New Library Homepage Launched

The University Library launched its new home page (library.illinois.edu) on October 27. The redesign fulfills the Library’s goal of providing users with an improved online experience.

The launch follows extensive user testing and marks the completion of Phase One of the redesign, which included improving the usability of the site on mobile devices, fixing bugs, and cleaning up code, and documentation. Phase Two will include the redesign of the Library-wide second-level landing pages.

The Library met with Disability Resources & Educational Services (DRES) during the redesign and the new homepage complies with the accessibility guidelines required by state law, and is fully accessible to those using assistive technologies, such as screen readers.

Survey data will continue to be collected and addressed, and iterative, small-scale improvements to the new homepage will continue as feedback is received.

A link to the former homepage will be retained through the end of the fall semester.

Take a look and let us know what you think!

A New Space for Archival Researchers

Over winter break the University Archives will open a new service point on the first floor of the Main Library. The remodeled space (formerly the Applied Health Sciences Library) will include a spacious, high-ceilinged reading room, exhibit area, and conference room.

Currently, the University Archives occupies an over-crowded basement space with few amenities. The new space, Room 146, will offer researchers an inviting environment for examining primary sources and consulting with archivists. Heavily-used collections will also be housed there, along with offices for the Archives’ faculty and staff.

For background on this project, which is part of the Library’s New Service Models program, see www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/archives.

Research Data Service News

The Research Data Service (RDS) is located in 310-312 Main Library. It provides up-to-date knowledge of agency and publication policies on data management and sharing; data management best practices
via consultation and workshops (researchdataservice.illinois.edu/workshops) in collaboration with the Scholarly Commons; a DMPTool; DataCite DOIs (digital object identifiers) to facilitate access to and citation of data, visualizations, and code; and additional tools for improved organization, workflow, and data description.

**New RDS Website**

A website for the Research Data Service has been launched at researchdataservice.illinois.edu.

**Department of Energy Now Requiring Data Management Plans**

As of October 1, Data Management Plans (DMPs) are required in all invitations and solicitation for research funding issued by the DOE Office of Science. To help, researchers may use the DMPTool (https://dmptool.org), an easy-to-use online wizard for creating a DMP specific to a given research project. The wizard includes help text, links to resources, and Illinois-specific suggested answers. Select “University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign” and login with a NetID and password to automatically create an account. Plans can be created, saved, edited, shared, and reviewed.

**Contact Information**

Connect with RDS Director Heidi Imker at (217) 300-3513 or researchdata@library.illinois.edu.

**New York Times Subscription Service**

The Library is participating in a pilot program that provides free access to NYTimes.com through June 30, 2015. The program is underwritten in partnership by the University’s Collegiate Readership Fee.

Faculty, staff, and students can take advantage of this access by creating an account with their Illinois e-mail address (e.g., jones@illinois.edu) using an on-campus computer or any computer that is connected to the campus network through the CITES-provided VPN. Once an account is created, users can then access NYTimes.com from any online device.

Instructions for creating an account, including an overview of the product, some basics on searching the resource, and frequently asked questions, are located at uiuc.libguides.com/nyt. Contact the Library at library.illinois.edu/askus with questions about the process or for assistance with access.

**Oak Street Reading Room Now Open**

The Oak Street Reading Room provides a space for patrons to use Library materials housed in its High Density Storage. This is particularly useful when a patron needs to consult a large number of books, such as multi-volume sets. Unless materials are building-use only, patrons can take items home. Alternatively, they can request that items be set aside for them to use in the Reading Room.

Besides tables for research, the Reading Room has a public computer connected to a multi-function printer capable of scanning, copying, and printing.

For hours, location, and more information on requesting materials, please visit www.library.illinois.edu/cmservices/oakstreet_readingroom.html.
Second Annual Library Research Showcase

The Library hosted its popular Library Research Showcase on November 12. Library faculty and academic professionals presented their research, which impacts a wide variety of library services as well as the global LIS profession and other scholarly fields.

Faculty interested in Library Research Showcase materials, including poster sessions, tech demos, and lightning talks, should visit www.library.illinois.edu/committee/rpc/showcase.

American Music Month Events

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the start of World War I and illustrate how this first world conflict forever changed the face of music in America, the University of Illinois’ 2014 American Music Month celebration will explore the indoctrination of social and political ideals across 20th-century America through music during times of peace and war.

The Sousa Archives and Center for American Music’s first exhibition, World War I with America’s March King, kicks off its exploration of the war’s influence on John Philip Sousa and his musical contributions to the country between 1914 and 1920. Other exhibits include Pogo Studio: Capturing the Sounds of Champaign-Urbana’s Music Scene, The Fighting Illini 1917-1918 Legacy, Professor Harding and the Illinois Bands During WWI, and Many Voices: the Great War in America’s Songs which is another new exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History.

For further information on this year’s programming, please visit the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music’s 2014 events calendar at archives.library.illinois.edu/sousa/events.

Getting to Know Your Librarian

The Library’s faculty includes librarians who are knowledgeable about various disciplines. These individuals can serve as your primary contacts within the Library to learn about the collections, to help acquire materials to support your teaching or research, and to introduce your students to the Library, its collections, and strategies for exploring the information landscape in their majors.

To find an expert in your area, visit www.library.illinois.edu/administration/collections/subjectdirectory.html.

Subject specialist librarians can:
- Receive your recommendations of books, journals, and other resources for the Library to acquire.
- Visit your classes to advise students on finding information for assignments, or arrange a class tour of the Library.
- Help you with your own searches for literature and information.
- Show you how to include your scholarship in IDEALS (www.ideals.illinois.edu), the University’s digital repository.
- Connect you to Library personnel who will assist you in developing data stewardship plans, conducting research with data, or digitizing content.
• Help you discover special collections at Illinois or elsewhere that might complement your research or support the needs of graduate students working with you.

Still not sure which librarian is “yours”? Ask-a-Librarian for a referral at www.library.illinois.edu/askus.

What’s Happening at the Library?

Visit the Library’s Gateway at www.library.illinois.edu for important announcements and to learn more about Library resources and services that support faculty teaching and research.

The online calendar provides information about exhibits, lectures, meetings, and other events taking place at the Main Library and its departmental libraries and units. For example, letters, photographs, posters, pamphlets, documents, and books from WWI will be on display at The Rare Book & Manuscript Library (www.library.illinois.edu/rbx) as part of its First Global Conflict: Contemporary Views of the Great War, 1914-1919 exhibition through December 19.

Are you using Facebook? Keep up with the Library by “liking” the Main Library’s page located at www.facebook.com/universitylibrary.