THE UNIVERSITY OF **ALABAMA**   **UAB** THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM   **UAH** THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donald Gilstrap, University of Alabama Dean of Libraries
John Meador, UAB Dean of Libraries
David Moore, UAH Library Director

FROM: Kevin Whitaker
Pamela Benoit
Christine Curtis

SUBJECT: Collaboration among The University of Alabama System Libraries

DATE: October 16, 2017

During this past summer at our request, you, the three leaders of our campus libraries, met and evaluated ways and means for the three libraries to collaborate. The memorandum that you sent on June 12, 2017, outlined your current thinking and gave five recommendations which we believe provide a starting point for further discussions. There is always a challenge for our libraries to fund the many different campus needs that exist but, working together, we believe there are ways to increase collaboration and leverage the size and buying power of our system to effect efficiency and cost savings or, at least, cost containment. With these aspirations in mind, our charge is for you to form a standing leadership team that we will call the UAS Council of Libraries.

The goals of the UAS Council of Libraries are to increase collaboration among the three libraries, increase access to print and online library resources for all of our faculty and students, and seek ways to cut or contain costs through joint subscriptions to electronic journals and resources. We request that the Council meet at least three times per year and regularly report your progress to us (at least twice per year). UAB has offered to host the Council's first meeting.

Specifically, we ask that the UAS Council of Libraries begin with the following:

1. Explore best practices in collaborating and leveraging buying power that have been successfully utilized in other states and university systems. Please evaluate the state of Ohio's contract for electronic library subscriptions along with the collaborative library practices of the Big Ten Academic Alliance, the University System of Georgia, the California State System, the State University of New York System, and other systems you find are successful in leveraging their system status for library purchasing.

2. Explore and determine how UAS can reduce costs on library purchases and engage in contracts as a system. This analysis will include determining the challenges we face in our current configuration and the changes that we need to make as a system to be able to purchase online and print library resources jointly at a cost savings to all involved.

3. As the UAS Council of Libraries leaders, attend the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) and other state library groups and jointly influence the decision-making to better serve the UAS faculty and students.

4. Update the attached inventory of library holdings for each library in the system. Please develop a rubric for determining the needs at the different campuses that could be satisfied through working together jointly. Please send us the updated inventory and the rubric by December 15, 2017, for our review. Thereafter, please provide us with an updated inventory at least once per year.

5. By November 30, 2017, Please submit to us a draft vision, mission, and anticipated outcomes statement for the UAS Council of Libraries.

Cc: Charles Nash
        Robert A. Altenkirch
        Stuart Bell
        Ray Watts
        C. Ray Hayes