The Literatures and Languages Library Planning Team was charged to develop a “broad-based understanding of the existing and emerging information needs of students and scholars engaged in the study of languages, linguistics and literatures; and then to make recommendations on how to best support these areas of study in the current environment” (the full charge appears in Appendix 1 to this report). The Kluegel / Kilton proposal from 2005 that suggested a merger between the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library was important in informing the Team’s deliberations; it appears at Appendix 2. formed part of the basis for the charge and the team’s deliberation.

The members of the Literatures and Languages Library Planning Team were drawn from the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library and several of the disciplines served by these two libraries (see Appendix 3 for the full list of Team members) The Team met weekly, made extensive use of email, distributed a brief user e-survey, and provided avenues of input from the many constituencies and stakeholders as it worked to meet this charge.

Key principles emerged from these deliberations:

1) Scholars in the areas served by the two libraries share many common interests and use many of the same resources. Unitling the collections of the two libraries would facilitate many scholars’ research. Specifically:

- Because many journals in the literatures and languages field publish across national and linguistic boundaries, they transcend the arbitrary departmental and disciplinary divisions of the Library units and would find a better context in a merged collection.

- Scholars in the disciplines served by the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library use many of the same bibliographic resources in their research: MLA International Bibliography, FIAF, and the International Medieval Bibliography to name just a few.

- Linguistics has an important and inter-related role in the study and understanding of all languages and their development.

- Creating a cohesive, unified collection would provide an optimal research and teaching environment for disciplines such as Medieval Studies and Cinema Studies and the new Center for Translation Studies.

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1 Links to the online survey instrument and to the survey results appear in Appendix 4 of this report. While the survey produced only 81 responses, and therefore means that drawing too many firm conclusions from these responses is risky at times, the Team is of the opinion that the opinions of those people who did respond deserve to be taken notice of in this report. Therefore, data from the survey results occasionally appears elsewhere in this report. Faculty accounted for just over 44% of the respondents; undergraduates for almost 14%, and graduate students for just over 38%.
There are multiple, shared constituencies of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library in a wide range of departments.

There are promising developments in the collaborative and collegial digital projects between scholars in the language and literature disciplines and the faculty and researchers in I3 and I-CHASS.

2) A merger of the English and Modern Languages and Linguistics units should be implemented in such a way as to increase services and improve collections and accessibility. Specifically:

- Print collections are now and will continue to be central and primary to the disciplines served by the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library.

- Digital resources play a complementary role to print in the languages and literatures disciplines. They extend and expand some of the ways to explore print but they do not replace print for research and scholarship. As one scholar put it, “It changes the very nature of the questions I can ask.”

- Print collections within the merged unit must be physically accessible and browseable by their users.

- The print collections in the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library are used as learning laboratories where students acquire foundational research skills. This teaching role will continue in the new configuration.

- The distributed collections of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library are by the nature of the disciplines served best understood as interdependent collections. The materials in the two units and the Main Bookstacks operate together to form a comprehensive infrastructure for research and teaching.

- The collections in the Main Bookstacks need to be organized for effective use by the constituencies of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library. Currently, French 20th Century materials are -- helpfully -- divided between two levels of the stacks.

- The current in-depth subject expertise in the Library must be maintained in any new service configuration.

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2 Nonetheless, our survey respondents do seem to have accepted online as a good method of consulting journals, both current and back numbers. For books, however, less than 5% preferred electronic access; around 55% preferred to find books by browsing in the library, and around 35% liked having print material delivered to their campus mailbox. Also in our survey, almost 80% of respondents answered “yes” to the question “Will digitized texts impact your teaching and research?”. We were, however, concerned that this question could be read in multiple ways, so the results here may be untrustworthy.

3 Our survey results bear this out: 41% of respondents used the English Library for this purpose, and 38% used the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library for it. The figure for browsing in “other libraries” (besides the two already listed) was 40%.
The users of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library need an integrated unit where there is a sense of space and place for literatures and languages in the Library.¹

The Library faculty, academic professionals, and staff must have appropriate and functional office spaces that do not detract from the space needed for the collections.

Physical manifestations of the intellectual arrangement of the collections in the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library and the English Library are appreciated by its users and should be maintained in any service configuration. For example, the New Books shelves and the current journal displays were both mentioned frequently in the responses to the question ‘Why do you come to the XYZ Library?’ within our survey.

At its meeting on December 2, the Team considered a paper from Caroline Szylowicz concerning the place of the Kolb-Proust archive in the proposed new model. Because the Kolb-Proust Collection is a special collection that requires mediated access and a secure, locked, area, the Team decide that it should stay in its current location. Given the close ties between this collection and the Rare Book and Manuscript Library on 3rd floor of Main Library, it may be helpful to discuss formally making it part of the library’s Special Collections Division at some future time.

Recommendations

1. At its meeting on November 18, 2009, the Literatures and Languages Library Planning Team adopted the following recommendation for the Executive Committee to consider:

   To agree in principle to merge the English and Modern Languages and Linguistics libraries into combined spaces in 225, 200D, and 200, provided adequate office, collection, and patron space is provided. As part of the vision for this merged library it is essential to rationalize the relationship between departmental and main stacks. This recommendation is contingent on the provision of adequate professional library staff.⁴

2. Although space currently occupied by the Library Advancement Office (room 227) does not form part of the recommendation, at subsequent meetings the Team expressed a strong preference for this space also to form part of the new combined unit, since it is already set up as office space. Having to accommodate library offices within the 225/200d configuration would limit the amount of accommodation required for other functions. Furthermore, having 227 for office space would enable provision of a library “classroom” within the new unit. It would otherwise be difficult to include this in any implementation plan.

   ⁴ This idea was given further weight by the answers to some of the survey questions. For example, if the move of the combined unit to the 2nd floor came about, four of the top five libraries most used by respondents would then be on the 2nd floor.
3. The Team’s recommendation for a name for the new combined unit is “The Literatures and Languages Library”.

4. As its response to items 3(a) and 3(b) of its Charge (see Appendix 1), the Team recommends that any Implementation Team should consider that our “vision” for the new unit is that it will bring high-quality collections, and appropriately-qualified staff, together in the service of all library patrons, in order to maximize use of the unit’s space and resources.

**Realization**

Because the implementation of these principles and ideas is still bounded by the physical realities of the Main Library, it was incumbent on the team to identify space in the Library in which the vision could be realized. The combined spaces of 225 (the Slavic Library), 200D (the Government Documents Library), and the south end of 200 (the Reference Room) appear to be able to meet the multiple requirements the team detailed. First, 225 (the Slavic Library) has nearly identical space as 321 (the English Library) directly overhead. It is apportioned differently but it is likely to be able to accommodate the merged circulating collections of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library, user space, and office space for the combined staff. 225 is also the preferred location for offices because the lower ceiling makes walls a possibility, unlike room 200. 200D is identified as a good space for the merged journal collections, particularly the current periodicals, and the associated copy machines and scanners for their use. Study tables should also be provided in this area. The combined unit is likely to maintain subscriptions to over 750 journals in print and having access to them in one location will be a boon to students and scholars. 200D began as the Periodicals Room in the 1940s and could therefore fulfill this role again. The South end of 200 would be the location for the merged reference collections of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library as well as for relevant reference materials in literatures and languages from the current Reference Library collection in 200. It would be desirable for some of the reference materials to be housed in low bookcases demarking different user space clusters as well as making some materials more usable.

Some issues remain for future determination. The precise location of the wall which forms the partition between 200 and 200D will be the subject of the implementation committee’s deliberations. The arguments in favor of moving it north of the door to 225 include the practical matter of regulated egress as well as the intellectual argument for a physically integrated book and journal collection. This shift may play a role in the arrangement and organization of the reference material which would remain in the open section of 200.
At its meeting on December 2, the Team considered a paper from Caroline Szylowicz concerning the place of the Kolb-Proust archive in the proposed new model. For several reasons (including that the Kolb-Proust Collection requires a locked storage area) it was decided that Kolb-Proust should stay in its current location. Given the close ties between this collection and the Rare Book and Manuscript Library on 3rd floor of Main Library, it may be helpful to discuss formally making it part of the library's Special Collections Division at some future time.

Respectfully submitted,

Literatures and Languages Planning Team

December 2009

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Appendix 1: Team Charge

The Literatures, Languages and Textual Analysis Planning Team will:

1) Identify Library services and resources essential to research, teaching and learning in the disciplines and communities involved in the study of languages, linguistics, world literature and emerging forms of textual analysis and inquiry

2) Bring relevant groups and individuals into the Team's conversations to develop a broad-based understanding of the existing and emerging needs of information users in these areas of study
3) Submit a report of the Team's discussions and planning recommendations to the University Librarian by **December 15, 2009**. This report should:

a) identify a public service program appropriate to those engaged in these areas of study;

b) articulate how that program may be delivered, both within the Main Library and through digital means outside it;

c) provide a high-level description of the functional space requirements, including a comparison of the advantages of different adjacencies to existing Library programs and units;

d) recommend a collection profile that complements those of other library units and programs;

e) identify opportunities for greater collaboration with campus programs such as the Center for Translation Studies, the Illinois Informatics Institute, I-CHASS, and the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, as well as with other initiatives in the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois Press, and Dalkey Press.

Following review and acceptance of these recommendations within the Library, an implementation team drawing some members from this planning team will be convened to plan the specific steps needed to implement the recommendations.

**APPENDIX 2: Original Kluegel/Kilton plan**

**Our Shared Vision: A New Library for the New Century**  
**Tom Kilton and Kathleen Kluegel**  
**March 2005**

As reference and user services have evolved over the last decade, so too has our vision of library as place. The 2005 Annual Report of the University Library to the Provost includes the plan to “study the feasibility of transforming space into a research commons to support the new demands of faculty and graduate students.” Tom and I have considered that aspect of library services and looked at the ways in which our two libraries could work together to meet that goal. What we have developed is a proposal for the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library to form a consolidated unit incorporating a re-focused Reference Library in a new paradigm of services and collections. We identified 200 Library, the Reference Room, as the ideal place where this vision could be translated into reality. The Reference Room would be re-titled the Language and Literature Library and would contain the merged circulating collections of the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library and the English Library with a central service desk. It would also integrate the language- and literature-related reference resources from the Reference Library collection into the combined reference collections from the English Library...
and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library. This brief proposal outlines how we might get there from here.

**Current situation**

We start with the current state of 200 and 220. Because the Reference Room has been a multi-purpose room for many years now, housing Government Documents, reference staff as well as staff from other units, and a microfilm processing room, attention must be paid to these additional staff and activities. In addition, 220 is the home to some Library Systems functions as well as Cataloging. We have identified several of these current factors and possible solutions to be considered.

**Information Desk:**

In this proposal, the Information Desk would be separated from the Reference Library and be joined with the other elements of the proposed Central Access Services unit to provide front-line information services. We are assuming that a current member of the Library faculty would be the head of the Information Desk Services, however administratively configured.

**Reference Materials:**

After integrating the related reference materials into the new Language & Literature Library, reference materials on other subjects would be distributed to other libraries in the Main Library as well as the Undergraduate Library. The substantial reference sources that remain, national bibliographies for example, could be moved to a re-purposed area in 5 Front in the Main Bookstacks, where they would be available to the staff of the Information Desk, the History Library, and the Languages and Literature Library.

**Government Documents:**

After migrating the bulk of its print resources to the Main Bookstacks, the Government Documents Library could be located within an allied subject library, e.g. ESSL or BEL, where it would be in close proximity to related demographic or economic resources.

**Cataloging:**

Room 1 has been identified as the intended location for the cataloging function as soon as it is renovated. Given the ever-more-closely-linked inter-functionality of the acquisitions and cataloging processes, this would provide physical as well as intellectual proximity to the two units.

**Microfilm Processing Area:**

These materials and resources would naturally be moved to the re-configured History Library for processing and handling with the other microform materials.
University Archives Staff and Projects:
Appropriate space will need to be found to house the University Archives staff and projects with sufficient support for their continued success.

Reference Staff in 200N:
The Reference staff currently in 200N would be integrated into the operations and spaces of the combined unit.

Systems Staff in 220:
The Library Systems Office staff currently in 220 will need appropriate space for their activities. With the move of History from 424 to 246, the History Library space could be re-configured as Library Systems Office, incorporating all their staff.

The Language and Literature Library
Once 200 Library and 220 Library are available, the Language and Literature Library would be able to come into being. The following is a set of service and collections issues that will be addressed and improved through the implementation of our proposal. The different elements are presented with different levels of detail. However, they are all written in pencil, with an eye to being improved and revised as the plan develops and matures.

Aesthetics
Our plan does not depend on the long-awaited “Million Dollar Donor” to be successful. Having the room become a unified whole with one mission will bring an immediate improvement through the removal of the tall metal bookcases now defining the different spaces in the room. Additional improvements could be implemented in stages, as resources became available to do so.

Reference and User Services
The English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library currently provide in-depth and ready reference and other user services to a wide range of departments, in person, on the telephone, and through email. The faculty, students, and other users of our services would be better served through the combined resources our plan provides. It would focus on the strengths of the merged staffs and allow both greater depth and broader coverage.

The combined reference collection would be world-class, bringing together both the highly specialized literature and linguistics reference collections from English and
Modern Languages and the more general literature-related reference tools from the Reference Library collection. Beyond the resources in 200, the core reference materials in 5 Front of the Main Bookstacks would be readily available to assist librarians and users alike in their information quests.

**Staffing**

It is likely that the resulting Language and Literature Library will have fewer positions than the three units have currently. Some positions will form the core staff of the Information Desk Service. The plan would be a great opportunity for the combined unit to determine the ideal combination of professional and staff positions needed to accomplish the ambitious goals of improved and expanded service envisioned. Some of the technical services that are done in each of the current units could be combined in ways that reduce the overall workload of the unit, freeing up staff to work in other patron-centered services.

**Collections**

Merging the circulating collections of the two libraries would better serve the faculty and students in these programs. It would provide an integrated collection which overcomes some of the artificial or arbitrary boundaries of our collections. As just a couple of examples, Beckett materials would be together, as would world theatre, and materials from the English diaspora. The Kolb-Proust Archive would be part of the Languages and Literature Library, but its services and collections would be a self-contained unit within the 220/202 space.

**Reserves**

The two libraries have reduced their print reserve collections, as more and more course-supporting materials are available as electronic reserves. However, the print course reserves that remain are vital and would be easily managed as a combined service.

**Work Stations**

Using a combination of fixed-wire and wireless networking, the Language and Literature Library will be able to cluster user workstations in a variety of ways. Some will naturally be located adjacent to the main service desk, so that users can be assisted with one-on-one coaching by the staff. Other workstations can be set up in other areas of the room to support collaborative work; while others can be single-user, single-purpose workstations for multi-media materials or other specialized resources.

**Information Literacy Instruction Space**
We envision a classroom in 220 which will be available to anyone in the Library for library instruction purposes. This classroom will provide the opportunity for classes to be in a state of the art facility that is in very close proximity to their primary library. This will be a distinct advantage over the current situation where the students can either be in the English Library/Modern Languages Library or in the instruction space in the Undergraduate Library. Information literacy will take place in Room 200 as well as in Room 220. The classroom will be furnished with computer workstations for hands-on instruction by members of the library faculty and staff, and in many cases cooperative presentations by librarians and members of the teaching faculty. Instruction for groups of students, in particular smaller ones, will also be given in areas of 200 as appropriate.

### Learning Commons

Rather than have the new library set up with an old Information Commons model, the Language and Literature Library will be designed as a learning commons. The difference is in the framework for librarian-faculty-student interaction. The learning commons draws on the strengths of the Library and its faculty to work with the teaching faculty to form the environment for active learners in the library.

### Exhibit facilities

The provision of adequate and attractive cases for scholarly exhibits as well as those of a more popular nature appealing to undergraduates (popular culture, fiction, etc.) will be a component of our information literacy program. The exhibits can be coordinated with information literacy sessions and programs. Exhibits will also be an area for faculty, students, and library staff to collaborate.

### Signage

Good, tasteful, attractive signage to lead users to various portions of the print collections as well as to electronic workstations, exhibits, maps, and other graphics will welcome students and faculty to the L&L Library in the same way as they do nowadays at bookstores nationwide. These signs, while attractive and large enough to be viewed at a distance, will be easily re-located to accommodate shifts in the reference and print collections.

This proposal has identified a path to realizing an exciting vision for the Language and Literature Library. It has identified strategies for re-purposing the space on the second floor of the Main Library to form a broad range of collections and services for current and future users. We look forward to discussing it with the Executive Committee.
Appendix 3: List of team members

From the Library:

John Wagstaff, Head, Music and Performing Arts Library (Team Leader)

Kathleen Kluegel, Head, English Library

Caroline Szylowicz, Modern Languages & Linguistics Library, Kolb-Proust Archive

Bruce Swann, Classics Library; Acting Head of Modern Languages and Linguistics

JoAnn Jacoby, Coordinator, New Service Model Programs (Administrative Liaison)

Robert Cagle, English Library (Cinema Studies Bibliographer)

From outside the Library:

Curtis Perry, Professor and Department Head, Department of English

Charles Wright, Professor of Medieval Studies in the Department of English School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

Doug Kibbee, Director, School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics; Professor of French

Dara Goldman, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese; Associate Professor of Spanish, Latin American literature/Culture; Latina/o Studies

[replacing Lilya Kaganovskv, Associate Professor, Slavic ; Comparative and World Literatures; Cinema Studies]

Carl Niekerk, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures; Comparative and World Literatures

Miles Efron, GSLIS [replacing John Unsworth, GSLIS and I ³]

Appendix 4: Questions asked in user survey

See link at:
http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsmlit/Lit_Survey.pdf

Survey results:

See link at:
http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsmlit/Lit_Survey_Results.pdf
Appendix 5: Current collection sizes of the English Library and Modern Languages and Linguistics Library (supplied by Kathleen Kluegel)

**Modern Languages & Linguistics Library collection shelf space:**

- Reference materials: 722 feet
- Journal room: 570 feet
- New books: 57 feet
- Circulating collection: 1,427 feet
- Quarto materials: 30 feet
- Proustiana collection: 36 feet
- Emblematica: 18 feet
- Popular magazines: 45 feet
- Newspapers: 11 feet

Total: 2,926 feet

**English Library collection shelf space:**

- Reference materials: 581 feet
- New books: 69 feet
- Circulating collection: 2,235 feet
- Quarto/folio materials: 150 feet
- Bound periodicals: 594 feet
- Unbound periodicals: 288 feet
- Display issues: 12 feet

Total: 3,929 feet

Combined unit shelf space: 6,855 feet

At present, there are approximately 104 seats available for patron use in the present two units (40 in Modern Languages and Linguistics, and 64 in the English Library).

Appendix 6: Constituencies of the English Library and Modern Languages and Linguistics Library

In no particular order, the Team identified the following main constituencies as being likely to be affected by our discussions:
Respondents to our survey questions were primarily from English (34 of the 81 respondents), followed by German (15), Spanish/Italian/Portuguese (10), Slavic, French, Comp and World Literature, Linguistics, Classics, and Religion.

Appendix 7: Current staff of the English Library and the Modern Languages and Linguistics Library

English Library
Kathleen M. Kluegel (English Librarian),

Robert Cagle (Cinema Studies and Media Services Specialist; Comparative Literature Specialist)

Connie Santarelli (Library Technical Specialist)

Harriett Green (Graduate Assistant)

Modern Languages and Linguistics Library

Bruce Swann (Acting Head)

Caroline Szylowicz (Kolb-Proust Librarian; French Subject Specialist)

Paula Carns (Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Librarian; Interim Latin American and Caribbean Librarian)

Janice Pilch (Germanic Languages and Literatures Librarian)
Appendix 8: Current square footage of the English Library, Modern Languages & Linguistics Library, and Slavic Library (supplied by Jeff Schrader)

N.B. In some cases, the Team had difficulty in correlating the current configuration of the library spaces with the spaces supplied. There may therefore be some discrepancies (though not significant ones) between the supposed available space, and the actual available space.

**Slavic Library space (in square feet):**
- Stacks (225): 1,191
- Office (225): 980
- Processing room (225): 980
- Study room (225): 1,356
- Office (225A): 152

Total: 4,659

**Modern Languages space (in square feet):**
- Stack (0425): 661
- Study room (0425): 1,277
- Processing room (425A): 206
- Processing room (2) (425A): 103
- Office (425B): 108
- Office (425B/2): 108
- Study room (0425C): 225
- Office (0427): 189
- Office (0429): 114
- Stack (0429): 70

Total: 3,258
**English Library space (in square feet):**

- Study room (0309): 558
- Office (0311): 200
- Processing room (0313): 219
- Office (0317): 253
- Stack (0319): 695
- Study room (0319): 695
- Processing room (0319A): 282
- Study room (0321): 1,250

**Total:** 4,151