

**MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY:
ANNUAL REPORT**

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

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with assistance from Kirstin Dougan*

UNIT NARRATIVE

Major activities and accomplishments

As usual, it is right for this report to begin by thanking all those in MPAL who have helped the library through a rather difficult, but ultimately successful, year. Several members of library staff had to take on duties beyond their usual workload, and deserve much credit and recognition. So the first “major achievement and accomplishment,” as ever, has been providing a year of high-quality service.

MPAL ran two very successful social events in FY15. The first of these, in September 2014, was the first MPAL Stacks Party, the brainchild of Kirstin Dougan. This event was aimed at opening our closed media stacks of CDs, DVDs, and LPs, to the entire campus community. The Party was held on a Friday evening after the library had closed. We had good numbers of visitors at this event, and it was excellent promotion for MPAL.

The second event was our third Faculty Showcase Event, designed to promote the research and performance work being done by faculty in Dance, Music, and Theatre. This event took place on Friday, April 3, 2015, and was again highly successful. The Dean of Libraries, and the Dean of FAA, were present at the event and made opening remarks.

In addition to these special events, we also ran a highly successful project concerned with loaning of iPads to students. Having begun with 5 iPads, by the end of the academic year we were talking about increasing that number (and have done so). Our patrons clearly find this loanable technology useful, and during the course of the year MPAL has considerably increased its expertise with this technology.

A notable project in summer 2014 was the undertaking of a materials inventory, using CARLI’s ShelfLister 2.0. Michael Gastiger led the project. We began by checking printed books, as this seemed likely to be the simplest material to deal with. As a result, a lot of previously mis-placed books were found and returned to useful service.

Major challenges/Significant changes in unit

We faced several staff changes during the year, beginning with the departure of Michael Gastiger, who replaced Chris Pawlicki as our serials guru and was also involved in several

other projects for MPAL. Although Michael worked with us for only a few months, he made a significant contribution to the work of our unit. Michael has been replaced by Nancy Taylor, who consequently increased her hours in the library from 0.49FTE to 1.0FTE. It is good to have Nancy in a full-time position.

Attempts to fill other vacancies during the year, however, were not so successful. We were happy to receive approval from Budget Group to replace Marlys Scarbrough's former Library Operations Associate position, but this turned out to be a surprisingly complex and lengthy search process. Ultimately, Josh Hankemeier was transferred to MPAL from Undergrad in late summer 2015 to fill the position, which was transformed into a Senior Library Assistant one. Our other vacancy arose from the departure of Gail Schmall (50% Library Assistant) at the end of 2014. At the time of writing this report, and in spite of having interviewed a large number of candidates for the position, it remains unfilled. One piece of good news is that it is being filled as a Library Specialist position, which may increase our candidate pool.

These vacancies resulted in existing MPAL staff having to take on extra duties, and much credit is due to them for stepping up and willingly helping out. This extra work included an increase in Saturday afternoon working.

John Wagstaff's upcoming departure as Unit Head in December 2015 has provided an opportunity to list projects that the library still needs to undertake; this list appears as an appendix to this report.

Contributions to library-wide programs

MPAL librarians and staff made their usual contribution to the University Library's mission by providing library tours, classroom instruction sessions, and individual research appointments during the year. We also continued to make significant progress, with help from Scott Schwartz at the Sousa Archives and Centre for American Music, on properly processing some special collections materials. A lot of these materials had been acquired by the University Library several decades ago, and it is clear that the Library lacked the resources to deal with such material adequately, even though there was more money available for such projects in those days as compared with today.

Also worth mentioning here is MPAL's work with the Krannert Centre for the Performing Arts in regard to bringing information on the library's holdings to the attention of those attending events at Krannert. The monthly guides created by MPAL have received a lot of attention, and we know that they are frequently consulted. We currently have a total of 50 guides, and these had 14,661 views during the reporting year.

Finally, as another part of our initiative to make our resources visible and accessible to all

patrons, we continued to create other Libguides defining other areas of our collections.

Our **Goals for FY16** are, clearly, to make progress on as many of these projects as possible; and to continue to offer high-quality service to our many patrons. We continue to be one of the busiest library units on campus.

II Statistical Profile

1. Facilities

- User seating counts (if applicable)
 - at tables 80
 - at carrels 56
 - at public workstations 19
 - at index tables 4
 - in group study rooms 25
 - informal/other 9

- Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)
 - Summer II 2014 48 hours per week
 - Fall 2014 75.5 hours per week
 - Spring 2015 75.5 hours per week
 - Summer I 2015 40 hours per week

2. Personnel

Faculty positions

Kirstin Dougan (1.0 FTE)

John Wagstaff (1.0 FTE)

Staff positions

William Buss (1.0 FTE)

David Butler (1.0 FTE)

Michael Gastiger (1.0 FTE, January-July 2014)

Diane Pye (1.0 FTE)

Gail Schmall (0.5 FTE, July-November 2014; Gail left MPAL in late November 2014 for a full-

time position in Main Stacks. As at September 2015 her position in MPAL is still vacant) Nancy Taylor (0.4 FTE, July-September 2014; 1.0 FTE from September 28, 2014-present. Nancy's hours were increased to 100% as replacement for Michael Gastiger)

MPAL's application to restore an LOA position was approved in 2014, but subsequently downgraded to a Senior Library Assistant position. That position was filled in August 2015 with the appointment of Josh Hankemeier, who came to us from the Undergraduate Library.

Graduate Assistants

Katharine Lambaria (0.25 FTE, state funded; shared position with RIS)

Emily Schneider (0.25 FTE, state funded; shared position with SACAM)

Adrienne Seely (0.25 FTE, funded by the Lawrence King endowment; shared position with LLL)

FY15 student assistant wage budget was \$31,810. MPAL employed approximately 13 student workers this year, at an average of 6-8 hours per week.

Warm appreciation also to our library volunteer, Carol Berthold, who visits each Thursday morning to help with acquisitions work.

Summary of GA activities

Kate Lambaria

- (i) **Work on MPAL LibGuides** covering Creating playlists in Naxos and Alexander Street audio/video streaming databases; Music library technology -- information and tips; Student workers circulation and reference; and almost-monthly guides to performances at the Krannert Centre for the Performing Arts.
- (ii) **MPAL homepage redesign and implementation.** As with all such projects this required a considerable amount of work.
- (iii) **Work at the library's reference desk.** Kate spent an average of 6 hours per week at the reference desk, and became an effective member of our reference team, especially because she also regularly worked in online and in face-to-face reference services at the Main Library.
- (iv) **Instruction sessions** for Music 110 (co-taught with Kirstin Dougan), and Dance 101.
- (v) (with Adrienne Seely) **Work on our 2015 "Faculty Showcase" event.** More information at <http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/exhibits/facultyshowcase2015.html>

- (vi) **MPAL iPad project**, involving configuring loanable technology for patron use. This was a very significant project for our library, and Kate co-wrote an article, with Kirstin Dougan, on “iPads in the Music Library: Harmony or Dissonance?”, recently published in *Music Reference Services Quarterly*.
- (vii) **Miscellaneous other projects**, including setting trivia questions for our library’s Black History Month and Women’s History Month quizzes; a collection development project involving wind ensemble music; working on the use of QR codes for our music journals; and helping plan our Open Media Stacks Event in 2014-15.

Emily Schneider

- (i) **Processing materials from several of our library’s special collections**, including (among others):
 - the Kasura Collection of Russian music
http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/collections/specialcollections/collections_descriptions/kasura.html
 - the Morris and Barnard Young Collection
http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/collections/specialcollections/collections_descriptions/young.html
 - the Joseph Szigeti Collection
http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/collections/specialcollections/collections_descriptions/szigeti.html
- (ii) **Updating our special collections webpages** – this was a large project that required many hours of detailed work. Emily diligently searched for collections that appear to be lost or missing, and as a result of her efforts we now have a much better idea of what we have, and what remains to be done to make our special collections useful to present and future researchers.
- (iii) **Work on MPAL LibGuides**, including guides to:
 - stage lighting (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/stagelighting>)
 - costume design (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/costumedesign>)
 - hip-hop (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/content.php?pid=608350&sid=5024076>)
- (iv) **Work at the library’s reference desk**. Emily spent an average of 6 hours per week at the reference desk, and became an effective, and valued, member of our reference team.

- (v) **Exhibits.** Emily had, in abundance, the required imagination and flair for this kind of work. Her exhibits included:

(with Kate Lambaria): “60 Years of Excellence in Musicology at the University of Illinois.” See:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/exhibits/60yearsofmusicology.html>

“Happy Birthday, Mr Liszt.” See:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/exhibits/HappyBirthdayMrLiszt.html>

Tuesday Morning Music Club Centenary. See:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/exhibits/TuesdayMorningMusicalClub.html>

- (vi) **Acquisitions work**, including obtaining materials for our “Early Childhood Music Education” collection; hip-hop materials; and updating our sheet music collections of music for flute, and for saxophone. Emily was also involved with processing gift collections for our library.

Adrienne Seely

- (i) **Work on MPAL LibGuides** covering “Hymns and Hymnology” (the University of Illinois is the home of the internationally-known “Hymn Tune Index” project), and on Film Music – Adrienne has a doctorate in film studies, so this guide was a great fit for her.
- (ii) **Updating our library’s collection development policies**, which required a considerable amount of work.
- (iii) **Work at the library’s reference desk.** Adrienne spent an average of 6 hours per week at the reference desk, and became an effective member of our reference crew.
- (iv) **An inventory of Hispanic-American theatre materials**, undertaken on behalf of the Department of Theatre.
- (v) (with Kate Lambaria) **Work on our 2015 “Faculty Showcase” event.** More information at <http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/exhibits/facultyshowcase2015.html>
- (vi) Other miscellaneous projects, including research on the location of print materials on textiles in the University Library, with a view to centralizing at MPAL those that are going to be of use to students of costume in the Department of Theatre; also: research on the location of play-scripts currently in Main Stacks that might be brought over to MPAL to supplement our own collection; blog posts on using MPAL’s theatre special

collections for research on historical images such as the Motley Collection; and helping with the acquisition of other materials for our theatre collections.

3. User Services

Most of the following data has been generated by the Office of User Services and will be available at G:\StatsForAnnualReport2015.

- Gate Count (as reported during FY15 Sweeps Week).
 - Units that maintain continuous gate or head counts may substitute actual numbers instead of the Sweeps Week sample.
Sweeps week fall 2014: 6,061; Sweeps week Spring 2015: 2,862
- Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)
 - Initial and renewal. **46,866 (26,307 charges, 20,559 renewals); 26,548 discharges**
 - Manual (if applicable) – Report using the web form at:
<https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/1804189>
 - Other (if available) **Not applicable**
- Reference interactions (from DeskTracker)
 - Units that maintain continuous reference statistics may substitute actual numbers instead of the Sweeps Week sample.
Sweeps week Fall 2014: 80; Sweeps week Spring 2015: 53; extrapolation for year: 2,128
- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)
 - Number of presentations to groups **34**
 - Number of participants in group presentations **612**

Appendix: List of MPAL projects requiring attention as at summer 2015:

Cataloging and classification

MPAL has used LC classification since 1986, but resources have never been found to reclassify the large number of books and scores still classified using an old version of Dewey. More than one attempt to at least have the 780.923 music biographies reclassified to ML410 has not been successful.

A number of cataloging projects need attention, including:

(i) Turkish CDs that mainly arrived in the Robert Brown collection. These have been checked against OCLC, and the majority have records. I talked with Michael Norman some years ago about contract-cataloging these, but this did not happen.

(ii) there are a large number of microfilms that need to be catalogued. These include two cabinets of films relating to the Hymn Tune Index (the cabinets are on the library's second floor reading room), and some Renaissance and other music sources that were examined and boxed by Lydia Tang in 2013 when she was employed in MPAL as a summer worker.

(iii) a large number of the films in the Renaissance Music Archive have only minimal-level records, which occasionally makes them hard to find. It would not be that difficult for someone familiar with manuscripts terminology to use Hamm and Kellman's *Census-catalogue of manuscript sources of polyphonic music, 1400-1550* to enhance these records.

(iv) MPAL still has a large number of items classed as "MO", so these are simply in accession number order. Again, many have minimal-level records in Voyager. They include a large section of LPs.

(v) Voyager still contains a lot of "MARS mismatch" records, especially for music scores, since these do not have ISBNs, meaning that when the MARS exercise was run there was a lot of potential to grab the wrong record for a particular version of a work. There may not be much that can be done about this problem now, except to note that, if a similar exercise were to be run in the future, a lot of thought should be given as to whether items with non-standard numbers should be included. Perhaps as a result of the MARS exercise, and of other issues, there are many music items in Voyager that are miscoded as books, which of course affects faceted search results and prevents effective format searches by patrons.

(vi) decisions need to be taken about how much of the card catalogue remains useful, and what to do about the parts that are not consulted any longer. This will need a major investment of project time. [Note: this is currently (as at September 2015) being worked on.]

(vii) minor reclass project in reference collection—many MTs and Zs could be better classed elsewhere in reference

Collections

(i) In May 2003, Nuala Bennett, Katie Clark, Esther Gillie, and Lura Joseph produced a report on the “hidden web” within the U of I University Library. Appendix 2 of this document was a case study of the Music Library, and it identified a number of hidden resources here (the document is at www.library.illinois.edu/accesswg/group_4_report.htm), as follows:

(a) Sheet music collection. The report notes that “The Sheet Music Collection information is maintained as an Access 97 database with almost 100,000 records, and is currently available through the Music Library’s homepage. The online version was created by and is maintained by the Library Systems Office, however the search capabilities are limited.

(b) Choral Reference Database: this “is also an Access 97 database with over 26,000 records. The Music Library keeps two versions on the G: drive, one in Access 97, one converted to Access 2002. The Library Systems Office is currently creating an online searchable version for the web. This effort is fraught with difficulties due to a lack of standardization in terminology found on the scores, from which the field data is taken.”

[Note: At the present time, the Choral Reference database, and other parts of the Sheet Music Collection, are available for searching using BibLeaves. However, this interface has some display problems that we are working on, as at September 2015, and is not publicly accessible yet.]

(ii) One piece of good news is that several collections mentioned in the report by Bennett and colleagues, such as a Harry Partch archives, Kasura collection of Russian folk-orchestra music, and Gottfried Fraenkel collection, have been successfully processed, along with the School of Music archive of audio tapes of older performances, which the Sousa Archive has successfully tackled, and the WGN and Morris and Barnard Young Collections. However, some other collections, primarily in the Illinois University Press basement, remain to be tackled. Principal among these is the Hunleth Music Store collection; but there are several others, including LPs from the Lawrence S. King Collection, and a large number of 78 rpm (and other) records. The press basement is a classic example of a storage area being used as a dump for materials that could not be dealt with at the time, in the hope that they would be dealt with later. That never happens, and the legacy is a lot of material which probably could be got rid of if only there were sufficient resources to go through it. Problems in the past caused by lack of clarity when gifts were donated has simply made a bad situation worse.

(iii) MPAL has audio materials in various formats – 16” discs of radio broadcasts, some reel-to-reel tapes, cassette tapes, piano rolls – that need to be taken care of. Josh Harris and Media Preservation know of our needs, but how much can be done in the current financial climate is a different matter. Linsy DePooter (a GSLIS practicum student) did some work with the 16” disc

collection in spring 2015 and we have new sleeves for some of the discs which will protect against further degradation; but the main question concerning many of these materials is – are they really needed? What are our responsibilities towards the material?

(iv) a decision needs to be taken about MPAL's Choral Reference File, which as noted above contains around 26,000 items but is very little used. Ideally we would give it greater visibility (by making the database finding aid easier to find online), but we also need greater clarity about its actual purpose – would greater visibility result in the greater usage we would like to see, or not?

(v) School of Music concert programs. This is another database in Bibleaves, created by Chris Pawlicki around 2014. It currently covers the period 1942-1976, and needs to be brought up to date and publicized.

(vi) It would be a good idea to set up a collections inventory on a regular (5-7yr?) basis; books some years, scores others, media others, etc.

(vii) verification of our RISM holdings; identifying any unique holdings (unlikely to be any/many) and digitizing them. [Note: we hope to tackle this project in the coming year.]

(viii) full cataloging of Renaissance Music Archives films and crosschecking with card catalog needs to happen. In terms of benefit to scholars, we would also like to pursue digitizing available descriptions/finding aids. Digitizing the films themselves is likely unfeasible, and not necessarily that desirable. But having more descriptive information, either in the catalog and/or in a standalone collection of finding aids, would be immensely helpful to reference staff and researchers.

Environment

Several things here:

(i) recurring leaks in the library's ceilings need to be fixed. [Note: the School of Music building has been promised a new roof, which would at least help with the problems we occasionally have with leaks even though the majority of these come from the School's HVAC system.]

(ii) plans for re-visioning the public terminals area, and redesigning the MPAL circulation desk so as to enable both reference and circ to be offered there, need to be moved forward if possible. [Note: plans are in hand for a re-modelled desk as at September 2015.]

(iii) more collaborative study spaces are needed.

(iv) opening some of the current locked study carrels (removing doors if possible) and making electricity available. Barring that, adding more electricity in reading and study areas.