ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Library Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Campus Landmark

The Library celebrated a special anniversary June 14—the 100th anniversary of the first building on campus constructed specifically for the Library, the building now known as Altgeld Hall.

To celebrate the event, the Library sponsored two talks, one on the history of the building and one regarding the future of librarianship, as well as a reception at Altgeld Hall in the ornate central reference area of what is now the Mathematics Library.

"Like Altgeld Hall, the entire Library system has evolved into a campus landmark, providing far more services than anyone could have imagined 100 years ago," said Chancellor Michael Aiken as he introduced the speakers. "...Congratulations to everyone who makes this Library a crown jewel of the University of Illinois."

Few people today know that when the University decided to construct its new Library Hall, the intention was not just to build a library, but to build an edifice that would show the world that the University of Illinois was more than a "cow college." The impetus for this came from none other than the state's governor, John Peter Altgeld (1847-1902).

"[Altgeld] made a conscious decision to serve as the John D. Rockefeller for the University of Illinois," said David J. Garner, assistant director of the U of I's Office of Facility Planning and Management, during his talk on the history and architecture of Altgeld Hall.

"In 1891, Rockefeller gave a $25 million endowment to start the University of Chicago. The only difference between the two men is that Altgeld used public funds instead of private funds to build a quality public institution that would carry forth liberal learning to all people."

It so happened that Altgeld was not only a passionate supporter of higher education, but also of building buildings, especially in what was called the Tudor-Gothic style featuring "a German castellated style of architecture." When the U of I's Board of Trustees originally voted for a classical design for the Library, submitted by noted Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, Altgeld suggested that U of I faculty members try to create a design acceptable to him instead.

That's exactly what Professors Nathan C. Ricker and James White did. "(They) designed the building with compromise in mind," Mr. Garner told the audience. "Their 'modern Romanesque' solution certainly was not classical nor was it Tudor-Gothic, but the walls do have some resemblance of a castellated armory."

It is the interior, designed by Newton A. Wells, that was—and, in many cases, still is—truly eye-catching. The original rotunda, with its stained-glass, domed ceiling and suspended skylight and colonnaded arcades, portrait medallions, patterned wall designs, and mural decorations, was inspired by the grand court of the Berlin Royal Polytechnikum, where Ricker had studied.

Most outstanding, however, are the four murals found in the lunettes below the domed ceiling, depicting the University's four colleges at the time—Literature and Arts, Agriculture, Science, and Engineering.

The glass dome was replaced by a covered dome during the 1920s; part of the large main vestibule was walled off during an extensive remodeling in 1956.

"It is my opinion that Altgeld hall is the most important structure on campus, as it remains the symbolic landmark that once housed the Library," said Mr. Garner. "The features which have been 'lost' should be restored to the splendor they deserve. Everything about this building is awaiting cleaning and restoration and should be the campus' highest priority."

(continued pg. 3)
From the University Librarian

During the recently concluded academic year the campus has completed plans for a major budgetary reform. Led by the provost, Larry Faulkner, it will be much in discussion by the faculty and staff as it goes into effect this fall. Since many Library Friends will be hearing about it in the coming months, I thought it would be appropriate to give an overview of budget reform at Urbana and its implications for the Library.

Budget reform has as its primary objective to rationalize how academic units are funded. The principal sources of funding for the campus are general revenues allocated by the State, gifts, research grants and their associated indirect costs, fees, and revenues from services rendered.

Currently, the colleges propose budgets to the provost and the provost approves a level of funding for each college, including the Library, based on its proposal and the funds available to meet requests. Gifts, grants, fees and revenues from services go directly to the colleges. Colleges receive only a portion of the indirect costs for research grants, the balance goes to the campus for research administration, including a portion to the University Library.

Under budget reform, the colleges will receive a percentage of the tuition representing students enrolled in their programs. They will also receive directly all gifts, grants, fees, revenues from services and 100 percent of the indirect costs for research. Administrative service units of the campus, like facilities maintenance, will propose budgets and receive funding based on the services they provide to the academic units.

The University Library was recommended to receive special treatment by the advisory group that helped develop the budget reform plan (Budget Strategies Committee). The Library would receive its budget based on proposals to the provost. The provost agreed with the recommendation but declined to designate the Library as a "special funding unit". He pointed out that the Library, by the statutes of the University, is a "college," and to the extent possible, will be treated as an academic unit. Except for the direct allocation of general revenues instead of part tuition as with the other colleges, the Library will be treated as other colleges.

As with all complex reform plans, the details have yet to be understood in their entirety. What is clear, however, is that all colleges, including the Library, will have to develop performance indicators against which performance will be assessed each year. Two advisory bodies will assist the provost. One will advise on academic program budgets and assist with the assessment of their performance, the other will advise on the budgets of administrative units including assessment of their performance.

One of the major benefits of the system is that there will be a definite budgetary cycle that will assist in planning on an orderly basis. Also, how funds are allocated to the various colleges will be more clearly understood. There is no suggestion that this will lead to more funding. However, the assessment process is intended to provide incentives for improving performance. We will report later on the initial impact of the new budgetary system.

—Robert Wedgeworth

Mortenson Center and Soros Foundation Join to Create Literacy Program in Haiti

The Library’s Mortenson Center for International Library Programs has received a grant from the Soros Foundation/Open Society Institute’s Regional Library Program to help create a country-wide literacy and library program for Haiti.

The grant is in conjunction with the Soros Foundation’s office in Haiti, Fondasyon Konesans & Libite (FOKAL). It is supplemented with funds from the Mortenson Center itself.

The one-year project, set to start in September, will bring four Haitians to the University Library to increase their knowledge of librarianship and literacy programs so that they can develop training workshops for their colleagues in Haiti upon their return home.

"Free and effective access to information by students, scholars, businessmen, and the general public is a fundamental precondition of a democratic society," says Mortenson Center director Marianna Tax Choldin. "Since Haiti suffers from an illiteracy rate of more than 80 percent, education is a crucial first step in changing society, and libraries provide a natural forum for education and literacy programs."

During their three-month stay at the University Library, the Haitian team will not only attend seminars on library issues, such as automation, intellectual freedom, fundraising, and the like, but also spend much of the time as interns at a local public library, at a local grade-school library, and at a local literacy program. They will also attend workshops to learn training skills and to develop the workshops they plan to present when they return to Haiti.

Prior to arriving in Urbana, as part of the project, the team will attend the International Federation of Library Associations convention in Copenhagen to meet and share experiences with other librarians from around the world.

The project builds on the success of similar programs created through the Mortenson Center in Russia and Ukraine. Explains Professor Choldin, "Our underlying philosophy, as much as possible, has been to empower librarians of a country to interact with their colleagues in their own language, rather than have Americans telling them how to do things. This particular venture will be unique because of its strong literacy component."
Unforgettable Visits, Excellent Weather, Highlight Friends Literary Tour of Britain

More than a week of sunny weather, spectacular flowers, and unforgettable visits are the legacy of the most recent Library Friends literary tour of England, held this past April.

Twenty Library Friends visited eight sites, including Wordsworth's last home, the Bronte parsonage, and the house associated with Shakespeare's "dark lady." Several of the sites were not open at the time to the general public.

"The real highlight for me, and for many of the others on the tour, was our stop at Rydal Mount, William Wordsworth's last home," says Joan M. Hood, the Library's director of development and public affairs. "We were there after the grounds had been closed to regular visitors and were taken to Wordsworth's living room. There we had a poetry reading by Wordsworth's great-great-great-grandson, Christopher Wordsworth Andrew. To sit in Wordsworth's own chair, his great grandson, Christopher Wordsworth Andrew, in his Brantwood study. From John Ruskin and the Victorian Eye, Richer Library of Architecture and Art.

Altgeld Hall
(continued)

Those interested in more information on the art and architecture of Altgeld Hall may wish to consult U of I Art Professor Muriel Scheinman's master's thesis, Altgeld Hall, the Original Library Building at the University of Illinois: Its History, Architecture, and Art, available at the University Archives. Those with Internet access can view images of this remarkable building at www.math.uiuc.edu/Library/history/images/

Michael Gorman, dean of library services at California State University, Fresno, and director of general services at the U of I Library from 1977 to 1988, also spoke on "Concentric Circles: Society, Learning, Libraries, and Cataloging.

In his talk, Mr. Gorman reminded librarians of the unique mission placed on them as the keepers of the written record of humankind. It is a mission, he contended, that is becoming endangered by electronic information technologies because it is causing us to lose sight of the difference between information and knowledge.

Information, in his definition, is "facts, data, images, and short, discrete text that can be used alone." This, he agreed, is particularly well-suited to being stored and made accessible via electronic means.

Knowledge, on the other hand, is "complex, sequential, and discursive." Stated Mr. Gorman, "Behind the hype about the transformational power of electronic technology and various multimedia gimmickry lies the inescapable fact that at the end of the day, recorded knowledge in the form of text must be studied and read... [Electronic technology] is an inefficient delivery system in the case of long, detailed text and must be judged as such."

The rush to information technologies also has endangered the very existence for posterity of vast amounts of knowledge currently being published because media such as computers or CD-ROMs, have already become and will continue to become obsolete at a dizzying rate.

The solution to this problem, he said, is to preserve important electronic records on acid-neutral paper. Mr. Gorman also advocated using current cataloging procedures to reduce the chaos that currently reigns on the Internet.

Librarians, he said, are uniquely suited to solving this problem. "We have made the efficiency of bibliographic control available to all, and we stand poised to bring electronic documents into that grand scheme. Let there be no mistake—if librarians do not rise to the occasion, successive generations will know less and have access to less for the first time in human history. This is not a challenge from which we can shrink, or a mission in which we can fail."

The Library is Looking for...

Funds to purchase T'ai-wan ying hsia li-shih hsii lih (A Collection of the Visual History of Taiwan) for the Asian Library. This 10-volume set, covering 1717-1945, was compiled by historians, anthropologists, social scientists, etc., and contains more than 3,000 photos, including old maps, land contracts, classics, aboriginals, etc. Cost is $880.

$785 to purchase the 1989 USSR Census on CD-ROM for the Slavic and East European Library. The complete 1989 USSR Population Census, translated into English, is an invaluable reference tool that includes over 200 tables of critical demographic data with a user-friendly interface featuring a geographic name converter to aid researchers with the numerous place-name changes since 1989.

$900 to purchase the Colf Microfiche Library of All 50 State Industrial Directories, 1997/98 edition, for the Commerce Library. This is the only comprehensive source the Library has that can identify businesses by all 50 states. It also provides product, zip code, and city Indexing. The Library's present copy is five years old.

Funds to purchase Twentieth-Century America: A Primary Source Collection from The Associated Press for the University Laboratory High School Library. This 10-volume set includes over a million words of wire-service reportage and more than 1000 photographs. In particular, it offers insights into how events are recorded or misrecorded, and how our interpretation of the world is shaped by the writing of journalists. Cost is $349.

Funds to purchase the facsimile edition of Libro de Marco Polo: Ejemplar anotado por Cristobal Colon for the Latin American Library Services. This edition, prepared for the General Archives of the Indies of Seville from the original 1493 work, contains six maps related to Columbus' voyage of 1492 as well as two personal maps of the Catholic kings. Cost is $899.

$575 to purchase Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists) International, 16th ed.) on CD-ROM for the Agriculture Library. The unit's paper copy is heavily used by patrons; the CD-ROM version will provide more powerful searching capabilities and quick connections to other references.

To donate any of the items mentioned above, please contact Sharon Kitze, director of development, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217)333-5683.
Quotables

"When Library Friends began twenty-five years ago, I had no idea what to expect. I just knew that the Library had been very important to me—in fact, the absolute Number One priority for me—so I decided I'd like to do what I could for the new organization. Of course, I'm immensely pleased by how Library Friends has developed. Not surprisingly, Library Friends appeals to people who want to help provide books and journals, and even technology, to the Library. And, through Library Friends, you can give to a specific unit of the Library that matters most to you. That's a very important point. I've never regretted joining for a moment."

—Ralph Fisher
Professor Emeritus of Russian History,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
President, Library Friends

Asian Library Wins Grant from Japan Foundation

For the third time in six years, the Library's Asian Library has won a major grant from the Japan Foundation.

The grant of two million yen, equivalent to approximately $18,000, comes from the Japan Foundation's program to promote understanding and research on Japan through the donation of either books or funds to purchase books. Based on the proposal made by the Asian Library, the books will deal with issues of Japanese ethnic national identity (minzokushugi).

"The Japan Foundation grant is an important one for me, for the University, and for North American researchers on Japan," says Kevin Doak, U of I professor of Japanese studies. "It will put the U of I on the map as the leading collection in North America, and perhaps even anywhere outside Japan, for materials on Japanese ethnic national identity."

According to the head of the Asian Library, Karen Wei, the University Library was one of a handful of libraries chosen for the award. "Our proposal included quite a few expensive, multi-volume sets, which we never could have afforded on our own, so this is quite thrilling," she adds.

According to Japanese bibliographer Kazuko Sakaguchi, issues related to Japanese ethnicity and nationalism are a major research interest for many of the faculty at the U of I's Center for East Asian Studies. Among the topics of research, she says, are Japan-Korea relations, issues related to Japanese minorities, such as the Okinawans, Jews as perceived by the Japanese, Japanese sociology, and issues of modern Japanese society, such as women's literature.

Among the more than 206 volumes to be donated by the Japan Foundation are nine titles that are held by no other institution in the United States; most are held by only one or two other libraries. The books will arrive at the Library in September.

Says Ronald Toby, head of the U of I's Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, of the grant, "The addition of this important group of primary sources and modern scholarship on Japanese ethnicity, ideology, and relations with Korea is particularly important to the scholarly community at the U of I because our Japanese collection has been badly underfunded in the past. While the absolute budget is not actually declining, what it can purchase is declining."

Previous grants from the Japan Foundation included a 1991 donation of funds to purchase very expensive reference works and a 1993 donation of funds to purchase works on Japanese theater.

Mortenson Center Receives Major Grant from Mellon Foundation

The University of Illinois Library's C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Center for International Library Programs has received a grant of $246,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a continuing professional development program for librarians in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

The project, which began in April and will run through December 1999, will train eleven librarians, five of whom will themselves become trainers, and will create a regional administrative center based at the University of Costa Rica's School of Library and Information Science.

"Two years ago, with our first grant from the Mellon Foundation, we brought in ten librarians from Central America to participate in classes and workshops on all aspects of modern American librarianship," says Mortenson Center director Marianna Tax Choldin. "They returned home to share what they had learned, but during an evaluation seminar last November, we realized we could do much more to help the region if we could help them to create a continuing education program of their own."

The proposed program, according to Professor Choldin, will emulate similar programs already established by the Mortenson Center in Ukraine and Russia.

Among the issues the Central Americans plan to address during the training will be intellectual freedom and access, preservation and conservation, telecommunications, and fundraising. The librarians also will visit different kinds of libraries throughout the U.S. and vendors that work with libraries.

Four of the librarians will also create specific plans for the workshops they plan to conduct at home.

The workshops will be under the supervision of the new program's regional coordinator, Dr. Ana Cecilia Torres, director of the University of Costa Rica's library school. The ultimate goal is to create a permanent regional training program, based at the University of Costa Rica.
Library Friends Remembers...
The First Five Years

What great things Library Friends has done over the past twenty-five years! Unfortunately, if you're not one of the fifty-nine Friends who have been continuous donors since year one, you can't know just how much Library Friends has accomplished since 1972.

That's why, over the next four issues, Friendscript will be bringing highlights of the last twenty-five years—a tribute to our members, who have moved from donating a little over $12,000 a year to more than $2 million this past fiscal year.

Perhaps the most important event for Library Friends during those first five years (1972-1977) was helping to raise the funds to purchase the Library's five-millionth book, the Eliot Indian Bible, in 1975.

This work of Reverend John Eliot (b.1604) is "...one of the strangest books on record," according to Edward Davidson, a U of I English professor who wrote about the acquisition in the 1975 issue of the former annual Friends' publication Non Solus. "It is in language no one can read...Because of its compact bulkiness the book is hard to hold, and the pages are difficult to turn after the long years of storage...It is a rather forbidding, yet curiously attractive book."

Printed in 1663, it was the first translation of the Bible into a native American dialect (Narragansett).

Another significant acquisition was made during Library Friends' first five years—the donation of the personal papers of U of I alumnus Avery Brundage, long-time member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, president of the International Olympic Committee from 1952-1972, and an Olympic athlete himself.

According to then-University Archivist Maynard Brichford in the 1976 issue of Non Solus, "President John Corbally noted that this 'contribution to the excellence of the University of Illinois' placed it 'in a leadership position among institutions engaged in the serious study of sports and of athletics.'"

How right President Corbally was, for this is the only collection in the world, outside of the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee itself, to contain minutes of IOC meetings and a breadth of information about the history of U.S. participation in the Olympics that is unmatched anywhere. Since its donation in 1976, nearly twenty books and dissertations have been published based on this tremendous collection.

For one of the Library's most prestigious units, Library Friends' first five years were truly momentous, for it was during this period that the Slavic and East European Library acquired two of its most notable collections—the George Vernadsky Collection of Russian History and the Elias Czaykowsky Collection of Ukrainian Culture.

George Vernadsky, a professor of Russian history at Yale University, was considered the patriarch of Russian studies in the United States. One of his students, who became a lifelong friend, was Ralph Fisher, now professor emeritus of Russian history at the U of I, a charter Library Friend, and current president of the Library Friends Board. It was through Professor Fisher's friendship with the Vernadsky family that the family decided to place the books with the U of I Library.

The Elias Czaykowsky Collection came to the U of I through the efforts of the Slavic and East European Library's now retired Ukrainian bibliographer, and also a Library Friend, Dmytro Shtohryn. "These were very significant additions to our collection," says Slavic and East European Library head Robert Burger. "George Vernadsky had been a very highly respected history professor at Yale whose interests included early Russian history, especially related to the Turks and the Mongols. These are items that are very difficult to get, so his collection really filled out our own collection.

"Elias Czaykowsky was a Ukrainian emigrant who was an avid book collector, and among the things we acquired from him were some very rare Ukrainian publications, such as 'displaced persons' publications. This was a wonderful collection because very few people had the long runs of periodicals or the breadth that he had. It became the core of our Ukrainian collection."

Says the Library's director of development and public affairs, Joan M. Hoad, "The early years of Library Friends really remind us of how important financial gifts as well as gifts of books themselves are to the Library. The acquisition of private collections has been a tradition at the Library from the beginning, and it's a tradition that continues today."

Florida Alumni Club Donates Equipment for the Visually Impaired

The Library's Undergraduate Library has received a gift of $5,500 from the Sarasota/Manatee Club to purchase two advanced digital systems to help students with visual impairments and reading disabilities.

The systems are the Omni 1000, a full-function reading system for the blind, and the Omni 3000, an advanced reading system for students and adults with reading disabilities, both from Kurzweil Educational Systems.

Both the Omni 1000 and 3000 combine a book scanner with a speech capability that enables the machine to read out loud from the text that has been scanned. They also come equipped with a 40,000-word talking dictionary, so that the program can define unfamiliar words to the user, and several other features. The Omni 3000 also highlights the text as it is read so that the text can be seen and heard simultaneously.

Both can operate via voice command.

"The Library serves the whole university—it's not just one person's domain," says the Sarasota/Manatee Club's president, Albert Miller, of Holmes Beach, Florida. "We hope that someone, someday, will say, 'I wasn't that nice of them in Sarasota to do this for us.'" According to Mr. Miller, the club decided on its donation last October but saved the formal presentation of the contribution until this March, in honor of University President James Stukel's visit to the club.

The new Omni systems are currently available near the Undergraduate Library reference desk. They will be relocated to the new Undergraduate Library Information Mall once renovations for the new area are completed.
Calendar

Exhibits

August
'Centennial of the College of Law.' University Archives
'Hong Kong 1997.' Asian Library
'Books That Changed the World.' Rare Book and Special Collections Library
'Focus on Fraternities: Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Eta Kappa Nu.' Archives Research Center
'The Chinese Emigration to Latin America.' Latin American Library Services

September
'Centennial of the College of Law.' University Archives
'Mexico: Celebrating 187 Years of Independence (1810-1997.)' Latin American Library Services

October
'Saul Bellow.' Rare Book and Special Collections Library
'Christopher Columbus Meets America.' Latin American Library Services

SPECIAL EVENT
September 19, 3 p.m. Talk by Rare Book and Special Collections head Barbara Jones on "What Makes a Book Rare." Rare Book and Special Collections Library, 346 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana.

The Benefits of Membership

As a Friend of the University Library, you receive:
- Special circulation and stack privileges for library materials
- Friendscript, the quarterly newsletter
- Annual Report
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
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The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. Today, approximately 3,000 Library Friends are dedicated to the support of the Library's collections and services.

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Friendscript (ISSN 0192-55-39)
Appears quarterly in April, July, Oct., and Jan. Editor: Terr Mahe Office of Publication: Libra, FIC, 227 Library, Univ. of Illinois, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801 Telephone (217)333-5682.

Yes, in honor of the 25th anniversary of U of I Library friends, I/we wish to make a special gift.

- University Librarian's Council, $250
- Sustaining, $250
- Sponsor, $100
- Life, $3000
- Subscriber, $60
- Benefactor, $1000
- Contributor, $35
- Patron, $500

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