

## **The Roles of Shared Facilities in System-wide Services and Strategic Development in The University of California**

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The increasing interdependence of the University of California Libraries has been fostered by a strategy to create a shared infrastructure to lower the cost in resource sharing and to improve services for all patrons. Central to this shared infrastructure are the regional library facilities (RLFs). Since the early 1980s, the Northern and Southern Regional Library Facilities have provided economical, environmentally controlled and secure space for frequently used library materials of enduring research value. These facilities store library collections from all 10 UC campuses. They also allow libraries to better position themselves in collection management and coordination, and to optimize existing physical library space by taking advantage of increased efficiencies in managing their print collections. Over the years, they have led to the formation of a shared collection and reduced duplication and overlap in library materials. I will discuss the issues of governance, functions, and operations, as well as the roles of the RLFs in the general effort of building perpetual and valuable collection resources by University of California libraries.