

ILLINI UNION BROWSING ROOM
Anne Martel; October 1984
Revised: March 1987

I. DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose: To provide recreational reading material and records for members of the University community. There are incidental but important secondary services provided by the Browsing Room: 1) each semester it lends books needed for the reserve collection to several Departmental Libraries; 2) it often has the only copy or a needed duplicate copy of a book, periodical or newspaper and 3) it serves as another source for students and staff to obtain heavily used current periodicals.

B. History of Collection: The Illini Union Browsing Room opened officially on February 8, 1941. It was located in what is now the President's Lounge. The initial collection consisted of 1,182 books and 2 periodical titles which did not circulate. Book circulation was introduced on September 1, 1951. In May, 1949, in cooperation with the Illini Union, a circulating record collection of about 500 record albums was added. With the addition of the album collection, some of the student assistants were transferred from the University Library payroll to the Illini Union payroll. On June 12, 1964, the Browsing Room was moved to its present location, previously known as the Wedgewood Lounge. The area of the room, 1,823 square feet, is double the size of the original location. The collection increased substantially over the years.

C. Estimate of Holdings: 4,000 volumes, 46 periodicals, 4 newspapers, and 1,000 records (discs).

D. State, Regional, and National Importance: Although the collection is selected solely with the local University Community in mind, there are requests for books from LCS and interlibrary loan users.

E. Unit Responsible for Collecting: Illini Union Browsing Room.

F. Location of Materials: Illini Union Browsing Room.

G. Citation of Works Describing the Collection:

Martel, Anne, "A Study of Comparative Leisure Reading Habits of Students, Faculty, and Support Staff, and Male and Female Reading Preferences as Reflected by Circulation in the Illini Union Browsing Room," 1977 (Unpub.)

_____. "Questionnaire Distributed to Patrons in the Illini Union Browsing Room to Determine Use of Periodicals and Newspapers," 1983 (Unpub.)

II. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Languages: English only.

B. Chronological Guidelines: No restrictions.

C. Geographical Guidelines: No restrictions.

D. Treatment of Subject: The principle criterion is that the material be of current interest, so the treatment is usually popular, but may be scholarly as well. The subject matter may be in any area and the collection consists primarily of current fiction and non-technical non-fiction, and some older works in the areas of art, travel, and cookbooks. The record collection includes all types of music as well as material such as poetry, drama, humor and foreign language lessons.

E. Types of Materials: Books, periodicals, general reference works, records, and newspapers.

F. Date of Publication: Current materials, mainly published in the last 10 years. On average, books remain in the collection for five years after purchase so that as much material is weeded each year as is added.

G. Place of Publication: United States.

III. COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY BY SUBJECT SUBDIVISIONS WITH QUALIFICATIONS, LEVELS OF COLLECTING INTENSITY, AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ES</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>DL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>
Current, popular works of fiction and non-technical non-fiction	1	1	1	UNION BROWSING