

## **I Unit Narrative**

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The Unit Narrative should be **no more than 5 pages** in length and should:

1. review the major activities and accomplishments of the unit in FY23

IAS contributed significantly to the Library's and University's research, teaching, and outreach missions last year. Through both individual efforts and collaborative initiatives IAS supports critical library wide strategies including the role of area studies collections and services contribute to shared library goals such as engaging the campus' global diversity, addressing global grand challenges, advancing co-curricular programming, and strengthening collections in ways that create unique strengths and address gaps in representation.

IAS provided direct support to 6 Title VI NRC and FLAS grants from centers in the Illinois Global Institute the areas of: African Studies; European Union Studies; Global Studies; Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Middle East Studies; and Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. These grants signify both the strength of the work of IAS and provide significant resources to build unique collections, develop resources, and further the library's mission. In total, these grants will contribute nearly \$150,000 annually toward collections, graduate assistantships, and direct library. In addition, the Slavic Reference Service, led by Professor Joe Lenkart, earned another State Department Title VIII grant, which funded a full-time AP, and graduate assistant position to enhance access to library resources, provide reference services, and support visiting scholars.

IAS's success in achieving this mission over the past year relied heavily on interdisciplinary collaborative practices. As a unit, IAS faculty collaborate closely to innovate and implement programs and practices which directly support the campus community. In the past academic year, IAS collaborated with units across campus, working directly with nearly 40 academic units, programs, and centers.

Nationally, IAS contributes a unique and substantial level of leadership nationally to the field of Area Studies and Area Studies Librarianship. As the below list highlights, IAS faculty serve in leadership roles in nearly each national organization focused on area studies librarianship with two current association presidents and numerous elected chairs and board members to important national committees that set the agenda nationally for collection development, services, and initiatives within the field.

2. Review the major challenges faced by the unit during that period;

The major challenges faced by the unit are noted in 3 below. In addition, the Unit still faces challenges from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the summer of 2023, the unit held a series of conversations and unit wide retreat to discuss these challenges and work towards new ways in which to communicate, work collaboratively, and develop a strategic vision for the unit. As noted below, implementation of this will be a unit wide goal for 2023-24.

3. identify significant changes to unit operations, personnel, service profile, or service programs;

Faculty Retirements – the retirement of Shuyong Jiang, a prominent leader in the field of Chinese Studies Librarianship, created a large gap to be filled within IAS. As the library seeks to fill this position, the unit head has assumed the responsibility of coordinating support for collections and services related to Chinese studies, including the supervision of a graduate hourly. IAS's Unit Head

has also absorbed other areas without adding faculty, including Global Studies and Japanese Studies. These added duties take away from important administrative and unit level activities, and cross-unit activities. The unit looks forward to having this position filled in AY2024.

UGL Move and Accommodating Mortenson – over the past year, IAS like other libraries experienced the collective stress of the closure of the Undergraduate Library and accommodation of colleagues into spaces already fully used. IAS was able to welcome the Mortenson Center into its space during this interim period and appreciates the assistance provided by Facilities and the flexibility of all parties involved in making this transition a success. IAS will monitor the impact of this on faculty who are now sharing office space.

4. Selected ways in which the unit and/or its members contributed to University and/or academic college goals, directly or through Library-wide programs, including:

Reference, research consultations and other information services;

IAS collections and services also provide a unique level of support for research and teaching at a campus and national level. IAS' reference and research services engage patrons with a high level of support. A bulk of IAS' 2,987 reference consultations were at the Read Scale of 4 or higher. Consultations at this level often require as much preparation as a library instruction session since they often require reference to specialized sources in multiple languages. This is also reflected by the fact that 33% of IAS' consultations are with graduate students and faculty while an additional 33% are with visiting scholars and faculty from other institutions nationally. In this manner, IAS contributes uniquely to both the campus' teaching and research missions while also contributing to the campus' national and international impact by projecting its resources and expertise broadly.

The connection between reference and research consultation and long-term investment in services and collections is also evident. The Slavic Reference Services, which celebrated 50 years of combined library and State Department support provided a preponderance of consultations. Other areas, which have received much more modest investments in staff and collections over the past decades attract fewer consultations.

Student Success:

IAS faculty provided 180 research consultations (Read Scale > 4) for graduate and undergraduate students in the past year, demonstrating the individualized support provided to meet student needs.

Joe Lenkart provides leadership to the successful Doctoral Support program

In addition, there is regular collaboration with the Student Success Librarian and Mara Thacker, including on a series of programming around the theme of professional wrestling, board game events, the social justice zine collection in collaboration with Ricker Library, as well as the first pop-up library in the orange room featuring comics and graphic novels, and a marketing campaign to help students find popular materials.

Instructional Support:

IAS faculty contribute to instruction through both traditional library sessions and as course instructors. Courses like Kit Condill's IS461 (Russian, European & Eurasian Bibliography &

Research Methods), Atoma Batoma and Laila Hussein's co-taught Bibliography of Africa (IS451ACG), and Steve Witt's GLBL 501 (Perspectives in Global Studies Research) service as significant library instruction vehicles that combine research methods with the appropriate use of sources within interdisciplinary area studies. Through this work, IAS librarians are partnering with the Illinois Global Institute to develop a new Graduate Certificate focused on area studies scholarly publishing and research to be team taught within the unit.

Collection access and management;

- Laila Hussein is part of the Big Ten Middle East Studies Librarians group trying to build sharing collection to limit duplicate and expand the collections.
- Antonio Sotomayor provided expert feedback to colleagues in RBML that led to the acquisition of a special manuscript from 1592 in relation to the Quiche Maya population in present day Guatemala, \$48,000.

Scholarly Communication and Publishing:

Editorial Boards

- JLOE – Mara Thacker, Co-Editor, Journal of Library Outreach and Engagement
- IFLA Journal, Steve Witt, Executive Editor
- Antonio Sotomayor: Editorial Board of *Acción: Revista Cubana de la Cultura Física* (Havana, Cuba).
- Atoma is a member of the editorial board of the *Electronic Journal of Africana Bibliography* which had ceased in 2014 and was relaunched in 2022 by Columbia University Libraries with a US-based editorial team composed of African studies librarians from Columbia University, Harvard University, The Library of Congress, Michigan State University, and The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Diversity, equality, inclusion and accessibility;

- Mara Thacker - Social Justice Zine Collection in collaboration with Student Success Librarian and Art and Architecture Library
- Mara Thacker - Crowdfunded comics collection (marginalized voices)
- Diversifying collections across library –
- Kit Condill: focus on publications of marginalized groups (Uyghur, Crimean Tatar)
- Steve Witt was CO-PI on Chancellor's Call to Action Grant to Address Racism & Social Injustice: Yellow Peril Project

Outreach and public engagement –

In addition to the multiple events organized by IAS, a selected listing of activities are as follows:

- Through the leadership of Atoma Batoma and Bob Geraci, IAS hosted the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra for a Krannert Center concert and library jam session in the IAS.
- Laila Hussein - Lecture by Dr. Kalpana Rao in collaboration with CSAMES on "Identity and Culture: Postcolonial Perspectives in Select South Asian Writing"
- Atoma Batoma - Co-sponsorship of Visiting Mangaka lecture with Kofi Bazzell-Smith and Kazuo Maekawa

- Antonio Sotomayor - “The Viceroyalty of Peru in the Times of the Conde de Montemar.” Exhibit with RBML
  - Antonio Sotomayor was interviewed by Eric Bazail-Eimil, “Puerto Rico Inches Toward Self-Determination”, in CubaSí, December 4, 2022.
  - Laila Hussein received grants as part of Title 6 to host “ Women and AI in Africa “workshops, conferences, and talk for four years; Hosted four talks on Women and AI in Africa”
5. Briefly summarize progress made on Unit Annual Goals for FY23 (as enumerated in the FY22 Unit Annual Report);
    - Recruit Chinese studies librarian (complete);
    - Unit white paper on diversifying/decolonization of collections with area studies focus (ongoing);
    - Restarting some of instructional / co-curricular services from pre-covid (complete)
    - UGL – increase connections with undergraduate students (ongoing);
    - Support for new T6 NRC grants (ongoing)
  6. Briefly articulate proposed Unit Annual Goals for FY24.

In addition to ongoing goals noted above, IAS’ main and overarching goals for FY24 revolve around building new structures for communication and collaborative work within the unit around Collections, Reference and Instruction, and Engagement. This begins with an early year series of planning conversations about goals and activities to be follow-up by collective projects within each area. The overall aim of these efforts is to better serve the unit’s interdisciplinary patron base and reach a broader constituency of patrons.

- Provide Mentorship and Support for incoming Chinese Studies Librarian while providing ongoing support for associate professors to move toward full professor
  - Advocate for approval of an EA Studies Librarian
  - Support ongoing grant programs (Title VI and Title VIII)
  - With the Division, develop further acquisitions and collection building capacity in collaboration with the Special Collections Division
  - Review and Revise unit collection development statements with the Division.
7. What your unit needs to support your goals and your overall mission (training, facility needs, IT, etc.)

Shelving to host pop-up collections;

For units employing Graduate Assistants (GAs), the Unit Narrative should also include the following:

8. the number of GAs (FTE and Head Count) employed during FY23;
 

4.58 FTE GA, 6 graduate students funded by Library (.50); Title VI Grants (.88); Title VI Grants (.25); Chancellor’s Call to Action Grant (.25) the funding source for the unit’s GAs (e.g., state funds, grant funds, endowment funds);
9. the major responsibilities assigned to the GAs in the unit, and an overview of the contributions made (or projects completed) by GAs during the fiscal year.

IASL graduate assistants play a critical role in the daily operations of the unit. These include instructional services, specialized projects, collection development, and assisting with outreach and

engagement work. The library funded IASL graduate assistants collaborated with the International Reference Librarian to develop a post-COVID marketing and engagement strategy, which sought to address the following challenges:

- How do reengage with our user groups after a prolonged period of heightened anxiety caused by COVID-19 endemic?
- What services, expertise, and resources should we highlight to create a supportive environment for our users?

IASL graduate assistants revamped our social media strategy to include Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter) as the main conduits for consistent messaging throughout the year. The first phase of the reengagement campaign started with user spaces (Fall 2022). Since the first and second floors in the Main Library Building were primarily hosting large crowds, our team rebranded spaces in IAS and surrounding areas as relaxing, comfortable, safe, and quiet spaces for conducting research. We primarily targeted undergraduate and graduate students. As an example of our approach, we started “Free Coffee, Bagels, and Donuts on the Third Floor” on Tuesdays, which became (not surprisingly) a popular event with campus groups. We increased traffic on the Third Floor (it is now a popular spot for studying). Furthermore, IASL graduate assistants hosted Research Conversation Hours on Wednesdays (5:00 pm – 6:00 pm) and Thursdays (10:00 am – 11:00 am). Our collective goal was to get more people back into the Library.

IASL graduate assistants continued the work on the popular online series, “International Cooking Show,” which regularly attracts international students, community members, and teaching faculty. Each segment features a guest chef (most of the time students) and a dish from their home country or area of specialization. Since 2021, the International Cooking Show has averaged 15-20 participants each episode.

For the reporting period, IASL graduate assistants also made contributions to the Global Diasporas Digitization Project. Working with the project team, the graduate assistants searched and identified materials in the University of Illinois Library collection for digitization. The Global Diasporas Project includes UIUC teaching faculty, a representative from the Spurlock Museum, and librarians from IASL. Well over five hundred items have been identified for digitization. This collection will be access through the Internet Archive.

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## II Statistical Profile

### 1. Facilities

#### Fall User Seating Counts:

##### Rm 321

Other- 252

Laptops- 1,546

Microform Reader- 37

Computer- 87

Flatbed Scanner- 2

Printer- 4

##### RM 309

Other- 130

Laptops- 562

Computer- 10

#### Combined Room Totals:

Other = 434      Microform Readers=54

Laptops =2,478      Bookeye Scanner=164

Computer =97

#### Spring User Seating Counts:

##### Rm 321

Other-83

Laptops-1,790

Microform Reader-29

Computer-17

Flatbed Scanner-2

##### RM 309

Other-85

Laptops-379

Computer-1

##### RM 319

Other-44

Laptops-439

Bookeye Scanner-107

Microform Readers-6

Printer-0

**Combined Room Totals:**

**Other =212                      Microform Readers=35**

**Laptops =2,608                      Bookeye Scanner=107**

**Computer =18**

**Number of hours open to public:**

Fall –894 hours / **56** hrs. per week

Spring-857 hours/ **56** hrs. per week

Summer I-160 hours/ **40** hrs. per week

Summer II-386 hours/**52** hrs. per week

Interim- 80 hours/ **40** hrs. per week

**2. Personnel**

**Faculty/Staff**

| Name                       | Title   | %   |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| Joe Lenkart                | Associate Professor, International Reference Librarian and Manager of Slavic Reference Service, Area of Focus: Central Asian Studies                                | 100 |
| Serenity Stanton<br>Orengo | Library Specialist<br>Slavic Reference Service  | 50  |
| Atoma Batoma               | Associate Professor, African Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: African Studies  | 100 |
| Mara Thacker               | Associate Professor, South Asian Studies & Global Popular Culture Librarian, Area of Focus: South Asian Studies   | 100 |
| Antonio Sotomayor          | Associate Professor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Associate Professor History & Spanish and Portuguese Area of Focus: Latin American and Caribbean Studies | 100 |
| Laila Hussein Moustafa     | Associate Professor, Middle East and North African Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Middle East and North Africa   | 100 |

|                    |   |                     |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| Steve Witt         | Associate Professor, Head of International and Area Studies, Area of Focus: Global Studies and Japanese Studies                       | 100                 |
| Kit Condill        | Associate Professor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies | 100                 |
| Robert Paul Geraci | Research Associate Professor  | 100                 |
| Marek Sroka        | Andrew S. G. Turyn Professor, Central European Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Central European Studies                             | 0                   |
| Olga Makarova      | Visiting Research Specialist, Slavic Reference Service Title VIII Grant Funded  | 100                 |
| Jan Adamczyk       | Senior Library Specialist, Slavic Reference Services, Area of Focus: Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies                      | 50<br>Retired 12/22 |
| Xiaoping Qi        | Senior Library Specialist, Area of Focus: Chinese Cataloging  | 40                  |
| Lisa Renee Kemplin | Library Operations Associate  | 100                 |
| Paula Carns        | Associate Professor, Literature and Languages Librarian, Area of Focus: European Union Studies  | 0                   |
| Vacant             | Chinese Studies Librarian   | Filled Fall 2024    |
| Vacant             | Japanese Studies Librarian  | Interim – S. Witt   |
| Vacant             | Koren Studies Librarian   | --                  |

**IAS Library GAs:**

3/ Fall-Janelle Lyons (IAS), Alexis Kreft (IAS), and Libby Cave (Global Studies)

3/ Spring/Janelle Lyons (IAS), Alexis Kreft (IAS), Rebecca Stover (Japanese Studies) and Libby Cave (Global Studies)

**REEEC GAs:**

2/Fall-Katherine Ashcraft and Ethan Waters

3/Fall-Katherine Ashcraft, Ethan Waters, and Tabby Cochrane

**GHS:**

6/ Fall (3 Slavic/3 IAS)



5/Spring (2 Slavic/3 IAS)

**Extra Help:**

2/Fall

1/Spring

**SAs:**

6/Fall IAS

8/Spring IAS

**Summer**

**SAs:**

5 (IAS Desk)

**Extra Help:**

1 (Ralph Fisher)

1 (Desk)

1 (Global Studies)

**GHS:**

(1 Title VI/ 1 Title VIII/ 1 Ralph Fisher/2 IAS/ 2 Global Studies)

**Practicum Student:**

1 Fall

**3. User Services**

Most of the following data has been generated by the Office of User Services and will be available at G:\Annual report Stats\StatsForAnnualReport2022-23 by mid-August.

**Gate Count**

**Fall 3,173      Spring 9,143**

**Sweeps Week**

**Fall 581              Spring 508**

### 3. User Services

- Circulation (from Alma fulfillment reports)

Circulation counts: 1,485 (Note that IAS has no real circulating collection with only a modest circulating new books collection of 4,131).

- Reference interactions
  - 2314
- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)
  - Number of presentations to groups (synchronous): 12
  - Number of participants in group presentations (synchronous): 380

#### Other statistics (optional)

### 4. Outreach

#### 2022-23 Events:

| Date    | Event  |
|---------|--|
| 9/16    | Meet and Greet                               |
| 10/4    | Intro to Scholarly Research Series           |
| 10/18   | Intro to Scholarly Research Series           |
| 11/1    | Intro to Scholarly Research Series           |
| 11/16   | Intro to Scholarly Research Series           |
| 11/30   | Intro to Scholarly Research Series           |
| 9/14    | Research Connection                          |
| 9/27    | Chicago Immigrant Orchestra Demonstration    |
| 9/27    | Chicago Immigrant Orchestra Concert Krannert |
| 9/29    | Research Spotlight Series                    |
| 10/28   | International Cooking Show                   |
| 10/13   | Baltic Research Forum                        |
| 10/21   | Research and Language Learning               |
| 11/9    | Research and Language Learning               |
| 10/10   | Doctoral Research Support Program            |
| 10/28   | Panel Discussion                             |
| 12/8    | International Poetry Night                   |
| 11/11   | Doctoral Research Support                    |
| 11/3, 4 | Central Asia Research Forum                  |
| 11/11   | International Cooking Show                   |
| 12/5    | Meet the National Libraries                  |

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9/20-10/25 | Highlight IAS Space Series (Weekly) |
| 1/19       | Meet the National Libraries         |
| 2/22       | ILL Symposium                       |
| 5/17,18    | National Libraries Conference       |
| W/Th       | Research Conversations              |
| 2/15       | International Cooking Show          |
| 3/10       | Meet the National Libraries         |
| 4/18       | Meet the National Libraries         |
| 4/13       | Poetry in Translation               |
| 4/7        | Writing in the Life Sciences        |
| 4/21       | International Cooking Show          |

### III Appendices (optional)

Units may

- append additional material that illustrates the year's accomplishments, such as program flyers or assessment results;
- cite relevant Web pages, reports, or other documents that provide a richer description of the year's activities.