ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Archives Receives $1 Million Gift

The Stewart S. Howe Foundation, an organization conceived for and dedicated solely to the welfare of fraternities, sororities, student life, and higher education, has been dissolved and its assets placed in the Stewart S. Howe Archival Program Endowment.

This addition, combined with the existing endowment, brings the fund to more than $1.5 million. It will be used to support the University Archives' massive collections on the fraternity and sorority movement, and student life and culture.

"This addition to the endowment gives our program a stronger economic base," says student life and culture archivist John Straw. "In particular, the Howe Foundation has realized the importance of the quickly changing world of technology. Its foresight in this regard creates many new opportunities for the collections, which now will have increased support to pursue all opportunities."

The Archives' collection on fraternities, sororities, and student life—the nation's largest—is a reflection of the fact that the U of I has had a very strong 'greek' tradition for more than 100 years (even today, one-quarter of the student body are members of a fraternity or sorority). Howe was a close friend of Fred H. Turner, former dean of students and a prominent figure in the fraternity world.

The collection is also a tribute to Stewart Howe and the Howe Foundation, long-time supporters and ambassadors for the U of I. Howe's association with the Archives began in 1967, when he gave a collection of U of I fraternity and sorority newsletters to the University Archives.

Following Howe's death in 1973, the Howe Foundation decided that the Archives should receive the rest of Howe's collection—more than 150 cubic feet (enough to fill 240 file drawers) of material dating from 1867 to the 1970s, including files on the fraternity movement and student life at more than 300 college and university campuses, books, journals, clippings, pledge manuals, histories, correspondence, and much more. This represented more than forty years of collecting by Howe, whose goal was to create a student-life collection larger than that of William Baird (creator of the authoritative reference manual on fraternities), held at the New York Public Library.

In 1989, the Howe Foundation established the Stewart S. Howe Archival Program Endowment at the U of I. It was created with a major grant, matching challenge-grant funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and funds previously donated to the Archives over the years by the Howe Foundation, bringing the total to more than $750,000.

The university, after a national search, selected Professor Straw to organize and administer the Howe and related collections.

The collection moved in 1991 from the University Archives' main Library location to more spacious quarters in the Archives Research Center, located in the former Horticulture Field Laboratory building.

Solicitations for new materials, which had essentially stopped with Howe's death, also began again among the nation's fraternities and sororities, with the help of the National Interfraternity Foundation and others. The student life and culture collections now exceed 350 cubic feet—enough to fill more than 630 file drawers.

Howe and the Howe Foundation were substantially responsible for securing other collections, including the papers of Clyde Johnson, Leland Publishers, and Wilson Heller. Within the past year, the national offices of the Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity and the Sigma Alpha Iota International music fraternity have donated their archives and are providing financial support.

"The collection is becoming widely recognized in the academic and fraternity world as a unique and valuable resource," says Professor Straw, "and it is drawing researchers from all over the country as well as Canada."

Stewart Howe received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the U of I in 1928. Shortly thereafter, he founded the Stewart Howe Alumni Service, Inc., (continued on page 2)
United Nations Documents About to Become More Accessible

One of the Library's best, but apparently least used, sources of international information is about to become more prominent and accessible.

This summer, the United Nations Collection will be moving from its old home in the Education and Social Science Library to the Documents Library. It's a move designed to increase the visibility of a collection that contains immense amounts of information on everything from world-wide cotton production to nuclear disarmament.

"The publications of organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and other international organizations not only provide some of the most reliable, affordable, and readily available sources on issues of international concern, but in many instances they publish the only sources that meet these criteria," says Assistant Documents Librarian David Griffiths. "We want people to know that if they have a project that involves statistics or international affairs during the last half-century, we have information that will be important to their research."

The Library has been a full U.N. depository since the United Nations' founding in 1946. Among the thousands of items received each year at the proceedings of all major U.N. bodies, such as the General Assembly and Security Council, reports issued by major committees and their staffs, and the hundreds of serials produced by the organization.

"The number-one thing these serials provide is economic data," says Professor Griffiths, "but they also cover natural resources, vital statistics, arms control, human rights—I could go on and on."

So why is it that even faculty engaged in research on international topics generally don't seem to be aware of this wealth of information?

Before the late 1980s, the answer would have been that most of the material was not cataloged.

Since the late 1980s, however, all of the most heavily used documents, and nearly all of the important serials, have been cataloged. That covers about two-thirds of the collection, but it still hasn't solved the problem entirely.

"Take an elucidating title like Research Papers, published by the U.N. Institute for Disarmament Research," says archivist Elizabeth Cardman, who worked with the documents several years ago when she was a librarian in the Education and Social Science Library. "You could find that title in the catalog, but a specific title in the series might be 'Access to Outer Space Technologies.' If a patron came in with that specific title, the catalog wouldn't help. We'd have to backtrack through the U.N. index to discover it's Research Paper #15 with a classification number of UNIDIR/92/77. Then we could find it on the shelf."

What about the other third of the material that's not cataloged at all?

"You can't just browse around and find what you want," explains Education and Social Science library technical specialist Indra Aggarwal, who has specialized in these documents for years. "First you have to check the index to find out if something is on paper, microfiche, or microcard. You have to find if it's an official record or a periodical. Then you have to come to me or someone at the reference desk because I have the check-in file."

According to Professor Griffiths, the move to the Documents Library should simplify matters tremendously. "First of all, we are basically the place for statistics in the Library," he explains. "The Documents Library and the Reference Library already have more statistics than most of the other library units put together. So, the addition of dozens of U.N. statistical publications will make the Documents Library an even better source of statistics."

"But even beyond that, in terms of cataloging, I plan to create entries for the online catalog for items that currently can only be accessed through the U.N.'s CD-ROM index, such as reports on the current situation in Haiti. More and more people are doing remote searching through the online catalog. If someone were doing research on this topic, they obviously would want to check these documents, but right now they wouldn't know about them unless they used the CD-ROM index."

In addition to moving three cabinets of microfiche and dozens of shelves of published materials to the Documents Library, Professor Griffiths also plans to move major reference tools now in the stacks to the Documents Library.

One of his long-term dreams is to acquire other U.N. documents that are not readily available in any format. As a start, he hopes to make a personal trip to Guatemala to meet with personnel at the U.N. Mission there to discuss the acquisition of these kinds of materials. "I would love to have this place become a depository for those things," he says.
**NEH-funded Program Makes Newspapers Accessible Worldwide**

Suppose you were studying the early history of Illinois and needed first-hand information on Decatur or Ivesdale. Finding a newspaper like *The Democratic Herald* from 1857 or the *Ivesdale Item* from 1893 would be a godsend—if only you knew they existed, let alone knew where to find them.

Patrons of the Library's Newspaper Library, or anyone who knows to look at the Newspaper Library's home page, could find out instantly that the unit has the only known copies of these early titles.

For everyone else, however, these titles, as well as the unit's more than 13,000 others, might as well not exist at the Library because until a few weeks ago, none of them could be found through either the Library's own online catalog or any international bibliographic database.

All that is changing now, thanks to the Library's participation in the National Endowment for the Humanities' U.S. Newspaper Project. A fifty-state initiative, the program's goal is to make the country's many collections of U.S. newspapers accessible to users by cataloging them, entering the information into the OCLC international bibliographic database, and preserving them through microfilming where necessary.

"For a long time, the NEH has felt that newspapers are an important source for the academic community and an important cultural resource for researchers all over the country," says Sharon Clark, head of the Library's Automated Services Unit and local project director. "That's because newspapers are a primary source for research, so they need to be preserved, documented, and cataloged so that people will know where they can get ahold of them."

For the state of Illinois, cataloging began in 1989, when several catalogers were hired to process the newspaper collections of the Chicago Historical Society and the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. But it was two years earlier that the Springfield project staff put out a call throughout the downstate area to determine what other collections needed to be done.

That's when they found that the *Newspaper Library* not only had the state's largest collection of U.S. and foreign newspapers, but probably the largest newspaper collection of any American university. They wisely decided that once they finished work in Springfield, they needed to move themselves to Urbana to process the U.S. component of the Newspaper Library's collection rather than try to catalog such a massive amount of titles long-distance from Springfield.

That took place in mid-1995, when senior project cataloger Tamara Kuhn and assistant cataloger Tracy Fletcher packed up their newspaper "family trees" and settled in just off the Library's main circulation area. They expect to spend the next two- and-a-half years cataloging approximately 4,700 of the Newspaper Library's U.S. titles.

To someone who's never had to deal with newspaper history, that may sound like a mind-numbing task, but these catalogers know better—they've become historical detectives on the tracks of sometimes outlandish suspects. Without their careful sleuthing, researchers would be totally helpless in the face of newspapers that may have changed names dozens of times due to mergers or buyouts over a hundred-year history.

"We've found publications that would change a title every few months," laughs Professor Fletcher about her hunt through history. "It's amazing what some of these newspapers would do for attention."

To document these changes, the catalogers examine at least one issue of each newspaper for every year of its existence. If the title lasts for at least a year, the title gets its own bibliographic record; if the title has changed, they backtrack to find the date of the name change. With this information, they construct a "family tree" documenting the sometimes tortuous lineage of each newspaper.

"I think the largest number of name changes we came across while we were in Springfield was for the family line of the *Chicago Today*," says Professor Kuhn. "It had sixty-seven names since it was started back in 1852 due to changes, mergers, or absorptions. Closer to home the Champaign-Urbana *News-Gazette* went through seventeen titles since its beginning in 1852.

"That's why we started making these 'family trees' to keep track of the buyouts and mergers. We knew these would be a backbone for our work here, so we packed them up and brought them with us. Otherwise, we'd be lost right now!"

Currently, the project staff works solely with newspapers on microfilm (paper versions will come later), which makes the work relatively easy. "If there's only one reel of film, I can catalog four titles in a day," says Professor Fletcher. "The *Springfield State Journal Register*, though, was 2000 reels—that took me four weeks! After I finished that, I couldn't face another reel, so I did current titles for awhile to avoid total burnout."

In addition to entering the cataloging information into the OCLC international bibliographic database, the project is preparing the separate entries needed to include the information on the Library's own online catalog, which is the mainstay of the statewide online catalog.

The fact that the Library insists on Dewey classification has had its impact on the way the project staff does its work.

"Traditionally, we have not cataloged the daily newspapers here," notes Professor Clark, the project director. "The NEH support, however, has enabled us to catalog them for the first time with a classification scheme emphasizing geographic breakdowns. By giving them a classification number, it enables users to do a computerized 'shelf-list search,' which brings together the newspapers by region. Because the newspaper microfilms don't physically sit on the same shelves as books, this provides a great way to browse by subject even though a sizable number of items are on microfilm."

All of which means that research for primary source material in American history is about to become significantly easier.

"Since the Newspaper Library has one of the largest collections in the United States, it's unfortunate that its holdings haven't been accessible in some way online," comments Professor Fletcher, "so it's really satisfying to see these records appear on the Library's online catalog."

The unique *Ivesdale Item* and the *Prairie Farmer* are two of the more than 4,000 newspaper titles to be cataloged by the U.S. Newspaper Project.
What's a High School Library Doing at a University? Read On...

Not far from the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center, tucked away on the second floor of a gothic-style building, is a cozy little 12,000-volume University Library unit.

Browse the shelves and you'll find such titles as the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, but also titles like What Teenagers Want to Know About Sex. Come at any time of the day, and you'll find that virtually all the users are teenagers between the ages of 12 and 18.

This could only be describing one place—the Library's University Laboratory High School Library. As the unit serving the university's experimental high school, its primary mission is to collect materials appropriate for an advanced curriculum for eighth- through twelfth-graders.

"We're very focused on the curriculum, with the usual attention paid to the recreational reading interests of adolescents," says Library head Frances Jacobson. "So, we not only have a very strong science and social science collection, reflecting the needs of our teachers, but also a large collection of fiction paperbacks, and magazines like Glamour and Seventeen. And, of course, we have access to all eight-million books in the entire University Library."

University High School students, in fact, are the only persons in Illinois under the age of 18 who have full borrowing privileges at the University Library which, according to Professor Jacobson, can be a mixed blessing for these teens.

"We don't have our own catalog for our books," she explains. "Technically, if one of our students wants to find something in our collection, they have to search online through all eight-million to find our 12,000.

"I remember, during my first year here, trying to help some Russian I students find some information on Siberia, and all we came up with were books in Russian from the Slavic and East European Library! We eventually found the items from our own library, but I learned quickly that this was not an appropriate situation for a high school."

That problem has since been fixed with the creation of a local database, but having the collection included in the Library's online catalog has had the benefit of making Professor Jacobson's distinctive collection accessible to more than just the high-school's approximately three-hundred students.

Not surprisingly, students from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science visit to see a working collection aimed specifically toward the young-adult audience, but there are others as well.

"We get a number of professors on campus looking for books written at a different level, particularly people in the sciences who are interested in our general science collection," explains Professor Jacobson. "We have a pretty good collection of science-fair stuff, for instance, which they find helpful to them.

"Undergraduates also tend to visit us because they use the same sorts of things we have here, especially term-paper material, and our magazine collection tends to be more intact than the collection at the Undergraduate Library. Also, undergraduates who come from small communities seem to feel more comfortable here."

There is another, more important, similarity between the high schoolers and undergraduates, though—a strong need to learn how to use and evaluate the worth of the new information technologies. That's why Professor Jacobson has embarked on an ambitious program designed not only to teach University High School students how to use these technologies, but more importantly, how to improve their critical-thinking skills.

"Library skills with our youngest students [eighth-graders] is not just one week at the beginning of school," she says. "I work with them as part of their science class. Their teacher has them select a cutting-edge topic, which they must follow for the entire year. They learn how to find background information, which teaches them how to use reference materials and to understand the context. Then they must use the periodical literature and follow the progress. It helps them to show the natural ebb and flow, the serendipitous nature, of science—that it's not a neat pattern."

Beyond this, however, Professor Jacobson also teaches the information-handling portion of a required computer literacy course. It's a course that's designed to teach students to look critically at information, whether it's in print or on the World Wide Web.

"I address the need to be aware of using the controlled vocabulary of traditional indexes and catalogs," she explains. "In their science course, my cutting-edge example had been the transplantation of baboon organs to humans. In library terms, that's xenotransplantation, which is not exactly your normal dinner-table vocabulary. But once you know the term, then you know that other libraries and indexes will be similar—you've unlocked a piece of the puzzle."

"But when you go on the Web and use the search engines, things are very different—very independent and entrepreneurial. The funniest way to teach this is to highlight the advertisements, which is the chief way the search engines are subsidized. The students learn the library equivalent would be finding that every fifth card in a card catalog is an ad."

"And they learn that every search engine works in a different way, that there's no author control or subject headings. When you put in a search term like 'dinosaurs,' you might come up with a Barney page. Even if it's an astonishingly great Barney page, it probably is not what you're really looking for—you must evaluate. So, suddenly, teaching subject headings has become a lot sexier."

So what do today's teens think of print-versus-electronic formats? The answer can
be found in a recent assignment in which students had to compare and contrast the print and CD-ROM versions of an encyclopedia.

"It was interesting how many of them didn't notice that the text was exactly the same in both versions," laughs Professor Jacobson, "and what some people saw as a disadvantage, others saw as an advantage. For instance, some said the electronic version was better because you could just click and print, but others said the print version was better because you could just photocopy what you needed. What some of them did catch was that it depends on your needs as to which is better."

Professor Jacobson has written articles about technology use at school libraries throughout the country, and she is editing an upcoming issue of Library Trends dealing with children and digital libraries ("I'm probably the only high school librarian who has to publish or perish," she chuckles about her U of I faculty status). That should be good news to school librarians across the country.

"I think it's absolutely within a library's domain to do this kind of teaching," she states emphatically. "It's also where most school libraries want to go, because when you teach these critical thinking skills, you teach the students to form a strategy, and when students can articulate a strategy, they are giving themselves the mental scaffolding necessary for synthesizing information and producing a sound product. It's one of the most important things a librarian can teach."

From the University Librarian

Recently the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Communications Decency Act, which passed as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is unconstitutional. Among the plaintiffs in the case against the United States was the American Library Association.

The U.S. library community has had a longstanding interest in matters dealing with the free flow of information to the American people. It has fought against censorship of library materials. It has fought to limit copyright restrictions on access to information for educational purposes. It has also fought to have the freedoms given to the distribution of printed materials extended to the distribution of electronic materials.

The issues of freedom of access to information become very complex with respect to the electronic communications media. This was made apparent during the Congressional deliberations on the Communications Decency Act. The major controversy triggered by the Act was its provision for criminal penalties that could be assessed against individuals and/or organizations that engage in the transmission of "indecent" materials to minors. Typical third parties could be operators of computer networks, including schools and universities. Perhaps, a look at this Act from the perspective of the University Library might be helpful.

The University Library is part of a statewide network of libraries serving over 3,000 libraries throughout the state of Illinois. Through its online, computer-based catalog, users from any library in the state can request materials from other participating libraries, which are delivered by van to the local library. In the process of physically handling materials, libraries in schools and public libraries are able to counsel minors on materials borrowed from other libraries in terms of its appropriateness for their age and level of maturity. However, increasingly, the same network that distributes printed materials throughout the state will deliver electronic materials. For example, online editions of the Encyclopaedia Britannica and World Book Encyclopedia are widely available. Contracts for the delivery of the texts of magazines and journals have just been negotiated by the State Library, which will be available throughout the state.

Race, religion, sex, violence, and politics have always been sources of controversy with respect to what should be available to the public. What one individual or group might call "indecent" may be considered acceptable or even desirable by another. This is evident in the frequent textbook controversies in the public schools. At one time or another such literary classics as Animal Farm by George Orwell or Of Mice and Men, by William Steinbeck have been the subjects of attack by persons or groups seeking to protect the public from ideas deemed by them to be undesirable or even dangerous.

Privacy laws in Illinois and the protection of the First Amendment to the Constitution prevent online systems from monitoring the behavior of users of computer-system networks without legal authorization. To place teachers and librarians in jeopardy for the transmission of materials that may be considered "indecent" was considered by the Supreme Court to be an excessive act of government interference in the affairs of private citizens, even if the object was to protect minors.

Illinois libraries and librarians have an outstanding record of thoughtful and ethical service to the state. A law such as the Communications Decency Act can be considered unnecessary given the more than adequate protection of current state laws. It is harmful in terms of the potential effect of possibly closing off services for fear of possible prosecution of teachers and librarians.

—Robert Wedgeworth

Quotables

"While I was attending the University, I realized that the Library was a tremendous resource and I used it often for both personal and educational needs. But I did not realize how great a resource it was until I got out in the real world. My career has taken me to many campuses. I thought all libraries would be comparable, especially those at large universities. Not so. The University of Illinois has the finest library I have ever used. No exceptions. I hope students, parents, and other constituents learn this."

—F. Michael Wilkins

Class of '68, '72
Photographs, Playbills, and Posters Document 50 Years of U of I Theater

What do Oscar-winning director Ang Lee, television producer Michael Fileerman, and legendary *New Yorker* editor and author William Maxwell all have in common?

They all can be found in photographs from the U of I theater department's extensive documentation of student productions since the 1890s.

Now this extensive file of material, which includes photographs, slides, playbills, posters, and even some ticket-sale records, has been transferred to the University Archives, where it joins other documentation concerning the Department of Theatre.

"This isn't just some tremendous quantity of photos dumped into boxes—each one is marked on the back with the date and name of the performance," says Interim University Archivist William Maher. "Someone has really taken good care of this material for over fifty years. And it fits in nicely with several of our other collections, particularly the papers of Charles Shattuck, who was a world-famous Shakespearean theater scholar" (see the Summer 1993 *Friendscript*).

Included in the collection are nearly 11 cubic feet of photographic prints and negatives, 6 cubic feet of programs and posters, and more than 10,000 slides from 1939 to the 1970s. Except for the playbills from the 1890s to 1916, which are arranged chronologically, everything is arranged alphabetically, making it easy to compare productions of the same play over several decades.

"Looking just at the photos, you can see how costumes changed, especially in the Shakespeare productions," notes graduate assistant Elliot Wilczek, who processed the collection. "Back in the '40s, for instance, almost every Shakespeare production tried to have a true Shakespearean set or Elizabethan set, whereas later productions tended to get away from that. On the other hand, some of the plays from the '30s and '40s had what I thought were some pretty wild costumes!"

Those interested in the history of graphic design also will find this collection useful, especially with its ability to provide samples of playbills for the same play over a period of decades. And for those interested in the popularity of the plays themselves, there is the information on which were most popular over a long period of time.

"Some plays were performed three and four times, and others that you'd think would be put on a lot, weren't," says Mr. Wilczek. "I was sort of surprised, for instance, that Macbeth seems only to have been done once."

And at least one play appears to have caused a bit of controversy—the 1976 production of *The Knack* (and How to Get It).

"This weekend's fare...has to be the epitome of tastelessness, bad timing, and misogyny," states a petition to the theater department, filed with the play's playbook. "...Obviously, it is this type of propaganda that keeps more rapes from being reported...and makes the job of rape crisis centers necessary and hard to do."

The collection also turned up technical information about one campus building that even the University Archives didn't know—details concerning construction of the theater in Lincoln Hall, found in the playbook for the first production performed there in 1928.

Like many papers added to the Archives' collections, this one might not have come over at all had it not been for circumstances beyond the control of the collection's original owner.

"These came because the campus was knocking down the theater annex, where they had a little reference department, and they had to evacuate by December," explains Assistant Archivist Liz Cardman. "So, Cindy Hall, who kept this in beautiful order and maintained these wonderful lists of every-

thing the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts had put on, called us in a panic. It probably would have been awhile before these came to us otherwise."

As for those famous alumni's student productions? Ang Lee performed in *Tuesday* in 1978, Michael Fileerman played Malachi Stack in the 1973 production of *The Matchmaker*, and William Maxwell played the First Lord of the Bedchamber in the 1929 production of *Beggars on Horseback* (the first production at Lincoln Hall). Photos from all three productions are now available in the University Archives.

"The Library is Looking for..." Gets Responses

Over the past twelve months, the Library has received twelve very generous gifts prompted by requests from our popular *The Library is Looking for...* column. Our grateful thanks go to the following donors: (Summer 1995 issue): Stan and Joan Levy, Voting Records of the British House of Commons, 1761-1820, for the History Library; Haydn H. Murray, 7th International Congress of the International Association of Engineering Geology, for the Geology Library; Craig and Diane Hays, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Semiotics*, for the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library; Florence Dunbar, HP Laserjet 5MP printer for the Veterinary Medicine Library; Cheryl Ewing, *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, vol. 1-3, for the Biology Library; Lois Bamber, Pharmacognosy, Phytochemistry, Medicinal Plants for the Biology Library.


The Library is Looking for...

$588 to purchase Arab-Israeli Relations: A Collection of Recent Essays for the Jewish Studies Collection. This 10-volume set includes information on the historical predicament of Jews, reality of Israel's existence in the Middle East, the varying outlooks among both Arabs and Jews, and the changes that have occurred since 1948.

Funds to purchase the International Encyclopedia of Sociology, edited by Frank Magill. This comprehensive new work covers all aspects of sociology and related disciplines. Cost is $299.

$448.75 to purchase The Olympic Century: The Official 1st Century History of the Modern Olympic Movement, 1896-1996 for the Applied Life Studies Library. This 25-volume, full-color scholarly work is considered to be the most definitive history of the Olympic movement.

$130 to purchase Marcantonio Franceschini and the Liechtensteins: Prince Johann Adam Andreas and the Decoration of the Liechtenstein Garden Palace at Rossau-Vienna for the City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library. This is an important historical work on landscape gardening.

Also for the unit, $110 to purchase the new edition of Statistical Record of the Environment, which contains information and analysis on topics such as land use, wildlife and habitat, energy, toxic and hazardous substances, politics, and law.

Funds to purchase Encyclopedia of African-American culture and History for the Afro-Americana Bibliographic Unit. This is an extremely useful, 5-volume work needed for immediate use by the unit's patrons. Cost is $425.

Funds to increase the intellectual control of the personal papers of early U of I presidents for the University Archives. Already, the increased intellectual control of the papers of Edmund J. James, Andrew S. Draper, and David Kinley has uncovered significant correspondents. Cost to continue this work is $200 for each year of correspondence.

Kolb-Proust Archive for Research Part of New Digital Initiative

The Kolb-Proust Archive for Research has been included in a $195,000 grant from the office of the vice-chancellor for research that will fund the project's work through June 1998.

The proposal, entitled Models for Networked Research in the Humanities, also includes a project from U of I French professor David Kibbee to digitize the eight editions of the Dictionnaire de l'Academie Francaise and a project from U of I sociologist professor Robert Jones to digitize the works of turn-of-the-century French sociologist Emile Durkheim.

The resulting three-pronged project, says Modern Languages and Linguistics Librarian Thomas Kilton, fulfills one of the original goals of the Kolb-Proust Archive for Research.

"From almost the very beginning, we had envisioned that the Kolb-Proust Archive would create a database that would include not just Proust materials, but also materials about French intellectual life at the turn of the century," says Professor Kilton. "That whole period was a sort of peak of artistic energy-Auguste Rodin and Gabriele Fauré come to mind immediately—and Proust corresponded with nearly all of them. That's the impetus for this new project."

For the Proust portion of the grant, the new funds will cover everything from personnel to digitization of the published letters of Proust. The goal is to create a searchable, full-text database that would also include bibliographical information about Proust and other intellectuals of the time.

Ultimately, Professor Kilton hopes to mount the resulting database on the World Wide Web, if problems concerning copyright can be solved. "The French publisher is worried about copyright. Failing that, we hope to at least receive permission to use the resulting database solely in the Kolb-Proust Archive."

The handwritten notes of the late professor Philip Kolb, which contain valuable cross-reference material about all of Proust's correspondents, have been undergoing digitization in the project office since 1995.

The Kolb-Proust Archive for Research was established in 1994 following the death of professor Philip Kolb, who had edited twenty-one volumes of Proust's correspondence and was considered the world's preeminent Proust scholar. It received its initial grants in that year from the University's Advanced Information Technology Group, an interdisciplinary group now headquartered at the Library that is dedicated to using sophisticated computer technologies for the humanities.

In November 1995, the Georges Lurcy Charitable and Educational Trust provided a $10,000 fellowship for the project.

The Archive contains his mountain of notes and cross-references, thousands of photocopies of Proust correspondence, and Kolb's own books and journals. In addition, the Library owns approximately 1,140 pieces of original Proust correspondence, making it the largest repository of original Proust material in the world.

Library Friends on the World Wide Web

Library Friends is coming soon to the World Wide Web, with information about Library Friends and the University Library, as well as short articles about current exhibits and other news of the Library. Check us out at www.grainger.uiuc.edu/library/friends/ And, as always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

An example of the copious, handwritten notations of the late Proust scholar Philip Kolb. Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947) was a composer, singer, and musician who was a very close friend of Proust.
Calendar

EXHIBITS

August

“United Nations Documents.”
Main Corridor

“Video for Courses Around Campus.”
Media Center, Undergraduate Library

“Hispanic Prose in the First Century of Printing: An Exhibit of Early Modern Hispanic Literature.” Rare Book and Special Collections Library

“History of the Modern Olympics.”
University Archives

September

“Alpha Tau Omega and Other Fraternal Groups.”
Main Corridor

“Video for Courses Around Campus.”
Media Center, Undergraduate Library

“Hispanic Prose in the First Century of Printing: An Exhibit of Early Modern Hispanic Literature.” Rare Book and Special Collections Library

“John Bardeen, Two-time Nobel Prize Winner in Physics.”
University Archives

October

“Allerton Park.”
Main Corridor

“French-Canadian Literature.”
Mueller Exhibit Case

The Benefits of Membership

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