In a January 14, 2009 letter from Sue Searing and Paula Kaufman, the future plans for the LIS Library were broadly outlined:

- The physical LIS Library will close. Its last day of operation will be Friday, May 15.
- Sue Searing and Sandy Wolf will continue to work full-time on building the LIS collections and serving information-seekers.
- The books and journals currently housed in 306 Main Library will be distributed to appropriate departmental libraries, with the majority of the print collection going into the Main Stacks. Seldom-used materials and works that are duplicated in the library’s electronic collections are being transferred to the Oak Street facility.
- Sue and Sandy will have office space both at GSLIS and in the Main Library. Lori Carroll, long-time LIS Library staff member, has transferred to the Chemistry Library. Patsy Inskip has joined the LIS Library staff on a half-time basis through May.
- During spring semester, two independent study students will collaborate with Sue to identify and organize content for an enhanced subject portal to replace the existing departmental library website.
- The library will continue to acquire LIS serials and other publications in electronic format; however, it will NOT cease acquiring print, since much information in the field is still available only in print.

The full letter and the final version of the Communications-LIS Services Interim Report are available on the NSM website: http://www.library.uiuc.edu/nsm/comm_lis/.
In My Own Words: Music Meets Performing Arts

by Kirstin Dougan, Music User Services Coordinator

This summer the University of Illinois’ Music Library was transformed into the Music and Performing Arts Library (MPAL). With the transfer of the majority of the theatre holdings from the English Library, the Music Library, which has held dance materials since the 1980s, became a true performing arts library.

Approximately 2,500 reference and monograph volumes, and almost three dozen periodical subscriptions were transferred to MPAL. Some music and dance materials were relocated to Oak Street, and the rest were shifted to make space.

The move was much anticipated by theatre students and faculty. The majority of theatre offices and classes are located in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, just across the street from the Music Building. Theatre researchers enjoy not only the proximity of the location, but the expanded hours that MPAL offers in comparison to the English Library. Theatre faculty and students are making good use of the collections, study and computing space, and other resources.

Music from the recent University production of Romeo et Juliette are making good use of the collections, study and computing space, and other resources.

With the redesign of their website this summer, MPAL has placed a greater emphasis on dance and theatre resources. In addition, exhibits are coordinated to include the full range of subject areas when possible. A recent exhibit, curated by Regina Garcia on the Theatre faculty, highlights the recent University opera production Romeo et Juliette and can be seen at: http://www.library.uiuc.edu/mux/about/exhibits/romeojuliette.html.

Labor and Employment Relations Goes Digital

The Labor and Employment Relations Digital Library (http://www.library.uiuc.edu/ler/) was launched in Fall 2008.

“The primary goal of the portal is to be a place of scholarly communications from the School of Labor and Employment Relations and to bridge researchers and public members in the field of labor in Illinois,” explains Yoo-Seong Song, Associate Professor at the Business and Economics Library. Making the online portal the main service point for LER has dramatically increased the number and depth of inquiries.

A faculty member from the LER believes that the digital library “is a work in progress, but has succeeded so far in bringing together access to many of the resources that were housed in the Labor Library as well as other related resources available online."

The Labor and Employment Relations Digital Library provides daily news services from BNA and updates on new working papers from LER faculty. There is also a blog that reports on labor-related news in Illinois. It has been visited from researchers in Illinois and across the nation.

Story ideas?

If you have a story idea for a future issue or want to share your successes with the rest of the library, please let us know. Send ideas, drafts, and/or photos to nsm@library.uiuc.edu.