, or even destroyed by our own creations.

SPOTLIGHT ON RARE BOOK PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION AT UC IRVINE

By Audra Eagle Yun

An inside peek into how Special Collections and Archives handles some of the Libraries' treasures reveals how much care and attention to detail goes into the process.

AS THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST and head of Special Collections and Archives (SCA), I'm in the unique position of getting to see countless one-of-a-kind and special materials in UC Irvine Libraries. One essential but often invisible part of working in SCA is our commitment to the preservation of rare books.

When people see a book like William Shakespeare's First Folio, it's easy to assume that it survived for 400 years because it is so important. In reality, most rare books endure because of sustained, thoughtful care. Conservation is what allows us to balance two equally important responsibilities: preservation *and* access.

WHY RARE BOOKS NEED CONSERVATION

Rare books and manuscripts were not often produced with longevity in mind. Many were made using materials such as paper, leather, and adhesives that naturally age and weaken over time. Even under the best conditions, books are affected by light exposure, fluctuations in temperature and humidity, and repeated handling. None of these forces are dramatic on their own, but over decades (and sometimes, centuries), their effects accumulate.

Without intervention, rare materials eventually become too fragile to use. Conservation ensures that they remain available not only as historical artifacts but as active teaching and research resources for students, scholars, and the public.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

One concrete example of conservation efforts in the Libraries is our copy of Shakespeare's First Folio, which was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. Our copy was donated by UC Irvine alumnus Dr. Patrick Hanratty in 1986.

Recently, the Libraries partnered with a professional conservator who conducted an onsite conservation treatment for the Folio. The conservator's work addressed areas of vulnerability that naturally develop in a book of this age and significance, particularly a book that continues to be used regularly.

We identified small tears in the earlier pages, fragile areas where pages had been extended historically, weakening flyleaves, and early separation along the spine. These weren't catastrophic problems, but they were warning signs that, if left untreated, these issues would limit safe use.

Using traditional, reversible conservation techniques, the conservator carefully stabilized these areas. Tears and losses were repaired using thin Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. Fragile page extensions were reinforced so they could be turned safely. Losses were filled and hand-toned so that repairs remain supportive without distracting from the original text. The spine attachment was



*Custom clamshell
box with a
collapsible cradle.*



Examples of rare book pages and bindings in need of conservation treatments.

resecured, and old flyleaves that were contributing to discoloration were replaced with stable, carefully selected materials.

It's important to emphasize that this treatment was not cosmetic. The goal was not to make the Folio look new but to ensure that it can continue to be safely opened, studied, and taught with. We often say that if it is done well, you will not notice it — you'll just be able to use it.

This hands-on conservation work complements another key investment: a custom clamshell box with a collapsible cradle, designed and built by an expert book binder. The box was created using archival board, linen book cloth, cotton papers, and pH-neutral adhesives, with the cradle designed to support the Folio at a safe opening angle whenever it is in use.

Together, this conservation treatment and custom housing mean that the Folio remains an active teaching object rather than a fragile artifact kept at a distance.

OTHER PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

While the Folio is a powerful example, it represents just one part of a broader conservation effort.

On the horizon, we have projects involving early printed books that have bindings that require stabilization, artists' books made with experimental materials, and other rare and special collections that are increasingly used in hands-on instruction at UC Irvine and in the Orange County community.

With the support of donor gifts and special endowments, SCA can plan this work proactively, addressing small issues before they become major risks and ensuring that rare materials remain safe to use rather than restricted from access.

I'll close by saying this: Conservation is an act of stewardship. It's how we honor the past, support education in the present, and ensure that rare books and manuscripts remain available to future generations of readers and scholars. Here in the Libraries, we especially thank our supporters for their partnership in caring for these remarkable collections.



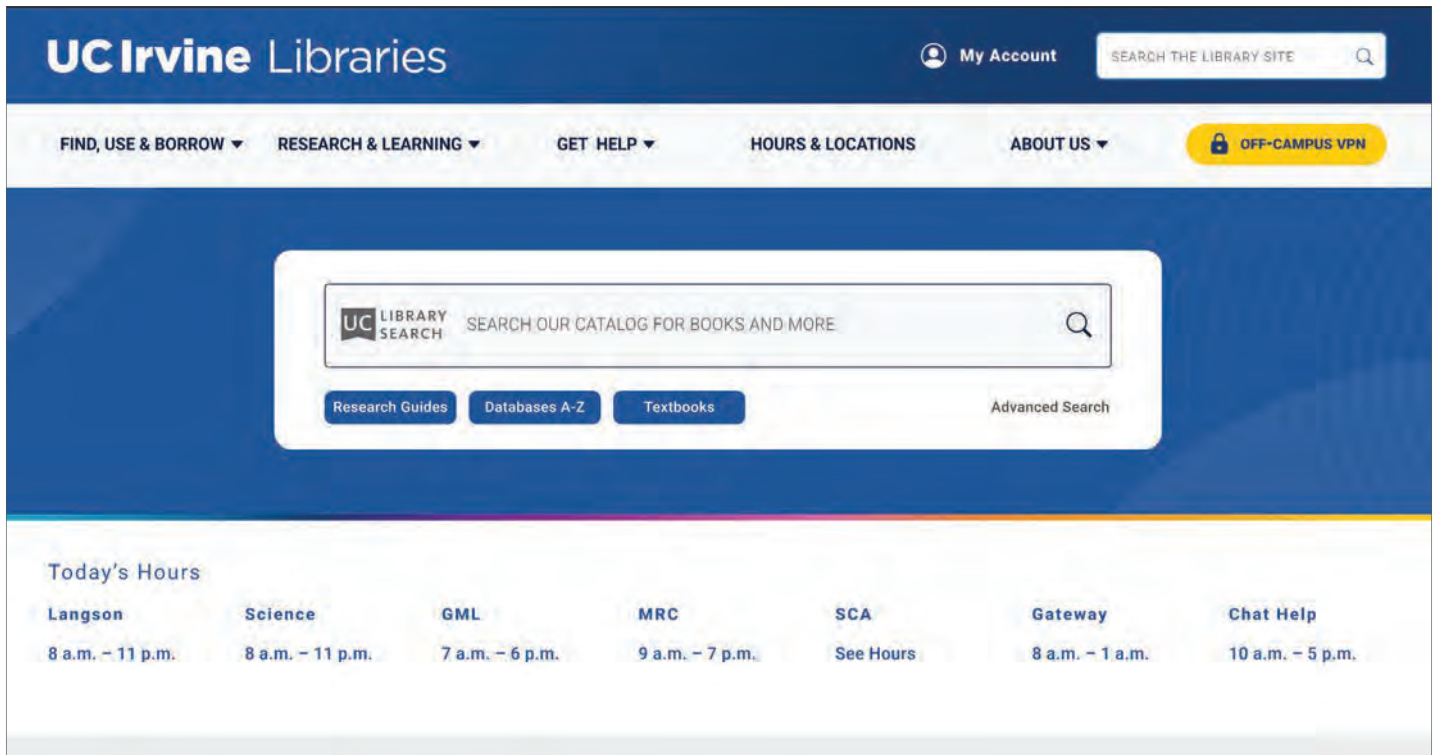
Audra Eagle Yun is head of Special Collections and Archives and university archivist at UC Irvine Libraries. She is also a distinguished fellow of the Society of American Archivists and the author-editor of two books: *Archival Accessioning* (2021) and *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts* (2026).

BUILDING ON A CULTURE OF ACCESSIBILITY

By Cheryl Baltes

Digital and physical upgrades are helping to enhance the ways in which the Libraries support patrons.





UC Irvine Libraries website, lib.uci.edu, relaunched in fall 2026.

AT UC IRVINE LIBRARIES, accessibility is not an afterthought — it is a foundational commitment woven into every program, service, and space. Digital and physical upgrades are underway to help ensure that all members of the UC Irvine community, regardless of location or ability, can fully use the resources and services they need to learn, research, and thrive.

A NEW DIGITAL FRONT DOOR

One of the most dramatic expressions of this commitment is the comprehensive redesign of the UC Irvine Libraries' website. Initially driven by the US federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II compliance deadline and the University of California's systemwide mandate to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) AA standard, the Libraries launched an ambitious web project in summer 2025. In addition to redesigning the main **lib.uci.edu** website, the project's goals included establishing a consistent look and navigation structure across all 24 of the Libraries' web domains.

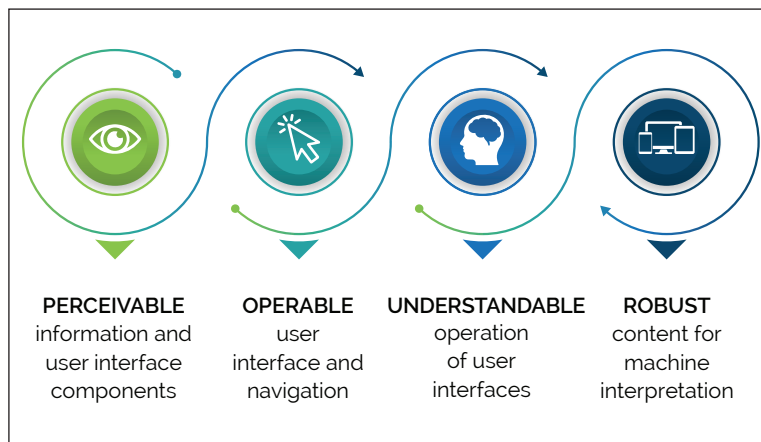
Ashley Burke, the development and operations (DevOps) supervisor in the Library Information Technology department and the web redesign project lead, explained that improving the usability of the Libraries' website has been a library-wide effort.

“Every department has been involved in improving the user experience for our patrons,” he said. “Although we originally set out to meet the WCAG 2.1 compliance deadline, this project has been an excellent opportunity to reevaluate our entire site, streamline navigation, and introduce a cleaner design.”

The scale of this effort reflects the reach of the Libraries’ digital presence. Our websites and catalog receive more than 3 million visits per year from UC Irvine faculty, students, and healthcare providers; local community members; as well as researchers and scholars across the globe. Because our website is an essential research tool and gateway to our services, accessible design is not just a legal obligation, but a foundation that universally improves the experience for our large and diverse user base.

In the first phase of the project, all sites reached baseline WCAG 2.1 compliance. The second phase, completed in fall 2026, prioritized the relaunch of the five highest-trafficked sites and pages.

Ultimately, all the Libraries’ websites will be consolidated and housed under the core lib.uci.edu web domain, creating a unified and accessible digital experience for every visitor.



POUR: The four principles of accessibility. Source: World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The website redesign is just one component of a larger, systematic effort by the Libraries to identify and eliminate barriers across digital platforms and services.

A critical component of this broader effort has been the remediation of digital media, which involved ensuring that hundreds of videos and downloadable files hosted on both the Libraries’ sites and external platforms meet accessibility standards. Adding features such as closed captions and audio descriptions to our videos on YouTube and Vimeo, for example, makes the content usable by patrons with varying needs and in a wide variety of environments.

As part of this work, the Libraries have established training and maintenance protocols for all librarians, staff, and student workers so that any new digital content created and posted for public use is accessible from the moment it is published. Lakshmi Arunachalam, library services

platform administrator and the project manager for the Title II compliance work, emphasized the importance of this proactive approach.

“This work has helped us move from one-time remediation toward more sustainable practices,” said Arunachalam. “We are building accessibility into our day-to-day content creation and maintenance workflows, rather than treating it as something to fix later.”

ACCESSIBILITY INSIDE AND OUT

Over the last few years, a range of services and upgrades have also expanded the ways in which the Libraries support patrons in person. The following is just a sample of the resources and services available to library users:

- Computer workstations with assistive technologies, including advanced screen reader software, are available at dedicated workstations in the Libraries.
- Paging services are available to assist patrons in retrieving library materials.
- Noise-canceling headphones and white noise machines are available for checkout through the Loanable Technology Program.
- Eleven soundproof solo study pods were added in the Langson and Science Libraries, providing quiet, focused spaces.
- The Morphe toolbar was installed on all public and employee computers across the Libraries, highlighting for users built-in accessibility features such as text resizing, magnification, color contrast adjustments, and screen reading.

A number of physical building upgrades were completed in 2026 as well, including new wayfinding signage in the Science Library and new automatic doors at the main entrance of Langson Library.

ACCESSIBILITY AS MISSION AND CULTURE

These recent efforts are not isolated projects — they reflect the core values and strategic vision of UC Irvine Libraries.

Associate University Librarian Rikke Ogawa explained that, in the push toward remediation and compliance, the Libraries worked with community members and partners, taking into account both ethical considerations and cultural sensitivities. She added that our work doesn’t stop with ADA compliance; we will continue to train and evolve in response to user needs.

“This is just the first rung on a ladder,” Ogawa said. “Accessibility is not a compliance checkbox for us. It is core to what we do and how we do it.”

New Digitization Program PRESERVES THE PAST, EMPOWERS THE FUTURE

By Cheryl Baltes and Jennifer Stout



A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several small, overlapping squares in shades of purple, blue, and pink, arranged in a scattered pattern.

A new proactive and strategic digitization program is helping to preserve and increase access to UC Irvine Libraries' distinctive archival collections.

TOO OFTEN, historical collections exist only in physical formats that are vulnerable to deterioration. When handled with care, digitizing these materials can both preserve them for future generations and increase access on a global scale.

To address this challenge, UC Irvine Libraries have launched a comprehensive, values-driven digitization program that will increase the use, visibility, and impact of our collections.

“By enhancing the discoverability and accessibility of our distinctive collections, which is a component of our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan, the Libraries continue to grow our support of the university’s teaching, research, and public service missions,” said Associate University Librarian (AUL) for Research Resources John Renaud.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Since the early 2000s, digitization at UC Irvine Libraries was handled on an ad hoc and on-demand basis solely within the Special Collections and Archives (SCA) department, which is home to hundreds of thousands of print papers and books as well as audiovisual content. Many of these materials exist in fragile, at-risk formats such as aging film reels, audio and video cassettes, and photographs.

While SCA's efforts were successful in isolation, they proved to be difficult to sustain and limited the potential for more public access. The scale of the challenge, coupled with an increased demand for digitization by our users, revealed the need for a more strategic, holistic framework that utilizes expertise across the Libraries.

Following a digitization capacity assessment that was funded by the generous support of Professor Emeritus Edward O. Thorp, a digitization

program planning task force was spearheaded by Audra Eagle Yun and Madelynn Dickerson, respectively the heads of the SCA and Data, Publishing, and Digital Scholarship (DPDS) departments. The task force brought together staff and librarians from SCA, DPDS, Technical Services, and Library IT in a cross-departmental model — a meaningful departure from the siloed approach of the past.

“This task force represents a shift from reactive problem-solving toward a more proactive and responsible model of stewardship,” said Eagle Yun. “Working with a clear strategic framework has increased the discoverability of our collections while centering community needs.”

In addition to implementing a more collaborative framework, the Libraries added two full-time positions to help increase capacity: a digitization coordinator in SCA and a digital initiatives librarian in DPDS. Together, these roles signal a lasting institutional commitment to the program.

FROM PLANNING TO ACTION

The digitization program is already producing results. One of the first milestones was digitizing the unpublished papers and talks from the Edward O. Thorp Papers within SCA. As the program’s first formal pilot, this project allowed the newly formed taskforce to test workflows and establish selection criteria for future projects. The Thorp materials are now publicly accessible through Calisphere.

Since then, the Libraries have also reformatted nearly 1,000 audiocassettes from the Radio Free Asia Vietnamese Broadcasts collection and produced transcripts and related metadata for 154 oral histories from the Orange County Holocaust Oral History Project. For more details about both projects, see related articles elsewhere in this Annual Report.



Building on this momentum, the Libraries currently have several other projects underway:

- East Irvine historic resources documentation, a collection of 230 photographs and 106 associated negatives that documents buildings from the turn of the 20th century
- Video recordings from UC Irvine's Cross Cultural Center records
- John M. Liu Orange County Chinese American photographs collection

Bolstered by searchable keywords and meaningful metadata, many of these collections will become publicly accessible and searchable through platforms like Calisphere.

Looking ahead, the Libraries will soon partner with a vendor to digitize the full Thorp collection, which consists of 27 archival boxes and approximately 50,000 pages of notes, correspondence, and ephemeral material. This large-scale project will make Thorp's work more accessible to researchers worldwide.

A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

The archival collections held within UC Irvine Libraries help document our university, our communities, and our shared history, and this new digitization initiative ensures that these stories are celebrated for generations to come.

While challenges remain, the establishment of shared priorities and workflows has enabled a more coordinated and strategic approach.

"By building a unified framework, we are investing not only in preservation, but in education, research, and community connection," said AUL John Renaud.



Betting on Science

By Jennifer Stout

Both published and unpublished works by Edward O. Thorp are now available to the public in easily accessed and searchable online repositories.

EDWARD O. THORP has lived many lives: teacher, inventor, best-selling author, gambler. As a founding professor in the UC Irvine Department of Mathematics, he mathematically proved how card-counting gives every blackjack player at the table an edge. He also pioneered the use of quantitative investment techniques in financial markets and has been called the “Godfather of Quants.”

In addition to his academic career, Thorp spent time as a hedge-fund manager and has written several

books on gambling, mathematics, and investing, including the *New York Times* bestseller, *Beat the Dealer*. For his influential body of work, he received the UC Irvine Alumni Association’s highest honor in 2013, the Lauds and Laurels Extraordinarius Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals for their service to community, professional excellence, and campus involvement.

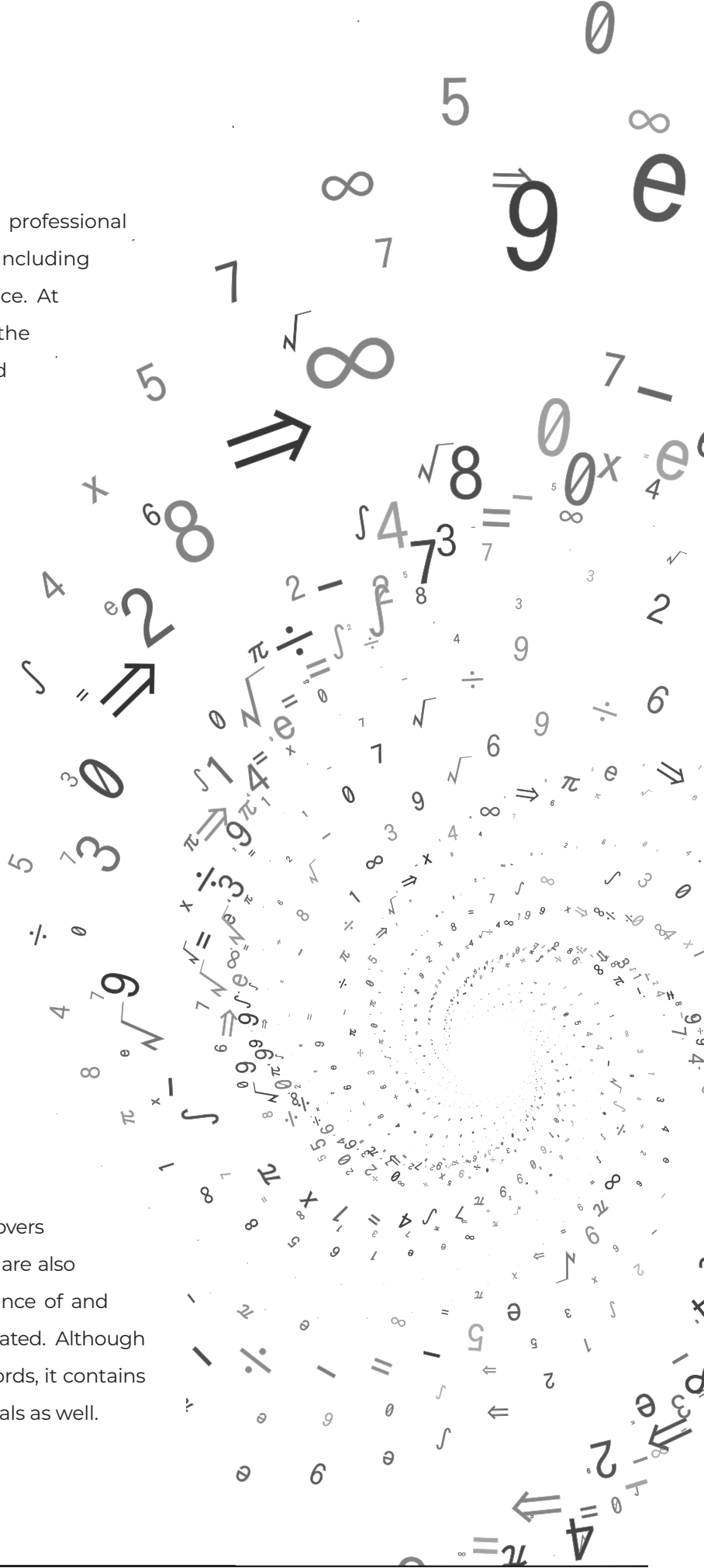
As part of a broader effort to support open science, UC Irvine Libraries recently increased access to more than 2,000 pages of Thorp’s published works. Paired with a larger strategic initiative to digitize high-impact collections, that project has helped preserve foundational scientific research for the global scholarly community.

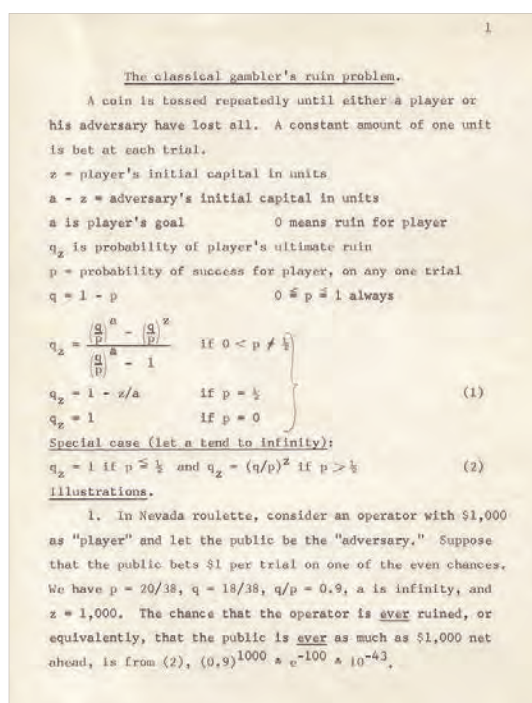
AN INCREDIBLE GIFT

In 2018, Thorp donated his personal and professional papers to the Libraries' University Archives, including unpublished research and correspondence. At the time of his donation, he explained that the collection helps show how his published research came about, illustrating his mathematical odyssey from academia to the casinos of Las Vegas and the trading desks of Wall Street. "As much of it was created during the 17 years that I was a professor at UC Irvine, I am pleased it will be part of the library archives," he explained.

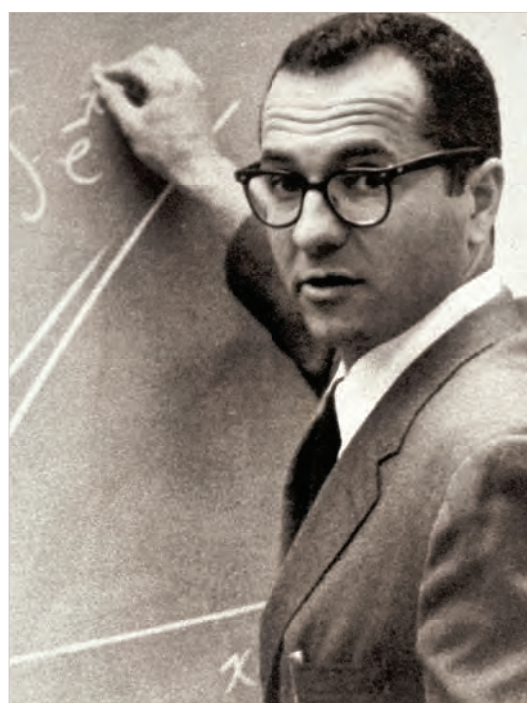
Thorp's history as a blackjack player, hedge-fund manager, and investor is also well documented in the archives. The Edward O. Thorp Papers include his scholarly articles and magazine columns as well as publicity pieces about him and his correspondence with blackjack theorist Peter Griffin, game theorist Richard Epstein, and magician and gambling scholar Russell T. Barnhart.

His UC Irvine-related material mostly covers the classes he taught as a professor. There are also notes Thorp wrote to explain the significance of and further elaborate on the material he donated. Although the collection comprises mostly paper records, it contains some digital media and audiovisual materials as well.





Page from "The Classical Gambler's Ruin Problem," by Edward Thorp. Edward O. Thorp Papers, UC Irvine Special Collections and Archives.



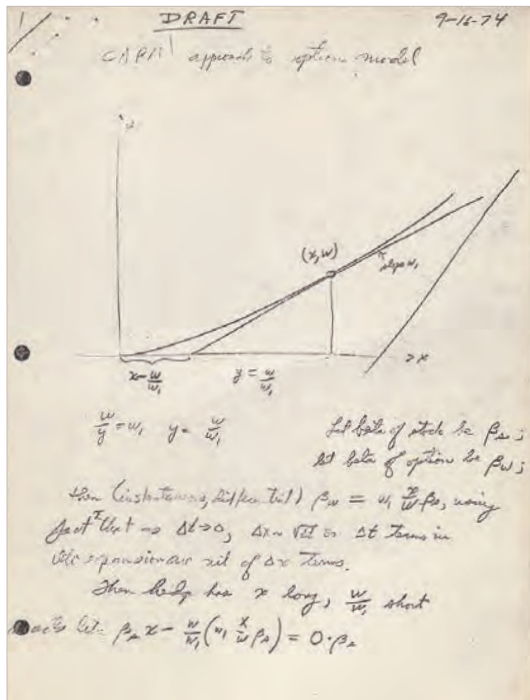
Thorp at a UC Irvine blackboard, 1967. Edward O. Thorp Papers, UC Irvine Special Collections and Archives.

OPEN ACCESS, OPEN SCIENCE

To increase access to Thorp's larger body of work, the Libraries team took a two-pronged approach. Special Collections and Archives (SCA) uploaded some of the materials from the Edward O. Thorp Papers to Calisphere, the archival platform used by California libraries to host publicly accessible content. In a companion project, the Data, Publishing, and Digital Scholarship (DPDS) department uploaded 40 of Thorp's published works to eScholarship, the University of California's open-access repository and publishing

platform. Published between 1959 and 2011, these published works include a book preface and scholarly articles on topics ranging from mathematics and statistics to game theory.

Mitchell Brown, the Libraries' scholarly communications coordinator and research librarian for chemistry, Earth system science, and Russian studies, explained that having access to Thorp's early published work is significant to mathematicians because they're interested in the first time an idea might have been introduced.



Page from "The Science of Convertible Hedging," by Edward Thorp. Edward O. Thorp Papers, UC Irvine Special Collections and Archives.



Professor Emeritus Edward Thorp and UC Irvine Chancellor Howard Gillman at the 2019 opening of the Langson Library exhibit Finding the Edge: The Work and Insights of Edward O. Thorp.

"There's value in the older work. Sometimes science takes time to recognize that a paper written more than a decade ago is now important," said Brown. "Because it can take time to understand the impact, access to the original content is key."

Another benefit of the project is having Thorp's work together and searchable. "Accessibility to this research is important — you can now find all of this work in one place," noted Brown.

And users are definitely finding them. Although many of Thorp's recently

added works date back 50 years or more, eScholarship metrics show how popular they still are, with thousands of downloads on the newer items in this first year of their posting.

The Libraries also hosted an exhibit on Thorp's life and work in Langson Library in 2019: *Finding the Edge: The Work and Insights of Edward O. Thorp*. An online version of that exhibit at exhibits.lib.uci.edu/thorp/about includes links to photos and videos from the exhibit, the collection guide for the Edward O. Thorp Papers, and the SCA materials are available on Calisphere.

PRESERVING VOICES, PROTECTING HISTORY

By Cheryl Baltes



Oral History of Anh Quoc Nguyen



Oral History of Binh Truong



Oral History of Chanh Minh Nguyen



Oral History of Chau Nguyen



Oral History of Dan Nguyen



Oral History of Debbie Nguyen

New Southeast Asian Archive collection projects demonstrate UC Irvine Libraries' enduring commitment to preserving the diverse histories that shape our communities.

FOUNDED IN 1987 in response to community interest, the UC Irvine Libraries' Southeast Asian Archive (SEAA) is a broad and interdisciplinary collection that reflects the social, cultural, religious, political, and economic life of members of the Southeast Asian diasporas. The archive's holdings include a vast collection of photographs, personal and government documents, oral histories, visual art, and more, with strengths in the migration of boat and land refugees, resettlement in the United States, and intercultural and intergenerational relations.

"There are few archives like SEAA that document everyday life, joy, and grassroots efforts to build community within and among Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, and Vietnamese people living in the United States," explained Julia Huynh, research librarian for Asian American Studies and SEAA curator.

Two significant projects currently underway within the Libraries' Special Collections and Archives (SCA) are helping increase access to SEAA audiovisual collections:

- Viet Stories: Vietnamese American Oral Histories
- Radio Free Asia Vietnamese Broadcasts, 1997–2002

In addition to making important resources more readily available to the public, these projects are improving search capabilities. Such efforts reflect the Libraries' commitment to community-centered archival care, ensuring that histories are preserved, made accessible, and shared with researchers, scholars, and the public for generations to come.

VIET STORIES

The Viet Stories: Vietnamese American Oral History Project was launched in 2011 in partnership with UC Irvine's Department of Asian American Studies in the School of Humanities. The project documents and preserves the lived experiences of first-generation Vietnamese Americans in Southern California, capturing a community whose history is both deeply personal and broadly significant to understanding the American immigrant story.

The project's primary organizers, former SEAA Curator Thuy Vo Dang and UC Irvine Professor Emerita Linda Trinh Vo, led a team of advisors and collaborators to gather the life stories of nearly 450 first-generation Vietnamese Americans. Their testimonies reflect extraordinary journeys marked by struggle, resilience, and determination.

"Viet Stories offers unique firsthand accounts created through intergenerational dialogue between first-generation narrators and 1.5- and second-generation interviewers," said Huỳnh. "These stories, told by the community and with community, needed to be documented before it was too late."

In 2022, more than 220 of the Viet Stories oral histories were uploaded to Calisphere, the archival platform used by California libraries to host publicly accessible content. The materials on Calisphere include video and audio oral history recordings, transcripts in both English and Vietnamese, and photographs. The site also includes a keyword feature and filtering tools to enable search, making these personal histories available to a far wider audience.

Since the initial upload, the Viet Stories collection on Calisphere has been accessed more than 200,000 times. The traffic data helps demonstrate the value of these histories to researchers and the community.

In the next phase, SCA plans to process and transcribe the remaining 200 oral histories. To increase accessibility to these digital recordings, the



Oral History of Andrew Tuan Pham



Oral History of Anthony LeDuc



Oral History of Bui Bich Ha



Oral History of Chau Huyen Do



Oral History of Clarence Dung Taylor



Oral History of Dan Nhut Quach



Oral History of Duc Tri Pham



Oral History of Alexander
Linh Van Duong



Oral History of Ahn Dang



Oral History of Bich Ngoc
Thi Nguyen



Oral History of Bui Van
Chuc (aka Quyen Di)



Oral History of Chau Huyen
Pham



Oral History of Cuong
C. Tran



Oral History of David
Nguyen

Libraries will produce translations of Vietnamese language interviews and provide enhanced descriptive and administrative metadata.

SEAA Curator Huỳnh explained that this next phase is crucial to ensuring the full Viet Stories collection is safeguarded and accessible, while honoring the voices and histories it contains.

“Public access to oral histories related to social and cultural life, refugee and resettlement experiences, and social justice will contribute greatly to the public’s understanding of the Southeast Asian American experience,” said Huỳnh.

RADIO FREE ASIA VIETNAMESE BROADCASTS

One of the earliest donations to the SEAA is a collection of extraordinary historical significance: the Radio Free Asia Vietnamese Broadcasts, 1997–2002. Radio Free Asia (RFA, www.rfa.org/english) is a private, nonprofit corporation established by the US Congress in 1994 through the International Broadcasting Act. With a mission to “deliver uncensored domestic news and information to China, Tibet, North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Burma, among other places in Asia with poor media environments and few, if any, free speech protections,” the news service aired its first Vietnamese language broadcast on February 5, 1997. As a critical voice in the Asia-Pacific region, RFA promotes free speech, independent and uncensored journalism, and human rights.

The radio programs in the RFA collection include news stories and commentaries on local and world events. Daily broadcasts feature reports from correspondents throughout Asia as well as daily call-in programs where listeners spoke directly with broadcast hosts.

In 2004, the Libraries received a US National Endowment for the Humanities grant to process and translate the transcripts of these recordings. The recordings themselves were stored on audiocassette tapes and accessible in the SCA reading room.

Over the years, the cassettes began deteriorating, and the technology to play them became obsolete. The broadcast recordings were at risk for permanent loss.

The urgency of this situation has only grown in recent years: In March 2025, US federal government funding for RFA was eliminated, and staff reductions diminished the organization's capacity to manage its own archives. In response, RFA approved the digitization of the recordings at UC Irvine and transferred to the SEAA its own digitized Vietnamese broadcasts from August 1998 onward. Beyond that, RFA donated its collections of Khmer and Lao broadcasts to ensure the safe preservation of these important recordings in the SEAA.

The first phase of the Libraries' RFA project digitized more than 950 audiocassette tapes covering Vietnamese broadcasts from February 1997 to July 1998. Upon completion, digitized assets will be shared with RFA and uploaded to Calisphere for broader public access. This work to digitize the RFA collection materials was made possible by funds from the Endowed University Librarian fund, which supports the Libraries' highest priorities and projects with deep impact on researchers and the community.

The SEAA's collection of early Vietnamese broadcasts may be the only surviving copies of these recordings in existence. SEAA



Curator Julia Huỳnh explained that completion of this project is essential — not just to increase access and enhance the UC Irvine collection but to ensure that RFA has digital copies of early Vietnamese broadcasts for its own records.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Preserving the Viet Stories oral history collection and the RFA radio broadcasts is more than a technical effort. Together, these projects will ensure that the voices, stories, and lived experiences of Vietnamese and broader Southeast Asian communities are both protected and made accessible to researchers, students, and the public worldwide.

“The Libraries see projects such as these as core to our mission,” said Endowed University Librarian Lorelei Tanji. “The support of our campus, community partners, and donors makes this vital work possible.”

ORANGE COUNTY HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

By Cheryl Baltes



The complete set of oral histories from the Orange County Holocaust Oral History Project is now available online and fully searchable through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and UC Irvine Libraries.

AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS, the complete set of firsthand accounts of Orange County residents who experienced the Holocaust is available and searchable online. The Orange County Holocaust Oral History Project oral histories were originally recorded in the mid-1990s by the Orange County / Long Beach Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Unique to the Orange County region, the interviews are filled with stories of community, betrayal, trauma, and survival.

Thanks to philanthropic support from the community and in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), UC Irvine Libraries have made the complete collection of more than 150 interviews available to the public with enhanced records. The full set is now available through the USHMM webpage and UC Irvine Libraries via Calisphere, an archival site that California libraries use to host public content.

“We are grateful for the work of UC Irvine Libraries to enhance the cataloging and discoverability of the ADL collection and thrilled that they are a co-repository of

this important material,” said James Gilmore, oral history curator in the USHMM’s David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation.

MORE ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The ADL recorded the oral histories in the collection between 1992 and 1995. Most of the interviewees are Jewish survivors whose experiences included forced and voluntary emigration, death camps, forced labor, hiding, and resistance. The interviews also include five “liberators” (American military who witnessed the concentration camps following liberation) and three “rescuers”



(people who risked their lives to protect Jews during World War II). The project was led by Holocaust educator and survivor Jack Pariser, and a set of VHS videotapes containing the collection was donated to UC Irvine Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 1995.

Due to the fragility of the 30-year-old VHS tapes and the increasing obsolescence of VHS equipment, the interview recordings were inaccessible for an extended period. To preserve these stories for the future, UC Irvine Libraries raised funds to digitize its full collection.

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

According to Gilmore, time-based media stored on magnetic tapes such as the ADL's VHS tapes are particularly vulnerable to loss over time. The digitization of analog tapes is

important so that patrons can use their content for education, scholarship, and memorialization for generations to come.

The USHMM's online collection includes more than 30,000 audiovisual recordings. However, over the years, the museum's capacity to produce and acquire oral testimonies has far exceeded its capacity to individually catalog all the material. Thus, many of its catalog records lack descriptions of an interviewee's Holocaust experiences, such as country of origin, language, camp or ghetto name, hiding places, and where they lived post-war.

By mid-2025, USHMM had digitized its own set of ADL interviews but not yet provided enhanced records. As part of the collaboration to enhance both institutions' collections, the Libraries digitized four additional oral histories that were not part of the



Oral history (left) video still of survivor Jack Pariser, (middle) the Pariser family before World War II, and (right) Pariser as a young man in Munich after the war.

USHMM set. The Libraries also created and shared full-text transcriptions and detailed summaries of the entire ADL collection, which is now fully searchable by keyword.

“The time-coded transcripts provided by UC Irvine Libraries will make the content of the interviews in the ADL collection discoverable to researchers on a granular level through keyword searches and will enable them to make meaningful connections to other material in our permanent collection,” said Gilmore.

DONOR SUPPORT

The Libraries’ Orange County Holocaust Oral History Project was funded through donations from individuals and support from the Samueli Foundation and ADL Orange County / Long Beach. In recognition of their support, each record in the UC Library Catalog includes a

digital bookplate to acknowledge donors.

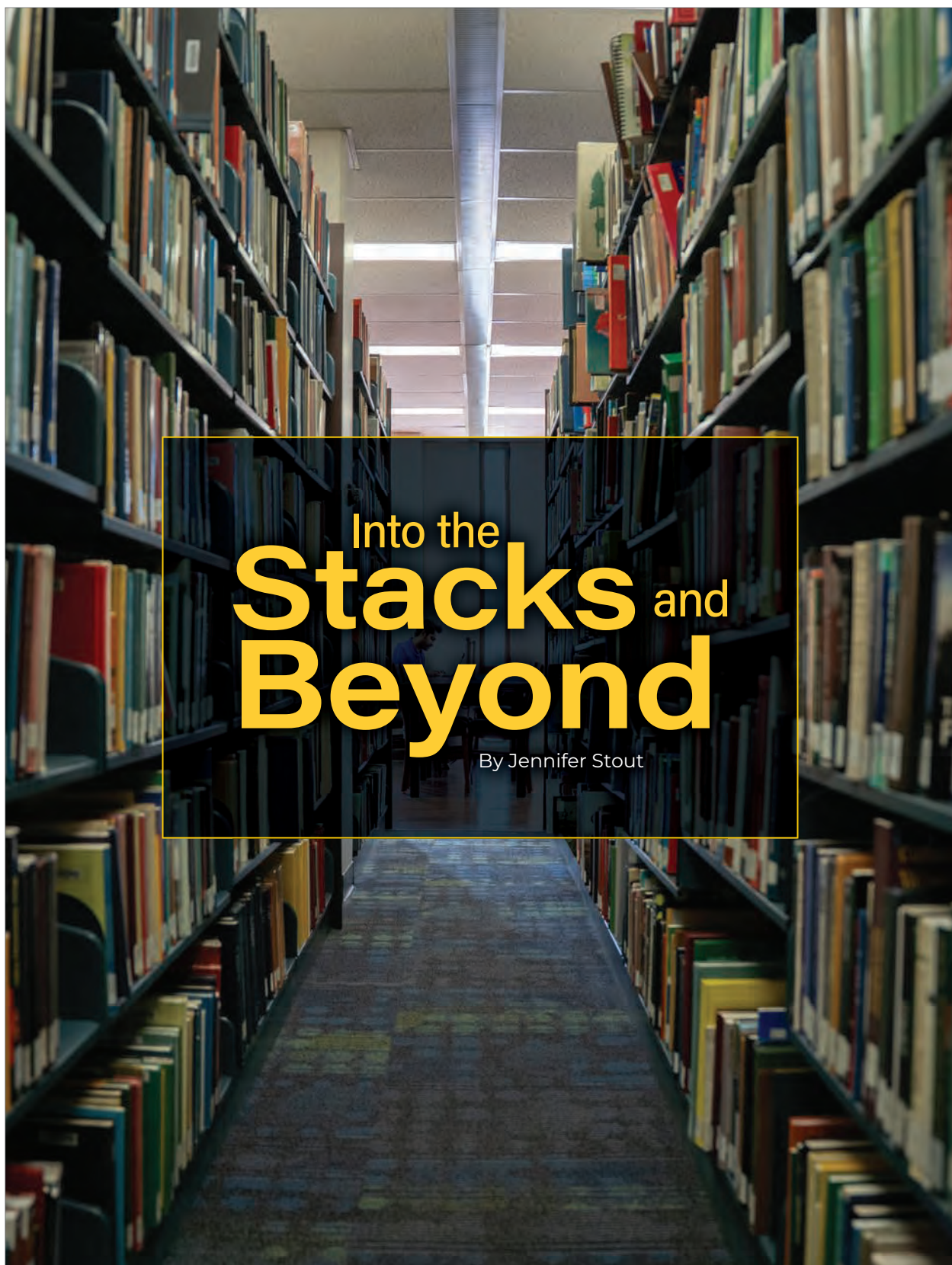
“Preserving the voices of Holocaust survivors is both a responsibility and an imperative,” said Roxane Cohen Silver, vice provost of institutional research, assessment, and planning and director of UC Irvine’s Center for Jewish Studies. “These testimonies are invaluable records of Jewish life, identity, and resilience in the face of unimaginable loss. By making them accessible to future generations, we help ensure that this history is remembered with clarity, studied with care, and carried forward with truth and integrity.”

To access the full interview recordings, transcripts, and additional details about the collection and interviewees, visit give.lib.uci.edu/oc-holocaust-oh.



Oral history (left) video still of survivor Rabbi Chaim Asa and (middle) the Asa family department store in Bulgaria, late 1930s.

Oral history video still of survivor Clara Gonda.



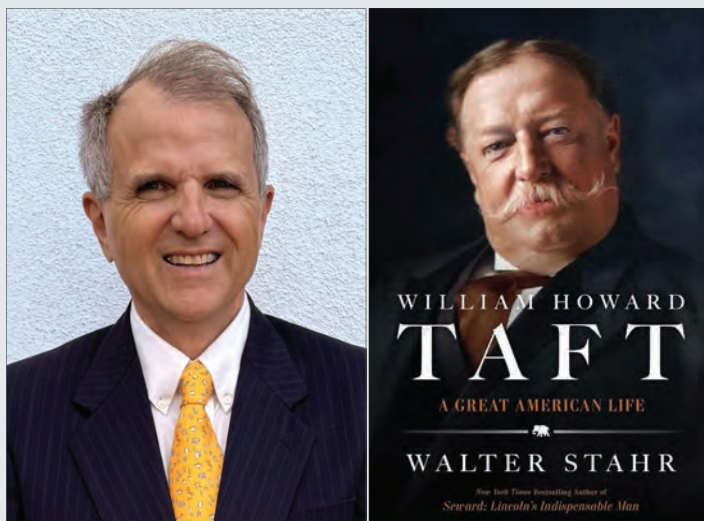
Into the **Stacks** and **Beyond**

By Jennifer Stout

From century-old books and periodicals to microfilm and online archives, UC Irvine Libraries' vast wealth of primary resources have helped a bestselling author dive deep into American history.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM Stanford and Harvard Universities with degrees in law and public policy, Walter Stahr joined the international law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. Following a stint with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he moved to Emerging Markets Partnership, a Washington, DC-based private equity firm, and eventually became the general counsel for EMP Global.

However, Stahr's true passion lies in researching and writing about American history. After a few years in New Hampshire with his wife and children, the two-time winner of the Seward Award for Excellence in Civil War Biography returned to California to be closer to



Walter Stahr and his latest book.

his extended family and become more active in the local community, eventually serving on the boards of both the Library Foundation and the Pacific Symphony. He also used the cross-country move to devote more time to writing, which he calls his “second career.”

Stahr's biography of William Henry Seward, *Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable*

Man, was a *New York Times* bestseller. His other books, all about historical American political figures, have garnered favorable reviews and prizes as well, with the *Wall Street Journal's* review describing

his biography of Salmon P. Chase as “eloquently written, impeccably researched, and deeply moving.” His forthcoming book, *William Howard Taft: A Great American Life*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in November 2026.

To delve into these historical figures, Stahr has come to rely on UC Irvine Libraries as a “research hub.”

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Over the past 13 years, Stahr has become a frequent visitor to UC Irvine's Langson Library, building strong relationships with Endowed University Librarian Lorelei Tanji and Becky Imamoto, the Libraries' former research librarian for history and current head of collection strategies. With Imamoto's support, Stahr has been able

with content dating back to the Middle Ages (400 CE). Due to the age and nature of the materials he needs, microfilm is also essential to Stahr's research.

"Almost nobody uses microfilm any longer, but UC Irvine has a strong collection as well as the machines on which to view them," explained Stahr.



Left to right: Masami Stahr, Walter Stahr, Elizabeth Stahr, and Lorelei Tanji at a 2022 UC Irvine Libraries book talk.

to locate books, periodicals, speeches, and political papers at UC Irvine and beyond.

The Libraries' primary source databases include news archives dating back to 1685 and nearly 1,000 online databases

Imamoto said that Stahr comes to each project with eagerness and curiosity, noting that, "He's a very thorough person. He knows what he's after, and we can usually find it."

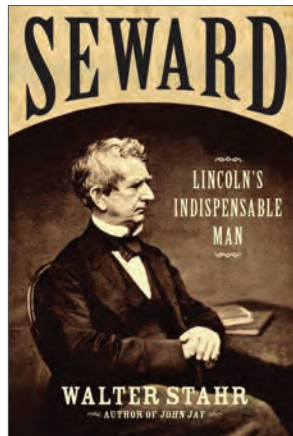
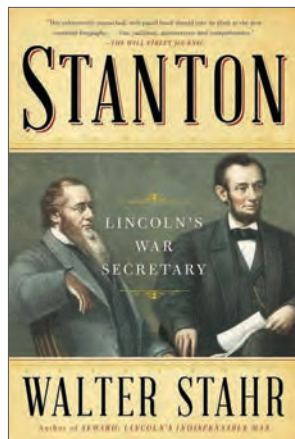
This desire to uncover and document history stems from deep in the Stahr family tree. He remembers a conversation with his late grandfather 40 years ago when he was just starting out in his legal career in Washington.

"I said I wish I knew more about a particular topic we were discussing, and he responded, 'You live in Washington. The Library of Congress is just down the street — whatever

you want to know about that topic, you can find it there,'" recalled Stahr. "That is sort of how I feel now about UC Irvine: Whatever I want to know, I can find by heading over to Langson Library."

A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

The Stahr family have been long-time library supporters and champions, with Walter's late parents, John and Elizabeth, serving as chairs of the fundraising committee to build the Newport Beach Central Library. At the UC Irvine Libraries, the Stahrs established an endowment fund that has helped purchase hundreds of titles, including books,



videos, and ebooks. Their gift has allowed us to provide materials

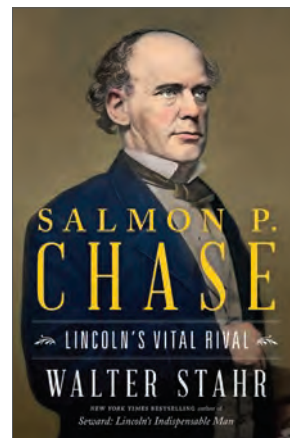
on a wide range of topics, including the arts, behavioral psychology and education, American history, health sciences and nursing, music education, religious studies, and English literature, to name a few.

"The Libraries are the foundation of innovative learning for the campus, and we are proud to support them and invest in this transformation of new knowledge,"

said John and Elizabeth Stahr when the endowment was established in 2002.

In recognition of their exceptional support of the university, the couple received the UCI Medal in 2003. And their legacy continues, with new materials funded by their endowment added to the Libraries' collections each year.

The full collection of the Libraries' online resources and primary source databases, including streaming media and nearly 1,000 online databases, are available at no additional charge to UC



Irvine students, faculty, and staff.

From cutting-edge

research to historical artifacts dating back to the Middle Ages, the majority can be accessed remotely, any time or day.

In many cases, online resources are also accessible to community members who visit the Libraries. For more information, visit lib.uci.edu and Research Guides at guides.lib.uci.edu.

New Librarians & Staff



Sara Flournoy

is the reserves coordinator for the Science Library, where she is primarily responsible for managing the reserves for courses that fall under the purview of the sciences, as well as any related media items such as DVDs and video games, a program that helps students seeking affordable alternatives to purchasing their own copies of assigned textbooks. Flournoy came to UC Irvine from Chapman University's Rinker Health Science Campus, where she worked as a general library assistant in Access Services. She earned her undergrad degree in history from UC Santa Barbara and obtained her master of library and information science (MLIS) from San Jose State University.



Arthur Kolat

is a library assistant IV in the Technical Services department. Prior to joining UC Irvine, he worked at the Santa Monica Public Library and the Writing Center at San Jose State University, where he completed his master of library and information science (MLIS) degree. He is also an active member of REFORMA, presenting conference sessions and developing bilingual programs for the Los Angeles Libros Festival. Before pivoting to library work, Kolat worked in the graduate admissions offices of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Viterbi School of Engineering at USC. His writing has also been featured in *The New Yorker*.



Beth Mawhinney

is the digital initiatives librarian in the Data, Publishing, and Digital Scholarship department. Prior to joining UC Irvine, she served as digital initiatives librarian and assistant professor at the University of Denver. She also serves as an adjunct faculty instructor in the Library Technology Program at Santa Ana College. Mawhinney's previous experiences have focused on leading application development, digital asset management, archival processing, and user experience initiatives in arts and entertainment environments, including TMZ and the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. She earned a BA in cognitive psychology from Smith College and a master of library and information science (MLIS) from the University of Denver.



Lisa Shin

is the research librarian for health sciences education and engagement. Prior to joining UC Irvine, she served as a research librarian in the Health, Medical Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math department at the University of Ottawa Libraries in Canada. She earned her undergraduate degree in health science from Western University, Canada, and a master of information, library, and information sciences from the University of Toronto, Canada. Her research interests include scholarly communication and information literacy on copyright, an area she was able to explore at the Scholarly Communications office at the University of Toronto Libraries. Shin also cochaired the 2026 Student Journal Forum (SJF), where she helped student researchers and journal editors connect and learn from each other.



Jennifer Stout

is a communications and events coordinator in the Communications department, where she supports library announcements, special events, exhibits, and student display programs. Most recently, she served as project manager and editor at Dragonfly Editorial Services, where she managed client projects and edited and wrote a variety of material including blog posts, newsletters, grant proposals, and technical reports. In prior roles, Stout has worked as a project manager, writer, and editor for publishers and universities, including Manning Publications, IEEE Computer Society, and Cengage Learning as well as in a contract position for the University of California Office of the President.

Digital Dystopia

On display from August 2026 through January 2027

Second Floor, Science Library

With every passing day, new technological tools dictate and shape our experiences, further removing us from the physical world. Featuring international works of fiction that predict dystopian consequences when the real yields to the unreal (or virtual), *Digital Dystopia* examines the virtual culture that increasingly governs our daily lives.

CURATED BY RICHARD CHO



Crystal Cove and the California Dream

On display from November 2026 through March 2027

Muriel Ansley Reynolds Exhibit Gallery, Main Lobby, Langson Library

Drawing from the Laura Davick Crystal Cove Historical Archive and the Orange County Regional History Collections, *Crystal Cove and the California Dream* brings to life Crystal Cove's past using historical photographs, records, and artifacts. This exhibit traces the area's rich history, with a special focus on the people and vernacular beach architecture that make it so unique. Explore Crystal Cove, present and future — a place where California history, community, and the natural environment meet at the water's edge.

CURATED BY

**NICOLE ARNOLD,
STEPHEN ANDERSON,
CHERYL BALTES,
CYNTHIA JOHNSON,
AND JENNIFER STOUT**



Upcoming Exhibits

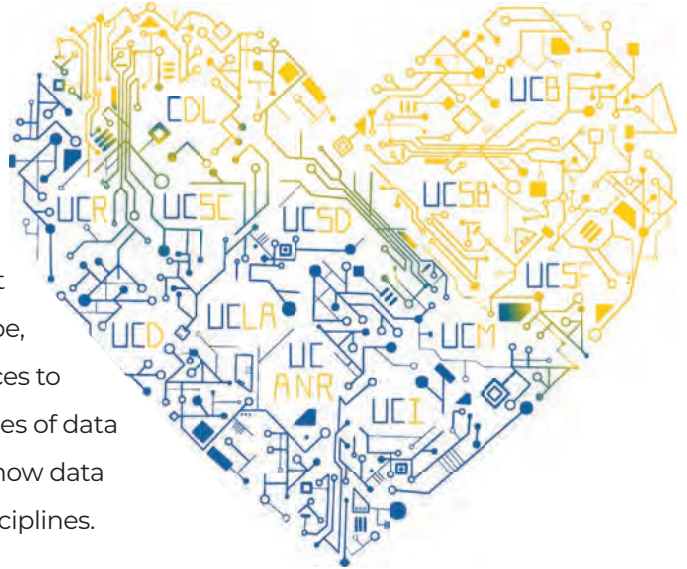
Love Data

On display from February through September 2027

Second Floor, Science Library

In celebration of the annual UC Love Data Week, this exhibit highlights the remarkable diversity and impact of data generated across UC Irvine's research landscape, from climatological measurements and DNA sequences to oral histories and population surveys. Through examples of data visualization and infographics, the exhibit showcases how data enables scholarship and discovery across scientific disciplines.

CURATED BY WASILA DAHDUL AND TIFFANY ESTEBAN



40th Anniversary of the Southeast Asian Archive

On display from April through October 2027

Muriel Ansley Reynolds Exhibit Gallery,
Main Lobby, Langson Library

To mark the 40th anniversary of UC Irvine's Southeast Asian Archive, this exhibit features rare and unique records that highlight the multifaceted history of the Southeast Asian diasporas. Through textiles, cookware, art, and more, it explores the partnerships with the students, faculty, and community members involved in creating and sustaining the Southeast Asian Archive.

CURATED BY JULIA HUỠNH

Selected Online Exhibit

Finding the Edge: The Work and Insights of Edward O. Thorp

exhibits.lib.uci.edu/thorp

Originally installed in Langson Library in 2019, *Finding the Edge* highlights the extraordinarily diverse life and career of Edward O. Thorp, a UC Irvine founding professor of mathematics, bestselling author, hedge-fund manager, and blackjack player. This online companion exhibit features Thorp's mathematical odyssey from academia to the casinos of Las Vegas to the trading desks of Wall Street, with a carefully curated overview of his more famous works, including one detailing his card-counting technique. It also includes links to online collections of Thorp's published work and the materials housed in the Edward O. Thorp Papers in Special Collections and Archives.

***CURATED BY ANNETTE BUCKLEY,
REBECCA IMAMOTO,
AND JOHN SISSON***



Edward O. Thorp playing blackjack at the Tropicana Hotel, 1963. Courtesy of Edward O. Thorp. Photo credit: Don Cravens, Life Magazine.

Endowed Funds

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Southeast Asian Archive (SEAA) Anne Frank Visiting Researcher Fund • Researcher Support

Ralph W. Gerard Library Endowed Fund • General Support

Forest J. and Dolores S. Grunigen Library Endowed Fund • Research Collections

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Carl Kroch Library Endowed Fund • Library Exhibitions

Langson Library Fund • General Support

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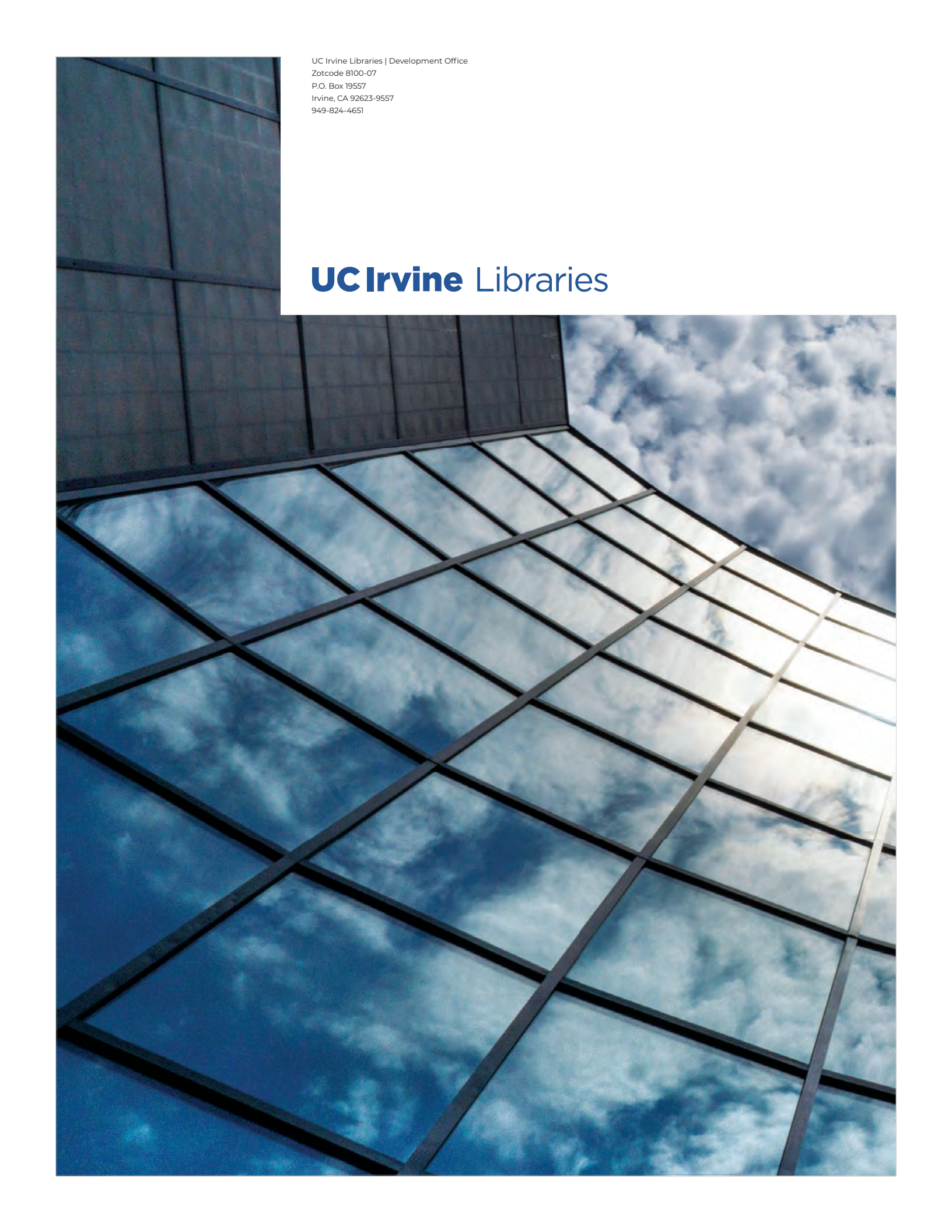
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