



SLAC Research Library & SPIRES

Situation Analysis

In the late 1980s, Peter Drucker predicted, "The factory of tomorrow will be organized around information rather than automation." (P. Drucker, *Post Capitalist Society*, Butterworth Heineman, Oxford, UK (1993). His insight is now reality.

SLAC Research Library Mission Statement

Provide essential information services to the SLAC research programs in photon science, particle and astroparticle physics and other subjects as they support the Laboratory's primary scientific and technical mission.

Provide the world-wide particle and astroparticle physics community with timely, accurate and comprehensive information through the SPIRES suite of databases.

Core Functions

- ◆ Manage and coordinate all aspects of collection development including planning, building and maintaining Library information resources (online catalogs, web pages, databases, books, multimedia, and journals) in a cost-efficient and user relevant manner.
- ◆ Provide a high quality, in-depth reference and information service (outreach, instruction, interlibrary loans, etc.) to meet users' research needs on-site and remotely.
- ◆ Provide an optimum physical library environment designed to assure human safety and comfort, preserve collections and other investments, and support research within DOE, Stanford University, and SLAC regulations and compliance.
- ◆ Lead an international collaboration (SPIRES) of research institutions to provide the worldwide scientific community with access to literature and other information related to the PPA field and develop and maintain applications for managing research information and resources, especially scientific literature.

Core Resources

Total FTE: 11.25

- ◆ 3 Professional Librarians
- ◆ 3.04 Programmers (13% WFO)
- ◆ 4.61 Library Assistants
- ◆ .6 Hourly Student Assistant

Of the total FTE staff, 4.5 (40%) support PPA directly, 4.21 (37%) support Science directly, and 2.54 (23%) support Lab wide.

M&S: \$486700

- ◆ Books: \$65000
- ◆ Journals: \$269600
- ◆ Databases: \$116900
- ◆ Other, supplies, etc.: \$45200

Note: The Library not only builds strong scientific collections, but heavily supports the indirect lab wide areas such as computing, engineering and safety.

Highlights of Opportunities and Plans for 2008

InSpire

The SLAC Library has a solid track record of collaborating with scientists and other institutions to provide first-class information resources. We lead and manage the SPIRES database consortium that has served the particle physics community for over 35 years, providing the central portal for research information in the field. SPIRES currently gets over one million searches/month, reflecting its importance to the community. Recently a survey was conducted jointly by SPIRES and CERN Library where 2000 physicists responded. Of these, more than 1500 said they used SPIRES as their primary information resource or at least once per week.

Unfortunately, the infrastructure on which SPIRES is built must be addressed. Many of the features have been added in an ad hoc manner over the last 30 years, creating a legacy system that is difficult to change easily and has become more and more inflexible to adapt to new innovative improvements. Hence, InSpire.....

With input from the community, the SPIRES Collaboration is migrating the underlying platform to a CERN open source technology, Invenio (recently adopted by ILC for their internal doc. mgmt.). Migrating the SPIRES data and services to a modern platform will give us the freedom to deliver new, cutting edge services that our users expect. It will be a major project, with heavy involvement from the four labs, CERN, DESY, Fermilab, and SLAC. SLAC is the center of the technical knowledge for SPIRES and is serving as a living requirements document for the new system. SLAC will maintain its position at the forefront of InSpire, continuing to provide the researcher-focused service that we have in the past, and to represent SLAC well in the community.

Psi (Photon Science Information) - The portal for photon science researchers

This project will create a tool of significant power and utility for the worldwide Photon Science community. Scientists often develop individual methods to find much of this information. We propose a single portal which will make the discovery and retrieval process far more efficient and effective for the researcher and will:

- Simplify, contextualize, and enrich the collective knowledge of the photon science field
- Create a central framework around which the information landscape will grow with the field
- Provide contextualized information resources that support the full experimental life cycle

We have identified a potential funding opportunity that would be essentially non-competitive with Science funding at the lab, via the DOE Financial Assistance Program in partnership with an external corporation with significant skill in building research knowledge portals with semantic web technologies. A proposal is being prepared for submission.

Challenges for 2008

Pulse move into Building 40

With Pulse moving into Bldg 40, the Library is faced with space issues. This will be a challenge and an opportunity over the next year. We are excited about Pulse moving into central lab because the Research Library will be central to all of their needs. This will be a very positive position both for the Library and for Pulse.

However, the Library will have to be remodeled to accommodate additional staff (Pat Kreitz, TIS Director, Jean Deken and Laura O'Hara, Archives and History Office, an AA for P. Kreitz) and to reorganize staff and facilities to fit into a much smaller space. As well, the Library will lose space to IMS for their remodel, facilities and existing storage/meeting space. The Library is strategically reorganizing, reducing and reassessing all existing services and collections to accommodate this. One solution will be to discard all print journals that are online.

While the remodel is being done, the Library staff, offices, books, etc. will have to be temporarily relocated, possibly for a year.

Collections

With the new direction of the Lab, the Library is building a collection of books and journals suitable for Photon Science, while keeping the Particle Physics and Particle Astrophysics collections current. This is with a static budget and staff.

Library Organization Chart

