

**Unit Annual Report**  
**Literatures and Languages Library**  
**Submitted by Paula Carns**  
**August 21, 2017**

**I Unit Narrative**

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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 North and South America, Western Europe, and Francophone and English-speaking countries as well as cinema studies, translation studies and linguistics materials. The unit serves as the primary library for the Department of English, the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, and Cinema Studies. The acquisition of print and online materials (books, journals, magazines, films, reference works and databases), and providing reference, instruction, and outreach to the campus and local community are the unit's main functions. Through its various activities the LLL participates in the Library's strategic mission to the UIUC campus.

**Staffing**

Professional Staff:

- Paula Carns, Head, Literatures and Languages Library, subject specialist for Romance and English studies (100%); From November 2016 to May 2017, Paula, with help from Marek Sroka, was responsible for English studies; in May 2017 Paula took over as interim English Librarian.
- Harriett Green, English and Digital Humanities Librarian (90% at LLL). Harriett left the unit in November 2016 to become the Interim and then permanent Director of the Digital Publishing for the UIUC Library
- Marek Sroka, Literatures and Languages Librarian for German and Translation Studies (75%); From November 2016 to May 2017, Marek helped Paula Carns with English studies.
- David Morris, Classics Librarian and Research and Information Services Librarian (50%).
- Robert Cagle, Cinema Studies and Media Services Specialist, also covers Comparative and World Literature (100%)

Civil Service Staff:

- Stuart Albert, Senior Library Specialist (100%)
- Carl Graves, Library Assistant (100%)
- Kim Lerch, Senior Library Specialist (25%)

Students

- Graduate Assistants on State Funds: Katherine Ramsey (0.25FTE) and Melina Zavala (0.25FTE)

- 13 Student Assistants who performed the following duties: circulation, greeting patrons and fielding reference questions, weeding and shifting.

### *Challenges*

The profile of the Literatures and Languages Library changed drastically last year. In June 2016 the LLL and the Classics Library (CL) merged physically and administratively. (See the LLL 2016 Annual Report for full details.) To make this merger possible, Research Information Services vacated room 200, the Reading Room, and LLL took it over. Now LLL is responsible for managing the room's visitors, technology and social events, the latter in conjunction with Library Facilities. The LLL's circulating collections were relocated to 200 and the CL's collections were moved to room 225, home of the former LLL, and renamed the Classics Library Collection. The circulation desks of the two units were combined and placed in the center of room 200. The LLL's two full-time staff members remained in the unit and the CL's staff person was kept on at LLL for 25%.

The profile of the professional staff altered last year as well. The LLL was very pleased to welcome David Morris in September 2016 and have him assume responsibility for Classical Studies. David has extensive background in Classical and Medieval studies, had worked in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at UIUC and is perfect for the position. The Library had not had a permanent Classics librarian since the departure of Bruce Swan in 2011. Since then various individuals in the Library had been charged with these responsibilities. The unit was very sorry to lose Harriett Green in November 2016. Harriett became Interim and then Director of Scholarly Publishing at the library. With regards to changes in professional librarian positions, Paula Carns and Marek Sroka took over joint responsibility for collections and services for English studies from November 2016 to May 2017, which Paula assumed full responsibility. In June 2017 the Library's Executive Committee approved filling a Literatures and Languages Librarian position (100%).

All of these changes resulted in a number of challenges. Room 200 is an extremely popular spot to visit, study in (there is seating for 320 individuals) and to host social events. Thus number of people coming to the LLL's increased five-fold, from roughly 18,000 to 90,000 visitors annually. The types of people expanded as well, from primarily faculty and students in literary and language studies to people from across campus and the surrounding areas. Indeed, people from the local community are constant users of our space. The result is that LLL staff now must watch over far more patrons and answer many more and varied reference queries on a daily basis. Often these questions pertain to the technology (2 flatbed scanners, 2 overhead scanners, 1 public print station, and total 5 public terminals) that came with the room. Patrons from the local community particularly need help with technology but also print and online resources. Another challenge was the expansion of the physical space from a relatively small room (225) to two large spaces, one being enormous (200). Unlike in the former unit where staff could easily observe visitors from the circulation desk, their offices or the stacks and quickly greet them, now the staff can see only a small portion of the patrons and have greater difficulty providing the high level of service for which the unit is known. For visitors to the CLC, which is at a distance from the circulation desk, staff must rely on librarians to help monitor the space. Managing room 200, including scheduling and overseeing (in conjunction with Library Facilities) the growing number of social events that

take place there, has led to more work for the unit head and staff. Another challenge is longer hours. Room 200 is considered an anchor unit in the Main Library and we are required to remain open the same hours as other such units in the building (Main Stacks and the Social Science, Health and Education Library). Hence our hours have increased by almost 33%, from 57 (during regular semester) to 76.5. The combined collections pose several problems: 1) they are twice the size; 2) are located in two physically distinct areas; 3) are in two classification systems (LLL is in Library of Congress; CLC is in Dewey); and 4) cover vast regions of the world and many languages. The decrease in staff support, from 3 full-time individuals to 2.25, is deeply felt and the staff must work much harder and prioritize tasks (in conjunction with the head and librarians) to get work done. The lack of a full-time staff person with expertise in Classical studies means backlogs in workflow for this area.

### *Major Accomplishments*

Stuart Albert was most fittingly awarded the Distinguished Staff Award at the UIUC Library in Fall 2016 and the Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award in Spring 2017, both highly competitive and distinguished awards. Stuart was recognized not only for his exemplary work in general but during the LLL-CL merger.

### *Collection Development*

The fund managers Paula Carns, David Morris, Marek Sroka and Robert Cagle were proactive and very busy last year purchasing library materials in a wide array of formats for their subjects, working closely with faculty and students to get the best items for research and teaching. We list here areas of emphasis and major purchases.

Note: to simplify the purchasing process and make acquisitions more nimble, Paula Carns and Marek Sroka consolidated funds. Now all Romance language purchases use a single fund code, ROM, and German and Scandinavian use GER.

### Areas of Emphasis

- British cinema and television collection and a significant number of European and American independent and avant-garde films distributed by Gartenberg Media (Robert Cagle)
- Corpus Linguistics to meet the growing need on campus for both corpora and the study of them (Paula Carns)
- English translations of contemporary European fiction and bilingual poetry, particularly in German and/ or German and English, to support the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Center for Translation Studies and the LLL's New Literary Fiction initiative (see Goals for FY18 for more information) (Marek Sroka)
- Primary texts in Ancient Greek and Latin and secondary scholarship in Classical Studies (focusing on literature and philology) in support of the Department of the Classics, the Medieval Studies Program, and scholars working in related fields (David Morris)

### Major Purchases

Each year the LLL purchases new electronic resources to better serve its patrons, who

more and more demand online access to databases and data. They still prefer print books, though this is changing for reference works. There is a list of last year's major purchases:

- Subscription to the French database Open Edition Premium, which allows for downloading of articles from the major French open access journal site *revues.org* (Paula Carns)
- The 2017 collection of Oxford's Handbooks in Linguistics to support the Department of Linguistics (Paula Carns)
- Two parts of Oxford's Scholarly Editions Online: Romantic Poetry and the New Oxford Shakespeare (Paula Carns and Marek Sroka)
- Proquest's Early European Books, Collection Two, works from the Biblioteca Nazionale *Trainer* to support the Translation Studies (Marek Sroka)
- Subscription to the Brepols bibliographic database Index Religiosus, of major importance for the study of ancient Greek and Roman religion and early Christianity (David Morris)
- Several online subscriptions, including a new journal from the University of California Press, *Studies in Late Antiquity* (David Morris)
- Purchase of previously-lacking volumes in important text series, including Cambridge Green and Yellows, Oxford Medieval Texts, and the I Tatti Renaissance Library, resulting in complete coverage for all these series (David Morris)
- Centrale di Firenze to support scholars and students from the Department of French and Italian. Renaissance and Early modern Italy and areas of focus for the Italianists. (Paula Carns)
- Back issues (from 2007) and continuing ones of the journal *The Interpreter and Translator*

#### *Gift Collections*

Every year the LLL intakes select gift collections in their areas it covers. Last year we received several notable donations: 10 cartons of German literary works; several boxes of ESL teaching materials (from the MATSEL library in the Department of Linguistics) and new Swiss fiction (from the Swiss government).

#### *Collection Management*

Paula Carns, along with Mary Lawskowski and Jennifer Teper, worked on an NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant proposal to catalog, digitize and preserve a collection of 11,188 rare Spanish plays held by the UIUC Library. Unfortunately the NEH chose not to fund the project. The team plans to move ahead with processing in-house.

David Morris embarked on a project to digitize all pre-copyright materials in the Classics Library Collection, and to bolster the University of Illinois's Classics profile in online repositories. Part of this project also entailed reassembling the libraries of the nineteenth-century Classical scholars Wilhelm Dittenberger and Johannes Vahlen. These collections formed the core of the Classics Library when it was founded in 1910 and will be scanned in partnership with Digital Content Creation and then relocated to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

David Morris worked closely with the Classics Department to establish priorities for weeding. The growing faculty demand for online articles, the accelerating transition of journals to digital

formats, and the University Library's introduction of DocExpress together compelled us to consider the extensive runs of bound journals in Room 225. Consequently, we relocated about 2,000 bound journal volumes to either Main Stacks or Oak Street. David Morris also worked with Research and Information Services to transfer materials to Stacks Reference that are peripheral to the interests of most faculty. Through these efforts, David Morris was able to secure space for new books, embark on an aggressive campaign of retrospective purchasing, transfer new journal issues from Room 200 to 225, and consolidate several major series of Latin and Greek texts in Room 225 after being scattered across the University Library system for many decades.

David Morris also worked with Tom Teper and representatives from RBML, CAM, and Preservation to formulate a plan for processing the remaining Classics holdings on the fourth floor, particularly the Dittenberger-Vahlen Collection of nineteenth-century dissertations. The execution of the plan depends on funding and the arrival of the new head of RBML, where the dissertations will ultimately reside.

### *Outreach*

Marek Sroka organized "A Celebration of Poetry in Translation" (April 14, 2017). The event was co-sponsored by LLL and the Center for Translation Studies and featured a brief talk about the art of literary translation by Prof. Chu Dongwei from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Center for Translation Studies, followed by 15 UIUC faculty and students reading poems in (or translated to) Spanish, German, Arabic, Russian, Basque, Polish, Japanese, French, Chinese, Latin, and Swedish. Some poems were translated by the readers themselves. The event was attended by over forty people and was very well received by the Center for Translation Studies faculty and students.

Robert Cagle worked with the Korean Students Association to screen two recent Korean feature films, and have invited Korean director Lee Hyuksang to visit campus in April. Director Lee will screen his documentary, *Miracle on Jongno*, and discuss it at Unit One in Allen Hall. He will also visit my class and meet with students independently, too. I had hoped to also bring a Korean actor this semester, but scheduling problems and travel uncertainties prevented this from happening. I'm hopeful that next year UIUC will be able to host the first person I contacted, who is very excited at the prospect of coming to the US and speaking with students.

In addition to these events, he worked with Professors David Ward and Joseph Lenkart to program and promote the second annual International Science Fiction Film Festival. I worked with Professor Jean-Jacques Poucel to collaborate with the Department of French, Italian, and Portuguese to bring internationally renowned film scholar Ruth Hottell to UIUC for a special lecture on French women filmmakers. Hottell obtained her Ph.D. from UIUC, and published the first encyclopedia of francophone women directors.

David Morris spearheaded an international partnership between the University Library, the iSchool, and the American Academy in Rome, based on remote practicums and cooperation on digital projects—a first step in forging ties between the University of Illinois and the national academies in Rome and Athens. He also assisted with the Classics Department's recruitment of graduate students, leading seven prospective students on a tour of the University Library, including a visit to the RBML that featured medieval manuscripts and early imprints of Greek and Latin

texts. Classics reported one of its most successful yields in years, with four of these seven visitors committing to Illinois. At the start of the spring semester, David Morris launched the Classics Collection's Twitter feed, providing news, notes, and links to open-access content.

### *Exhibits*

Paula Carns hosted an exhibit in May and June on Emily Dicken's Herbarium and Love of Gardening

Marek Sroka organized two exhibits in the Main Reading Room highlighting the UIUC collections of German, Polish, and Swiss books. These included "Celebrating Karl Dedecius as the Most Renowned Post-World War II German Translator of Polish Literature" (October 2016) and "New Swiss Books Received from Pro Helvetia" (July 2017).

### *Reference and Instruction*

#### Online Guides

One of the primary ways that the LLL assists patrons with reference queries and research needs is through its wealth of online guides. More and more patrons seek information online and only contact a librarian when they are unable to do so on their own. To make their information seeking experiences better and more successful, the LLL maintains guides in almost all of the areas it covers. Paula Carns, David Morris and Marek Sroka with the help of Graduate Assistants, created and enhanced the following guides.

Paula Carns simplified the large suite of guides for English studies by creating two main guides, one for American literature and one for English literature. She created a guide for Endangered Languages for instruction in the Department of Linguistics and one for Medieval Studies in conjunction with library colleagues. She updated and expanded guides for creative writing, French, Italian and Spanish.

Marek Sroka developed the German Studies Guide, German Language, Germanic Culture & Media, Immigrant Literature in Germany, and Study Abroad -- Austria guides.

David Morris began work on two new Libguides for Classics: the Series Gateway and the Journal Gateway. Both are expected to be completed by the start of Fall 2017.

#### Instructional Sessions

Marek Sroka and Paula Carns team-taught 2 instruction sessions: 1) introduction to Translation Studies (Fall 2017, 20 people) and two advanced reference sessions "Introduction to Literature and Linguistics Research for Reference" to Research and Information Services graduate students and library staff and faculty (Spring 2017, 25 people) .

Paula Carns, in addition to the two listed above, taught 7 instructional sessions to 309 people in the following areas: French, Linguistics and Spanish.

Robert Cagle provided bibliographic instruction to 2 film-related classes instructing students on how to carry out historical research using primary sources ((1 in fall and 1 in spring to 110 people). As always, he met with graduate and undergraduate students on individual bases to assist them with research, writing, and publication.

David Morris taught two instruction sessions on Classics reference to Research and Information Services graduate students and library staff and faculty (Spring 2017, 12 people). He also met with most faculty and graduate students in the Classics Department on an individual basis over the course of the academic year, to assist them with research and to familiarize them with the new Classics space.

### *Graduate Student Contributions*

Katherine Ramsey

- Consolidated and reorganized existing English LibGuides to create new research guides for British literature, American literature, and Literatures and Languages databases.
- Created a “Music and the Performing Arts” page for the unit’s interdisciplinary LibGuide on Medieval and Renaissance Studies.
- Created a LibGuide for the WILL-TV screening of the Season 6 Premiere of Downton Abbey, showcasing library resources related to the show’s literary and historical influences. This Libguide was requested by Library Advancement in conjunction with an event co-sponsored by the Library and WILL-TV, the local PBS station.
- Added and updated content for existing LLX LibGuides in the subject areas of English Language and Literature, French and Francophone Studies, French Linguistics, and the Digital Humanities.
- For Digital Humanities, created a sample Omeka exhibit to illustrate the platform’s digital publishing capabilities, and updated LLX's LibGuide for Omeka.
- Assisted with the statistical analysis of survey results for a Digital Humanities needs assessment report, a study aimed at finding ways to improve library services for this user group.
- Conducted research to identify English reference materials that could be transferred from LLX to the Main Stacks in preparation for moving the English collection to room 200.
- Conducted research to identify popular, current, and award-winning English translations of international literature that could be purchased for the English collection.
- Researched *bandes dessinées* and other French-language comics in order to create a list of popular publishers, collections, and series to assist librarians with future collection development in this area.
- Provided librarians with recommendations for books about 19th-century British and American literature that could be transferred from the Literatures and Languages collection to the Main Stacks, based on circulation data and literary topics
- Researched English department faculty research interests and created a list for librarians to use for collections development.
- Helped design a poster board and create iPad games with trivia questions for a Library Friends event. Katherine was very helpful in coming up with interactive computer games to

be used at a sports-themed Library Advancement event.

Melina Zavala

- Helped prepare a presentation on the Library's Spanish Play Collection by selecting interesting items from the collection for display and taking photos of them.
- Created the Queer Theory Libguide to expand the LLL's online tools for literary theory
- Reviewed recent acquisitions to the Main Stacks coming through the European Blanket Order and made suggestions for transfers to the LLL's circulating collection
- Reviewed and updated some of the Spanish Libguides, especially the one for learning Spanish, which is extremely popular with visitors from around the US and locally
- Ordered titles in Spanish for addition to the LLL's collection
- For Classics, assisted with the initial stages of digitizing all pre-copyright material
  - a. Weeded out the collection, bringing the collection together to be digitized
  - b. Catalogued the books, including information on their physical status, and online presence
- Helped reconstruct the Dittenberger and Vahlen Libraries, for eventual digitization and transfer to RBML
- Began work on various other Libguides, including one on Classics journals, and the Emblematica Collection.

### **Review Progress made on Unit Annual goals for FY17**

We believe that we met our unit goals for FY17, which had to do with the completion of the LLL-CL merger. Throughout the year we assessed the new unit and made adjustments where needed. David Morris in particular did a great deal of collection management to make the Classics collections more focused and easier to use.

### **Unit Annual Goals for FY18**

The LLL has three main goals for FY18. One is to collect and provide programming around new literary fiction. For a number of years all new fiction with the exception of prizewinners has gone to the Undergraduate Library, as it has more space. The increased shelving space and central location of room 200 now makes it possible for LLL to house this materials. In July Paula Carns met with the Head of the Undergraduate Library (UGL), Lori Mestre, and AUL for Collections, Tom Teper, to discuss the transition. While all agree that this is an excellent idea, larger collection issue (i.e. lack of space in the Main Stacks to take works from LLL) will pose problems. Over the next few years, the LLL and UGL will try to solve them.

A second goal is to use 200 for outreach activities. LLL has long wanted to do more outreach but has lack space (thus Marek Sroka has to have the translation studies event at the International and Area Studies Library. 200 North provides an excellent opportunity and over the year the unit start to plan events.

A third goal is the hire a Literatures and Languages Librarian who can either handle English or Romance studies (if the latter, then Paula Carns will take on English). The Library Executive Committee has approved the search and it should get underway in September 2017.

## II Statistical Profile

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### 1. Facilities

- User seating counts (if applicable)
  - at tables-225: 6 round tables with 25 chairs; 200: 40 long tables with 320 chairs; 28 comfy chairs
  - at carrels: 2
  - at public workstations: 5
  - at index tables: n/a
  - in group study rooms: n.a
  - informal/other: n/a
- Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)
  - Summer II 2016: 55.5
  - Fall 2016: 76.5
  - Spring 2017: 76.5
  - Summer I 2017: 55.5

### 2. Personnel (see above)

### 3. User Services

- Gate Count (as reported during FY17 Sweeps Week): fall, 2826; spring, 2764; extrapolated total: 89,440
- Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)
  - Initial and renewal: 27,496
- Browse count for Classics material in Room 225 (December 2016 through May 2017): 1,139
- Reference interactions (from DeskTracker as reported during FY Sweeps Week): fall 50; spring 50
- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)
  - Number of presentations to groups: 14
  - Number of participants in group presentations: 456