

History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library (HPNL) FY14 Annual Report

An overview of the major activities and accomplishments of the unit in FY14 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) as well as history and scope of some projects

Reference Services, Bibliographic Instruction and Course Teaching

At the request of history faculty Interim Head and History Librarian, Marek Sroka, provided customized bibliographic sessions to different classes taught by the History Department faculty. The sessions included presentation about research resources for particular areas. The bibliographic sessions/lectures were prepared for the following classes:

History 498 “The Sixties” (taught by Prof. Diane Koenker, Chair of the Department of History)

History 498 “The Family in History” (taught by Prof. Kenneth Cuno)

History 200 “The Seventies” (taught by Prof. Kevin Mumford)

History 200 “Introduction to Historical Interpretation: the 1960s in the United States” (taught by Prof. Dorothee Schneider) co-presented with Cindy Ingold.

History 200D “Introduction to Historical Interpretation: Gender and Crime in the Early Modern World, 1450-1815” (taught by Prof. Dana Rabin)

History 593 “Approaches to History” (taught by Prof. Kristin Hoganson)

Slavic 452 “Global Memory Studies” (taught by Prof. Harriet Murav)

History Seminar (taught by David Greenstein)

History 354 “European History since 1939” (taught by Patryk Reid)

“African American Environmental History” (taught by Stephanie Seawell) co-presented with Tom Weissinger.

RLST 435 “Course on Revivalism and Evangelicalism” (taught by Prof. Jonathan Ebel) presented by Geoff Ross.

Each session was attended by 15-20 students. The instruction/lecture lasted on average about 30-40 minutes and was followed by questions and answers.

The number of bibliographic sessions conducted in FY14 speaks to the increased interest of history and religious studies faculty in having formal library instruction sessions provided for their undergrad and graduate students. In addition to reference questions relating to history, philosophy, Native American studies, religious studies, and Afro-American studies, HPNL receives a large volume of questions through its Web form or e-mail with respect to newspaper collections. Questions range from a personal family history to advanced historical research conducted by graduate students, doctoral students, and faculty. "Newspaper" questions are handled by HPNL staff almost on a daily basis, mostly by Geoff Ross, HPNL Collections and Services Specialist. Kirk Hess, Digital Humanities Specialist, assisted with questions about newspaper digital collections and digitization.

Tom Weissinger, Afro-American Studies Librarian (African American Research Center), continued to provide reference services in the area of African American Studies and Philosophy. Recognizing his distinguished scholarship and expertise the UIUC Department of African American Studies offered the Afro 102 course, *Researching the African American Experience*, in the Spring 2014 semester. Tom developed and taught the course. Afro 102 focused on research and documentation of the African American experience and examined significant repositories of African American culture in public libraries, historically black colleges, and predominantly white universities. The course also acknowledged the associations of influential bibliophiles (book collectors) and their contributions in establishing unique and rare collections of African American literature and history. Tom's research in that area resulted in the publication of a scholarly monograph, *The Book Collecting Practices of Black Magazine Editors*. The book

focuses on the collecting habits and personal libraries of the editors of three Black magazines: Ben Burns, Era Bell Thompson, and Tom Dent.

Collection Development and Collaboration with other Fund Managers

My collection development responsibilities for HPNL include history, religion, history of science, Jewish studies, and newspapers. HPNL acquired important digital and online collections, including resources such as *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Atlantic History* and *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Jewish Studies*; *ProQuest The Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century: Organizational Records and Personal Papers*; and digitized historical newspapers collections such as *ProQuest Historical Chinese Newspapers* and *Caribbean Newspapers (1718-1876) from the American Antiquarian Society*. The newspaper collections were purchased collaboratively with IAS fund managers, including Chinese Studies Librarian and Latin American and Caribbean Studies Librarian.

Major Acquisitions of Illinois Historical and Culturally Significant Newspapers

In FY14, Marek Sroka and Geoff Ross negotiated the acquisition of *St. Joseph Record* newspaper from the *St. Joseph Township-Swearingen Memorial Library*. Last fall, Susan McKinney, librarian and director at the *St. Joseph Township-Swearingen Memorial Library*, inquired with the University Library about transferring the newspapers to the University to better preserve them and to maximize their availability. Considering its importance for local Illinois history, HPNL responded quickly and proposed to house the collection. The print run of this newspaper includes 96 bound volumes from 1894 to 1980. See library news at:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/news/StJoe.html>

Another significant donation negotiated by HPNL included print copies of *Daily Illini*, culturally significant independent student paper at the University of Illinois. Under the agreement with the University of Illinois Library, negotiated by Marek Sroka and Jason Quackenbush (Library Development Office), the Illini Media Company donated 250 bound volumes of *Daily Illini*, ranging in date from 1926 to 2013, to the University of Illinois Library. The newspaper will be accessible to researchers interested in student life and culture at the University of Illinois.

Negotiations are underway to obtain pre-publication digital copies that will be accessible through the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections website (please see below).

Another significant “digital” acquisition included the microfilming and digitization of a unique and historical newspaper from Cairo, Illinois, namely *Cairo times-War Eagle series* (nos. 108-186 from August-November 1865). After successful negotiations, the owner has agreed to lend the paper to us so that it can be microfilmed and digitized as part of the NEH IDNP. Currently, HPNL is in the process of purchasing this rare title from the owner. The preservation of Illinois historical newspapers contributes to the public welfare of the citizens and educational and cultural institutions of our state. It is a great example of how UIUC Library helps local Illinois communities to preserve their cultural heritage. Other acquisitions and donations: 66 microfilm reels of *Daily Calumet* (1901-1937) copied from the collections of Chicago Historical Society (negotiations started by Mary Stuart and completed by Marek Sroka in 2014) and 20 microfilm reels of the Adam Matthew “Sex and Gender” collection, Part 3: Equal Opportunities and Pay, donated by Rice University in Houston, Texas (negotiated by Marek Sroka).

Circulating Collection and Collection Management

As part of reviewing our circulating collection HPNL staff transferred approximately 1,500 titles to the Oak Street Library Facility. This also allowed for more shelving space for incoming new books. HPNL circulated 14,821 items in FY14 (the second largest circulating statistics in the Main Library, excluding Main Stacks and Undergraduate Library)

Illinois Digital Newspaper Project

In FY14 Illinois Digital Newspaper Project (IDNP) personnel, Amy Sullivan, Project Coordinator, and Tracy Nectoux, Quality Control and Metadata Specialist moved their operations to HPNL (room 246). They began the final phase of the NEH grant that is scheduled to end in August 2015. **Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers** is a Website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages from 1836 to 1922, and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC). Under the NEH grant, the UIUC Library has been responsible for providing digital content for historic newspapers from the State of Illinois. There are currently 15 titles available from Illinois, including The Cairo Daily Bulletin, Chicago Eagle, The Illinois Free Trader, Rock Island Argus, etc.

Access: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> For Illinois newspapers contributed by the UIUC

Library see:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Illinoisðnicity=&language=>

Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections

After retiring the Olive platform, Kirk Hess, Digital Humanities Specialist, has successfully implemented the Veridian platform, a new online venue for Illinois digital newspaper collections. It is the point of access to four major newspaper collections, namely *Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection*, including historic Illinois newspapers from across the state as well as The Urbana Daily Courier, Sangamo Journal, and the University of Illinois collegiate newspaper The Daily Illini. These papers range in date from 1831 to 1975, providing a sense of local life and culture in the Midwest across two centuries. The second collection, *Farm, Field and Fireside*, contains historically significant U.S. farm weeklies published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The third collection, *American Popular Entertainment*, contains digital facsimiles of historic newspapers and trade journals published for the entertainment industry in the US between 1853 and 1929, including New York Clipper. Finally, the fourth collection, *Collegiate Chronicle*, contains selection of U.S. college newspapers from different regions and time periods, including American Eagle, Lincolnian, and Weekly Gettysburgian.

Access: <http://idnc.library.illinois.edu/>

Re-boxing of Microfilm Collection

HPNL staff has been re-boxing microfilms replacing old acetate boxes with new acid-free ones. So far, more than 25,000 microfilm boxes have been upgraded, including 3,851 replaced this past fiscal year ending on June 30, 2014. This is an ongoing preservation project conducted by HPNL staff in microfilm stacks in the Main Library.

Reformatting of Historical Newspapers

HPNL staff has also been involved in preservation reformatting of newspapers. In FY14 a newspaper reformatting workflow for brittle newspapers requested by patrons was developed by Head of Preservation and Conservation, Jennifer Teper, and Interim HPNL Head, Marek Sroka, and HPNL Collections and Services Specialist, Geoff Ross. The workflow identifies the areas where cooperation between HPNL, CAM and Preservation and Conservation is required. These include the identification of newspapers in potential need of reformatting; the review process; microfilming by an outside vendor; cataloging and possible digitization. Some titles that have already been reformatted include Fraternity, Potters Herald, Proletareets, Bond County Farm Bureau News; Wall Lake Journal, and Wall Lake Journal.

HPNL Personnel

Current HPNL personnel includes, in addition to Marek Sroka, Interim Head of HPNL and History Librarian, Tom Weissinger, Afro-American Studies Librarian (African American Research Center), Geoff Ross, Collections and Services Specialist, Kirk Hess, Digital Humanities Specialist (Kirk also works with the Library IT unit), Marie Till, Senior Library Specialist, and Glen Martin, Senior Library Specialist, and Illinois Digital Newspaper Project (IDNP) personnel, Amy Sullivan, Project Coordinator, and Tracy Nectoux, Quality Control and Metadata Specialist. In FY14 Sarah Hoover held a 25% graduate assistantship in HPNL. Her main responsibilities included assistance with digital newspaper collections and assisting Interim HPNL Head with the collection development as well as working at the Main Reference Hub.

HPNL in FY15

HPNL plays a critical role in serving not only the local students and faculty of history,

philosophy, religious studies, and Afro-American studies, but a wide state and out of state population of researchers especially interested in the HPNL's vast newspaper collections. Although the emphasis will remain on the development of online tutorials and videos, customized and individual in-person instructional sessions will still be offered as well as basic library orientation for new undergraduate and graduate students.

Statistics for HPNL FY14

Added/Cataloged new items for HPNL location: 942 monographs (items); 999 serials (items)

Circulation out of HPNL location: 14,821 (charges), 18,838 (renewals), 14,977 (discharges)

Sweeps Summary-Gate Counts for HPNL location: 801 (Fall FY2014), 934 (Spring FY2014), 27,744 (FY2014 Annual Extrapolation)

Sweeps Summary-Reference Transactions for HPNL location: 115 (Fall FY2014), 131 (Spring FY2014), 3,936 (FY2014 Annual Extrapolation)

Bibliographic Instruction Sessions by HPNL Instructors: Marek Sroka (15), Tome Weissinger (1), Geoff Ross (1)

Respectfully submitted by Marek Sroka, interim head of HPNL, on August 28, 2014