

**International and Area Studies Library Annual Report:  
Submitted by Steve Witt with input from full unit  
September 30, 2022**

**I Unit Narrative**

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**Review of major activities and accomplishments of the unit in FY22**

IAS contributed significantly to the Library's and University's research, teaching, and outreach missions over the past year. Through both individual efforts and collaborative initiatives IAS supports critical library wide strategies including the role of area studies collections and services contribute to shared library goals such as engaging the campus' global diversity, addressing global grand challenges, advancing co-curricular programming, and strengthening collections in ways that create unique strengths and address gaps in representation.

IAS provided direct support to 8 Title VI NRC and FLAS grant applications from centers in the Illinois Global Institute. Of these applications, there were successful applications in the areas of: African Studies; European Union Studies; Global Studies; Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Middle East Studies; and Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. These grants signify both the strength of the work of IAS and provide significant resources to build unique collections, develop resources, and further the library's mission. In total, these grants will contribute nearly \$150,000 annually toward collections, graduate assistantships, and direct library. In addition, the Slavic Reference Service, led by Professor Joe Lenkart, earned another State Department Title VIII grant, which funded a full-time AP, and graduate assistant position to enhance access to library resources, provide reference services, and support visiting scholars.

IAS's success in achieving this mission over the past year relied heavily on interdisciplinary collaborative practices. As a unit, IAS faculty collaborate closely to innovate and implement programs and practices which directly support the campus community. In the past academic year, IAS collaborated with units across campus, working directly with nearly 40 academic units, programs, and centers.

Nationally, IAS contributes a unique and substantial level of leadership nationally to the field of Area Studies and Area Studies Librarianship.

Review the major challenges faced by the unit during that period;

- Faculty Retirements – the retirement of Shuyong Jiang, a prominent leader in the field of Chinese Studies Librarianship, creates a large gap to be filled within IAS. As the library seeks to fill this position, the unit head has assumed the responsibility of coordinating support for collections and services related to Chinese studies, including the supervision of a graduate hourly. IAS has also absorbed other areas without adding faculty, including Global Studies and Japanese Studies. Although these areas are being covered by the unit head, these added duties take away from important administrative and unit level activities.
- UGL Move and Accommodating Mortenson – over the past year, IAS like other libraries experienced the collective stress of the closure of the Undergraduate Library and accommodation of colleagues into spaces already fully used. IAS was able to welcome the Mortenson Center into its space during this interim period and appreciates the assistance provided by Facilities and the flexibility of all parties involved in making this transition a success. IAS will monitor the impact of this on faculty who are now sharing office space.
- Adding to Job Duties: IAS also added collections and services duties by integrated popular culture collections and services into the already full-time duties of Mara Thacker, the South Asian Studies Librarian. As noted above, the continuous expectation from the administration that faculty can add to their duties without suffering from lapses in productivity in other areas is a concern. This concern should be shared across the library since our faculty currently suffers from a lack of full-Professors.

Adding further duties within librarianship needs to be studied and considered in regard to its impact on advancement and retention.

- COVID- Hybrid programming; Changes in library use ; Supply chain/overseas shipping issues – IAS continues to adjust to challenges presented by the pandemic, which impacts our ability to purchase materials from overseas and also requires continued hybrid programming and accommodation.
- Effects of the war in Ukraine on publishing and on the acquisition of materials from the region is also an ongoing concern.

### Identify significant changes to unit operations, personnel, service profile, or service programs;

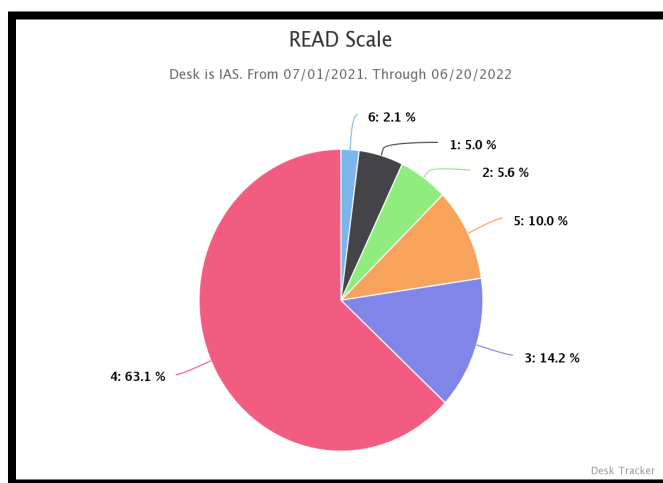
See Challenges Above.

Articulate (with appropriate examples) the ways in which the unit and/or its members contributed to Library-wide programs, including:

**Reference and Research Consultation:** The below tables and charts describe IAS' broad contribution to reference and research consultations outside of the hours the unit volunteers to the centralized information desk. Notably, IAS continues to provide a substantial number of reference support at the 4, 5, and 6 Read Scale levels.

- The Slavic Reference Service (SRS) team (Olga Makarova, Jan Adamczyk, Joe Lenkart, Katherine Ashcraft, Colton Kurtz, Tabbitha Cochrun, and Ethan Walter) has completed to well over 90% of the unit's 3003 research requests.
- SRS team supported well over 200 scholars through the Open and Summer Research Laboratories.
- Kit Condill: delivered seven personalized bibliographic sessions to participants in the 2022 REEES Open Research Laboratory (Spring 2022), three personalized bibliographic sessions to participants in the 2022 REEES Summer Research Laboratory (June 2022), and three personalized bibliographic sessions to participants in the 2021 REEES Summer Research Laboratory (July 2021)

Region	Count:
Africa	3
East Asia and Pacific	35
General	163
Global	19
Latin America and Caribbean	159
Middle East	5
North America	39
Slavic, Eastern Europe and Eurasia	2544
South Asia	22
South East Asia	1
Western Europe	13
Grand Total	3003



### Student Success;

- Doctoral Research Support program
  - other programming
    - Antonio Sotomayor: Presented at the annual Lemann Graduate Research Forum on library resources to support research on Brazilian studies.
    - Library FUNdamentals grant funded program series. Mara Thacker and Laila Hussein were on the planning committee for this program which was a programming series mixing workshops on research skills as well as “fun”/wellness workshops to help students readjust to in-person campus life and the library after the pandemic

**Instructional Services:** In addition to data provided in section II below, IAS librarians contribute to instructional services in other ways such as:

- Antonio Sotomayor, MA thesis committee member (EU Center).
- Kit Condill: taught IS461 (Russian, East European & Eurasian Bibliography & Research Methods) to 8 students in Spring 2022; held a Virtual Slavic Library Institute in September/October 2021 (14 sessions, ~20 participants per session); directed the in-person Slavic Library Institute for 9 aspiring Slavic librarians from the U.S., Canada and Serbia from May 16<sup>th</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 (= 31 in-person sessions); named to the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, Summer 2022
- Atoma Batoma provided extensive research consultations to a thesis in African Studies on the topic of the *Interaction of Colonial Psychiatry and Colonialism in Settler Colonies in Africa*.
- Steve Witt: served on doctoral committee for student in School of Information Sciences; taught GLBL 499 *Global Information Society* in fall of 2021 and GLBL 501 *Perspectives on Global Studies* in Spring of 2022; developed MS in Global Studies proposal in LAS.

**Scholarly Communications and Publishing;** IAS librarians serve on multiple editorial boards for journals across disciplines.

- Mara Thacker – co-editor of JLOE – Journal of Library Outreach and Engagement
- Steve Witt – executive editor, IFLA Journal
- Editorial boards etc...
  - Antonio Sotomayor: Editorial Board of *Acción: Revista Cubana de la Cultura Física* (Havana, Cuba).
  - Atoma Batoma is a member of the editorial board of the *Electronic Journal of Africana Bibliography* which had ceased in 2014 and was relaunched in 2022 by Columbia University Libraries with a US-based editorial team composed of African studies librarians from Columbia University, Harvard University, The Library of Congress, Michigan State University, and The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
  - Steve Witt is on the editorial board of *Global-e*; and the journal *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*

#### **Collection access and management;**

- Significant Activities
  - Antonio Sotomayor: With support of Tom Teper, acquired a unique and very important manuscript on Inca culture by Polo de Ondegardo, c.1562-1571 (\$65,000).
  - Antonio Sotomayor: Purchased a manuscript report from Lima Viceroy, 1776 (\$22,000) in collaboration with Steve Witt, Paula Carns, Celestina Savonius-Wroth, and Tom Teper.
  - Kit Condill facilitated the purchase of online resources including Brill's *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages & Linguistics Online*, East View's *Knizhnaia Letopis'* Digital Archive, *Ogonek* (St. Petersburg) Digital Archive, Warsaw Pact Journals Digital Archive, and digital archives of early Soviet cinema journals ; near-complete runs of two journals published by the Crimean Tatar diaspora community in Turkey – *Emel* (Ankara, 1960-2011) and *Bahçesaray* (Istanbul, 1994-2014) ; 182 recently-published books from the Uyghur diaspora community in Turkey (2010-2021) ; *Izpravnik za erei ispovidnici, i za pokornik*, a religious text in Glagolitic script published in Rome in 1635 (\$10,500) ; and a facsimile copy (one of 200) of the famous Croatian manuscript *Misal kneza Novaka* from 1368

#### **Digital content creation;**

- Internet Archiving Projects: IAS manages three internet archiving project that include the Global Civil Society Response to COVID; Borderlands and Disputes; World Sustainable Development.
- In total, IAS manages 143 different libguides that support courses and various aspects of global and area studies research. These guides average approximately 11,000 views per month. For example, with the help of Mary Lawrence, GA for EU Studies, Paula Carns developed a number of Libguides and pages within existing Libguides to compliment current events in the EU and at the EU Center (EUC): European Union Day 2020 (reworked to become a more general EU Day guide); European Union Enlargement (in response to growing interest in Eastern Europe to join the EU as the result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2/ 2022; German elections (added to German Studies LibGuide at the Literatures and Languages Library, or LLL); Mediterranean Studies (for a reading group and course); Roma in Europe (in conjunction with a EUC Brownbag talk); and Vikings (material added to Scandinavian Studies Libguide at LLL for Brownbag talk on Vikings and White Nationalism).
- With the help of Mary Lawrence, GA for EU Studies, Paula Carns completed an Omeka Exhibit on

Gender and Populism begun last year, which entailed editing essays by guest scholars and finalizing the presentation.

**Organizational development and training; IAS contributes substantially through work on committees, working groups, and support of colleagues in the promotion and tenure process.**

- Antonio Sotomayor: Member of the Main Library & UGL Integration Working Group; Promotion and Tenure Revision Working Group.
- Mara Thacker: Executive Committee, Student-Focused Spaces Task Force, Marshall Gallery Task Force, Diversity Residency Advisory Committee, Awards and Recognition Committee, Commencement Committee; PRC for Emilee Mathew;
- Kit Condill: Collection Development Committee; PRC for Ruthann Mowry;
- Atoma Batoma: Grievance committee, PRC for Jessica Ballard, PRC for Courtney Becks.
- Steve Witt: Faculty Review Committee, Research and Publication Committee; PRC for Maria Emerson; Paper Preparer for Celestina Sylvanius-Roth
- Joe Lenkart: Executive Committee; PRC for Yali Feng
- Laila Hussein: PRC for Michelle Reed

**Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Accessibility;**

- Social Justice Zine Collection in collaboration with Student Success Librarian and Art and Architecture Library
- Crowdfunded comics collection (marginalized voices)
- Diversifying collections across library –
- Kit Condill: focus on publications of marginalized groups (Uyghur, Crimean Tatar)

**Outreach and public engagement -**

- See chart below for full listing of IAS events over past year.

**Progress made on Unit Annual Goals for FY22 (as enumerated in the FY21 Unit Annual Report);**

Many goals from the previous year are ongoing into the FY23 period.

The unit's main goal for FY22 was to reopen and expand services to pre-pandemic levels. - Achieved

Support UGL / Main Library Integration Projects - Achieved

Develop further areas for cross collaboration in collections development – Including expanding international comics collections, building stronger collections focused on ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples around the world; and focusing thematically on collection areas that can become the basis for future distinct strengths. – Ongoing

Support Title VI NRC Applications from 8 centers within the Illinois Global Initiative  
SD2. Transformative learning experiences; SD3. Societal and global impact - Achieved

Increase capacity to build digital collections with emphasis on traditional strengths of IAS: ephemera and fugitive literatures. In the realm of digital collections this will mean a focus on web and social media archiving;  
SD1. Pro-active and trusted partners in scholarship, discovery, and innovation 2, 3 - Ongoing

Expand collaboration with RBML to support initiatives to globalize the rare book and manuscript collections at Illinois  
(SD2. Transformative learning experiences 3 - Ongoing

Develop Capacity for Research Data Service Management; SD3. Societal and global impact 4 - Ongoing

Coordinated support for Undergraduate Research Initiatives; SD2. Transformative learning experiences - Ongoing

Continue to strengthen diversity initiatives through programming by establishing a new Engagement committee to

help coordinate and manage IAS outreach initiatives. SD3. Societal and global impact: 1, 2, - Ongoing

Expand work with advancement to build upon recent major gifts to support IAS and areas studies collections with the specific goal of institutionalizing funding for the International Buying Trip Program SD3. Societal and global impact 4. - Ongoing

Mentor graduate and undergraduate student workers to inspire the next generation of library and information science professionals. SD4. Strategic investments for a sustainable library environment 5 - Ongoing

### **Unit Annual Goals for FY23.**

- Recruit Chinese studies librarian;
- Unit white paper on diversifying/decolonization of collections with area studies focus;
- Restarting some of instructional / co-curricular services from pre-covid
- Support for new T6 NRC grants

### **Unit needs to support your goals and your overall mission (training, facility needs, IT, etc.)**

IAS requires further staffing support to further support areas in which there has been a loss of faculty, including Japanese Studies and Global Studies;

Like other units, the closure of the Undergraduate Library has created a need for further space and a re-evaluation of needs in terms of support for hybrid work and areas in which to conduct online and hybrid instruction, workshops, and meetings.

### **For units employing Graduate Assistants (GAs), the Unit Narrative should also include the following:**

- the number of GAs (FTE and Head Count) employed during FY22; For the reporting period, IAS employed three graduate assistants at 25% (1) and 33% (3).

Through state funds, IAS received .25 allocation from the University Library. Three additional graduate assistants were supported through Title VI and Title VIII grants. These graduate assistants were hired to support the Global Studies and SRS's services and initiatives.

- the major responsibilities assigned to the GAs in the unit, and an overview of the contributions made (or projects completed) by GAs during the fiscal year.

IAS graduate assistants continue to play a vital role in the post-Covid-19 transition to in person services. IAS graduate assistants Caryn Corliss, Ethan Walter, and Libby Cave, Katherine Ashcraft supported daily operations of the unit and its outreach and engagement initiatives. These include instructional and reference services, and special projects.

They made significant contributions to the overall 3003 research requests completed by IAS staff. Caryn Corliss, Ethan Walter (SRS), and Katherine Ashcraft (SRS) contributed to Duplication Service, which has earned high marks from students, faculty, and visiting scholars. In addition, Libby Cave contribute hours to the library reference hub; IAS graduate assistants successfully introduced the following initiatives and curated digital collections (selective):

- International Studies Research Lab – hosting 12 community college scholars for research and curriculum development.
- The Blondheim Judaica Digital Library - <https://archive.org/details/reeces-bjdl>
- International Cooking Show – one of the most popular instructional programs on campus.
- International Women and Gender Bibliographies Indexing Project – this project provides access to table of contents to bibliographies held at the University of Illinois Library

- Research Forums (led by Katherine Ashcraft, Ethan Walter, and the SRS reference team)- the Central Asia, Caucasus, and Baltic research forums have attracted scholars from around the world. These forums feature original research by established and early scholars, students, and policy researchers.
- Central Asian Memoirs of the Soviet Era (ongoing project) - this collection features digitized memoirs of Central Asian politicians, intellectuals, and workers from the Soviet era. Katherine Ashcraft is spearheading this multi-institutional project –

## Annual Report 2021-22

### II Statistical Profile

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#### 1. Facilities

- User seating counts (if applicable)

#### Fall User Seating Counts:

<u>Rm 321</u>	<u>RM 309</u>	<u>RM 319</u>
Other- 60	Other- 141	Other-73
Laptops-625		
Microform Reader-33	Laptops-525	Laptops-227
Computer- 19	Computer-5	Bookeye Scanner-127
		Microform Readers-65
Flatbed Scanner- 6		
Printer-4		

#### Combined Room Totals:

**Other = 274                  Microform Readers= 98**

**Laptops =1,377**

**Computer = 24**

#### Spring User Seating Counts:

<u>Rm 321</u>	<u>RM 309</u>	<u>RM 319</u>
Other-79	Other-43	Other-64
Laptops-614		
Microform Reader-21	Laptops-407	Laptops-288
Computer-19	Computer-6	Bookeye Scanner-106
		Microform Readers-30
Flatbed Scanner-0		
Printer-1		

**Combined Room Totals:****Other =186****Microform Readers= 51****Laptops = 1,309****Computer =25**

- Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)

**Number of hours open to public:**Fall – **960** hours /**56** hrs average per weekSpring- **910** hours/ **56** hrs per weekSummer I-**156** hours/ **40** hrs per weekSummer II- **391** hours/**52** hrs per weekInterim- **80** hours/ **40** hours per week**2. Personnel****Faculty/Staff**

Name	Title	%
Joe Lenkart	Associate Professor, International Reference Librarian and Manager of Slavic Reference Service, Area of Focus: Central Asian Studies	100
Atoma Batoma	Associate Professor, African Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: African Studies	100
Shujong Jiang*	Associate Professor, Chinese Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Chinese Studies	100
Mara Thacker	Associate Professor, South Asian Studies & Global Popular Culture Librarian, Area of Focus: South Asian Studies	100
Antonio Sotomayor	Associate Professor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Associate Professor Spanish and Portuguese Area of Focus: Latin American and Caribbean Studies	100
Laila Hussein Moustafa	Associate Professor, Middle East and North African Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Middle East and North Africa	100
Steve Witt	Associate Professor, Head of International and Area Studies, Area of Focus: Global Studies and Japanese Studies	100



Kit Condill	Associate Professor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies	100
Robert Paul Geraci	Research Associate Professor	
Yoo-Seong Song	Associate Professor, Korean Studies Librarian Area of Focus: Korean Studies	15
Marek Sroka	Andrew S. G. Turyn Professor, Central European Studies Librarian, Area of Focus: Central European Studies	25
Olga Mararova	Visiting Research Specialist, Slavic Reference Service Area of Focus: Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Women and Gender	100
Vacant	Japanese Studies Librarian	%
Jan Adamezyk	Senior Library Specialist, Slavic Reference Services, Area of Focus: Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies	50
Xiaoping Qi	Senior Library Specialist, Area of Focus: Chinese Cataloging	40
Lisa Renee Kemplin	Library Operations Associate	100
Paula Carns	Associate Professor, Literature and Languages Librarian, Area of Focus: European Union Studies	

**\*Retired May 2022**

**Students**

**AHs:**

None

**IAS Library GAs:**

1/ Fall-Caryn Corliss

2 (1 Global Studies)/Spring-Caryn Corliss, Libby Cave

**REEEC GAs:**

2/Fall-Katherine Ashcraft, Ethan Waters

2/Spring-Katherine Ashcraft, Ethan Waters

**GHS:**

9 (3 Slavic/6 IAS-one joined 11/17)/Fall

7 (2 Slavic/4 IAS/1 Grant LA&amp;C)/Spring

**Extra Help:**

3/Fall

2/Spring

**SAs:**

9 (8 IAS Desk/1 Middle Eastern)/Fall

9 (8 IAS Desk/1 Middle Eastern)/Spring

**Summer****SAs:**

6 (IAS Desk)

**Extra Help:**

1 (Ralph Fisher)

**GHS:**

7 (1 Title VI/ 1 Title VIII/ 1 Ralph Fisher/2 IAS/ 2 Global Studies)

**Practicum Student:**

1

**3. User Services****• Gate Count****Fall 7,7879 Spring 7,061****• Circulation**

Charges 800 Renewals 9 Reference interactions: 3,003

**• Presentations**

<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of Primary Instructor</b>	<b>Sum of Number of Attendees</b>
Antonio Sotomayor Carlo	2	24
Christopher Condill	24	136
Joe Lenkart	2	30
Paula Carns	1	5
Steven Witt	5	98
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>293</b>

○ Number of presentations to groups (synchronous): 34

○ Number of presentations to groups (asynchronous): 0

- Number of participants in group presentations (synchronous): 293
- Number of participants in group presentations (asynchronous): 0

**Other statistics (optional)**

**4. Outreach**

**2021-22 Events:**

Date	Event
9/10	International Graduate Student & Visiting Scholar Research Connection
9/17	Doctoral Student Social Mixer
9/22	Meet the National Library
9/28	Writing in the Arts and Humanities
10/1	International Cooking Show
10/12	Editing Your Manuscript
10/14	Meet the National Library
10/19	Writing in the Disciplines
10/20	International Novels and Short Stories
10/21	International Movie Night
10/28	Meet the National Library
11/4	International Cooking Show
11/4,5	Central Asia Research Forum
11/18	Annual ACEEES Convention
12/3	Meet the National Library
12/6	International Cooking Show
1/24	International Cooking Show
1/27	Meet the National Library
2/3	Shadows of War: Russia Ukraine Crisis Panel
2/9	Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery
2/10	Intro to Scholarly Research
2/17	Russian State Library
2/18	Writer's Workshop
2/21	Intro to Scholarly Research
3/3	Author Talk with Jai Chakrabarti
3/8	International Women's Day
3/10	Intro to Scholarly Research
4/29	World Poetry Reading in Translation: Diversity of Voices, Regions, and Cultures (co-sponsored by LLL, IASL, and the Program in Translation and Interpreting Studies)