ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Challenge Grant Gift Supports Major Student Life Collection

The Library’s reputation as an important center for the study of student life and culture has received a major boost with the establishment of the new Stewart S. Howe Archival Endowment Fund for the University Archives.

The endowment contains more than $750,000. It was created with a $300,000 challenge-grant gift from the Stewart S. Howe Foundation, plus $100,000 in matching funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and funds previously given by the Howe Foundation.

"In the twentieth century, colleges have played a major role in acculturation," says University Archivist Maynard Brichford. "The Stewart S. Howe Archival Endowment will establish a center for the serious investigation of student life."

The endowment in the name of the late Stewart S. Howe is particularly fitting since it was the transfer of Mr. Howe’s collection of fraternity- and sorority-related materials to the Archives in 1973 that created what is now the country’s largest collection of material on student life.

Included are an outstanding collection of directories, histories, manuals, songbooks, and rituals for 107 fraternities and sororities (some dating as far back as the 1820s), clippings about a wide range of issues touching the lives of college students since the 1930s, and Mr. Howe’s business records and publications dealing with advertising, fundraising, and public and alumni relations for fraternities and sororities, colleges, universities, and secondary schools.

Mr. Howe received a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from the U of I in 1928. Even as a student member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, he showed an interest in alumni relations, communications, and fundraising to help support his fraternity.

Within two years of graduation, he founded the Stewart Howe Alumni Service, Inc., whose mission was to assist fraternities and sororities in maintaining contacts with alumni and to provide professional help with communications related to management, fundraising, recruitment, alumni relations, and other needs. The service eventually had more than a dozen offices nationwide.

Mr. Howe also was a nationally recognized fundraiser for higher education throughout the country. In the early 1950s, he was a chief fundraiser for the University of Michigan's Phoenix Project (one of the first “atoms for peace” programs) and was named vice president in charge of development and public relations at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Mr. Howe was a roving ambassador for his alma mater as well. "Stew never married, and as a result, at about 5 p.m. each day he’d start to think about dinner and look for someone to have it with," remembers longtime friend Carlyle Anderson, president of the Howe Foundation. "So, he would call someone he knew in other fraternities, sororities, Kappa Sigs, or Illini. As a result, he developed a wide circle of contacts all over the country."

Not surprisingly, considering his interest in the University, its history and archives, and fundraising for higher education in general, he became a charter member of Library Friends in 1972. In fact, it was a grant from the Stewart Howe Foundation that launched Friendscript as a means to increase the membership of Library Friends. He was also the first major donor to the Archives Fund and an early member of the U of I's Presidents Council. He died in 1973 at the age of 67.

But it was students and their needs that were Mr. Howe’s consuming interest. This led him to collect as much current and historical information as he could about students and higher education. His goal—to create a collection larger than the Baird Collection on student life at the New York Public Library.

As the student life collection in the Archives shows, Mr. Howe more than achieved his goal. His wealth of material forms the core of a research collection unparalleled in this country. "Students don’t look at things the same way an administrator does, who is trying to keep things off the front page of a newspaper," notes Mr. Brichford. "Students are more interested in socializing and organizing themselves—the motives of people between the ages of 18 and 22 differ from those who provide programs and services for them."

"So, if you read the Board of Trustees proceedings, you won’t find much relating to student life and culture. What you do find pertains to all students in some category, and university publications on student life stress opportunities or portraits of student activities and options. Publications by students, on the other hand, tend to provide more accurate evidence of student attitudes, interests, and priorities."

Nowhere in official university documents will you find, for instance, this student comment about fraternity “horseplay,” quoted in a 1914 issue of Banta’s Greek Exchange: “The average freshman is... Cont’d on page three.
Engineering Library Seeks Funds for New Building

Librarians often complain that their book budgets are inadequate to support their collections.

But what do you do when your building itself physically can’t support your collections?

If you’re William Mischo, head of the Engineering Library, you enlist the aid of the Library and the U of I’s College of Engineering to raise $26 million. That’s what is needed to build, equip, and endow a new Engineering Library and Information Center.

“Our floors are collapsing—they’ve had to put in two twenty-ton jacks under the floors since I came in 1982,” says Mr. Mischo about his space in Engineering Hall, which was built in 1894. “We’ve been in this space since 1916, and it just can’t handle the load anymore.”

The problem isn’t just how to shoe-horn in 380,000 books and 3,600 periodicals in a space meant to hold about 180,000 volumes—remote storage and appropriation of every conference room and washroom in the library for shelving has solved that temporarily.

With the explosion of online databases, however, there is literally no room left over for computer or CD-ROM terminals. To make room for the seven Mr. Mischo now has, he has had to remove shelving units and decimate what little seating there was for students who just need a spot to sit and read.

“According to standards from the American Library Association, with our patron base of 8,000 students and faculty, we should have seating for 1,000,” notes Mr. Mischo, speaking from his office—a converted restroom. “We have seating for 100, and that’s only by putting chairs anywhere we can create an open space.”

It’s a terrible situation for a library that supports an engineering college that is consistently ranked one of the top three in the country.

That’s why the College of Engineering and the University Library will mount a major fundraising campaign among engineering alumni, corporations, and foundations to build and equip the Engineering Library’s new 90,000 square-foot home.

Most exciting for students will be a multi-media computer laboratory, where students will be able to complete their assignments by combining online library information with the software needed for their course work.

Despite the current inadequate facilities, the Engineering Library already provides some of the most up-to-date information retrieval services for the ten departments, sixteen centers, and three laboratories whose fields it supports. “Information techniques and services—that’s what the Engineering Library is really all about,” says Mr. Mischo.

The Engineering Library, for instance, is one of only ten test sites in the country for the IEEE/IEE Publications Ondisc (IPO) CD-ROM database, which contains the full text of all publications since 1989 from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the British Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEEE). Then, on a permanent basis, there’s COMPENDEX, which covers virtually every field of engineering, and Computer Select, which contains full texts of articles and specifications for products in the computer hardware, software, and data communications fields, and many others.

Mr. Mischo and his staff also have created their own databases to help locate titles of articles or journals that are difficult to find on existing databases. Of particular use is a home-grown database that lists all the titles of conferences and journals emanating from the IEEE. “These are particularly hard to find online,” he adds.

The new Engineering Library and Information Center plans to build on these strengths by providing patrons with fingertip access to millions of book and journal titles through national and international database networks. Patrons will also be able to access online and compact-disc versions of the major engineering and physical sciences databases. To accommodate these changes, the number of computer terminals will be increased from the current seven to approximately fifty.

All the databases in the world, however, won’t help a user if the desired journal is not at hand. “If we have a strength in our collections, it’s in our materials from conference proceedings and conference papers of the major engineering societies,” says Mr. Mischo. “We buy a lot of society publications, too, which is extremely useful for collection development.”

Unfortunately, the past decade of inadequate budgets has hit the Engineering Library particularly hard because the price of periodicals has risen faster than any other library cost. More than 40 percent of the collection is foreign periodicals, the most expensive of all.

“We’ve cancelled fifty journals that are listed in the Current Contents database, which means they are the core scientific journals,” he laments. “As for IEEE/IEE Publications Ondisc, once the trial is over, we can’t afford it—that will be $18,000.”

Luckily, part of the $26 million being raised will go toward an endowment to fund the ongoing costs of the unit’s information retrieval service.

Groundbreaking for the new Engineering Library and Information Center is scheduled for 1992, with dedication planned for 1994.

For more information about this fundraising effort, contact Joan Hood, the Library’s director of development and public affairs, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 (217) 333-5682, or you may make a check payable to UIF/Library ELIC Fund.
Library's Research and Reference Center Makes Library's Collections Available Nationwide

What happens when you ask your local librarian for a book whose title you're not sure of? How does your local librarian comes up with an answer to a question that can only be considered a real stumper?

If you live in Illinois, chances are your request was referred to the Library's Illinois Research and Reference Center (IRRC).

It's one of four such centers funded by the Secretary of State/State Librarian's office specifically to help local libraries answer the most difficult questions and provide even the most esoteric books—all at no charge to the patron.

"People often can't run over here and look for things themselves, especially if they live far away," says Karen Newsome, head of the IRRC. "Instead, they can have access to everything remotely without actually visiting the collection itself."

This miracle of remote service comes courtesy of ILLINET Online, a statewide network of more than 2,500 libraries of all types, from public and grade-school to corporate and university. If any member of the network receives a book request or a question that's impossible to answer with its own resources, it can forward the request to the IRRC or one of the other three research and reference centers in Chicago, Springfield, or Carbondale.

Because of the breadth and depth of the Library's collections, however, the lion's share of work ends up right in the Library's Room 128—nearly 120,000 book-loan and photocopy requests in 1990 alone. "We get the seemingly simple, but really complicated questions," laughs Mrs. Newsome.

Take the recent request from the Peoria area for three years worth of stock prices for a business listed on the Chicago Stock Exchange. It didn't take long for the IRRC to track down the appropriate newspapers in the Library's Newspaper Library. Or the request for romance novels in Gujarati.

"We get a lot of requests for factual information, too, like for IBM software books in Spanish," she notes. "In fact, the foreign language requests are our real specialty."

But what do you do when the request states, "Patron thinks this is the book's title, she just saw it on Oprah," or "Patron wants to know the record weight for a wild turkey in Illinois."

That's when the IRRC's professional librarians really spring into action. For "scrambled" titles, they creatively search a variety of complicated reference sources for anything related to the most important words in the title. It's a technique that usually solves the problem.

For other questions, like the weight of the wild turkey, the librarians often rely on another resource—the faculty at the U of I.

"We'll get on the phone and call national associations and other specialists in a given field," says Mrs. Newsome, "but because of the caliber of our faculty, we usually can answer most questions right at the U of I."

Illinois libraries are not the only ones who use the IRRC. The unit also receives nearly 54,000 loan and article requests from across the nation and around the world.

"Our reputation for quickly and thoroughly searching for materials also prompts other libraries to try us first for titles they can't verify," adds Mrs. Newsome. "It's tough, but we give it our all."

Mrs. Newsome proudly points out that 50 percent of all requests are filled within one day, and nearly 80 percent in two days. "As of January, we have faxed all photocopy requests on demand within the state," she notes. Come fall, the IRRC will use a computer-to-computer link to fax answers to other parts of the country as well.

Even books can be had within two days, if the patron lives in downstate Illinois (Chicago takes slightly longer), thanks to a delivery-van service that runs up and down the state.

For patrons, whether they are businesses or school children, the service can seem almost miraculous. For the IRRC, however, the rewards are much less tangible.

"The hardest thing for us is that we get no immediate feedback for all the work we do," laments Mrs. Newsome. "At a circulation desk, for instance, you hand someone a book and the patron smiles and says 'Thank you.'"

"Here that doesn't happen. We do get letters, but they're few and far between. The job we do is so transparent that patrons tend to take our service for granted—they think the books somehow magically jump off the shelves."

Glenn E. Kersten, a reference consultant for the Suburban Library System in Oak Lawn, Illinois, knows better. He recently forwarded two difficult mathematical inquiries to the IRRC, which the IRRC eventually forwarded to specialists in the U of I Department of Mathematics.

"We have come to expect small miracles on a regular basis from the U of I staff, but these were larger than normal," he wrote Mrs. Newsome after receiving the information. "We don't say it often enough: we are grateful for your work and for the speedy return of high-quality answers."

Howe Collection (cont'd)

young, untried, and usually fresh from high school triumphs; his ego is largely developed, he does not consider that the fraternity is conferring a favor on him, but that his presence is largely a condescension... His exaggeration of his own omnipotence must be dissipated."

Nor will you find objective accounts about the pros and cons of communal student living, except in publications like Greek Life, a newsletter from the Stewart Howe Alumni Service. There is even a handbook from 1636 describing the regulations of a prep school for the sons of British nobility.

Providing access to this massive and fascinating collection has been difficult because of a lack of funds and staff in the University Archives. The Howe endowment will solve that problem by providing funds for an archivist who will be responsible for the collections related to student life and culture. This archivist will develop both the collections and the levels of support needed to provide adequate housing for the papers.

"We plan to contact fraternities and sororities, enlist the aid of the Interfraternity Foundation and the National Panhellenic Conference, and renew Stewart Howe's collecting activities," says Mr. Brichford. "Our long runs of fraternity histories, directories, and newsletters all end with Howes's death in 1973. We want to institutionalize Stewart Howe's commitment to build a research center for the investigation of student life in institutions of higher education."
Friends Respond to Library is Looking For... Catalog

Library Friends have donated more than $5,000 in response to last fall's Library is Looking For... catalog. "The response from our donors has been very much appreciated," says Sharon Kitzmiller, the Library's annual funds development officer. "Because of our tight budget this year, none of these items could have been purchased without these donations. Our librarians are truly grateful."

Donors include: Joseph S. Ashcroft, for the Newspaper Library; Martha R. Blaine, for the Conservation Unit; Walter D. Bradley, for the Agriculture Library; Edith Bulow, for the History and Philosophy Library, the Reference Library, and Circulation; Marjan Stevick Chinigo, for the Newspaper Library; Dog Training Club of Champaign-Urbana, for the Veterinary Medicine Library; Mr. and Mrs. John D. Dunn, for the Reference Library and the History and Philosophy Library; Thelma Fite, in memory of Charlotte Schmiechen, for the History and Philosophy Library; Jan Marshall Fox, in memory of Charlotte Schmiechen, for the History and Philosophy Library.

Robert H. Freitag, for Circulation and the English Library; Carolyn G. Gunter, for the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library; Mr. and Mrs. Fred F. Guyton, Jr., for the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art; Kathryn G. Hansen, for the Illinois Historical Survey; Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson, for the Conservation Unit; Jay C. Hill, for the Commerce Library; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Iversen, for Circulation; William and Terry Maher, for the Newspaper Library; Douglas and Linda Mills, for the Modern Languages and Linguistics, Physics and Astronomy, and University High School libraries; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nordheden, for the Library and Information Science Library.

Louise Ann Pacholik, for the Library and Information Science Library and History and Philosophy Library; Ettie Peck, for the University Archives; Mary Kay Peer, for the Commerce Library, University High School Library, and English Library; Virginia S. Phebus, for the Reference Library; Martin Rosoff, for the Biology Library; Eric S. Schubert, in memory of Dr. Michael Schubert, for the History and Philosophy Library; Linda C. Smith, for the Library and Information Science Library; Candace Wilmot, for the Library and Information Science Library.

It's not too late to donate items listed in the catalog. Every item in the catalog represents a book or piece of equipment for which librarians have a great need, but no current funds.

For more information, contact Sharon Kitzmiller, the Library's annual funds development officer, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217) 333-5683.

From the University Librarian

I am pleased to report that your contributions to help the Library raise $3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant have already begun to bear fruit.

This past spring, donations and matching NEH money reached more than $2.4 million. This meant the resulting endowment was capable of generating enough interest to make meaningful purchases to help the Library's humanities collections.

Therefore, as a first step, the Library committed more than $50,000 in endowment interest this spring for humanities purchases. Among the most important were a microfilm replacement for the badly deteriorated U.S. Serials Set (an important reference tool), as well as the British Biographical Archive and many other titles covering the entire spectrum of the humanities. Several of these cost more than $1,000, and one more than $10,000—more than our currently tight budgets could ever have managed alone.

There has also been another beneficial development resulting from our newly created humanities endowment—it has reinvigorated the efforts of our humanities librarians. One cannot expect people to put energy into reviewing the needs of a collection when they know that funding is not available to do anything about those needs.

Now, however, our librarians have the opportunity to review portions of their collections they otherwise would not have had any reason to review. The benefits to the University's students and the scholarly community in general, as a result of this new exhilaration, will be tremendous.

Without the support of you, our Library Friends, none of this would have been possible. Your continuing efforts on behalf of the Library will be appreciated by students and scholars alike for generations to come.

—David E. Bishop

Quotables

"More than twenty years ago, I was preparing to meet my first freshman rhetoric classes as a teaching assistant in the U of I English department. Now that I am simply (and in some real ways sublimely) 'professor of English,' I cannot help being more aware than ever of the effects that the University of Illinois and its Library had upon my life.

"My mental image of the University itself is a blurred-around-the-edges vision of the physical campus set on the incredibly fertile soil of the American prairie. There it is, surrounded by some of the richest farmland of the planet, a place of learning that truly symbolizes the Illinois farmers' dream of increasingly valuable education for their descendents.

"When I think of the Library, it seems a vast tower rising from the biosphere: a place where the heart of a public institution—proof that the democratic ideal of excellence in education is not limited by students' wealth or social class, that this ideal is realized—makes the Library inspire awe..."

"I have never regretted my decision to get my graduate education at the University of Illinois. The more I learn about higher education elsewhere, the greater and more justified is my pride in having earned an Illinois Ph.D. The degree needs only to be identified; it doesn't have to be explained. The same is true about the Library. 'Library, which library?' "The Library.' Yes."

—Rosemarie Arthur
M.A. '67, Ph.D. '72
Professor of English
Lehigh University
Public Service and Automation the Focus of Two Mortenson Fellows

“It is important to find out how the future will be managed and solve the problems of the future. I believe one can get run over just by sitting in the middle of the road, even if you’re on the right track, so planning for the future is very important.”

That’s the view of Erdmute Lapp, the director of public services at the Jülich Research Center Library, who spent time last April at the U of I Library as a Mortenson Fellow.

Her visit, she says, should help her immensely as she plans for her library’s future. As she explains, “American libraries are already in what is likely to be the future for us, so I am trying to collect ideas and copy some of the techniques.”

Primary among those techniques is the use of automation. Although German academic libraries already use many computerized databases and online catalogs, there is little electronic sharing between institutions.

“Most of the exchanges between German library regions are still via microfiche, which is the technique of the ‘70s, not the ‘90s,” says Dr. Lapp. “But at your library, you can extend a search beyond your library to ILLINET Online (the statewide online catalog) and then order a book directly through ILLINET Online from another institution.”

Dr. Lapp was also impressed with Illinois Search Aid, a computer program developed by a U of I librarian that automatically enters the different complicated commands needed to use the many computerized bibliographic and reference databases at their disposal.

The public service aspects of library automation were also the focus of another recent Mortenson Fellow—Sharon Clark, the Library’s assistant director for automated services.

Thanks to the Mortenson fellowship program, she was able to spend six weeks in Great Britain last fall studying the evolution and use of online public access catalogs at several leading university libraries.

“This was an absolutely marvelous opportunity for me to pursue a research interest I’ve had for a number of years—an interest that is directly involved with my job,” says Mrs. Clark.

Among the institutions she visited were the British Library, the City University of London, and the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Aston, Bath, and Edinburgh, all of which are in the process of creating online catalogs.

Mrs. Clark also got a first-hand look at the recent British efforts to create nationwide networks of library catalogs. As a result of her contacts with the head of automation at the University of Edinburgh, in fact, Mrs. Clark received a copy of new software that allows a patron to search previously unlinked British online catalogs.

“I’ve been using it here in Urbana, and it works quite well,” she notes.

The only stumbling block for these efforts, naturally, has been lack of financial resources. “The British have been looking to America for the past ten to fifteen years for leadership in automation,” says Mrs. Clark. “Their conclusion was ‘You Americans forgot to tell us what it’s going to cost’!”

“Frankly, if we had to buy a system today, I’m not sure that we could afford to do it, given our size. But I was reassured that the directions taken in the mid- to late ‘70s were the right directions.”

Mrs. Clark is internationally known for her work in library automation, having been involved with the Library’s automation efforts for more than a decade.

It is just the kind of automation Mrs. Clark oversees that particularly interested another Mortenson Fellow last spring—Doru Radosav, the director of the library at the University of Cluj in Romania.

“We haven’t the computers that you have here,” he notes. “In Romania, the technical means is missing, so I had the opportunity to see the difference between the manual work in our library and this almost automatic computerized work your staff does here. There is a big difference in the time span and the efforts needed to do the work.”

Automation may be on the horizon for Mr. Radosav’s library, however, because the Romanian government may soon be part of a European program called Tempus, which would provide the computers and technical know-how to modernize his four-million-volume library—the second-largest in Romania.

“This is absolutely a top priority for my library,” he says, “because since December 1989, we have received large amounts of books and information, and all of our operations for cataloging and classifying are too slow. What takes one or two weeks for you might take us nearly six months.”

The Library is Looking For...

$370 to purchase Mittelalterliche Bibliotheckskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz for the Classics Library. This is an extraordinary source of information on the history of books as well as on the socio-economic background for the establishment and growth of monastic libraries from the 10th to 15th centuries.

Donation to purchase McGraw-Hill’s Compilation of Open Systems Standards, a multi-volume set containing national and international standards for data communications and telecommunications, for the Engineering Library. Cost is $775.

$275 to purchase The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium, a 3-volume set containing more than 5,000 entries covering history, art, theology, law, medicine, and music, for the Reference Library.

Also $135 to purchase the 2-volume Antarctica: An Encyclopedia, the first encyclopedia of its kind, describing geographical features, expeditions, people, and scientific subjects, also for the Reference Library.

If you would like to donate any of the items mentioned above, or if you are interested in learning about other badly needed books, please contact Sharon Kitzmiller, the Library’s annual funds development officer, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL, 61801, or telephone (217) 333-5683.
We Need Your Help

You can ensure the UI Library’s continued excellence by:
- Telling others about the Library Friends and encouraging them to join
- Sending us lists of potential members and contributors
- Helping the Library solicit grants from foundations
- Obtaining your company’s or organization’s participation in a matching gift program
- Passing the information about Library Friends membership on in your newsletter or publications.

The Benefits of Membership

As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:
- Special circulation and stack privileges for Library materials
- Friendscript, the quarterly newsletter
- Annual Report
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
- A 30% discount on University of Illinois Press publications.

The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. There are now more than 4,000 members of Library Friends.

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YES, I/we wish to become members of U of I Library Friends. Our contribution will help support the Library’s humanities collection through the NEH Challenge Grant Fund.

- University Librarian’s Council at UIUC, $5000
- Life, $3000
- Benefactor, $1000
- Patron, $500
- Sponsor, $100
- Subscriber, $60
- Student, $10

Please make your check payable to UI Foundation/NEH Library Challenge Grant Fund, 224 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, Illinois 61801. All contributions are tax-deductible.