

## **Unit Annual Report**

### **Literatures and Languages Library**

#### I      Unit Narrative

---

The Literatures and Languages Library's (LLL) mission is to provide library materials and services to the UIUC campus for research and study of the literature and languages of Western Europe, North and South America, and Franco- and Luso-phone Africa as well as cinema studies, translation studies and linguistics. The unit serves as the primary library for the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, the Department of English, and Cinema Studies. The unit's major functions are the selection and ordering of print and online materials (books, journals, magazines, films, reference works and databases), reference, instruction, and outreach to the campus and local community. Through its various activities the LLL participates in the Library's strategic mission to the UIUC campus. Last year was the Literatures and Languages' second full year of operation and a very successful year.

#### **Staffing**

The LLL is home to three library professionals: Paula Carns, Head, Literatures and Languages Library and Librarian for Literatures and Languages covering continental European and Latin American literature, linguistics and translation studies. Until mid-December 2012 she was also the Interim Librarian for Latin America and the Caribbean. Harriett Green is the English and Digital Humanities Librarian, who also offers office hours and works closely with the Scholarly Commons as part of her services for digital humanities. Robert Cagle is the Cinema Studies and Media Services Specialist. Caroline Szylowicz, Kolb-Proust Librarian Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, continued to be the librarian for French studies though she is no longer officially apart of the unit, now being full-time in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Caroline purchases materials for French language and literature, is the liaison with the Department of French and provides them with instruction and upper-level reference; basic reference, however, is handled in the LLL. The LLL had two civil service staff: Stuart Albert, Senior Library Specialist, and Carl Graves, Library Assistant. Stuart joined LLL in August 2013. Because of his extensive background in literary studies (he holds a Masters in English Literature), deep knowledge of collection management from his years working in the Main Stacks, and strong work ethics, Stuart required very little training and was fluent with his new job duties with in a few weeks. Stewart handled circulation, collection management, and student supervision. Carl Graves was responsible for unit supplies and serials management, and performed both duties to a very high standard, with great attention to detail. In FY 12 the LLL had three graduate assistants (see more below) and depending on the semester five to eight Student Assistants. LLL also hosted for three months in the Spring 2013 a student, François Michel, from L'École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de

l'Information et des Bibliothèques.

## **Collection Development**

Humanities librarianship is still primarily focused on the acquisition of books, journals, magazines, films, and online tools. As in previous years the professional staff at the LLL spent most of the last year building the collections in their respective areas. In so doing, the librarians met the needs of the campus and supported the mission of the Library.

Noteworthy collection development activities are:

Deeping and expanding the collection for Scandinavian studies was an important focus for Paula Carns in FY13. Paula Carns took on responsibility for this area in FY12 but her many other duties as well as the absence on sabbatical of the primary faculty for Scandinavian studies limited her collecting activities. The return of this faculty member, hire of a faculty member with background in Scandinavian studies (though his primary duties are in German), and development of new courses that expand the standard regional and thematic boundaries (for instance, a new course on the history, culture and environment of the Arctic) required a great deal more attention to book buying in this region. Prof. Carns worked closely with the Scandinavian faculty to target possible book vendors in Scandinavia, the Nordic regions and the US (For immigrant literature). In addition, she collected data on collection development for this region by surveying librarians in North America whose positions included the region. To help her gather data on booksellers and distributors as well as to place orders, Prof. Carns requested and received from the University Librarian funds to hire a graduate student fluent in Swedish. As a result, the library now has materials to support the curriculum as well as a number of relatively unique items.

A second area of emphasis for Paula Carns was to purchase online databases for German studies. There were several reasons for doing so: development of new products, desire on the part of faculty and students to have greater access to online reference works and databases, and lack of space for the already burgeoning German collection. She purchases the much-desired *Duden Dictionary Collection* and *Verfasser-Datenbank: Autoren der deutschsprachigen Literatur und des deutschsprachigen Raums*.

For the English Literature collection, Harriett Green focused on enhancing usage of the collection with the promotion of newly acquired databases such as Adams Matthews' *Romanticism and the Landscape* and the *Perdita Manuscripts; Oxford Online Bibliographies*; and *Nineteenth Century Collections Online*. Harriett also worked with English faculty in the creative writing unit to acquire several literary journals needed by MFA students and faculty.

With regards to collection development, one challenge facing librarians in the LLL is simply the time it takes to place orders. While new programs help librarians in the selecting, searching and ordering of library materials, the actual buying of books, particularly of non-

US imprints, still takes a great deal of time and energy. The staff at LLL is little help with acquisitions, as this function has not traditionally been part of their duties and they are busy with many other critical functions. Thus the clerical activities associated with placing orders falls to librarians.

## **Collection Management**

As in previous years, the Literatures and Languages Library received a great many print books and serials. Literary and film studies are still primarily formatted in print form and faculty and students in these disciplines much prefer print copies over digital analogs with the exception of journal articles. Given that the LLL shelves were almost to capacity as the start of the year, it was imperative that the collection be weeded. The collection was shifted in order to evenly distribute growth room provided by transfers to STX or STOS. Criteria for transfer included redundant copies, superceded editions, and works no longer deemed to be of immediate importance to the Library's mission. The selection was done by subject specialists, transfer procedure (including records maintenance as necessary) was handled by staff, and the bulk of the physical relocation of the pieces was handled by students, under staff guidance and supervision.

## **Online Guides/ LLL Web Site**

Online guides are a crucial way that the librarians at the LLL provide access to the unit's rich and diverse collection of online and print resources. Here is a list of new and expanded guides.

- German Studies – Paula Carns, with the help of a graduate assistant, completely overhauled the previous suite of guides for German studies. She brought them up-to-date, made them more user friendly through better organization and conversion to LibGuides, and included more instructional information so that students can better learn to use the library and be more information literate.
- Scandinavian Studies —Paula Carns, with the help of a graduate assistant, created a number of new guides for Scandinavian studies...give details.
- Linguistics – Paula Carns created an extensive online library guide for linguistics with links to our growing collection of e-reference tool as well as instructions for finding materials in linguistics. Now faculty and students can easily access linguistic materials from home or, in the case of print copies, know about them and how to find and/ or order them.
- French Studies—our intern François Michel developed new and expanded exiting online guides for French studies and in so doing created a rich suite of tools for faculty

and students studying French language, linguistics, literature and culture around the world.

- American and British literature: Harriett Green worked with graduate assistant Brian Flota and GSLIS practicum students Mandi Goodsett and Salina Bush to create and/or revise LibGuides for specific English courses as well as general topics. New and revised guides included: Gothic literature; Chaucer; African-American literature; a guide to open humanities digital collections; ARCH 576: Future Cities & The Utopian Project; ENGL 423: Milton; and ENGL 524R: Popular and Print Cultures in Early Modern Britain, 1600-1665.
- MLA video tutorials: Practicum student Mandi Goodsett created a series of video tutorials for the MLA International Bibliography that will be featured on the LLL website and LibGuides.

## **Library Instruction**

Library instruction is central to the LLL's mission to aid the educational role of the UIUC campus. Last year, the librarians at the LLL taught a large number of instructional sessions to a great many students.

Robert Cagle offered bibliographic instruction and one-on-one consultation for courses taught by Julie Turnock. He also served as consultant for the development of two courses: Environmental Activism and the Media, taught by Ann Reisner, and Women Directors, taught by Therese Grisham. Profs. Reisner and Grisham's request for help in the design of their courses bespeaks of the high praise they have for Robert's expertise.

Paula Carns gave 13 bibliographic sessions for 321 students in the Departments of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. The courses taught were: Reading Hispanic Texts, Business Spanish, and The Holocaust in Context. Two of the sessions for Reading Hispanic Texts were co-taught with the new librarian for Latin American and Caribbean studies, Antonio Sotomayor.

Harriett gave 22 instruction sessions for 326 students in the departments of English, History, Architecture, Art History, Media Studies, and Linguistics. The courses she worked with included Language History, Shakespeare's Audiences, Information Ethics, Media Literacy, and Introduction to Poetry. She also taught four Savvy Researcher sessions for the Scholarly Commons on Omeka and encoding in XML.

## **Reference**

The librarians at the LLL offer reference services, either in person or via phone or email, and each year answer quite a few questions. More and more these reference

interviews are becoming in-depth research consultations. Rarely now do they get asked questions that can be answered simply and in a few minutes. In addition, to helping patrons with reference needs, the librarians at LLL developed the LLL's vast reference collection, accompanying online guides and weeded older materials, especially in room 200, where there is very little space for new works.

## **Outreach**

Paula Carns organized four sessions (two per semester) of Librarians Live at FLB (Foreign Language Building) with librarians at the International and Area Studies Library.

Paula Carns hosted a poetry reading with and reception for a well-known Brazilian poet and his translator for the Center for Translation Studies.

Bob Cagle worked with Mara Thacker on an upcoming Indian Film Festival, to take place in October 2013.

Harriett Green gave talk about the LLL at the English Department New Student Orientation, a talk the Resources Round Robin Fair hosted by the English Student Council, and was a keynote speaker at the spring English graduate student colloquium. Harriett also gave a guest lecture in LIS 590DH: Digital Humanities.

## **Graduate Assistants**

The LLL employed two graduate assistants, each with 25% appointments: Meredith Drake and Brian Flota. Garrett Traylor was hired on special monies to help Paula Carns with Scandinavian studies.

### *Meredith Riddle*

- Meredith completed substantial web development and collection development projects for German, Austrian, and Italian literatures and cultures. Her web development projects included study abroad LibGuides for German-speaking countries and Brazil. She updated current pages for German studies with information about finding and using historical German newspapers and German children's literature. In the pre-existing Germanic Cultures & Media guide, a tab was created that offers links to digitized historical newspapers. Meredith developed two immigrant literature LibGuides. Finally, she also created an English language learning guide.
- For collection development research, Meredith identified desirable items for purchase for German documentaries, general German studies databases, and other linguistics

and biographical sources in German. She also evaluated Italian diaspora literary titles for possible inclusion in the LLL collections. She also updated the German section of Collection development guide with links to blogs and major publishers

- Meredith also provided back up coverage for circulation, reference and instruction services in the LLL. Meredith also provided Hub coverage 3 hours a week at the Info Desk.
- Meredith contributed to the LLL's blog.

#### *Brian Flota*

- Brian regularly updated and modified the LibGuides that are under the purview of the Literatures and Languages Library. He also co-created several LibGuides for the Literatures and Languages Library, including the following: African American Literature; ARCH 576: Future Cities & The Utopian Project; ENGL 423: Milton; ENGL 524R: Popular and Print Cultures in Early Modern Britain, 1600-1665; Geoffrey Chaucer Research Guide; and, Literatures and Languages Library Procedures. He also made contributions to the "Arthurian Literature" section of the LibGuide for Medieval English Literature.
- Brian made two classroom visits with English and Digital Humanities Librarian Harriett Green. The first was to an intro-level Communications class, where he and Harriett taught students how to use Omeka for their final projects. He assisted with handouts and any questions they had about the group exercises. The second visit was for English 524L, a course on English print culture from 1600-1665. In that class, Harriett discussed the EEBO and ABELL databases and walked the group to the reference room collection.
- For collection development, Brian created an Excel spreadsheet to monitor book reviews in major academic journals related to the discipline of literature. The goal of this project was to track leading texts in the field that were and were not in the English collection. In addition, Brian reviewed publishers' catalogs and book review publications to recommend items to be purchased for the collection.
- Brian contributed 15 updates to the Literatures and Languages Library blog. The topics of the posts ranged from upcoming events and innovations in the field of literature and library science to obituaries of recently deceased writers.
- Brian curated four glass-case exhibits for the Literatures and Languages Library. This work included generating themes, selecting items to be displayed, writing item labels, and arranging the display. Themes included Gothic Literature, American Literature and the Presidency, Baseball and American Literature, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. He also contributed to exhibits on Cyberpunk and African American Science Fiction Writing.
- Brian worked three hours each week in the Undergraduate Library doing Virtual Reference through the Ask-A-Librarian service.

#### *Garrett Traylor*

- Garrett was responsible for ordering books, films and journals for Scandinavian

- studies and tracking the purchases via a spreadsheet.
- Garrett created new guides for Germanic/ Scandinavian studies including: an Arctic Studies Guide (for an upcoming seminar), Old Norse-Icelandic Sagas, and Grimm's Fairy Tales. He made major enhancements to the following guides: Scandinavian Studies Library Orientation, Scandinavian Culture & Languages, Scandinavian Literature and Cinema and Scandinavian Viking Culture

## **Meeting FY13 Unit Annual Goals**

The LLL was very successful in meeting its goals for FY13. A primary goal was to actively participate in the New Service Model for the Humanities Hub. Librarians Paula Carns, Harriett Green, and Bob Cagle were members of the Main Library Humanities Hub Planning Team, which was charged to consider merging the LLL with other humanities and humanities-related units in the Main Library, such as the Classics Library, History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library, and Scholarly Commons. All of the librarians at the LLL actively participated in the discussion and writing of the report (<http://www.library.illinois.edu/nsm/humanities/index.html>).

Another goal was to work more closely with the Scholarly Commons: Harriett Green taught four Savvy Researcher workshops on topics in digital humanities, Omeka and XML encoding. Harriett also co-organized digital humanities events in the Scholarly Commons: The first Digital Humanities Colloquium was held in November in the Scholarly Commons, and it featured speakers from around campus talking about their research work in digital humanities. In the spring, Harriett organized a digital humanities brownbag workshop on Visualizations and Modeling with Michael Simeone as the speaker.

A third goal was to reduce the circulating collection, which we did. Graduate assistant Brian Flota surveyed the unit stacks for overcrowded areas in the English collection, and created a recommendation list used by staff specialist Stuart Albert to initiate a "bean counter" statistical analysis of the collection to select items for weeding.

## **Unit Annual Goals for FY14**

The primary goal for FY14 is simply to continue doing the good work of the last year. Paula Carns will be on sabbatical from November 16, 2013-August 15, 2014 and thus new initiatives will not be possible. John Wagstaff, Head of The Music and Performing Arts Library, will serve as interim head.

## **II Statistical Profile**

---

### **1. Facilities**

User seating (if applicable)

Tables – 48

Public Workstations – 4

Group Study Rooms – 8

Comfy Chairs – 16

Other – 2

Carrels – n/a

Index Tables – n/a

### **2. Personnel**

<b>Faculty</b>			
Paula Carns	100%	Head, Literatures and Languages Librarian	
Harriett Green	100%	English and Digital Humanities Librarian	
<b>Academic Professionals</b>			
Robert Cagle	100%	Cinema and Media Studies Specialist	
<b>Civil Service</b>			
Stuart Albert	100% (started August)	Senior Staff Specialist	
Carl Graves	100% (started May 24, 2012)	Library Assistant	
<b>Graduate Assistants</b>			
Meredith Drake	25%	State Funds	
Brian Flota	25%	State Funds	
Garrett Traylor	25%	Gift Funds	

Six Student Assistants	Wage Budget of \$17,000.		

### 3. User Services

The following data will be generated by the Office of User Services, but please report any additional data that is collected within the unit and is not reflected in centrally collected data.

- Gate Count or Head Count (as reported during FY12 Sweeps Week, or actual for units maintaining continuous statistics).
- Circulation
  - Initial and renewal.
  - Reserves.
  - Manual (if applicable) – Report using the web form at:  
<https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/1804189>
  - Other (if available)
- Reference n/a
- Number of hours open to the public per week
  - Summer II 2011, 40
  - Fall 2011, 54
  - Spring 2012, 54
  - Summer I 2012, 40
- Number of student enrolled in independent studies or practicum experiences supervised by unit faculty or staff, e.g.:

Paula Carns & Harriett Green, LIS 592-Independent Study, I student, Summer II 2013

- Credit course rubric and name for any credit-bearing courses taught by unit faculty or staff, and the number of students enrolled:

n/a

#### **4. Collection Management**

As of FY12, we no longer report break-downs of materials added to the collection by physical format.

### **III Preservation Statistics**

---

AS of FY12, we no longer report detailed preservation statistics.