PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Library Receives $1-Million Matching Grant for Preservation

Through a $1-million matching grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the University Library will enhance its efforts to protect and preserve endangered library materials. "This award is a wonderful boost for our preservation program," says Paula Kaufman, university librarian. "It will help ensure long-term access to the materials in which we've invested for so many years."

Under the terms of the award, the Library will receive $700,000 in endowment funds on a two-to-one matching basis, contingent on its ability to raise $1.4 million over the next five years. These funds will provide permanent support for preservation efforts. The Library also will receive an outright gift of $300,000 to design and equip a conservation laboratory for items in need of treatment or restoration.

“This grant provides a valuable opportunity for Library Friends to invest in the future of our collections,” explains Lyn Jones, the Library’s director of development and public affairs. “Through the match from the Mellon Foundation, our Friends can build an endowment that will support the Library’s preservation efforts in perpetuity.”

The need for a strong and viable library preservation program is exceedingly clear. The University Library is the largest public university

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The natural enemies of books include improper environmental conditions, mold and pest infestations, overcrowding, environmental disasters, and physical mishandling.
library in the world, and its collections of more than 22 million items are valued conservatively at $1.5 billion. Its holdings are the result of nearly one and one-half centuries of investment, and they represent the vast history of humanity's intellectual achievements. In spite of these accomplishments, nearly 40% of the Library's world-class collections are in danger of physical deterioration.

"Until recently, the Library's focus has remained strongly on building collections," says Paula Kaufman. "While there have been many preservation activities throughout the decades, there has not been—until now—a focused, comprehensive program, which will be enhanced significantly by this magnificent award from the Mellon Foundation."

Recent steps to strengthen the Library’s preservation program include an in-depth assessment by a preservation consultant, the appointment of a preservation librarian and a conservation librarian, and plans for the construction of the Library’s first high-density storage facility, which will house the conservation laboratory. The award from the Mellon Foundation will energize these efforts and help the Library develop a preservation program worthy of national prominence.

This issue of Friendscript represents a departure from our regular format. Instead of highlighting a wide variety of gifts and Library Friends activities, we are focusing on a single topic of critical importance: the preservation of library materials.

Since the beginning of the Library’s history nearly 150 years ago, its directors and librarians have focused on building magnificent collections in many disciplines. As a result, the holdings are rich and deep, containing many unusual and rare materials that are not available elsewhere. Unfortunately, our collections are at risk of disintegrating for a variety of reasons: the fragility of paper produced since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution; the instability of newer media such as audio and video tape; storage conditions in which temperature, humidity levels, and light levels are not controllable; and shortage of space. Simply put, we are in danger of losing a large number of books, tapes, and other types of information if we do not intervene aggressively.

In the following pages you will read about our efforts to develop a comprehensive preservation program. We hope that you will continue to show your enthusiastic support for the University Library by responding to our calls for help in meeting the challenge of our exciting new Mellon grant and in saving valuable and irreplaceable items on our "endangered species" list.

As always, we are grateful for your support.

Paula Kaufman
University Librarian
Steps to Strengthen the Library's Preservation Program

Great research libraries today find themselves at a critical stage in addressing their preservation needs. As stewards of massive print collections that are both unique and fragile, they bear an important responsibility for protecting artifacts that reflect our nation's history, culture, and knowledge. The preservation of these materials is now a primary mission for the largest libraries as they work to keep information accessible for generations to come. The University Library is among this group of distinguished research collections.

Over the past few years, under the leadership of a new administrative team, the Library has taken a number of significant steps to strengthen its preservation program. These include:

- **Incorporating Preservation into the Library Strategic Plan**—Under the leadership of Paula Kaufman, the administration articulated an active strategic plan that emphasizes a comprehensive preservation program for all Library materials in all formats.

- **Hiring a Preservation Consultant**—The Library hired Dr. Michael Trinkley, executive director of the Chicora Foundation, to provide an in-depth preservation assessment that was used to develop priorities and strategies for addressing them.

- **Building an Onsite Storage Facility**—In 2002 ground will be broken for a new state-of-the-art storage facility that will provide a superior environment for storing materials and greatly enhance conservation efforts.

- **Developing a Conservation Laboratory**—A new 5,000 square feet laboratory located within the new storage facility will centralize conservation efforts and provide ample space for the treatment of materials.

- **Hiring New Staff**—The hiring of a new preservation librarian and conservation librarian last summer marked a significant step forward in advancing the preservation program and addressing programmatic needs.

- **Allocating Part of the Library Annual Fund for Preservation**—Through allocations from the Annual Fund, each year the Library is able to provide significant funds for the restoration of primary source items and the purchase of special conservation equipment.

These efforts, enhanced by the preservation grant from the Mellon Foundation, will ensure the ongoing availability of the Library’s collections and provide for their lasting contribution to scholarship and knowledge.

Assessment of Preservation Needs

Dr. Michael Trinkley, executive director of the Chicora Foundation, spent three days at the University Library last May to conduct an in-depth assessment of preservation needs. He visited eight different library facilities and examined the following: building structure; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; air quality; mold potential; care and handling practices; and general storage conditions. Although Dr. Trinkley visited only a handful of the Library’s sites, he observed the widely varying conditions in which collections are stored and users and staff work.

In his report Dr. Trinkley noted, “The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library is an incredible library. It has amassed an astounding collection of extraordinary depth and breadth.” He conservatively estimated the value of current holdings at more than $1.5 billion. However, he cautioned that this substantial investment is at risk due to a number of serious preservation problems that pose, in his words, “a grave threat to the library collections.” Among the concerns he logged are leaking roofs, inefficient HVAC systems, buildings

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Nearly 40% of the Library’s collections are in danger of physical deterioration due to brittle paper. Through preventative treatments such as mass deacidification, new acquisitions printed on acidic paper can be saved from sharing this fate.
in need of tuck-pointing, and severely cramped collection spaces.

The report provided Library staff with a serious look at the environmental situation and the opportunity to set priorities and plan to address them. It prompted immediate action to improve handling procedures and storage conditions, the latter of which will be aided by the construction of a high-density storage facility this year. It also revitalized the Library's partnership with campus operations and maintenance staff to solve structural and environmental problems in a timely fashion.

The Library optimistically has begun its journey with a strong sense of direction and dedication in caring for its treasured collections.

Dr. Trinkley's assessment provides a strong foundation for change that, in conjunction with the grant from the Mellon Foundation, sets the stage for the future of preservation efforts. The work that lies ahead and the need for financial support are significant, but the Library optimistically has begun its journey with a strong sense of direction and dedication in caring for its treasured collections.

Written by Karen Schmidt, associate university librarian for collections

Library Hires Preservation and Conservation Librarians

Following an international search last year, the University Library hired two new faculty members to coordinate its first comprehensive preservation program. Preservation librarian Tom Teper administers all areas of the program, including policy and procedures, staff development, and binding and reformatting operations. Conservation librarian Jennifer Hain oversees the treatment of materials to arrest deterioration and provide for continued access in their original formats. She supervises conservation treatments, book repair, pamphlet binding, and general collection maintenance.

According to Professor Teper, the Library is poised to make great progress in the development of a substantial preservation program. "In the past, efforts have been limited due to the lack of equipment and resources. The matching grant from the Mellon Foundation will allow us to build the infrastructure necessary to sustain an aggressive program and develop new standards of excellence," he says. Funds will be used to hire additional staff and purchase basic tools and supplies, such as paper cutters and microscopes, imaging equipment, and sinks and special tables for paper washing.

The grant also will fund the development of a conservation laboratory, which will centralize conservation efforts and provide ample space for the treatment of materials. "The new laboratory will allow us to treat a significantly larger number of items more efficiently and decrease our dependence on external conservators," explains Professor Hain. "It also will protect the security and condition of materials by keeping them on campus for treatment."

In addition to the repair of endangered materials, preservation treatments include binding journals and paperbacks to increase their life span, controlling temperature and humidity in the book stacks, safeguarding the collections against pests and other insects, and microfilming materials that can no longer be used. Teper and Hain also plan to launch an educational campaign through posters, bookmarks, and open houses that offer tips regarding how to care for books.

"The experience and expertise of these two professionals will help bring the Library into the forefront of preservation programs across the country," explains university librarian Paula Kaufman. "Their efforts will position us for the future by ensuring that our materials remain accessible for generations to come."
Save an “Endangered Species” with a Gift to the Library

Many factors can work against a book’s longevity and place it on the Library’s “endangered species” list: natural aging, environmental conditions (humidity, temperature, light, etc.), mold, pests, and physical mishandling. Through private gifts, individuals can help remove from the list many unique, rare, and valuable materials. To save an endangered item, please contact Judy Graner in the Library Office of Development and Public Affairs at (217) 333-5683 or j-graner@uiuc.edu.

**The Gentleman and Cabinet Maker’s Directory, 1754, Thomas Chippendale**

This book, inscribed by London cabinetmakers T & W Banting, is one of only 310 copies originally published by Chippendale, an artisan whose name remains a hallmark of quality.

$950 is needed to clean the pages and repair or replace the original binding.

**A Learned Discourse of Ceremonies Retained and Used in Christian Churches, 1653, Lancelot Andrewes**

This small collection of sermons and descriptions of church activities was gathered during a time when they constituted a great part of printing and reading. The author was the Bishop of Winchester, a learned and eloquent writer who was instrumental in the development of the King James Bible.

$300 is needed to mend the book and re-attach the covers.

**Liber de animae quantitate and Soliloquium beati Augustini episcopi, circa 1473, St. Augustine**

These two titles are incunables, or books printed before the year 1501. *Liber de animae quantitate*, a dialogue between Augustine and Evodius, poses questions about the soul, including its size, powers, and capacity. *Soliloquium beati Augustini episcopi* contains a soliloquy written by Augustine immediately after his baptism at age 33 and represents his earliest Christian work.

For each title, $350 is needed to replace the paper cover with a new binding.

**Markham’s Maister-peece: containing all knowledge belonging to the smith, farrier, or horseleech, touching the curing of all disease in horses, 1656, Gervase Markham**

A prolific writer of the first four decades of the seventeenth century, Markham was a minor English poet and author of numerous popular treatises on country and sporting pursuits. The Maister-peece was published in 21 editions and remained popular for a century after Markham’s death in 1637.

$500 is needed to provide for cleaning, binding, and a new cover.

**The Reign of King Charles: An History Disposed into Annalls, 1656, Harmon L’Estrange**

A history of the reign of King Charles, this book was published nine years before the plague and ten years before the Great Fire. It contains a bookplate that bears the Medlicott (or Medlycott) coat of arms.

$600 is needed to clean the pages and re-attach the front cover.

**Symbolorum et emblematum [libri], 1590-1595, Joachim Camerarius**

These two volumes from the renowned emblem book collection of the Rare Book and Special Collections Library include images of animals, birds, fish, and insects with adages and verses for moral instruction.

For the larger volume, $650 is needed to repair or replace the original vellum binding. For the smaller volume, $400 is needed to provide a new binding.

**A Tribute to the Negro, 1848, Wilson Armistead**

This book stands as an example of English anti-slavery sentiments that strongly influenced American abolitionists. Included are illustrations of significant nineteenth-century biographical figures who were presented as key examples of why slavery was an immoral practice. There are five known copies of the book listed in North America, making it a rare title. The Library’s copy was removed from circulation in the early 1990s due to its poor condition.

$1,100 is needed to repair, mend, and rebind ($1,500 for leather) the original copy and produce a facsimile copy for circulating use.

The Conservation Department performs approximately 29,500 repairs each year, including mending torn pages, tightening hinges, and repairing broken covers.
Library Friends Fund the Preservation of Fine Atlases

In 1999, Lorraine Z. Schneider and her family donated a number of fine atlases and maps to the Rare Book and Special Collections Library. Included in the gift—the Frank O. Schneider Collection of Maps and Atlases—was a two-volume set of world atlases, the Novus Atlas of Willem and Johann Blaeu, written in German and printed in Amsterdam in 1647 and 1649. The overall condition of these magnificent volumes was very good indeed, but over the centuries many of the hand-colored engraved plates had become creased or torn, some seriously, and the vellum bindings also had suffered some damage.

Thanks to the substantial generosity of the Library Friends Preservation Gift Fund, the atlases were sent to Richard C. Baker, an expert bookbinder in St. Louis. Mr. Baker cleaned and repaired more than 50 plates and the bindings for a total charge of $5,560. In addition, he built two beautiful boxes in which to house the atlases. Now the impressive and fascinating volumes of the Blaeu Novus Atlas are as fresh as they were when first issued.

Another volume in the Frank O. Schneider Collection is the Atlas Selectus, published in Leipzig, Germany, by J.G. Schreiber around 1749. This is a much less imposing atlas than the Blaeu set, but nonetheless very interesting. The Atlas Selectus is quite uncommon, and the Library's copy, with the binding badly worn and the front cover detached, included 10 plates not called for in the Register (the index of maps). In addition, bound in the back were a group of nine separately published engravings of battle sites and scenes dating from 1756 to 1760, the time of the Seven Years' War. Four of the engravings are quite rare: they are not found in the union catalog—the Altkartendatenbank—of the major German collections.

Thanks again to the Library Friends Preservation Gift Fund, the Atlas Selectus was sent to Mr. Baker for preservation. He rebound the fragile volume and created a beautiful portfolio to house the carefully restored engravings. The total cost of the project was $1,440.

Students, faculty, and visitors are welcome to stop by the Rare Book and Special Collections Library to view these atlases and prints, which are so well preserved thanks to the goodwill and generosity of the Schneider Family and Library Friends.

Written by Alvan Bregman, rare book collections librarian

Digitization and Preservation

As technology becomes increasingly important in today's world, new ways to access and preserve information are emerging. One of these methods is digitization: creating digital images of physical items that can be shared among individuals and institutions.

Through digitization, high-quality images are created through scanning, digital photography, or some other process. These images then can be posted on the Internet or saved in an electronic database for viewing by a limitless number of users. By reducing wear and tear on fragile items, digital images help preserve original source materials.

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At the University Library, the use of digital technology to benefit the collections is managed by DIMTI, the Digital Imaging and Media Technology Initiative. DIMTI partners with Library staff and other campus units to provide widespread access to educational resources through digitization. It also works with other cultural institutions throughout the state of Illinois such as museums, schools, and archives.

Over the past few years, DIMTI has worked with several Library collec-

The Novus Atlas
Illinois Heritage Preserved in Newspapers

As one of the largest newspaper repositories in the country, the University Library is supporting a national effort to preserve a valuable part of Illinois's historical record—newspapers published from the eighteenth century to present. The Illinois Newspaper Project (INP) locates unique newsprint titles so they can be cataloged, microfilmed, and preserved for future generations. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, INP is part of the United States Newspaper Program.

"Historically, newspaper collections have been uncataloged and inaccessible to individuals outside the local communities. As INP processes collections across Illinois, these materials are becoming increasingly available to the public," explains Sharon Clark, principal investigator of the project and head of the Library's newspaper collection.

To date, INP has inventoried and cataloged almost 8,000 U.S. newspaper titles from public and private institutions in Illinois, including nearly 2,000 of the University Library's holdings. The titles are available to libraries across the country via the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a worldwide library consortium that offers online access to information. INP also hosts a searchable, Web-accessible database that is available to the general public at http://www.library.uiuc.edu/techserv/inp/webpages/main.htm.

Currently, INP staff are traveling throughout downstate Illinois in search of "long lost" newsprint. They are visiting libraries, historical societies, and newspaper publishers, as well as individuals who collect old newspapers. After the collections are cataloged, unique titles that have never before been preserved are noted and become candidates for the microfilming stage of the project.

Through the efforts of INP, the Library is making great gains in cataloging and preserving Illinois newsprint. According to Professor Clark, "This project plays an important role in gathering primary resources that enrich our cultural heritage. No other published record captures the day-to-day life of Illinois communities as completely as local newspapers."

Written in collaboration with Rene Erlandson, INP cataloger and visiting assistant professor.
Annul gifts from Library Friends help strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as the largest public university library in the world. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library's collections, programs, and services.

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