



Wisconsin National  
Primate Research Center  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

May 16, 2013

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Lawrence Jacobsen Library:

The scientists and staff of the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center and University of Wisconsin-Madison have worked for four decades to build the Lawrence Jacobsen Library (LJL) - a unique and treasured resource for the international primatology and broader scientific community. It has served with distinction the scientific and scholarly interests of primatologists, the public, teachers, students, veterinarians, and researchers. We have strived to maintain stable support for this prized resource by obtaining funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), both as a portion of our direct base grant funding, and through the successful competition for other NIH support mechanisms. As most of you are aware, however, we have unfortunately entered into an era of flat funding, and now sequestration-impacted budgets. One result of these funding pressures has been a narrowing of the opportunities for funding of resources that are not sharply focused on NIH's mission.

It is in this restricted funding climate that the WNPRC finds that it can no longer support the LJL as a fully functioning library. I am thus writing to you all to confirm the unfortunate news that we will be closing the LJL over the coming months. I want to thank you all for your expressions of appreciation for the LJL and its unique electronic and physical resources. **Please let me reassure you that almost all of the LJL digital resources will remain available in their current state, supported by the WNPRC Information Technology Systems Services unit.** We have begun efforts to manage the final disposition of the physical collections and materials in a manner that will preserve access to them via the broader UW library system and inter-library loan. I have appointed Dr. Joseph Kemnitz, who recently served on the UW library committee for several years, including two years as chair, to spearhead our efforts in collaboration with Ed Van Gemert, Vice Provost for Libraries, and his staff, regarding the disposition of the physical collections and materials. We do not anticipate that any of the unique physical materials will be discarded. Furthermore, in the event that any of these materials cannot be placed within the UW libraries, we are committed to communicating their availability to the scientific primatology community in order to ensure their appropriate disposition.

The decision to close the Library has been an extremely difficult one for the senior management team here at the WNPRC, and certainly a painful one for the library staff that has worked so diligently to develop its resources over so many years. Unfortunately, we could not identify an alternative funding plan by which the library could be self-sustaining or supported by non-NIH

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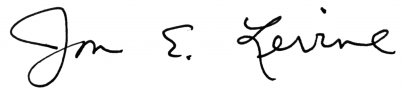
**Wisconsin National Primate Research Center**

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sources. We are fully aware of the incredible and long-standing value of the LJL to scientists around the world. The important resources developed by directors of the library, Larry Jacobsen, Cynthia Robinson, and Ray Hamel, and their colleagues over the years served not only scholarly pursuits, but also provided unique avenues for education and engagement between the scientific community and the teachers, students, and broad public seeking to learn more about non-human primates. We are therefore committed to maintaining access to these resources to the greatest extent possible over the coming years. To work towards this common goal, we will be inviting members of the primatology community to work with us to identify new funding streams to ensure that digital resources can be updated and further developed into the future. We are also assembling an advisory committee comprised of representatives of the relevant professional societies to help in the transitions that lie ahead.

Sincerely,



Jon E. Levine, Ph.D.  
Director of the WNPRC

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