

Library Management Team (LMT) Meeting Notes – April 16, 2026

Attendees: M. Gaunt, R. Graves, K. Peters, J. Pierce, S. Pryor, E. Shaw, J. Thompson, M. Toledo-Candelaria, K. Whatley
Support: N. Whyte

Facilities Updates

Kathy Peters reported that a power outage will affect Ellis Library on April 20 from approximately 4:30–7:30 a.m. Electrical work may impact all 120V systems, including the Bookmark Café area. Notification will go out to the staff-wide distribution list.

Kathy provided an update on ongoing air quality concerns in the East Reference offices. Environmental Health and Safety has conducted multiple inspections, including humidity testing, flushing lines, and adjusting damper settings. The issue appears related to an air handling unit; further testing was scheduled. Jeannette Pierce noted that the space was not originally designed for offices, which may be contributing to ventilation challenges.

Additional facilities issues include continued closure of Room 406 on the 4th floor due to excessive heat and a masonry leak causing wall damage. Campus Facilities is evaluating repair options. Kathy also shared updates on furniture moves: Engineering Library furnishings may be reclaimed during a one-week window in May, and Vet Med Library furniture will be redirected following upcoming renovations.

Kara Whatley shared that Campus Facilities will fund an HVAC replacement and refresh of the Vet Med Library, including new carpet, paint, and furniture. Staff areas will be refreshed later as a separate phase. Concerns remain regarding window sealing and humidity control, which will continue to be monitored.

Advancement and Library Society

Matt Gaunt reported strong momentum in library advancement, including a recent \$2 million unrestricted estate gift. Year-to-date fundraising has exceeded the annual goal. Matt also shared that upcoming donor meetings may lead to support for Health Sciences Library remediation efforts.

Planning for the 2026 Library Society event has transitioned to Central Advancement event planners. RSVP numbers are the highest on record. The event will be held April 24, with a VIP reception from 4:00–4:30 p.m. followed by the main program. Central Advancement support has allowed for reduced ticket pricing.

The program will focus on the importance of primary source materials in research and teaching. Speakers will highlight both historic newspapers from Special Collections and modern digital newspaper resources. Kara emphasized that the program underscores the library's role in supporting scholarship and student success.

Kara also noted recent vendor philanthropy, including an unrestricted \$20,000 gift connected to EBSCO leadership, and early discussions about potential vendor sponsorships for library events and programming.

Special Collections Updates

Marian Toledo-Candelaria reported that the Ellis vertical lift is now operational. Movement of Rare L and Rare XL materials from Room 401A to UMLD is underway, supported by student workers who are scanning and packing materials. Items will be unavailable in the catalog during ingestion. Completion is anticipated by August, potentially earlier.

Marian noted that relocating these materials mitigates summer humidity risks and will free space for staff and processing needs in Special Collections.

Kara Whatley shared that Preservation and Physical Processing will be combined into a single unit within ACTS, based on a six-month assessment. As part of this reorganization, a senior LIS position will move to Special Collections as a Research Services Coordinator to support reference, instruction, and workflow coordination. Recruitment timing will depend on finalization of PCQs.

ACTS Updates

Jenny Thompson provided an update on the JSTOR withdrawal project. At Ellis Library, staff have moved into a faster phase of surplusing serials that are now available electronically. At UMLD, staff continue working through CRL retention commitments, with completion expected by June. At current staffing levels, the full project is expected to continue into the next year.

Kara reported that continued funding for JSTOR withdrawal staffing has been requested from the Provost's Office.

Jenny also discussed a new Libraries task force exploring a merger of the libraries' OCLC symbols to reduce costs and improve workflow efficiency. Kara suggested pursuing the symbol "MIZ" if consolidation proceeds. Renewal timelines are under review, and OCLC has indicated there may be a fee associated with the merge.

Budget, Staffing, and Hiring Updates

Kara led discussion regarding potential market and compression salary adjustments for librarians and staff. Addressing salary compression among early-career librarians was

identified as a priority. Funding options include possible reductions in collections expenditures.

Hiring updates included a verbal acceptance for the Social Sciences and Government Information Librarian with a June 1 start date pending background checks, an internal candidate for the Continuing Resources Librarian progressing to interview, and the collection strategist search moving into early interview rounds.

Union, Remote Work, and Other Updates

Updates were shared by Kara regarding union communications and posting requirements.

Remote work exception requests have been submitted and are under Provost review.

Kara briefly summarized insights from the CNI Spring Meeting and shared idea for a potential AI studio pilot in library space vacated in the Government Documents area. The concept would focus on student-facing AI tools.

Carry Forward to Next Meeting

- Progress update on East Reference air quality investigation (Kathy)
- Status of Room 406 repairs and projected timeline for reopening (Kathy)
- Status of Vet Med Library HVAC replacement and renovation schedule (Kathy)
- Update from the OCLC symbols task force regarding feasibility, costs, and timing (Jenny)
- Continue discussion on AI studio pilot concept (Kara)