

Policy for the Use of California Digital Library Resources for Research
“CDL Research Use Policy”
Revised 03/24/2010

Overview

The California Digital Library (CDL) has a history of cooperating with research projects that use the collections, services, and usage information of the CDL as objects of study themselves (in contrast to the general support of scholarship that the CDL collections and services provide). In general these uses have been to the benefit of systemwide library and CDL planning and to UC scholarship in information services and digital libraries, and in principle such cooperation should continue to be supported.

However, the CDL believes some structure and oversight governing these cooperative research ventures is preferable to informal arrangements. This is necessary for at least the following reasons:

- CDL resources, including digital objects, data, IT infrastructure, and staff time, are UC assets created and allocated to support the CDL and University missions. Whether research is conducted in a controlled environment or through the open Internet these UC-owned or managed resources must be protected and their research use appropriately managed as dictated by UC policies, state and federal laws, and professional ethics.
- Staff time to support these projects can be substantial and must be prioritized and managed by the CDL administration.
- CDL requires a well-documented record of its contributions to the UC research enterprise.
- CDL contributions to research should be appropriately acknowledged and publicized.

Principles

Research use of CDL resources¹ should be governed by the following principles:

- Research use must not threaten the inherent value of CDL resources, nor interfere with service commitments or with development activities; research use must be suspended immediately upon request from the CDL if there is evidence of such interference.
- Because of the openness of the Internet, the CDL may choose to limit sharing some types of data when researchers propose using what may be the intellectual property of the UC campuses.
- Required CDL staff support must be estimated and approved by appropriate supervisors before the project starts. The CDL may request specifications from the research team in order to determine the level of staff support and may require that the research team use grant or other fund sources to support CDL staff time.
- Results should be shared with CDL and relevant partners
- Attribution to the CDL (and relevant others) should be made in any publications or presentations.
- Research use must abide by UC policies and relevant laws and professional codes of conduct. Illustrative examples include, but are not limited to, evidence of following UC Human Subjects protocol when direct contact with users is involved and of protection of privacy (for example, in the analysis of usage logs).

Procedures

Evidence that these principles have been considered and addressed will normally require a written proposal to and response from the CDL Executive Director. The CDL reserves the right to ask for modifications to proposed research or to withhold permission for the use of CDL resources based upon the principles above.

This policy will be periodically reviewed by CDL and updated as necessary.

¹ A non-exhaustive list of research uses of CDL resources would include session logging, aggregation/analysis of usage logs, content/object/metadata analysis, and text mining.