

# UCSC names new university librarian

Elizabeth Cowell brings six years of campus experience

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**SANTA CRUZ »** Elizabeth Cowell, UC Santa Cruz's interim university librarian, will receive official tenure starting July 15.

Cowell has served as interim librarian since July 2013, succeeding Virginia Steel, who became UCLA's university librarian.

Cowell joined the campus as an associate university librarian for public services in 2008, during a period of severe budget cuts. Cowell worked with administration to maintain core library services.

She also played an integral role in the \$100 million expansion of McHenry Library, completed in 2011. She led an analysis of the library's public services, increasing attendance since the reopening.

Cowell said she'll continue to move the libraries beyond a collection, toward

a set of services integrated in UCSC's research and educational mission.

"In the digital environment, that's very different than putting books on the shelf," Cowell said. "For example, I think libraries have a big role to play in the undergraduate student experience."

Libraries should provide not only study spaces, but also research and training skills, she said.

She added that the library could do more to help researchers manage their data.

A game changer, she said, is the UC Academic Senate's open access policy passed in July 2013, ensuring faculty research is available free to the public.

A trend in scholarly research is toward publishing open access data, instead of journal articles, she said.

"There's going to be a lot of movement on this front and I think the library will play a key role," Cowell said.



CAROLYN LAGATTUTA — CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elizabeth Cowell has been named UC Santa Cruz's next university librarian.

Cowell's appointment UC president Janet Napolitano is awaiting approval from itano.