

March 26, 2020

Dear Department Chair/Graduate Group Chair,

The information contained in this letter has been shared with every UC Merced Department Chair and Graduate Group Chair with the intention that they will share it with their departments and graduate groups.

The Library's key message is that, although UC Merced Kolligian Library Building is closed to the public until the end of the COVID-19 emergency, the Library is actively providing services to faculty, students, and staff who are working or learning remotely. Faculty, lecturers, and academic employees with questions about accessing Library resources or using library services are encouraged to contact the library liaison for their area of study. The list of library liaisons and their subject areas is available at:

<http://library.ucmerced.edu/about/contact/liaisons>

During the COVID-19 emergency, the primary source for information about the Library at this time is the *Using the Library from Off-Campus* webpage:

<https://libguides.ucmerced.edu/lib-services/users>. Due to the rapidly changing circumstances of the COVID-19 emergency, always consult this webpage for the latest information on UC Merced Library services.

Some highlights of services available from the Library include:

Contacting the Library:

- **Research appointments** with librarians are available through Zoom for the at least the remainder of the semester: <http://libcal.ucmerced.edu/appointments/#>.
- **24/7 Chat** service continues to remain available around the clock: <http://library.ucmerced.edu/about/contact/ask#chatScreen>.
- You can email the Library any time (library@ucmerced.edu) or consult the Library Staff Directory (<http://library.ucmerced.edu/about/contact/staff>) to contact any member of the Library staff directly.

Books, Journals, and Other Information Resources

- Access to the UC Merced Library's large collection of electronic journals, books, databases, and other materials is unaffected by the COVID-19 emergency.
- Interlibrary loan requests for articles will continue to be delivered electronically as a PDF.

- We are no longer able to process requests for physical materials through interlibrary loan as other libraries are now closed and most of our Library staff are working remotely.
- With the closure of the Kolligian Library Building, and in the interest of reducing transmission of the virus, the UC Merced Library's collection of books, DVDs, and other physical items will remain inaccessible for the remainder of the COVID-19 emergency.
- The good news is that, thanks to UC Merced Library's membership in the HathiTrust, we will be able to provide, by request, digital access to most books regardless of copyright status. At the rollout of the **HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service**, we anticipate being able to provide digitized copies of any book that meets both of the following conditions: 1) is held as a digital copy by HathiTrust and 2) is held as a print copy by UC Merced Library (approximately 150,000 volumes). We will provide information regarding the rollout date for this service when it becomes available.
- In addition to the above, HathiTrust will be working on providing eligible UC campuses access to the digitized copies held by HathiTrust that overlap with *all* eligible UC campus' print holdings (approximately 36 million volumes), though this access is anticipated to come after the initial rollout. We will provide information regarding the rollout date for this service when it becomes available.
- As the COVID-19 global public health crisis evolves, publishers such as Gale, Project MUSE, and many others are offering free access to scholarly resources and additional content for students and educators:
<http://library.ucmerced.edu/news/2020/publishers-offer-free-scholarly-access-response-covid-19>.
- For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, the Library is not enforcing **due dates** for UC Merced Library materials. Anyone who has in their possession due/overdue materials borrowed from other libraries via ILL may either drop them in the book return located near the south doors leading into the Lantern Café area (KL 155) or return them to UC Merced Library via mail. (Do not mail or return ILL-ed books to the library from which they originated.)

UC Merced Library
5200 N. Lake Road
Merced, CA 95343

Instructional Support

- During the COVID-19 emergency, UC Merced Library's **Course Resources** program continues to provide online access to supplemental course materials by making

them available through CatCourses:

<http://library.ucmerced.edu/research/instructors/courseresources>.

- **Open Educational Resources** are zero-cost online materials that can be easily adopted to remote instruction: https://libguides.ucmerced.edu/oer/finding_oer.
- **Educational Continuity at UC Merced** provides information on remote teaching and learning: <https://it.ucmerced.edu/EdContinuity>.
 - Course Design and Instructional Technology Resources: <https://it.ucmerced.edu/EdContinuity#EdContinuity%20Strategies>

Library Instruction for Students

- If you would like to schedule virtual library instruction for spring 2020, you can submit a request via the *Schedule an Instruction Request* online form: <http://library.ucmerced.edu/form/schedule-instruction-session>.
- Additional information about library instruction is available at *Using the Library from Off-Campus: for Instructors*: <https://libguides.ucmerced.edu/lib-services/instructors>.

Data Management and Research Computing

- Researchers who would like to discuss their data management plans can submit a request for consultation: <https://it.ucmerced.edu/content/research-data-management-consultation-service>.
- Graduate instructors who would like to schedule virtual instruction on research computing topics (e.g., version control, Unix shell) or data management plans can use the Library's *Schedule an Instruction Request* online form: <http://library.ucmerced.edu/form/schedule-instruction-session>.

Spatial Analysis and Research Center (SpARC)

- Drop-in hours are suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.
- SpARC Virtual Workshops: <https://libcal.ucmerced.edu/calendar/sparc>.
- SpARC LibGuide: <https://libguides.ucmerced.edu/profile-newsam>.
- SpARC staff continue to work remotely and may be contacted through the usual channels:
 - Technical Support Request (report technical issues with software here): <https://techsupport.ucmercedlibrary.info/hc/en-us/requests/new>.
 - SpARC Inquiries: <http://library.ucmerced.edu/sparc/sparc-inquiries>.
 - Make a Virtual Appointment with SpARC Manager: <https://libcal.ucmerced.edu/appointment/32602>.

- SpARC Project Initiation Form (required prior to recharge):
<https://intelforms.ucmerced.edu/Form/SparcProject>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haipeng Li', written in a cursive style.

Haipeng Li
University Librarian
University of California, Merced