



C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson

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SINCE 1991

1,300 librarians from more than 90 countries have received training

\$2.5m in grant funds raised to strengthen skills and modernize libraries

IN THE PAST 5 YEARS*:

70% of librarians introduced a new tool, service, or resource

79% of librarians believe their library is more prepared to serve users

1 in 3 went on to take leadership roles in professional networks

**According to a 2013 Arabella Advisors independent evaluation*

Mortenson Center for International Library Programs
142 Undergraduate Library, MC-522
1402 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA



Developing
librarians
worldwide.



MORTENSON CENTER
@ THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY



*Librarians
sharing information*
IS ONE OF THE
shortest and surest roads
to world peace.

THIS IS THE FOUNDING VISION OF THE
MORTENSON CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN.

Established by gifts from C. Walter and
Gerda B. Mortenson, the Mortenson Distinguished
Professorship (1986) and Mortenson Center for
International Library Programs (1991) strengthen
international ties among librarians to promote
education, understanding, and peace.

It is the only center of its kind in the world.



OUR HISTORY

Distinguished by Leadership

Our dynamic leaders have helped shape libraries in all corners of the world, from Albania to Zimbabwe.

1991 – 2003

Marianna Tax Choldin

FOUNDING DIRECTOR AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

- Established visiting scholar programs, drawing on expertise in Slavic studies
- Worked extensively in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean

1992 – present

Susan Schnuer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

- Designed unique and innovative capacity building programs, many grant-funded
- Developed a novel partnership approach that deepened the impact of the Center's work

2003 – 2014

Barbara J. Ford

DIRECTOR AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

- Expanded work in East Africa and Asia
- Worked closely with librarians throughout Illinois to enhance programs worldwide

2014 – 2015

Paula T. Kaufman

INTERIM DIRECTOR AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

- Explored strategic partnerships, including with academic libraries in Taiwan and India
- Facilitated the transition to the next Director and Distinguished Professor

2015 – present

Clara M. Chu

DIRECTOR AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

- Carrying out the Center's mission by drawing on her multicultural and international expertise
- Enhancing the Center's reach utilizing information and communication technologies

OUR PRESENT

The Center's Programs

Our four programs promote education, understanding, and peace across the globe.

ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

01

A unique, individualized non-degree program at Illinois

02

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Focusing on the needs of a country or region

03

VISITORS PROGRAM

Seminars, tours, and discussions in the United States

04

LECTURE SERIES

Promoting understanding and intellectual freedom



OUR FUTURE

Sustainable Development

The next 25 years will present new opportunities to advance the Mortenson mission.

While the Center will continue to deliver its four programs, future work will be informed by the United Nations Agenda 2030, and the role of libraries as enablers of sustainable development.

One of our strategies will be to provide expert advice to help transform libraries into vital community institutions. For example, the Center's new policy brief publication series will provide data and recommended action on library and information policy to influence library funding decisions.

The Mortenson Center has flourished due to the efforts of University Library deans and colleagues, the participation of the library community and stakeholders, and generous financial support from donors, grant agencies, and foundations. Thank you for your continued support.

In all that we do, we will continue to engage librarians and inspire libraries to promote peace.

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With my background at the Mortenson Center, I can see something bigger... I can take on more senior positions in the library. I am 100 percent sure after this experience that I need to look for something bigger in my career. I was first in a box, and now I've seen the world.

2013 ASSOCIATE

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The partnership between the Library and Information Association of South Africa and the Mortenson Center, which dates back to 1999, contributed to redefining and strengthening a historically disparate library and information services sector in South Africa.

UJALA SATGOOR

Past President, Library and Information Association of South Africa

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MAKE A GIFT

Please contact the Library's Office of Advancement at (217) 333-5682 or visit:

go.library.illinois.edu/gift

LEARN MORE

library.illinois.edu/mortenson