UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Library

IMPACT REPORT 2025–2026



Message from Our Leadership



Dear Friends,

At the UC Santa Barbara Library, we connect people, ideas and resources to advance discovery, enable student success, support research and strengthen campus community. The 2025–2026 academic year marked a period of profound transformation, characterized by milestones that celebrated our past and digital innovations that secure our future. Guided by our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, the Library completed eight major strategic projects and progressed on six others, all aimed at advancing open science, supporting student success, fostering campus collaboration and strengthening stewardship.

We advanced student academic success and democratized access to original historical research this year. Through our new Open and Affordable Course Materials Program, we helped instructors adopt open educational resources that save students thousands of dollars. The eighth annual Library Award for Undergraduate Research honored two exceptional students who leveraged our rich collections and expert staff to produce high-quality scholarly works. To support advanced scholarship, we expanded our general collections with millions of primary sources from AM digital archives, enabling scholars and students to access primary sources from around the world right from their laptops. This commitment to open science was further realized by our Research Data Services Department, which embedded specialized data management training directly into campus workflows and curricula.

Our commitment to stewardship and sustainability led to innovative solutions for preserving and providing access to some of the world's most vulnerable collections. We partnered with the Dust-to-Digital Foundation to release more than 5,000 rare historical American music recordings for free public streaming through our Discography of American Historical Recordings database. By collaborating across campus, we created a custom, purpose-built digitization lab to scan historical aerial photographs threatened by vinegar syndrome. These high-resolution scans now fuel researchers like Professor Ian Walker, who studies coastal trends to improve public health outcomes on the Central Coast. Beyond campus, our Santa Barbara Community Archives Project partnered with community organizations to safeguard regional heritage and bring primary sources directly into K-12 classrooms.

The Library continues to serve as a dynamic intellectual, cultural and social hub for the University and local communities through an expansive range of engaging public programs and exhibitions. A prime example was the milestone 20th anniversary of UCSB Reads in 2026, our award-winning common book program. This beloved campus tradition brought thousands of readers together around Michelle Zauner's

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Get to Know Christina Baglas

Christina Baglas joined the UC Santa Barbara Library in June 2026 as Senior Director of Development. Partnering closely with Library leadership, her role is to deepen relationships with our supporters and drive fundraising priorities to advance the Library's strategic goals.

Christina brings nearly two decades of fundraising and leadership experience at UCSB. From 2007 to 2026, she held key roles within UCSB Athletics, ultimately serving as Senior Director of Development and Deputy Athletic Director for Development. Her background also includes marketing and development positions at Harvard University, the University of Connecticut and the U.S. International Sports Federation.

"What excites me is Christina's passion for libraries and their role in advancing learning, research and community engagement," said University Librarian Todd Grappone. "She has long been a supporter of libraries and understands the transformative impact libraries have on individuals and communities."

acclaimed memoir, *Crying in H Mart*. We also launched the AI in Action speaker series to foster interdisciplinary dialogues on the ethical applications of artificial intelligence in research, while our "Infinite Variety" exhibition and companion events showcased the enduring legacy of William Shakespeare through our rare and unique collections.

Our outstanding communications and public programming earned several major national accolades this year. For the second year in a row, we received an ARLIES Award from the Association of Research Libraries and a PR Xchange Award from the American Library Association (ALA). Most notably, our UCSB Reads 2025 program received a 2026 John Cotton Dana Award from ALA, widely considered one of the most prestigious honors bestowed in the library profession.

None of these achievements would be possible without your enduring generosity, especially as we navigate growing fiscal challenges. Reductions in state funding and research grants mean that philanthropic support has become more critical than ever. As we welcome Christina Baglas, our new Senior Director of Development, we invite you to renew your commitment to our mission.

Thank you for standing with UCSB Library as we empower our community to create, preserve and adapt knowledge for the benefit of society.

Warm regards,

Todd Grappone

TODD GRAPPONE
University Librarian

Creating Community Through Books: 20 Years of UCSB Reads

UCSB Reads, UC Santa Barbara's award-winning common book program, celebrated its milestone 20th anniversary in 2026 by bringing the campus and local communities together around Michelle Zauner's acclaimed memoir, *Crying in H Mart*.

The program launched January 13 with a free book giveaway for students in the Library, led by Chancellor Dennis Assanis, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost David Marshall and University Librarian Todd Grappone, and culminated May 7 with a free public talk by Zauner. The bestselling author and Grammy-nominated musician (of indie pop band Japanese Breakfast) took the stage at a sold-out Campbell Hall to share the moving story behind her vibrant and sensory memoir in an expansive conversation with Professor Sameer Pandya, Chair of the Asian American Studies Department.

> "UCSB Reads exemplifies the power of books—indeed, the power of a single book—to bring us together and create community."
>
> David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Overall, UCSB Reads 2026 sparked incredible engagement across the entire campus and the broader Santa Barbara community throughout the winter and spring quarters. The Library distributed more than 1,800 free copies of *Crying in H Mart* to students and partnered with local public libraries to reach community readers. Additionally, the book was integrated into 27 classes across 12 academic departments, reaching 727 enrolled students. The Library sponsored 30 events with a combined attendance of more than 2,600 people. Thousands more explored the companion exhibition, "Creating Community Through Books: 20 Years of UCSB Reads," which remains on display in the Library through January 2027.



"The library both symbolizes and embodies the intellectual community that binds us in our common educational enterprise as a public research university," noted Marshall. "UCSB Reads exemplifies the power of books—indeed, the power of a single book—to bring us together and create community."

What's UCSB Reads?

Sponsored by the UCSB Library and the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, this beloved campus tradition fosters a shared sense of belonging by bringing the campus and Santa Barbara communities together around a common book.

- Conceived in 2007 by the Library and then-Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas.
- Every year, an advisory committee of UCSB faculty, students, staff and community members selects an interdisciplinary book by a living author that explores compelling contemporary social, political or cultural issues.
- Authors have included His Holiness the Dalai Lama (2009), Piper Kerman (2015), Bryan Stevenson (2016) and Ted Chiang (2022).
- Public programming includes free learning, experiential and social events, starting with a book giveaway for students in January and culminating with a public talk by the author in the spring.





UCSB Library Partners to Release Rare American Music

For decades, the Dust-to-Digital Foundation has rescued rare Jazz Age and Great Depression recordings from being lost to landfills and forgotten by history. Founded by Lance and April Ledbetter, the organization painstakingly digitizes unique, privately held music collections. This work includes preserving the legendary 15,000-disc collection of Joe Bussard, which contains vital, highly localized American musical genres from the 1920s and 1930s that might otherwise have vanished.

Although the Ledbetters successfully digitized a massive cache of approximately 50,000 historic songs—the bulk belonging to Bussard's collection—they faced a daunting challenge. The foundation needed a permanent, stable and open-access institutional infrastructure to host and share these culturally significant recordings with the public for free. This was a particularly difficult feat for obscure acoustic tracks that lacked a viable commercial market.

> "DAHR is a great home for music that doesn't necessarily have a commercial market but is no less valuable to history."
>
> April Ledbetter, Dust-to-Digital Co-founder

The foundation found its perfect ally by partnering with UC Santa Barbara Library. The Library offered its Discography of American Historical Recordings (DAHR) database, a premier public-access platform funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Launched in 2008, DAHR has documented more than 470,000 recordings from the 1890s to 1950s, and is renowned for the high quality of its digitizations executed in the Library's Henri Temianka Audio Preservation Lab. "Dust-to-Digital has digitized some of the most significant private collections in the country," noted David Seubert, the Library's Performing Arts Curator and DAHR director. "We are pleased to partner with them to make this rare content accessible."

In November 2025, the Library added an initial batch of more than 5,000 rare Dust-to-Digital tracks on DAHR for free noncommercial streaming and digital download. The treasure trove included blues classics, early jazz and gospel music, including recordings by Lane Hardin, Memphis Minnie and Fiddlin' John Carson. "DAHR is a great home for music that doesn't necessarily have a commercial market but is no less valuable to history," April Ledbetter said.

Moving forward, the Library plans to add thousands of additional Dust-to-Digital songs on DAHR. By continuously expanding this robust open-access archive, UCSB Library empowers global audiences, students and researchers to discover their shared musical heritage, ensuring these irreplaceable sonic snapshots of American history remain preserved, accessible and audible forever.

Helping Local Communities Preserve Their Histories

Santa Barbara County's history is rich and diverse, shaped by families, organizations, and communities whose everyday stories—captured in home movies, family photographs and personal records—rarely make it into traditional archives. The Santa Barbara Community Archives Project (SBCAP) is changing that. Through free community digitization events held in partnership with local organizations, SBCAP safeguards these materials and ensures they become part of the permanent record, amplifying historically unheard voices and celebrating the full breadth of the county's heritage.

Launched by UC Santa Barbara Library in 2022, SBCAP was co-founded by Special Research Collections (SRC) curators Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber and Angel Diaz and is supported by the Community Archives Fund. By providing professional archiving support directly to individuals and local organizations, the Library empowers local communities to become active stewards of their own heritage.

"SBCAP's support has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate their commitment to our work and community."

Holly Snyder, Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

During the 2025–2026 academic year, SBCAP expanded its preservation and access initiatives, digitizing and adding 119 photographs and 397 films to Library collections. A collaboration with the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) supported its exhibition, "A Glimpse into Santa Barbara's Hispanic Family Heritage, 1850–1950," by scanning family photographs to help highlight the contributions and experiences of Hispanic families. SBCAP and SBCGS also co-hosted a public screening of digitized family films that fostered intergenerational engagement and inspired interest in archival work among younger audiences. "SBCAP's support has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate their commitment to our work and community," said Holly Snyder, SBCGS Outreach Coordinator.

SBCAP also partnered with UCSB's Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) to host K-12 educators and researchers exploring the history of Old Spanish Days Fiesta in SRC as part of IHC's 2025 Finding Fiesta program. By providing access to archival materials and digitization support, SBCAP helped bring local history into K-12 classrooms, introducing students to primary sources. Additionally, SBCAP partnered with the Santa Barbara High School Alumni Association to preserve photographs from alumni and organizational archives in preparation for the school's 150th All Dons Reunion.

In the coming years, SBCAP will continue to strengthen community partnerships, broaden access to local history, preserve irreplaceable cultural resources, and empower future generations to preserve and share Santa Barbara County's collective memory.




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Preserving Historic Aerial Photos to Improve Public Health

Professor Ian Walker relies on a century of coastal history to better understand the future of California's environment. To study vegetation loss on the Oceano Dunes in San Luis Obispo County and model subsequent dust pollution, the UC Santa Barbara geographer depends on an extraordinary historical record: a collection of 9-by-9-inch aerial film photographs dating back to the 1920s, held by UCSB Library's Department of Special Research Collections (SRC).

However, Walker—and other researchers using the collection—faced a race against time. Roughly 20% of this irreplaceable collection is threatened by vinegar syndrome, a chemical deterioration that causes film to shrink, become brittle, emit a strong odor and eventually become unusable. The Library stored vulnerable film in specialized refrigerators, but these costly units could only hold a fraction of the at-risk materials, leaving critical environmental data in jeopardy. Walker also required high-quality scans for his research, but outsourcing was cost-prohibitive, the Library's existing digitization labs lacked the ventilation and specialized equipment needed to safely digitize deteriorating film, and the uncommon film format limited ready-made commercial digitization system options.

> "The Library's high-resolution scans give us the exact blueprint we need to restore native dunes and improve public health outcomes on the Central Coast."
>
> Ian Walker, Professor of Geography

Turning a preservation crisis into innovation, the Library collaborated with campus partners to create a custom, in-house digitization lab for aerial photos. Staff from the Library's Digital Library Development Department and SRC partnered with the UCSB Physics Machine Shop and UCSB Environmental Health & Safety to retrofit a workspace with specialized ventilation, create a camera-based system that digitizes materials up to 20 times faster than previous equipment, and design safe, efficient workflows that enabled trained Library student assistants to digitize all the refrigerated film at a fraction of the projected outsourcing cost.



The results transformed Walker's research. "Air photos are critical for identifying trends and patterns of vegetation decline," he said. "The Library's high-resolution scans give us the exact blueprint we need to restore native dunes and improve public health outcomes on the Central Coast."

The Library is now working to digitize the remaining at-risk film. By turning a preservation challenge into an innovative preservation program, UCSB Library ensures future generations can continue protecting California's changing landscapes.

Digital Archives Expand Primary Source Access Across Disciplines

Generations of researchers who rely on primary sources faced a frustrating hurdle. Conducting original historical research typically required traveling to distant archives, navigating cost-prohibitive interlibrary loans or adjusting a project's scope based on access to sources. For students engaged in a senior honors thesis or a graduate seminar, these logistical barriers frequently stifled academic curiosity before research even began. As a result, scholarship was often limited to those with the resources to access specific geographic locations or well-funded departments.

> "These archives completely level the playing field."
>
> Heather Nisen, Research and Teaching Librarian

To democratize the research process at UC Santa Barbara, UCSB Library recognized the need to expand the depth of its primary source collections beyond the holdings of its renowned Special Research Collections. The Library addressed this challenge by adding a comprehensive suite of digital archives from AM, formerly known as Adam Matthew, to the Library's general collections. This significant acquisition makes millions of curated historical materials available to UCSB researchers and students across every discipline, at any hour, from anywhere. AM's digital archives encompass a wide range of subjects, historical periods and geographic regions, supporting research across the humanities, social sciences and interdisciplinary fields. Collections include "Apartheid South Africa" and "The Gilded Age and Progressive Era," among hundreds of other archival resources.

That breadth has opened new possibilities across multiple disciplines, particularly for students. Research and Teaching Librarian Heather Nisen immediately added these resources to her research guides for upper-division classes, honors thesis seminars and graduate students. "These archives completely level the playing field," Nisen said. "Students can now interrogate rare global documents from their laptops, sparking breakthroughs that used to require expensive travel."

Embedding digital archives directly into the research pathways students already use is central to the Library's commitment to supporting deep, original scholarship. This integration fosters greater independence, from undergraduates writing their first thesis to doctoral students building new arguments. Chizu Morihara, the Library's Director of Collection Strategies, added, "The depth and range of AM's collections means students can pursue independent, evidence-based scholarship across disciplines."

Funded entirely through the Library's core state-supported collections budget, this initiative underscores a lasting institutional commitment to equity in research. By continuously integrating premier digital collections and research tools, UCSB Library ensures that all scholars at UCSB have access to the high-quality primary sources needed to pursue original, evidence-based research across disciplines, generate new knowledge and explore questions unconstrained by geography or access to physical collections.



Advancing Open Science Through Collaboration

Advancing "open science"—the worldwide movement to increase the transparency and accessibility of publicly funded research—is one of UC Santa Barbara Library's four strategic priorities. Yet, fostering reproducibility, data reuse and interdisciplinary collaboration can be challenging across a large, complex research university.

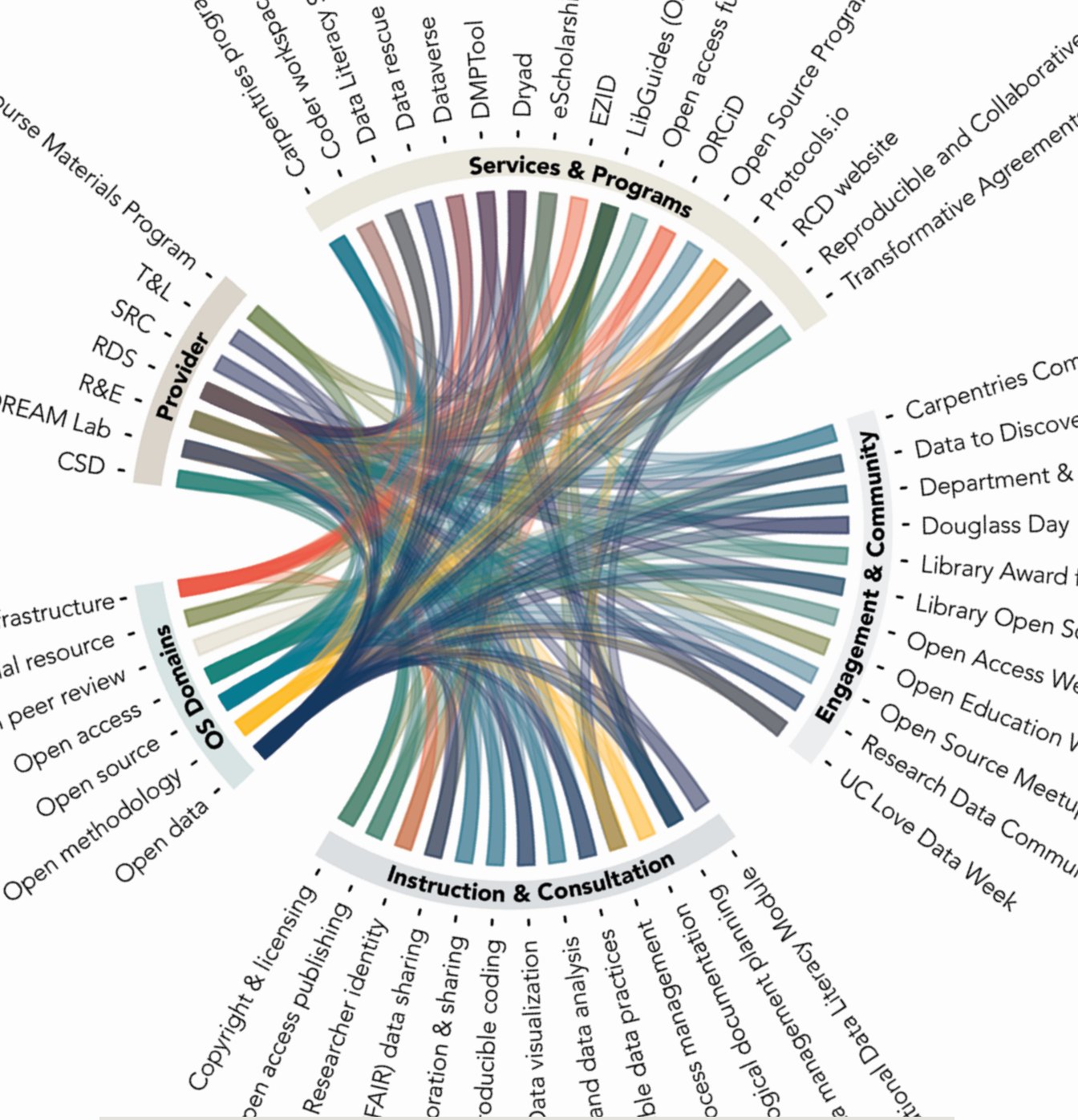
> "By embedding open science directly into campus workflows, the Library helps shatter traditional research barriers."
>
> Greg Janée, Director of Research Data Services

The Library completed several key initiatives to promote open science at UCSB during the 2025–2026 academic year. As part of the Library's strategic initiative, an interdepartmental team inventoried the Library's campuswide open science efforts, revealing a rich interconnection of Library expertise across multiple departments that is transforming how researchers manage data. Additionally, the Research Data Services (RDS) Department deepened its integration into the graduate programs offered by the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management by developing the data management portions of the programs' curricula, directly instructing students on data science topics and supporting the preservation of final group projects.

This multipronged approach has fostered a collaborative campus ecosystem. The Library regularly joins forces with other campus units to host workshops and events on open science-related topics—such as research data management, data visualization and data science best practices—which draw students from across disciplines. Beyond the STEM fields, the Library collaborates directly with humanities departments to integrate data analysis and information management techniques into humanistic research methodologies. The Library has also led UCSB's ongoing participation in the UC-wide Open Source Program Office Network, bringing together open-source activities, expertise and community connections to build new support models for software licensing and project sustainability.

"By embedding open science directly into campus workflows and classes, the Library helps shatter traditional research barriers," said RDS Director Greg Janée. "This collaboration ensures that public research remains transparent, reproducible and ready to face the complexities of modern scientific research."

The increased use of AI tools in research raises critical questions regarding transparency and ethics in academic research, and the Library is now also developing institutional recommendations for the responsible and effective use of AI following open science principles.



What is Open Science?

Open science serves as a unifying umbrella to encompass scholarship that is reproducible, transparent and freely accessible through seven core facets:

- Open Access: Freely accessible scholarly publications and outputs
- Open Data: Research data shared for access and reuse
- Open Source: Software with openly available source code for reuse and modification
- Open Methodology: Transparent methods, protocols and workflows
- Open Educational Resources (OERs): Freely available teaching and learning materials
- Open Infrastructure: Shared systems supporting open scholarship
- Open Peer Review: Transparent peer review and evaluation processes



Advancing Student Success Through Open and Affordable Course Materials



Carmen Galaz García, an assistant teaching professor in UC Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, completed her undergraduate degree in mathematics in Mexico, where specialized textbooks were prohibitively expensive. She recalls how important it was that professors provided notes and materials so students wouldn't have to buy expensive books they'd only use for a few months. Today, she sees students at UCSB facing similar systemic barriers.

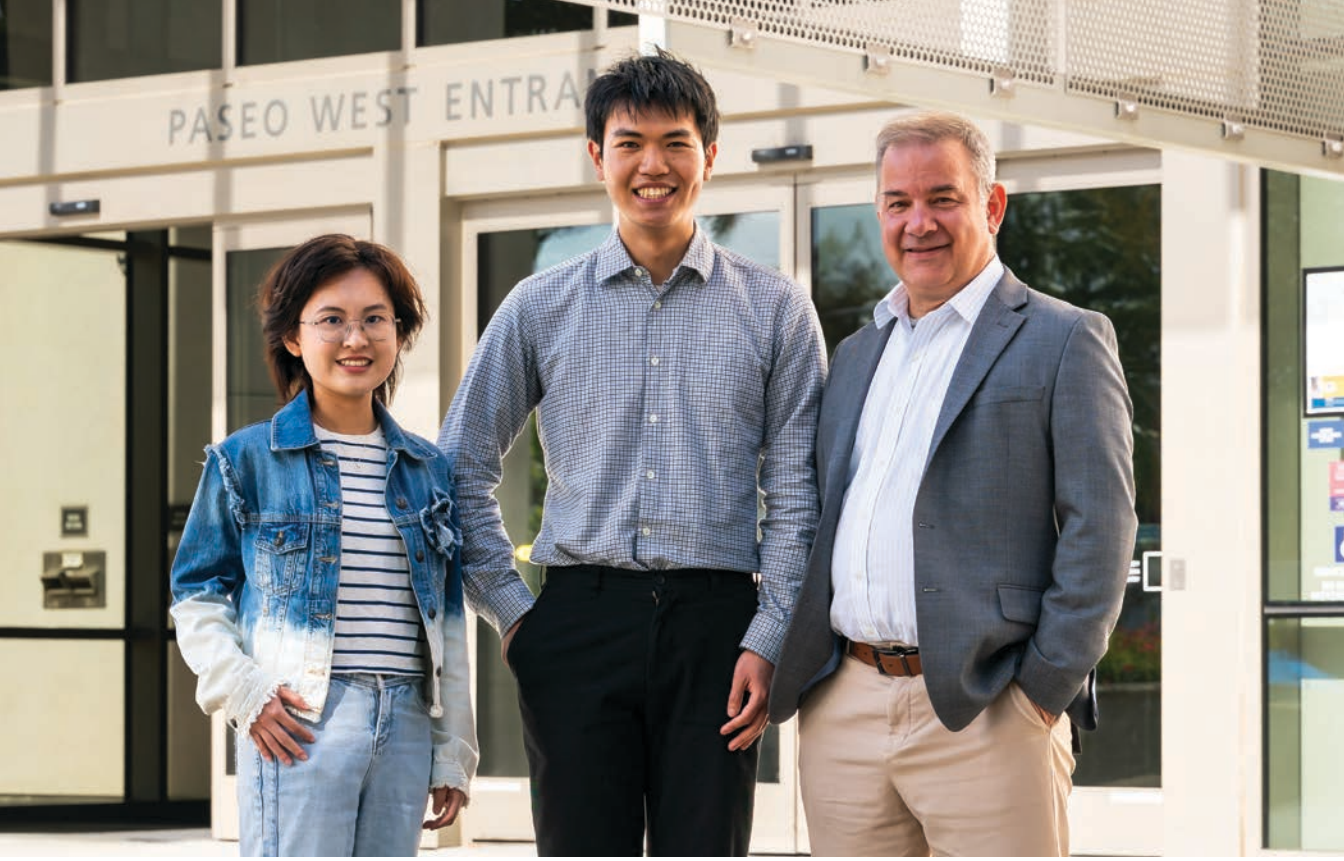
Exorbitant textbook prices force many undergraduates to skip required readings, avoid specific courses or withdraw from classes entirely. These financial hurdles disproportionately affect students from low-income and historically underrepresented backgrounds. Consequently, these hidden costs decrease student retention and graduation rates, undermining the University's equity goals.

Motivated by her personal experience, Galaz García designed her environmental data science curriculum around open educational resources (OERs)—free online teaching and learning materials licensed for reuse, revision and redistribution. She also assigned an e-book available for free to students through the UCSB Library.

The financial and academic outcomes were immediate. "The first time I used OERs, they replaced a costly textbook, collectively saving the students more than $2,400," Galaz García said. Furthermore, she hosts her course notes on GitHub, an open-content platform, inviting students to suggest text revisions via pull requests. This pedagogical shift transforms students from passive recipients of information to active collaborators. "Since the notes are publicly available online, alumni have reported back that they continue to consult them after graduation," Galaz García noted.

> "The first time I used OERs, they replaced a costly textbook, collectively saving the students more than $2,400."
>
> Carmen Galaz García, Assistant Teaching Professor

Galaz García's work exemplifies UCSB Library's broader efforts to advance student success through open and affordable course materials. In October 2025, the Library appointed its first Open and Affordable Course Materials Librarian, Angela Chikowero, to lead this initiative, which provides instructors with the tools and guidance needed to adopt, adapt and create affordable alternatives to traditional textbooks. By championing OERs and expanding access to Library collections and services, this work is reducing financial barriers, promoting equitable education and supporting innovative teaching practices across campus.



Standout Undergraduates Receive 2026 Library Award for Undergraduate Research

Two standout UC Santa Barbara undergraduate students received the 2026 Library Award for Undergraduate Research (LAUR) for their deep engagement with UCSB Library collections, services and resources, and their ability to produce high-quality, scholarly work. On May 27, the students were recognized at the eighth annual LAUR ceremony and reception.

Samuel Liu, a senior majoring in Communication and Sociology, received the first-place award of $750 for his project, "'It's Not Just a Job, It's Literally My Housing': Resident Assistants, Job Embeddedness, and Dissent." Shirley Qiu, a junior majoring in Psychological & Brain Sciences and Statistics & Data Science, earned the second-place award of $500 for her innovative study and senior thesis, "1 + 1 < 1: Large Language Models in Insight Problem Solving."

To be eligible for the award, students had to submit a final research or creative project, a bibliography, a reflective essay describing their research process and an AI disclosure statement to promote transparency and acknowledge the role of emerging technologies in the research process. The submissions were reviewed by a panel of judges made up of Library employees and UCSB faculty from across disciplines. Judges pointed to the overall rigor and quality of the research in the submissions as an indication that LAUR has become a highly desired recognition for UCSB undergraduate researchers. Since 2023, the award has been generously supported by Dr. Jenny Cook-Gumperz, faculty emerita.

Leveraging Library Support to Amplify Voices of Campus RAs



When Samuel Liu noticed workplace friction among fellow Resident Assistants (RAs) at UC Santa Barbara's San Nicolas Residence Hall, he decided to investigate. As a senior majoring in Communication and Sociology, Liu turned his personal and professional observations into an award-winning independent research project. His study, titled "'It's Not Just a Job, It's Literally My Housing': Resident Assistants, Job Embeddedness, and Dissent," earned first place and a $750 prize at the 2026 Library Award for Undergraduate Research.

Advised by Dr. Karen Myers (Communication), Liu's research challenged existing workplace communication literature. While scholars usually consider friends and family "safe" outlets for venting job grievances, Liu discovered that for low-income and first-generation students, family dynamics are far more complex. Because these families rely on student labor to secure housing and avoid debt, parents hold a financial stake in their child's employment, complicating the otherwise detached audience.

To navigate his data, Liu leveraged UCSB Library's vast collections, services and resources. Among others, he regularly consulted with Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian Anne Cong-Huyen and Research Data Facilitator Jairo Melo Florez, and attended workshops on Boolean search terms and managing researcher identity. "The Library was an amazing place for me to talk to people, workshop ideas and figure out appropriate literature," Liu shared.

Now preparing for graduate school, Liu views the LAUR recognition as an invaluable milestone that pushed him to reflect on his growth as a researcher. His work ensures that the crucial, often-unseen voices of campus RAs are being heard.



Fostering Interdisciplinary Conversations on AI in Research



In early 2026, the UC Santa Barbara Library launched AI in Action: Conversations with UCSB Researchers. Created in partnership with the UCSB AI Community of Practice, this new speaker series showcases how scholars use innovative applications of artificial intelligence, from environmental modeling to uncovering insights in art and history. Events feature lightning talks by researchers followed by a moderated discussion on broader trends. "This series aims to foster an open, interdisciplinary community exploring how AI can deepen understanding, expand access to knowledge and inspire new forms of scholarship," noted University Librarian Todd Grappone.

At the February 9 launch, Tobias Fischer (Earth Research Institute) and Ben Halpern (National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis) provided overviews of AI use at their institutes. Fischer demonstrated how AI models forecast local wildfire behavior, while Halpern explained how AI helps track invasive ice plants, emphasizing that "we definitely need humans in the loop" to oversee AI outputs and maintain critical thinking.

The momentum continued into spring. On April 9, Fabian Offert (Center for the Humanities and Machine Learning) highlighted the potential and limitations of AI for studying visual culture, and Eric Wang (Center for Responsible Machine Learning) presented on general-purpose AI agents operating in complex environments. On May 18, Simon Billinge (California NanoSystems Institute) detailed how machine learning is accelerating the discovery of new physical structures, and Nina Miolane (REAL AI for Science) discussed developing "digital twins" of the brain to forecast women's health. By bringing these diverse perspectives together, the Library demonstrated its integral role in facilitating AI in research.

AI in Action Supporters

- Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
- Office of Research
- Office of Teaching and Learning
- Marine Science Institute
- National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis



Sara Miller McCune's Generosity Brings Shakespeare's Rarest Editions to Life



Sara Miller McCune's support of the UC Santa Barbara Library reached a new audience this spring, when an original 1685 Fourth Folio from her personal library anchored an exhibition celebrating the cultural legacy of William Shakespeare. Miller McCune, founder of global academic publisher Sage Publishing and a longtime champion of higher education and the arts in Santa Barbara, lent the volume to "Infinite Variety: The Many Lives of Shakespeare's Texts," on display in the Jackie Laskoff Exhibition Alcove inside the Sara Miller McCune Arts Library.

The folio served as the exhibition's centerpiece, giving visitors the rare opportunity to experience firsthand one of the earliest and most significant printings of Shakespeare's collected works. Co-curated by David Gartrell, the Library's Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, and Professor Jim Kearney, Chair of the Department of English and a renowned Shakespeare scholar, the exhibition traced Shakespeare's afterlives from early print to 21st-century cinema, alongside items including a 1944 audio set of Paul Robeson's *Othello* and a script for Akira Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood*.

To extend the exhibition's reach, the Library sponsored four public events on campus: a talk by Professor Kearney, a student performance of "The Strangers' Case" monologue, and two film discussions in partnership with the Carsey-Wolf Center.

None of this would have been possible without Sara Miller McCune, whose generosity continues to bring the Library's rarest holdings into direct contact with students, scholars and the public, and whose vision, embodied in the arts library that bears her name, made the exhibition's home possible in the first place.

Thank You to Our Donors

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to provide programs that support UCSB's talented students, faculty research and innovative teaching. We are grateful to our donors and friends for joining with the Library in supporting the UCSB community.

For more information on supporting the UCSB Library, contact Christina Baglas, Senior Director of Development, at (805) 893-5732.

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* In Memoriam
[H] Honorary Alumni

Endowment Spotlight: Robert and Jackie Laskoff Arts Library Fund



Bob Laskoff, a longtime UC Santa Barbara Library donor and founder of Maine-based Laskoff & Associates, wanted his late wife Jackie's connection to the Library to endure. Jackie had been an ardent supporter of the Library's Music Collection, which is now housed within the Sara Miller McCune Arts Library.

To honor her memory, Bob's generous gift created a lasting presence inside the Sara Miller McCune Arts Library. The Jackie Laskoff Exhibition Alcove provides a beautiful, dedicated space for curated exhibitions drawn from the Library's collections. The Robert and Jackie Laskoff Arts Library Fund was established as a permanent endowment to directly support these exhibitions alongside public event programming, art installations and collection development.

Thanks to Bob's vision, the vibrant space created in Jackie's name sits alongside the collection she so passionately championed during her life.

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Jairo Antonio Melo Florez
Jacqueline Metzger
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Kathleen Morgan
Yasemin Norris
Scott & Brandy Oeser
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Ilana '88 & Steven '86
Ormond
Pacific Pioneers Broadcasters
Christin R. Palmstrom '15,'18
Kate Lee Parker
John & Antonia Perez
Dwight E. Petersen '77
Alissa Pierce
Chris Pizzinat '88
Betsy Vaughn Potiker
Natalya Power
Darren A. Presher '86
Ronald A. Reese '70,'75
Robyn M. Reid '99
Ilana Rein & Craig Colligan
Randy Riddle
Dr. Curtis B. Roads
Allison '86 & Andrew Ross
Francis '72 & Dumarina
Sarguis
Ryan Satterfield
Dr. Martin G. Scharlemann
Joshua L. Scheer '01
David Seubert
Susan & Sean Silk
Fran K. Smith
Julie L. Sperling
Johannes Steffens
Marty F. Stone '82
Barry C. Tharaud
Laura Treat Liebhaber
Phuongtu Truong &
Doanh Nguyen
Miles A. Vich
Joseph Vu &
Reneil Vu De Leon
Scott '73 & Kathleen White
Cloud L. N. Winter
Marlene & John Wright
Donna Yanga
Linda Zhu & Frank Li

continued on next page

Endowment Spotlight: Dr. Fima and Jere Lifshitz Art in the Library Fund



The Art in the Library Program places original fine art throughout public spaces in the UC Santa Barbara Library, seamlessly integrating the works of artists from around the world into the daily environments of students and scholars. This unique initiative owes much to Dr. Fima and Jere Lifshitz, longtime Library donors and devoted art collectors who built an extraordinary personal collection across nearly 60 countries during decades of travel and medical research.

In 2018, the Lifshitzes generously donated a selection of original works to the Library, primarily paintings and sculptures from Brazil and Latin America. Now, their commitment goes further. The newly established Dr. Fima and Jere Lifshitz Art in the Library Fund creates a permanent endowment for Art in the Library. This vital support ensures that the Art in the Library Collection continues to grow, is well cared for and remains accessible to inspire the entire UCSB community for generations to come.

Gifts in Kind

Jack Bethards
Debreon Bigelow
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Will Connell
Zachary Eichert
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UCSB Reads 2026 Support

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Arts & Lectures
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George Weising and Julie Bechtloff
Women's Center
Writing Program

Every effort has been made to provide a complete and accurate listing of donors and gifts received from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Please accept our apology if a mistake or omission has occurred and contact Christina Baglas at (805) 893-5732 or Christina.Baglas@ucsb.edu.

Endowed Funds

The Library is honored to acknowledge the donors who have created endowments to support the long-term success of the UCSB Library.

Gitta Alpar Performing Arts Fund

Stuart L. Bernath Memorial Fund

Pearl Chase Special Collections Community Endowment

Mary and Vernon Cheadle Library Endowment

Edwin Corle Memorial Book Collection Contest

Donald Davidson Fund

Eugene and Suzette Davidson Collection

Friends of the Library

Victor Geraci Viticulture Collection Endowment

Harry Girvetz Memorial Fund

Harry Smith Glaze, Jr. Fund for the Performing Arts

The Dorris W. Goodrich Art & Architecture Collection Fund

The Dorris W. Goodrich East Asian Collection Fund

Kenneth Karmiole Annual Endowed Research Fellowship

Kenneth Karmiole Annual Lecture Series on Religion in American Life

Kenneth Karmiole Endowment for Rare Books and Manuscripts

Robert and Jackie Laskoff Arts Library Fund

Leaney-Beaver-Brooks Diving History Archive Endowment

Lotte Lehmann Fund

John Levin Early Recordings Fund

Kay Simon Levy Fund

★ **Dr. Fima and Jere Lifshitz Art in the Library Fund**

Sara Miller McCune University Librarian Innovation Fund

J. Gordon Melton American Religions Collection

James J. and Mildred E. Monaghan Fund

William R. Moran Fund for Recorded Sound

Richard C. Norton Musical Theater History Endowed Fund

Nyholm Outstanding Librarian Award

Nyholm Special Collections Fund

Dr. Robert J. O'Brien Shakespeare Recording Fund

★ **Kim & Dean Pananides Book Arts Initiative**

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Henry H. Tai East Asian Collection Endowment Fund

Henri Temianka Audio Preservation Endowment Fund

The Rini Templeton CEMA Fund

Tosti Endowment Preservation of Mexican American Musical Heritage

UC Santa Barbara Library Endowment

William Wyles Library Fund

★ new endowments

By the Numbers

49,796,012
VISITS TO LIBRARY WEBSITES AND DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

48,312
PATRONS

209
EMPLOYEES (including 91 student assistants)

2,181,473
PHYSICAL HOLDINGS (books, periodicals, CDs etc.)

2,277,181
VISITS TO THE LIBRARY BUILDING

3,302,023
ELECTRONIC HOLDINGS (ebooks, databases, e-journals etc.)

2,426
SEATS AVAILABLE

80% of graduating students surveyed stated that the Library was important to their success at UCSB

629
RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS IN SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

$925,849
RAISED IN GIFTS AND GRANTS



Value & Stewardship

While the true value of the UCSB Library to the University and the public transcends numbers, our financial return demonstrates exceptional stewardship of public funds, grants and philanthropic gifts. Below is what it would have cost students, faculty, researchers and other patrons to independently purchase the resources and services provided freely by the Library in Fiscal Year 2025–2026 (FY 2026).

Resource/Service	Usage	Alternate Cost (Per Unit)	Financial Value
Books checked out	66,123	$122.33	$8,088,827
Ebook downloads	101,184	$152.75	$15,455,856
Article downloads	2,085,037	$45.00	$93,826,665
Database searches	4,161,908	$10.00	$41,619,080
Articles published open access by UCSB authors with library funding	476	$1,566.55	$745,676
Attendees at events, workshops and presentations	11,581	$35.00	$405,335
Group study room reservations	58,805	$80.00	$4,704,400
Makerspace visits	7,476	$25.00	$186,900
Tech & More checkouts (laptops, calculators, chargers, headphones etc.)	16,592	$50.00	$829,600
Public computer usage	32,687	$21.43	$700,482
TOTAL ANNUAL VALUE			**$166,563,037**
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURES			$24,160,000

7:1 DIRECT VALUE RATIO

For every $1 invested in UCSB Library in FY 2026, our patrons and the public received almost $7 in direct financial value in resources and services for research, teaching and learning.



The calculations in this section are purely illustrative and demonstrate direct cost avoidance. They do not capture the value of other Library resources and services, such as physical study space, research and reference support, course reserves or special research collections.

A collage of the 20 UCSB Reads promotional bookmarks. Each year, UCSB Library designs a custom bookmark inspired by the themes of the selected book.

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Library

www.library.ucsb.edu

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Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010

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UC Santa Barbara Library 2025–2026 Impact Report
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Support the Library

By donating to the Library, you will help support the UCSB community as a whole. The impact of your giving will be meaningful as we continue to deepen our commitment to students, faculty and scholars.

To learn more, contact Christina Baglas, Senior Director of Development, at **(805) 893-5732** or visit **www.library.ucsb.edu/give**.