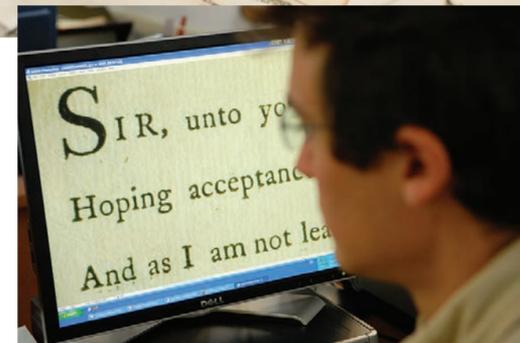


LEARNING

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is committed to training new generations of curators and special collections librarians. Jointly with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), we offer a *Certificate in Special Collections Librarianship* through our Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies program. The program emphasizes an apprenticeship model and RBML does its part by offering hands-on training to GSLIS students.



RESEARCH

Scholars from around the world find their way to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library to work with our magnificent collections. Some are supported by Visiting Scholars' fellowships (go to http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/research_fellowships.html for more information). We also work with faculty and local graduate students to develop research topics and regularly communicate with scholars at a distance, answering specialized bibliographic and reference queries.



TEACHING

We collaborate with faculty members across all disciplines to make RBML collections an intrinsic part of the curriculum. Over 200 classes a year visit the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, where faculty teach in collaboration with curators, designing courses and assignments that bring students in direct contact with special collections. Our goal is for students and faculty to interact with the primary resources—whether a medieval manuscript or a letter by Mark Twain—not only as precious objects, but also as opportunities for discovery. We encourage the use of rare materials as real, readable, digestible, discussable texts in our university courses.

VISITING THE LIBRARY

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is located on the third floor in the northwest wing of the Main Library. All readers must register (visit armarium.library.illinois.edu) before using the collections. Find us on Facebook and Twitter at IllinoisRBML.

Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library
1408 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, Illinois 61801
217 333 3777
217 244 1755 (fax)

www.library.illinois.edu/rbx
askacurator@library.illinois.edu



THE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

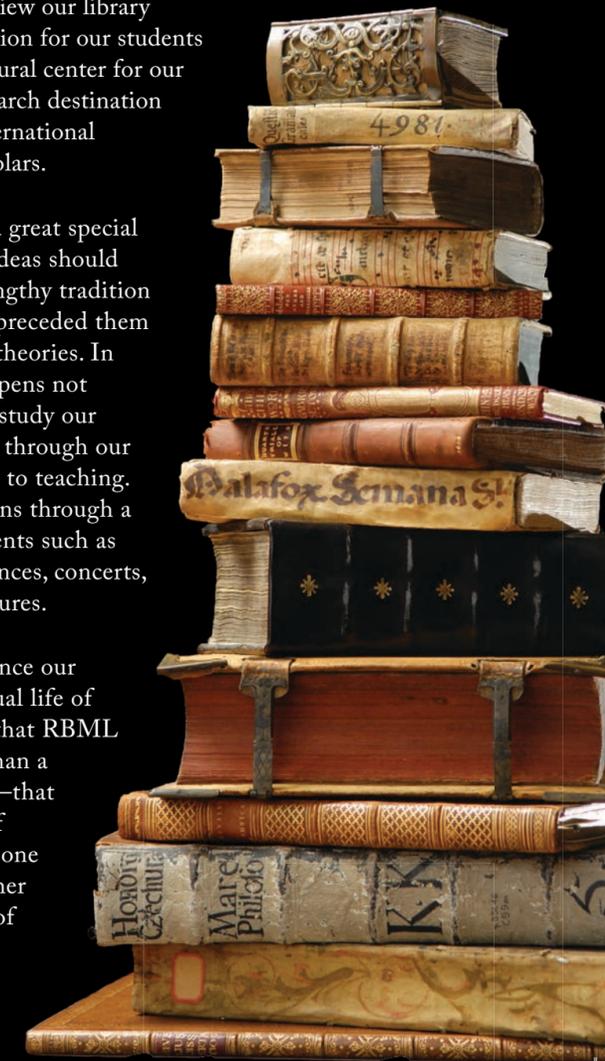
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Welcome to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library!

Our mission is to preserve and make accessible the collections of one of the greatest rare book and manuscript libraries in the country. We view our library as a place of inspiration for our students and faculty, as a cultural center for our region, and as a research destination for national and international communities of scholars.

We believe that in a great special collections library, ideas should interact with the lengthy tradition of scholarship that preceded them and with the latest theories. In our library, this happens not only when scholars study our collections, but also through our strong commitment to teaching. We make connections through a variety of public events such as exhibitions, conferences, concerts, workshops, and lectures.

Activities that enhance our role in the intellectual life of the campus ensure that RBML is viewed as more than a historical curiosity—that it remains a place of cultural experience, one that can bind together disparate elements of university life.



COLLECTIONS

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one of the largest special collections repositories in the United States. The collections—over half a million volumes and three kilometers of manuscript material—encompass broad areas of literature, history, art, theology, philosophy, technology, and the natural sciences.



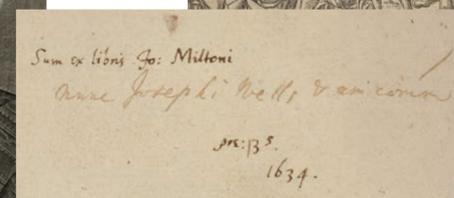
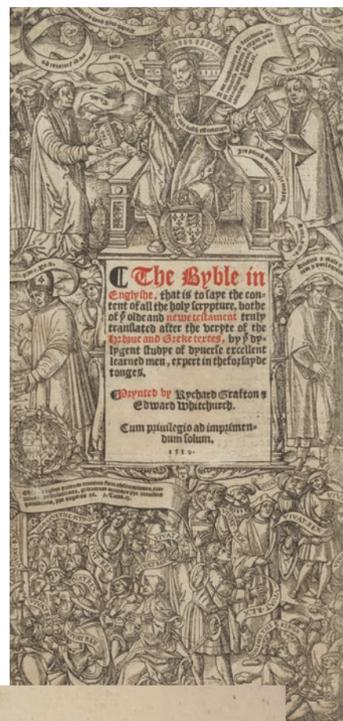
PRE-1500 BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscript collections date from approximately 3000 BCE to 1500 CE and range from clay tablets to illuminated manuscripts and early modern historical documents. Topical strengths include rhetoric, religion, pedagogy, and English literature and culture. The collection of over twelve hundred fifteenth-century printed books (incunabula) is one of the largest university collections in the U.S. and is especially strong in classical texts, theology, pedagogy, and science.



EARLY MODERN BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS (1500-1800)

Particular collection strengths lie in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with distinctive and deep collections in English literature, including works by Shakespeare, various important editions of the Bible, school books, and works by and about John Milton. Early modern continental imprints include works in religion, philosophy, literature, and history, as well as monuments of scientific publishing, and an extensive collection of emblem books.



MODERN BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS (1800-PRESENT)

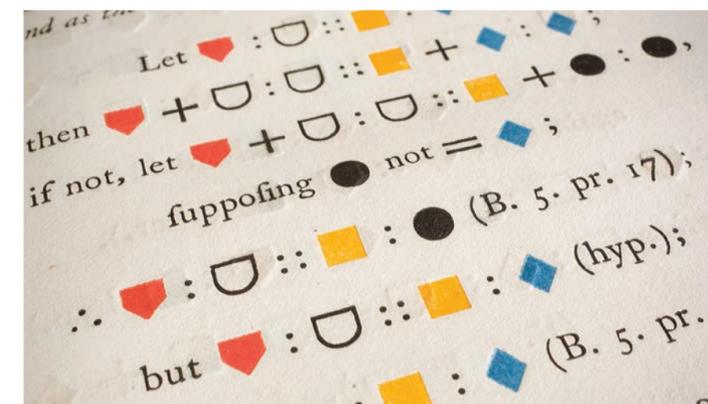
Literature, history, and science are well represented, with strong holdings in first editions of nineteenth- and twentieth-century English authors, books related to travel and exploration, and social history. Also noteworthy are collections in radical literature, natural history, fine press and typography, and the history of publishing.



Literary archives include the papers of H. G. Wells, Carl Sandburg, W. S. Merwin, and Gwendolyn Brooks, letters of Marcel Proust, and archival collections associated with such figures as Anthony Trollope, William Makepeace Thackeray, John Ruskin, Grant Richards, William Allingham, Richard Bentley, Benjamin Disraeli, Rhoda Broughton, Lewis Carroll, and John Richardson, among others.

A SAMPLING OF OTHER COLLECTION STRENGTHS

History of Science	Confederate Imprints
Spanish Civil War	Anarchism
Geology	Television & Movie Scripts
History of Economics	Commonplace Books
Drama & Theatre History	English Sermons
Travel Literature	American Wit and Humor
Architecture	History of Engineering
Nineteenth-century Novels	Arctic Exploration
Early Modern Pedagogy	Irish Political Cartoons
French <i>fin de siècle</i>	Italian History & Culture
History of Technology	Ornithology
History of Mathematics	Spanish Golden Age
English Civil War	Modern Poetry
Chemistry	Illinois History



CULTURAL EVENTS

Book culture and the life of the mind are celebrated in numerous regular and special programs, including the monthly meeting of the *No. 44 Society*, a convivial confab of booklovers; a regular schedule of exhibitions, presentations and workshops for the community; and other public events and performances that highlight special collections.

