

**International and Area Studies (IAS)**  
**Unit Annual Report FY 14**  
**Submitted by Steve Witt, Unit Head**

I      Unit Narrative

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Through the accomplishments of faculty, dedicated staff, and assistants, IAS made significant contributions to the Library and campus over the past year. Given the breadth of IAS' activities and its wide interdisciplinary coverage, it is impossible to include each of the individual contributions the make up the whole of IAS' endeavors over the past year. This annual report thus provides highlights of activities and unit wide goals that exemplify our overall achievements.

**1. Major Activities and Accomplishments**

Over the past year, the International and Area Studies (IAS) library focused on achieving the goals set out for the 2014 fiscal year. One of the major accomplishments was to fill the position of International Reference Librarian, which is strategically significant to the Library's goals to provide broader based services to support international and area studies scholarship.

IAS faculty were also very much involved in supporting the drafting, editing, and data requirements of seven Title VI NRC and FLAS applications that were submitted in the summer of 2014. Continued Title VI funding is an important contributor to international and area studies on campus, so aiding the success of these grants was a high priority for IAS as a whole.

**2014 Summer Research Laboratory:**

A major accomplishment of IAS over the past year was to support and expand the Summer Research Laboratory that has been held in the Library for the past 40 years. Despite a lapse in Title VIII funding for the labs, the Library in collaboration with Area Studies Centers and the College of LAS successfully hosted both a Slavic and Middle East focused research lab that included 90 participants from North America, Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East.

The addition of the Middle East program, which focused on Ibadi Islam and the Arab Spring, marks what IAS hopes is a continued expansion of Summer research activities at Illinois. Through such programs, IAS aims to partner with the wider university community to make Illinois and the Library a summer destination for scholars to research, collaborate, and explore new ideas in an interdisciplinary atmosphere.

**Public Engagement and Establishment of iTEC.**

IAS also continued to host campus wide events that attracted attention to the Library's services and unique collections. In the fall, IAS hosted a delegation from Bosnia-Herzegovina that included the President, Cabinet members, and prominent members of the Bosnian diaspora community in the Midwest. This event highlighted the Library and IAS's commitment to partner with local community groups and institutions abroad to develop unique collections, services, and programs.

As a result of this event, IAS is now working with BosTel, a Bosnian media company located in Chicago, to archive and make available media related to the Bosnian experience in the US and in Bosnia. Resources such as this have great potential for supporting undergraduate research on topics ranging from diaspora to genocide.

IAS also continued to host public events that highlight the role of Area Studies Librarians in fostering a climate that encourages cultural diversity and international engagement in order to support campus research and learning objectives aimed at global citizenship and interdisciplinary problem solving. These activities, which included Library exhibits, musical performances, and a film festival have led IAS to create a committee to coordinate international teaching and engagement (iTEC). This committee will be chaired by Mara Thacker in 2014-15 and includes collaboration with the Mortenson Center and Cindy Ingold, the Women and Gender Resources Librarian.

## **2. Major Challenges**

### **Staffing**

One of the continuing challenges for the IAS is integrating new faculty to the Library. Fifty-percent of IAS' faculty are untenured and another 20% are new to Area Studies Librarianship. This presents challenges in training, mentorship, and maintaining new services. To help overcome these challenges, the IAS staff meets regularly to share ideas and collaborate on service and collection activities. In addition, IAS hosted a series of professional development meetings over the summer to provide further training on some of the systems and processes encountered as a library subject specialist. Training and mentoring a young faculty will be an ongoing priority within IAS.

IAS also welcomed a new Library Operations Assistant to the Unit. Lisa Renee Kimplen joined IAS in August of 2013 and has provided a much needed form of leadership and managerial support to the unit.

### **Facilities**

- The IAS finally received delivery and installation of long awaited shelving units and other furnishings to complete the new facility.
- IAS is still trying to overcome space constraints through which to provide services and office space for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

### **Information Technology Issues for Users**

- The IAS supports multiple languages and an interdisciplinary user base. One information technology issue that has become more acute over the past year is the need for OCR and textual analysis technologies that are required for new forms of digital scholarship. Currently, IAS' patrons who wish to access texts in such a manner must use the Scholarly Commons, which has limited hours and only a few workstations. Given the steep rise in these scholarly activities, IAS would like to pursue the development of a separate computer image that would specifically address

the multi-lingual needs of our patrons and allow further support for digital scholarship in non-Roman languages.

### **3. Significant Changes to Unit**

As noted above, the hiring of an International Reference Librarian is a significant and positive change within the unit. This position will provide leadership, training, and support to broaden the impact of IAS' international and area studies expertise and collections. Through this change the Slavic Reference Service was absorbed into the IAS' International Reference Service.

While the Library has increased support for International Reference, IASL will be challenged by lapses in funding from the State Department Title VIII program which supports professional staff in the Slavic Reference Service and helps to fund the Slavic Summer Research Lab. IAS will be seeking additional funding to support these programmatic losses.

### **4. Contributions to Library Wide Programs**

#### **Information Services**

##### **Reference Services**

The IAS Library contributed significantly to the Library's overall reference services. IAS Librarians and staff contributed 18 hours per week to the Main Library Hub, providing reference services at both the Virtual Reference and Information desks. The IAS Head also served on the Hub Management Team to coordinate Hub reference and training activities throughout the Library. Further, IAS Librarians Steve Witt and Lynne Rudasill provided training sessions within the Hub professional development training series for both graduate assistants and librarians.

In addition to Library wide contributions to the hub, IAS operated a robust reference service to support International and Area Studies. Through its distributed model for providing reference services, faculty and staff answered 3,095 reference questions which are noted in the table below. Reference consultations reflect the unique nature of International Reference Services provided by IAS in the time taken with patrons and in-depth nature of inquiry. Roughly 10% of IAS' reference work occurs in the context of in-depth research consultations with students, faculty, and visiting scholars. These consultations, which take significant preparatory time and entail deep interactions with patrons, reflect a pattern of support the merges teaching and reference activities.

Of the over 3,000 reference transaction within the Library during the reporting period, 1,653 occurred as International Reference consultations through the Slavic Reference Service (409 in-person, 574 email, 630 ILL, 11 chat, and 24 phone). As the core component of IAS Library's outward facing International Reference, the Slavic Reference Service provides in-depth vernacular language research assistance to students, faculty, and information professionals from around the world. Moreover, this service supports the annual Summer Research Laboratory, workshops affiliated the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center.

##### **Instruction**

In addition to the contributions of IAS faculty and staff noted in the User Services section of this report, the IAS Library worked to increase its contributions to the overall Library instruction mission. IAS continued to work with the Undergraduate Library and Multicultural Librarian to provide additional support for instruction targeted toward international students and students whose native language is not English. In addition, IAS began to pilot the use of Blackboard to conduct online instructional sessions. As part of this initiative, Steve Witt and Joe Lenkart (International Reference Librarian) worked with Nancy O'Brien and Cindy Ingold of SHHEL to support an online course in the College of Education focused on global research methods. In course evaluations, this series of library sessions was hailed as an important aspect of the course. The College of Education is now planning to work with IAS and SHHEL to develop a series of online workshops for their online students that will focus on research and technology.

## **Collection Management:**

### **Digitization of International Labor Organization Materials**

The Lynne Rudasill, Global Studies Librarian completed a major project to digitize materials related to the "Social Cohesion Initiative of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe," consisting of 275 documents from a prominent scholar involved in ILO activities. More than 2,500 downloads were recorded by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **North Korean Materials**

Yoo-Seong Song, Korean Studies Librarian, initiated a new collection focused on difficult to obtain North Korean materials that cover history, language, modern literature, anthropology, and social sciences. This acquisition also included 100 speech publications of Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-II, and Kim Jung-Eun. Overall, the library acquired North Korean titles in the past fiscal year.

### **Comic and Graphic Novel Collections**

The South Asian collection continues to be developed with the lot of rare, vintage comics from the South Asian collection added to RBML. These materials have already been integrated into courses within the Communication Department. Following the initiative to acquire S. Asian comics, IAS has also begun to acquire select titles from other regions, including the beginning of an Egyptian comic collection and the acquisition of North Korean children's stories in graphical format.

### **Selected Acquisitions:**

With substantial support from the Library's Office of Collections, IAS made major microfilm acquisitions the Polish Catholic newspaper *Tygodnik powszechny*, the conservative Hungarian newspaper *Magyar nemzet*, the Czech journal *Mlady svet/Instinkt*, materials relating to theater in the Russian Empire and Soviet Union, Caribbean Newspapers, Series 1718-1876, *Deutsche La Plata Zeitung and Argentinisches Tageblatt*, and *al-Muayyed* from 1880-1890.

With substantial support from HPNL, IAS purchased East View's \$25,000 Stalin Digital

Archive, comprising approximately 400,000 searchable digitized pages of Russian/Soviet archival material relating to Joseph Stalin, including the vast majority of his private correspondence, some of it available in English translation as well as the Russian original. In addition, IAS, the Office of Collections, and HPNL collaborated to purchase digital access to *The People's Daily* from 1946 – Present.

### **Slavic Backlog**

Under the direction of Kit Condill, Slavic Acquisitions specialist, IAS partnered with CMS to assess, organize, and coordinate the processing of the Slavic backlog, which was found to consist of approximately 22,000 items, housed in Room 1, and in some cases to have been untouched for 40 years. Working with CMS to identify and supervise hourlies with SEEE language skills, CMS hourlies and Condill organized the entire backlog by language and format, unpacking all boxes and alphabetizing all serials to minimize redundancies before searching and cataloging re-commenced.

A number of rare and unique items were unearthed, including approximately 30 items, dating as far back as 1737, that have now been turned over to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library for safekeeping. Among these were several issues of *Liuboslovie* (Smyrna, 1842-1846), the first Bulgarian serial ever published; a copy of Isaak Schmidt's Russian-language grammar of Tibetan (St. Petersburg, 1839) inscribed from Russian Minister of Education Uvarov to his French counterpart Villemain; and two extremely rare volumes published during the transition from the Arabic alphabet to the Latin alphabet in Karakalpakstan in Soviet Central Asia (Turtkul, 1932).

### **International Partnerships**

The IAS Library proved to be an excellent hub for initiating and sustaining international partnerships within the Library. In addition to hosting visiting scholars and librarians from Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa, IAS faculty were engaged in much work internationally. Three IAS Librarians, Laila Hussein, Lynne Rudasill, and Steve Witt are active participants in the International Federal of Library Associations. In addition, staff and librarians participated in international activities in China, France, Korea, the Netherlands, and France during the previous fiscal year, fostering partnerships and professional contacts throughout these regions. Of particular note is the work of the Korean Studies librarian to develop professional connection with colleagues in North Korea. Yoo-Seong Song spent 3 weeks as a visiting scholar in North Korea.

Steve Witt and the Kit Condill continued to work with the Russian State Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow to create a new digital acquisitions program with the first titles arriving over the past fiscal year.

IAS also initiated a Library wide conversation on international activities as a library-wide priority during strategic planning sessions. This initiative will move forward in partnership with the Mortenson Center to assess the scope, breadth, and impact of the Library's multiple and varied international programs and engagements.

Finally, IAS secured support from the Dean to pilot a new International Buying Trip

program that will support further development of international and area studies collections while fostering deeper international ties and networks within the Library.

#### **4. Progress on FY14 Unit Goals**

- (Ongoing with significant progress) Develop International Reference Service through work to expand the Slavic Reference model
  - Hired International Reference Librarian
  - Expanded Summer Lab program
- (Ongoing with significant progress) Develop new collections focused upon web-archiving of NGOs, INGOs, and IGOs focused upon climate change and sustainability
- (Ongoing) Assess Reference and Serials Collection Organization
- (Ongoing with significant progress) Work with acquisitions to develop new CJK acquisitions workflows and procedures
- (Ongoing with significant progress) Assess and continue to develop IAS website and social media presence
- (Ongoing with significant progress) Further Support for Teaching and Instruction through integration with departments and new partnerships with Study Abroad, the ESL Program, and International Student and Scholar Services
- (Ongoing) Develop international agreements in strategic areas such as China and Russia
- (Ongoing with significant progress) Continue to process backlog items and develop new systems to minimize future problems
- (Ongoing) Work to make “hidden” archival collections more accessible
- (Ongoing) Mentor and integrate 5 new faculty in IAS
- (Complete) Fill International Reference Librarian Position in order to Develop International Reference Service through work to expand the Slavic Reference model procedures
- (Ongoing with significant progress) Assess and improve training Program for GA’s, Staff and Faculty

#### **6. Unit Goals for FY14**

- (New) IAS Wide Service Goals:
  - Develop uniformity with excellent customer service at all levels, especially through training
  - Fully develop an attitude of welcome, making all of our users feel at home in the IASL
- (New) Partner with Archives and Special Collections to develop greater access to and knowledge of Area Studies materials held within these collections.
- (New) Implement and assess International Buying Trip program.
- (New) Define within the Area Studies Division and EC the role of Area Studies Librarians in the Library.
- (Ongoing) Develop International Reference Service through work to expand the Slavic Reference model

- Develop resources and training to support IASL librarians integrated services into International Reference
- Implement Blackboard Online workshop and consultation project
- Support Summer Lab Program
- Seek grant and foundation funding to support expansion of services
- (Ongoing) Develop new collections focused upon web-archiving of NGOs, INGOs, and IGOs focused upon climate change and sustainability
- (Ongoing) Reference and Serials Collection Organization
  - Develop timeline for LC conversion and integration of collection
  - Organize serials to insure coverage of user needs
- (Ongoing) Work with acquisitions and cataloging to integrate CJK work into their units
- (Ongoing) Continue to develop IAS website and social media presence
- (Ongoing) Further Support for Teaching and Instruction through integration with departments and new partnerships with Study Abroad, the ESL Program, and International Student and Scholar Services
- (Ongoing) Develop international agreements in strategic areas such as China and Russia
- (Ongoing) Continue to process backlog items and develop new systems to minimize future problems
- (Ongoing) Mentor and integrate new faculty in IAS

## **7-9. Number of Graduate Assistants**

IAS employed a total of .75 graduate assistants during FY 2014. Each of the three graduate assistants was funded via state funds.

IAS GAs were responsible for service desk coverage and supervision of student assistants during evening (4-7) and weekend hours. In addition, they worked on or completed the following projects:

- IASL social media maintenance- ongoing
- Compiling and maintaining IAS reference and usage statistics- ongoing
- Developing content for “Glocal Notes” blog- ongoing
- Represent IAS at campus-wide events such as Taste of Nevada and the Study Abroad Fair- ongoing
- Digitizing Slavic microfilm monographs- completed
- Adding Slavic bibliographic records to Voyager- completed?
- Assistance managing a Slavic librarians workshop- completed
- IAS Wiki maintenance- going

- Creating IASL marketing materials including bookmarks, displays, flyers, and bulletin boards- ongoing
- Creating list of recent Africana acquisitions- completed
- Assisting with scheduling and implementing a program for visiting LIS students from Pretoria University- completed
- Assisting with planning the reception for the Bosnian President's visit- completed
- Assist with redesigning the Latin American and Caribbean Studies collection webpage- completed
- Record verification of Borba newspaper holdings- completed
- Project to identify and assess books from Yudin collection- completed
- Checking catalog for duplication of gift books- completed
- Identifying East European books for Internet Archive scanning- completed
- Developing general and specialized guides to national bibliographies, research databases, etc. in consultation with the Slavic Reference Service- ongoing
- Helping the Slavic Reference Service fill ILL requests- ongoing
- Redesign and reorganize Chinese Studies Collection webpage- completed
- Update links and widgets on all IAS LibGuides- ongoing
- Create new "Reference Referral" form in print and electronic format for internal IAS use- completed
- Assist with retrieving resources to be used in creating the Third Reference Guide to Africa- completed
- Redesign Middle East and North African Collection webpage- completed
- Assist in creating exhibit on the Sarajevo Olympics- completed
- Help plan, market and implement Carnatic music event- completed
- Search for locations and call numbers to compile a list of Swahili titles to be added to African Studies Collection- completed
- Find sources on African immigration to Latin America- completed
- Make corrections to African Studies Research Guide- completed
- Compile a list of NGO's pertaining to water sanitation, water access, etc. in Sub-Saharan Africa- completed
- Update faculty bio pages on Library website- completed
- Re-organize Swahili reference materials on shelf- completed
- Create documentation for ongoing IAS marketing and social media practices- completed

## II Statistical Profile

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### 1. Facilities

User seating (if applicable)

- at tables 30
- at carrels 24
- at public workstations 5
- at index tables
- in group study rooms
- informal/other 6 padded chairs, two ottomans

### 2. IAS Personnel FY 2014

<b>Academic Staff (11.25 FTE)</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Antonio Sotomayor, Assistant Professor and Latin American and Caribbean Studies Librarian (Faculty)	1
Christopher Condill, Visiting Slavic Acquisitions Specialist (Visiting Academic Professional)	1
Joseph Lenkart, Assistant Professor and International Reference Librarian, (Faculty)	1
Shuyong Jiang, Associate Professor and Chinese Studies Librarian (Faculty)	1
Atoma Batoma, Associate Professor and African Studies Librarian (Faculty)	1
Laila Hussein, Assistant Professor and Middle East and North African Studies Librarian (Faculty)	1
Larry Miller, Professor and Senior Slavic Bibliographer (Faculty - Retired August 31, 2014)	1
Yoo-Seong Song, Associate Professor and Korean Studies Librarian (Faculty)	.25
Lynne Rudasill, Associate Professor and Global Studies Librarian (Faculty)	1
Dmitry Tartakovsky, South Slavic Specialist in Slavic Reference Service (Visiting Academic Professional until August 15, 2014)	1
Mara Thacker, Assistant Professor and South Asian Studies Librarian (Faculty)	1
Steve Witt, Associate Professor and Head and Interim Japanese Studies Librarian (Faculty) (from December 16, 2011)	1
<b>Civil Service Staff (2 FTE)</b>	
Jan Adamczyk, Slavic Reference Research Associate, (Senior Library Specialist) (50%)	.5
Lisa Renee Kemplin, IAS Office Manager (Library Operations Assistant)	1

Xiaoping Qi (Senior Library Specialist) (50%)	.5
<b>Academic, Graduate, &amp; Undergraduate Hourlies</b>	
FY 14 Budget: \$87,326	
FY 14 FTE Academic Hourlies: .5	
FY 14 FTE Graduate Hourlies: 1.75	
FY 14 FTE Undergraduate Hourlies: 1.25	

### 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 (as reported during FY14 Sweeps Week): 1,576 (Annual extrapolation: 25,216)

Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)

- Initial and renewal: 195

Reference interactions for FY 2014: 3,095

Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)

- Number of presentations to groups: 38
- Number of participants in group presentations: 1,164

Research Consultations: 303 consultations with 359 students, faculty, and visiting scholars.

- Undergraduate Students: 141
- Graduate Students: 95
- Faculty: 51
- Other: 72

#### **Number of hours open to the public per week**

- Summer 2013—52 hours per week.
- Fall 2013— 56 hours per week
- Spring 2014-- 56 hours per week
- Summer 2014 -- 52 hours per week