

# The University of Michigan Regents Communication

## Request for Action

### Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

#### Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**John Weise, M.I.L.S.**, librarian and director of digital library applications in the University Library, retired from active faculty status on July 6, 2026.

Mr. Weise received his B.F.A. (1989) and M.I.L.S. (1995) degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a senior associate librarian in 1998 and was promoted to the rank of librarian in 2012. Throughout his career, Mr. Weise held several key leadership positions, including coordinator of image services, head of the Digital Library Production Service, and associate director of Library Information Technology. He served as the director of digital library applications from 2016-2026.

A pioneering "master specialist" in digital library infrastructure, Mr. Weise developed Image Class, a revolutionary access system that contributed to the technical foundation for the Digital Library eXtension Service (DLXS), which currently hosts over 200 digital collections at the university. He managed the development of major portions of the HathiTrust access system, notably leading the technical implementation of full-text search at an unprecedented scale. This functionality was later described by the court in *Authors Guild v. HathiTrust* as the digital library's "main functionality" and served as the central pillar for the landmark fair use defense that established the legal right of libraries to digitize collections for search and accessibility. Mr. Weise also co-led Project DOR (Digital Object Repository), a multi-year initiative to create sustainable infrastructure for the university's digital assets. He was widely recognized by colleagues for his "zen-like" and level-headed approach to complex organizational change.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian for his dedicated service by naming **John Weise, librarian emeritus**.

Requested by:



**Jon Kinsey**

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2026