



February 12, 2026

The Honorable John Harabedian
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento CA, 95811

Received 2/12/2026

RE: Audit Request – University of California: library resources

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approve a performance audit to assess the current state of library resources within the University system. The primary focus of this audit is to understand how campus budgets affect library resources in the context of student enrollment, with the goal of ensuring that foundational academic resources are adequately supported and transparently managed.

BACKGROUND

Academic libraries are foundational to higher education, driving student success by providing curated, high-quality resources, focused study spaces, and specialized research assistance. They directly contribute to higher GPAs and improved student retention rates. Libraries foster critical thinking, literacy, and information literacy skills, equipping students with essential, lifelong learning abilities required by employers.

The California Legislature has an interest in understanding how the funding for higher education institutions has impacted library functions and operations. When students search their academic resources, the availability of a periodical, journal, or article is generally due to a series of financial and discretionary decisions made by the academic institutions.

SCOPE OF AUDIT

I respectfully request the JLAC committee approve an audit to understand whether campus library budgets are allocated effectively, what standards or rubrics are used to determine library staffing levels, and how the needs of instruction and research are met. Specifically, I request the State Auditor to examine the following areas for three campuses and over the course of the past 5-10 years:

1. Library Finances

- How are campus library budgets allocated in relation to student enrollment?
- To what extent are budget recommendations from the Academic Senate used in the allocation of library budgets for each campus?
- How much of UC library budgets are restricted and unrestricted funds? How much comes from private sources?
- How is library budget information communicated out to library stakeholders? Who is responsible for providing this information?
- How do UC libraries evaluate and calculate the benefit cost analysis of adopting vendor platforms and outsourcing services?
- What is the UC doing to control costs for licensed content and how is UC leveraging their negotiating power through the California Digital Library and other centralized bodies?
- For each campus, what is the indirect rate pass-through for libraries, facilities, and services? How do campus budgets approach this?

2. Library Operations and Functions

- What standards or rubrics are used to determine library staffing levels in relation to academic departments that they support?
- How do UC libraries determine their staffing allocations with regard to library administrators, academic appointees, and other staff in relation to the academic needs of instruction and research?
- How do UC libraries determine their staffing allocations with regard to library administrators, academic appointees, and other staff in relation to library services provided to the community?
- What data are UC library administrators using to make decisions about library organizational structures and allocation of resources?
- To what extent do UC library administrators incorporate feedback from the Academic Senate in determining library organizational structures?

Thank you for your consideration of this critical request.

Sincerely,



AL MURATSUCHI
Assemblymember, 66th District