Bequest Creates New Beulah Stewart Oleson Library Endowment Fund

The Library has received a major bequest from alumna Beulah Stewart Oleson to create the new Beulah Stewart Oleson Library Endowment Fund. The fund will be used to support acquisitions throughout the Library system.

Mrs. Oleson, a native of Clinton, Illinois, received her bachelor of arts degree from the U of I in 1919, and taught high school for many years at Freeport, Illinois, and Chicago. She died in July 1991 at the age of 95.

Mrs. Oleson was a life member of the U of I Alumni Association and a longtime member of Library Friends. Her love of books was very strong, leading her to bequeath gifts to the public libraries in both her hometown of Clinton and her mother's hometown of Salem, Illinois, as well as to the U of I Library.

The connection to Salem was especially strong because of her mother's friendship since childhood with the family of William Jennings Bryan, whom Mrs. Oleson knew as "Uncle Bill."

"Beulah was quite active in the local Presbyterian church, but always behind the scenes," remembers her cousin Gladys Williams. "She spent most of her retirement helping other elderly people by taking them places or bringing them food, until she couldn't do it herself anymore."

"But she was especially interested in education—that was her main thing. As she used to say, you can't take an education away from anyone."

This newest endowment joins the Library's growing list of such funds, which have become so important for the Library's ability to plan for the future no matter what the state's budget situation may be.

"We have only half the purchasing power we had ten years ago, so we must rely on private support to augment and enhance any amount we receive from the state," says Joan M. Hood, the Library's director of development and public affairs. "Endowed funds give us the continuity and the confidence to plan for the future despite the vagaries of state funding."

As with Mrs. Oleson, the reasons donors give for creating endowed funds are as varied as the people themselves. Some are business people with a love of libraries; retired professors whose research lives were spent in the stacks; alumni, book collectors, even groups of students eager to honor a favorite professor.

Two donors, C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson, created two funds to further a philosophical goal important to them—fostering international tolerance and peace by ensuring access to knowledge throughout the world.

What they all have in common, however, is a belief in the importance of the University Library. As Sarah Patterson Pagels said in 1989, when she and husband George created their endowment fund, "If you don't have the Library, you don't have the university."

Once an endowed fund is activated, the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs works with the donor to create a bookplate designed especially for the endowment fund. Material purchased from the fund will bear this bookplate (in the case of equipment, a special nameplate is attached).

In addition, the office provides information yearly to the donors on the purchases from the fund. "We consider these gifts as investments," says Mrs. Hood, "so we must provide good stewardship. We want the donors to know that we are using their gift wisely."

Although some endowed funds are created to support specific subject areas or interests, many are unrestricted as to what subject area may benefit from the fund.

"We don't know what the future will bring in terms of technologies for access to information, " notes Mrs. Hood, "so endowments that are flexible in scope can provide us with the ability to change with the future. That's important—because endowments last forever."

For more information on creating an endowed fund, contact Mrs. Hood at the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs, 227 Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, or call 217-333-5682.
Professor Donates Unique Albanian Science Titles

The Library has received an unusual gift of twenty-one recent Albanian texts on geology, paleontology, and the Albanian petroleum industry.

Twenty of the twenty-one works are held by no other library in the United States. The gift comes from Ralph Langenheim, professor emeritus of geology at the U of I and a member for nearly thirty years of the geology department's library committee.

Professor Langenheim's long career as a paleontologist, stratigrapher, and energy geologist has sent him around the world and, as always, "I'm always on the lookout for books for the Library."

So, when he and his wife were posted to the geology faculty of the University of Albania last year through the International Executive Service Corporation, he saw another opportunity to provide the Library with titles it otherwise might not have.

"There are maybe 2.5 million Albanians in Albania, another 1.5 million in Yugoslavia, and about 500,000 in Macedonia, so this is a language for a very small group of people," notes Professor Langenheim. "Not only that, but there was no university in Albania until about 1967, so there was no market for a publisher there. Who would publish textbooks under those circumstances?"

"What I found was that the professors there write and print their own textbooks, so I asked them for their texts. That's the basis of this collection."

The geology faculty at the University of Albania, according to Professor Langenheim, were "quite competent in mining and engineering—in fact, the quality I would expect to find in the upper half of American universities."

Furthermore, because the faculty must write their own texts and revise them approximately every five years, their teaching and textbooks are "perhaps more effective than ours."

Albania is one of the world's leading chromium producers and home to large oil deposits, both of which are reflected in the works donated to the Library. There are also works on local fossils and geological practice. One work, by the country's late ruler Enver Hoxha, deals with the politics of Albanian petroleum since 1945.

"The texts are perhaps of limited interest," admits Professor Langenheim, "but the discussion is taken from geological practice. So, for example, there is a book on paleontology that deals with fossils in Albania. I'd like to get that one and have it translated because there have been no books on the subject in English subsequent to 1914."

The twenty-one Albanian texts are just the latest in a long line of donations and acquisitions help by Professor Langenheim over the years. Together with professor emeritus of geology, Albert Carozzi, and the late geology professor George White, Professor Langenheim helped build the Geology Library to a place of prominence after its creation as a separate unit in 1959.

"I filled up the backfiles of journals that we had started taking in the 1870s, but which had really started in the early 1800s," he explains. "We strained the limits of the budget until we were finally told we could only mention a few things every month."

Those heady days of seemingly unlimited budgets are long gone ("Now we talk about what we can least miss," he laments), but he still brings back books from nearly every trip abroad. "I've brought back Iranian books, Taiwanese books, you name it," he laughs.

These latest gifts, all in Albanian, will be housed in the Library's main stacks. Quotables

"Being at the Mortenson Center has been a great opportunity. Everyone has their own programs and needs, but everything is organized so well that everybody feels at home. It has given me the opportunity to see how huge the world is, and how contacts and connections between libraries are needed."

—Milena Klimovd
Director, Slovanska khinovd
Prague, Czech Republic

Mortenson Center Receives Two Grants, Becomes Program Site of Third Grant

The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs has received grants from two major foundations to bring librarians from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to the U of I Library. It has also been chosen as a program site by a third foundation.

The grants and program-site selection all came from foundations specializing in programs for librarians from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Grantors include the Getty Grant program for art librarians and the Soros Foundation, whose fellows will first attend a Soros-sponsored program at the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress also chose the Mortenson Center to be a program site for fellows it is hosting through its grant from the new Margaret Thatcher Foundation.

The twenty-four librarians visiting the Library through these grants come from all over eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including Estonia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Hungary, and Macedonia. Their stays will range from one week to six months.

As associates at the Mortenson Center, the librarians will learn about new information technologies as well as the Library's philosophy of service. Those attending through the Getty Grant program also will attend the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) meeting.

Quotables

"Being at the Mortenson Center has been a great opportunity. Everyone has their own programs and needs, but everything is organized so well that everybody feels at home. It has given me the opportunity to see how huge the world is, and how contacts and connections between libraries are needed."

—Milena Klimovd
Director, Slovanska khinovd
Prague, Czech Republic
Mold Attack in Sixth Stack Leads to Drive for Better Climate Controls

An air-conditioning breakdown last summer in the Library's sixth stack, which caused an infestation of mold, has led to a push for better climate control throughout the Library's bookstacks.

Because of the problem, the Library is using some of the federal matching funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities' challenge grant to purchase eight hygrothermographs and one computer data logger to monitor heat and humidity conditions in the sixth stack and in an older, non-air-conditioned stack.

The information will be used both to identify and treat potential problems before they reach crisis proportions, and to present data to the university to make a case for climate controls for all stacks.

The mold attack came as a surprise since it occurred in the Library's newest and only air-conditioned stack.

Because of central Illinois' near-record-setting heat and humidity last summer, humidity levels rose tremendously over the two days of the breakdown. As the air conditioning was slowly restored, mold found a friendly environment in the now humid books stored in the dark, enclosed spaces of the sixth stack's compact shelving.

"We assumed that we had better environmental controls in the sixth stack addition than we actually have," says Barton Clark, assistant university librarian. "What we really have is temperature control but no humidity control. Unfortunately, as you bring down the temperature, you lose control over humidity because there is not enough heat to burn it off."

Eradication of the mold began immediately, using a combination of dusting individual shelves and books, and disinfecting with a dilute Lysol solution in the wet/dry vacuum cleaners used to capture and kill the mold.

Why was there no humidity problem in the five non-air-conditioned stacks? According to preservation librarian Bill Henderson, books that are baked dry by overheating in winter just don't suffer as much from the humidity in summer.

"What happens in the winter is that the excessive heat in the stacks literally bakes the water out of books and bakes the paper," he explains, "so when the temperature and humidity shoot up in the summer, it just barely replaces what was lost in the first place."

"For the air-conditioned books, that doesn't happen. So, for instance, when the university turns off the air conditioning at night to save money, that's even worse for the books. We've never convinced the campus administration that we need twenty-four-hour air conditioning just like the psychology department, with its laboratory animals, or the music department, with its pianos and woodwinds."

"As for the present infestation, the Library will not be sure if all mold has been eradicated until next summer."

"As we move out of the humid season and into cooler weather, much of the mold will be killed anyway," says Professor Clark. "The problem is, we won't know how much has become dormant. So, as we move into the humid season next year, we will have to remain extremely vigilant."

Twelve Join Library Friends' Highest Donor Groups

Twelve Library Friends have become members of the Library's highest donor groups.

New members of the University Librarian's Council are Adeline L. Barth, Catherine Lanier Lemon, Richard A. Liebig, P.M. and Merete Krag Mitchell, Beulah Stewart Oleson (in memorium), John G. Replinger, and John P. and Helen S. Shafer.

New Life Members are Adeline L. Barth, L. Gene and Catherine Lanier Lemon, P.M. and Merete Krag Mitchell, John P. and Helen S. Shafer, and John and Shirley Mahaffey.

Friends become members of the University Librarian's Council by donating $5,000 or more within a five-year period, and Life Members by donating at least $3,000 within a twelve-month period.

The Library is Looking For...

Funds to purchase four floor jacks and Phonenet connectors to connect the Mathematics Library's Macintosh computers to the local area network. This will provide more access to the online catalog and access to the Internet.

Cost is $250.


$355 to purchase Aufstieg und Niedergang der Romischen Welt (Rise and Decline of the Roman World), volume 2. for the Classics Library. This is an essential work of essays written by contemporary scholars on the language and literature of the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D.

$775 to purchase McGraw Hill's Compilation of Open Systems Standards for the Engineering Library. This six-volume work on computer standards includes many international standards, making it an essential reference tool.

Funds to purchase The Nobel Prize Winners: Physiology or Medicine and The Nobel Prize Winners: Peace and Economics Sciences. The Reference Library needs these two volumes to complete the full five-volume set, which is the most extensive work on Nobel Prize winners. Cost is $210 for each volume.

$300 to purchase Concise Encyclopedia of Magnetic & Superconducting Materials for the Physics Library. This new edition includes newly commissioned articles on this quickly changing and important field.

Also for the Physics Library, Multiyear Interactive Computer Almanac, a software product that provides high-precision astronomical data in tabular form about sunsets, moonrises, etc. Cost is $55 for DOS version, $44 for Macintosh version.

Funds to purchase The Netherlandish and German Drawings of the 15th and 16th Centuries of the Fris Lugh Collection for the Architecture and Art Library. This 3-volume work by Karel G. Boon features 300 full-page color reproductions, critical essays, and extensive appendices and indices.

Cost is $500.

To donate any of the items mentioned above, 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.
Papers of Controversial Fraternity Figure Now at Archives

His own fraternity disowned him. Fraternity and sorority associations passed resolutions against him. Yet dozens of national fraternity and sorority offices used his services, and he was eventually inducted into the Fraternity Hall of Fame.

Anyone who was active in the fraternity world from the '30s to the early '80s knows this description could fit only one person—Wilson B. Heller, known as "Doctor to the Greeks" and one of the most controversial figures in the history of fraternities and sororities.

What made him so controversial was his College Survey Bureau, which rated individual fraternity and sorority chapters, and his newsletter, Fraternity Insider, which printed the good, bad, and ugly about fraternity and sorority chapters at virtually every college campus in the United States and Canada.

Now Heller’s nearly 42,000 pieces of correspondence, newsletters, surveys, notes, photographs, and clippings are available to researchers at the University Archives, where they join the important fraternity-related collections of Clyde Johnson, Leland F. Leland, and Stewart Howe.

"The Heller Collection provides a unique viewpoint on the American college fraternity system, and therefore on higher education itself," says John Straw, the archivist in charge of the Archives’ huge student life and culture collection.

"While the percentage of students that belong to fraternities and sororities has fluctuated through the years, they form a significant group that have historically influenced many aspects of campus life, from housing to social life, and especially campus politics."

And few influences that life more than Wilson Heller himself. As early as 1912, his second year at the University of Missouri and as a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, he started his College Survey Bureau and started publishing the information in Banth’s Greek Exchange about how the various fraternities and sororities rated among the students on campus.

It wasn’t long before he started surveying campuses all over the country, forming the basis for nearly seventy years’ worth of rankings and annual comparisons of national and local fraternity and sorority operations.

His findings were based on surveys of college students, who were asked to rank their campus’ fraternities and sororities on the basis of importance, power, and prominence. This he combined with objective measures, such as size and rushing success, to produce a systematic means of ranking these organizations.

Some information, such as which local chapters were successes, failures, or just dead, came from correspondence with his network of "spies" or from many trips around the country between 1926 and 1959 to visit college campuses (he claimed to have visited every one in the country with fraternities and sororities.) And, of course, there was the information he gathered for the several national fraternity and sorority organizations that would hire him to analyze their local chapters.

"He revealed which fraternities and sororities were succeeding or failing and why," adds Professor Straw. "He wrote about chapters getting kicked off campuses. His tendency to not pull any punches made him controversial."

That's putting it mildly. Not many organizations would be happy with this characterization of the fraternity situation at Columbia University in 1966, as found in the Fraternity Insider. "As a result of chapters being chumps at all-time tiny size, they were also high or tops in snobbery, laziness, false-pride."

And not many would be happy with this piece of history about a sorority at the University of California, Berkeley, as found in Campus History Ratings for 1982. "If you realize not the intensity of the student morale from normal to reverse [due to campus riots a decade earlier], consider one incident: when a 'social elite' chapter...took 'orientation' amongst its 25 pledges in fall of '69—that's 'handwriting on the wall'."

But it was just these kinds of changes due to social and racial unrest, wars, economic depressions, and the like that historians will find documented throughout the Heller collection.

Heller was more than just the boar of news, however—he was actively sought out for his advice on business affairs as well. For instance, he counseled chapters to focus on “quantity over quality” in rushing on the theory that the more members, the more potential for outstanding members who eventually contribute money and time in the future. And he firmly believed that fraternity and sorority members were "stockholders" to whom their organizations needed to be accountable.

This, in fact, was the cause for his banishment from his own fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, against which he led a voter’s revolt against the alleged misdeeds of its executive director at the fraternity’s 1936 annual meeting.

His passionate crusade for free enterprise also was the cause for his decades-long (and ultimately successful) battle with the L.G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts, the jeweler who held a near monopoly on making rings, pins, etc., for colleges, fraternities, and sororities.

By the 1970s, even Heller’s own fraternity finally acknowledged his contributions to the Greek system. In 1979, he was elected to the National Fraternity and Sorority Hall of Fame. He died in 1983.

And despite the fact that he had had disputes over the years with the National Interfraternity Council, he willied his papers to a good friend and Masonic brother who had been past board member of that organization’s foundation, Dr. William T. Bringham, Sr. He, in turn, gave Heller’s papers to the Stewart Howe Foundation in 1992, and the Howe Foundation donated them to the Archives the same year.

"Many condemned his surveys as strictly his own opinion, but many of the same people were feeding him information at the same time," says Professor Straw. "He used not only information from surveys of students, but also from executive secretaries of fraternities, deans of students, and fraternity advisors...He clearly had a system for doing these comparisons, and this really was the only system of its kind. That’s what makes this collection particularly valuable."
Library Friends Appoints New Board President

E. Phillips Knox, an Urbana attorney specializing in banking law and estate planning, has been appointed the new president of the Library Friends Board of Directors. Mr. Knox has been a member of the board since July 1990.

"The Library is a tremendous resource not just for the university, but also for the community," says Mr. Knox. "Certainly with the current budget problems of the state and the university, it is more important than ever to encourage private support for our very fine Library."

A love for the university and the Library runs deep in Mr. Knox's family. Mr. Knox received his law degree from the U of I in 1971, but his father, Carl Knox, received his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees from the U of I and was an assistant football coach for a brief time. The elder Mr. Knox then became dean of men from 1959 to 1967. "He was very fond of the Library, too, both as a student and as a member of the administration," adds Mr. Knox.

Prior to joining the Library Friends board, Mr. Knox was a past president of the Urbana Chamber of Commerce and served on the board of directors of the Community Foundation of Champaign County and the Champaign County Historical Museum. He is also a member of the U of I Presidents Council.

Library Receives 10% Budget Increase from State

The Library has received a 10% increase in its materials budget from the state for the 1994 fiscal year, the first increase in a long time that has actually exceeded projected price increases for books and periodicals.

"This is a recognition by the state that it must improve the Library's ability to meet its mission to the university," says library collections director Carl Deal, "and that recognition is due to the insistence of this campus that the Library should be a top priority."

Four times in the past decade, in 1983, 1988, 1991, and 1993, the Library received no funding increase at all from the state during a time when the cost of materials increased more than 15% per year and other major research libraries were receiving an average of 5% in increased funding.

In some of those years, the Urbana-Champaign campus tried to help offset such losses by allocating small amounts of funds to the Library from other campus sources. Still, the Library suffered a 50% drop in the number of monographs ordered and cancelled nearly 7,000 serial titles in just the past few years alone.

"I know of no other North American research library of comparable size that has suffered such adverse reductions to the maintenance and development of its collections during this period," says Professor Deal. This year's 10% increase, however, will help the Library keep its head above water as well as satisfy more requests of the faculty for new books and periodicals in fields of research that didn't even exist ten years ago. Says Professor Deal, "All the librarians have lists of titles they've wanted to get for a long time, but which they couldn't fund. Now perhaps they can acquire some of these."

Some of the increase also will be allocated to other portions of the Library's budget, such as binding and the large book-ordering agreements arranged with vendors both here and abroad. "Last year, in order to protect our subject funds, we had to borrow from general funds not devoted to a specific subject," explains Professor Deal, "so now we're taking better care of the general funds again."

The budget increase also spells good news for library users around the state and the nation. "The Library has a very special role in serving the immediate needs of a statewide constituency through ILLINET Online Plus—a resource-sharing network that is the envy of many states," notes Professor Deal. "Our collections also are called upon by scholars throughout the country to provide materials through a national interlibrary loan network."

Private support, however, still remains crucial to the Library. "We are, of course, happy to receive this increase in state funding, but we don't know what the next year will bring," says Joan M. Hood, the Library's director of development and public affairs. "The increase doesn't begin to cover the ravages of inflation over the past few years."

"Private donations, however, enable us to count on a steady source of support, which helps the Library in conducting the kind of long-term planning that is crucial to any kind of academic endeavor."

Library Publications Win Awards

Two Library publications have won several awards for outstanding design and printing.


The poster announcing the third annual Mortenson Lecture by Julieta Campos also has won two awards: second place for a four-color-process flyer in the In-Print '93 competition, an international competition sponsored by the In-Plant Management Association and IN-PLANT Reproductions, and an Award of Excellence from the University and College Designers Association.

Both publications were designed by graphics designer Amy Harten of Champaign, who also created the Library Development Office's Wishlist catalog and designs every issue of Friendscript.

Vicki Howie Joins Development Staff

The Library Office of Development and Public Affairs welcomes its new major gifts officer, U of I alumna Vicki Howie.

Prior to joining the development office, Ms. Howie was coordinator of continuing education at the Danville Area Community College.

Ms. Howie will be working with individual donors, foundations, and corporations regarding major gifts for the Library, as well as running the Library's telefund drives.

"As a graduate of the U of I, I know how great the university is," enthuses Ms. Howie. "That's why I would like to contribute as much as possible to upcoming fundraising drives and to make an impact on the university."
It's a Brave New Library World at the Physics/Astronomy Library

The Physics/Astronomy Library seems like just a plain, square, cinder-block room staffed by a librarian and clerks, populated by the usual compliment of faculty and students looking for a book or a journal. But something's not quite normal here. That book or journal they're looking for might or might not be in print form—maybe it's only available electronically, or maybe a combination of print, electronic form, and videotape, or maybe...

Welcome to the brave new world of libraries, where the computer world and the print world are literally colliding with each other.

"The major or current cutting-edge research undoubtedly is reported now through conferences and preprints, and that's being distributed over the Internet," explains unit head David Stern. "It's an amazing amount of material."

Preprints? Internet? What happened to the good, old-fashioned book you could curl up with under a tree?

For physicists and astronomers, the world of research apparently moves too quickly to wait for traditional forms of publication, according to Professor Stern.

"Some of these people are in areas that are so new that there is literally no time to put the information in a book," he says. "Sometimes the information is still proprietary, or perhaps it's not officially recognized in the archival literature. So, scientists put out 'preprints,' something they distribute among themselves before it would appear in a journal—or might never appear in a journal at all."

Luckily for physicists and astronomers, the Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory have become a sort of archives for all these technically non-published, but very important articles.

That means that researchers can find references to preprints through the worldwide computer network called the Internet. And if you're lucky enough to have an "X terminal" (actually an extremely high-powered computer terminal), you can retrieve the full text and its graphics through the World Wide Web network, which includes the Internet.

"It's a great research tool," enthuses Professor Stern. "A faculty member can set up his own profile and be notified of items that match his interests. You can request copies, if you want. And with some of these preprints, even if they are finally published, the final version may leave out a large chunk of data because it's too much to publish."

It is this latter phenomenon that has led to what you might call the multimedia journal—a journal that includes not just traditional pages, but also floppy disks or videotapes containing large datasets or graphics that are deemed not worth publishing in print form. Astrophysics Journal and Computer Physics Communications are only two of the journals that have embraced this concept.

Computers are even invading the area of preservation. "There are so many old journals and astronomy catalogs that are crumbling," explains Professor Stern, "and it was determined that something had to be done. So, some of them are being saved electronically as well as in print. There are so many different catalogs with the same kind of data, and now it's all being put into one computer in Strasbourg, France. Then, you can put in a term from any one of the catalogs and find information."

Despite this apparent invasion of computers and multimedia formats, some things never change—it's still what the librarian knows that sometimes saves the day.

"As you become more and more established and experienced in astronomy, it's almost required that you add your unique knowledge to the world of mysterious astronomical resources," confides Professor Stern. "There are some people who know in their heads more about astronomical material than you could ever find in books. So, if someone needs sixty years' worth of information from the observatory of the Côte d'Azur, for instance, someone mentions it to someone else, and it gets tracked down."

Books and printed journals, of course, still form the core of the Physics/Astronomy Library, no matter what the faculty and students may think.

"We of course have ready reference sources and our reserve collection of class textbooks, which for physics is used almost more than anything else," says Professor Stern. "And the classic texts of the early 1900s are as valid today as they were then. Everything in physics, as they say, builds on the 'shoulders of giants.'"

"And for all that the faculty may say that they never use books, an amazing number of them scan our lists of new acquisitions—they are aware and very interested in what is being published today."
From the Interim University Librarian

The great research libraries of the western world usually share three main characteristics. They have developed comprehensive collections in great depth representing the wealth of accumulated knowledge, they have created bibliographic tools in the form of catalogs and finding tools that make the collections accessible, and finally they have built facilities that provide adequate housing for the collections, staff, and users.

Housing great collections has been a difficult, but by no means trivial problem. It took Harvard from 1937 until the mid-1950s to develop the main elements of its library facilities. The British Library is just completing the replacement of its space in the British Museum. Located at St. Pancras Station, it comes at enormous cost even for a trimmed down version of the original plans. The New York Public Library recently completed a major expansion of its space by going underground below Bryant Park. Perhaps the most ambitious library building project to date is for the proposed Bibliothèque de France, a project surrounded by controversy from the moment it was announced by President Mitterand. Critics contend that the four major glass towers will cause a concentration of heat that would be devastating for library materials. The site chosen required the removal of some squatters, causing a public outcry. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that this facility will open in 1996 with some of the most advanced technologies known for identifying and handling library materials, including robot book movers, several million books in digitized format, and an interactive, animated public online catalog.

At the University Library at Urbana-Champaign, we too are facing the same challenges as these great institutions. We too will be able to concentrate on these fundamental elements in order to protect our great collections and to make them accessible to users. Throughout most of its history the Library has had an outstanding record of concentrating on the fundamentals. However, we are aware that we are severely overcrowded in the departmental libraries as well as in the main library. The new Grainger Engineering Library Information Center will provide some relief to several departmental libraries, but starting in 1994, we will be using temporary space to relieve some of the overcrowding in the main stacks until the proposed seventh stack addition has been completed. Although the priority on campus for this project has been improved we do not expect the authorization for funding before 1996.

A common question raised across the country is whether we need new library facilities at all when so many items are being made available in electronic formats. What this thinking ignores is that most new library facilities accommodate collections already owned. It is estimated that by the time the seventh stack addition is completed at Illinois it will already be half full. Moreover, the number of new printed publications unavailable in electronic format has only dropped slightly since the late 80s. A new special collections building to provide a better environment for the storage, exhibition, and use of rare and special materials is in the planning stages, as is a major renovation of the UIUC main library. By the end of this century it is likely that the Library will be a much more hospitable environment for materials, staff, and users.

The Library, of course, does not ignore the electronic. Our online catalog, ILLINET Online Plus (IO+), is one of the most popular in the nation, attracting more than 150,000 inquiries daily during the academic year. The size of our holdings and the amount of traffic in the use of our catalog present major programming problems for the campus' centralized software and hardware support unit, which maintains IO+. There are features that could assist users that are simply not available on our system. That is why planning is underway to determine the nature of the next generation of our online catalog. The Library will be recruiting a director of library systems this year to lead this effort. We expect to make a decision about new software for the online catalog, acquisitions, circulation, and other functions within the next year. Funding and implementing the recommendations will require several more years.

These developments at the UIUC Library give evidence of our commitment to the fundamental requirements of a great research library even as we move to expand that list with services and staffing that have been the outstanding traditional features of library services at the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

— Robert Wedgeworth
Interim University Librarian
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. Today, more than 3,000 Library Friends are dedicated to the support of the Library's collections and services.

Library Friends Board


Library Friends Board

YES, I/we wish to become members of U of I Library Friends.

- University Librarian's Council, $5000
- Life, $3000
- Benefactor, $1000
- Patron, $500
- Student, $10

Please make your check payable to UI Foundation/Library Annual Funds, P.O. Box 3429, Champaign, Illinois 61801-9916. All contributions are tax-deductible.

- Yes, I would like information about planned gifts.

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