Unit Narrative

1. Major activities and accomplishments

Teaching

Instruction and collaboration with teachers is a major component of library services at Uni High. The librarian meets with teachers to discuss learning goals of assignments and, when appropriate, to help design research-based units that embed information discovery, synthesis, and evaluation skill-building activities. Class project LibGuides (http://www.library.illinois.edu/uni/classprojects/index.html) were developed or revised, most notably: Native American and Othered Literature, Poetry Explication, the Zine Project, and Subfreshmen Banned Books Project.

The Computer Literacy 1 and 2 curricula undergo frequent revision, particularly for the librarian-led units on website evaluation, social communication tools, computer programming, and cybersecurity. As a school without filtering software, Uni is in the unique position of engaging in direct discussion with students about managing their privacy and personal online interactions. Several of the librarian's assignments for Computer Literacy 1 can be found at http://www.uni.illinois.edu/library/computerlit/index.php. CodeHS was utilized for the computer programming portion of the class; example curricula for teaching Python can be found here: https://codehs.com/.

The Computer Literacy 2 teaching team continuously refines the requirements for the 9-week independent group projects. We have intentionally taken more time to help students not only with their project proposals, but with the formation of healthy group dynamics. Student groups design, research, and execute a project, culminating in an end-of-semester presentation to the class and invited guests. They use the computer software and skills covered in Computer Literacy 1 and 2 and must also learn a new piece of software or a technique that was not taught in class. Evaluation of student work is based heavily on how the groups organize their work, conduct and document their research, cooperate with others in the group, and how members teach and learn from one another. Each teacher supervises and grades a share of the student groups, largely based on weekly progress reports. A course overview can be found at http://www.library.illinois.edu/uni/computerlit/description2.html. This year, the librarian directly supervised projects involving creation of a visual novel (with original music, illustrations, and an immense amount of coding), creation of a short animation (also with original music), an interactive game created on the popular Discord platform, and short documentary based on real historical events.

Collaborations with other Uni High teaching faculty:

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Uni High library unit, through the efforts of Paul Kotheimer in particular, has been integral in gathering and organizing a multitude of archival materials for the Uni High Alumni Office. Much of these archival materials will be presented at the official University of Illinois Laboratory High School Centennial Celebration, the kick-off of which will begin in Fall 2022.

ZINES

English teacher Dr. Ernstmeyer leads a unit on zines with his students, and the library always plays a large role in the planning and participation. This past year, we had a display created specifically for the unit, and many of the classes were held within the library. The class project page dedicated to this unit was updated, and all of the finished student zines were then collected and donated to the Uni High Zine Library.

Mentoring

This past year, the librarian, along with the subfreshmen Social Studies teacher, co-sponsored the subfreshmen class. This builds a high level of trust and community with the subfreshmen class, and has also proved to be a critical connection following the lockdown measures caused by COVID-19. These weekly meetings facilitated connection with the subfreshmen, who were going through a variety of challenges.

Programming (activities led by/actively participated in by librarian)

- Monthly meetings of SLAC'ers (the Student Library Advisory Committee)
- Escape Room collaboration (a special distanced version developed due to Covid-19)
- Uni Reads collaboration with MPAG (Multicultural Parent Advisory Group) - New Kid Book Discussion
- Queer Lit Book Club collaboration with Spectrum Club - our one book over the fall was Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe
- We partnered with the Urbana Free Library in their Take-N-Make crafts, and helping to distribute the crafts to Uni High teens.
- One school wide event is the Agora Days (spanning one week in February), and this past year the librarian held a 4 day workshop on Cosplay costume making.

NB: Additional programmatic information can be found in the graduate assistant section.

The librarian and the graduate assistant worked well this year in ensuring that a commitment to diversity showed throughout most programming, book display making, and in the area of collection development. In SLAC'ers group meetings, we encouraged them to think about programming that matched the themes of the month (National Latinx and Hispanic heritage

month, LGTBQIA+ awareness, and so forth). We always strive to make our programs as student-driven as possible.

Technology

- *Circulation of electronic equipment*

Coming back to in-person school after nearly three semesters of remote learning, 2021-22 loanable tech seems to have gone mostly "back to normal." Our unit administered circulation of six school-issued laptops, a collection of loanable laptop chargers, headphones, camcorders, DSLR cameras, audio equipment, computer mice, WACOM tablets, and other accessories. Courtesy of a donation from Dr. Majerus, we added a new option for audio recording, A USB-connected podcasting microphone with accompanying desk-mount mic stand. We continue to provide long-term loans to faculty of CD/DVD drives and other audiovisual accessories, but we notice that instructional use of our DVD collection, and of DVDs in general, continues to decline in favor of various streaming services. We continue to see instances where students' personal phones and other devices are the more expedient choice for some types of media production work, resulting in declines in demand for items like camcorders. We learned a few new things about compatibility between Library loanable equipment and student-owned devices or equipment borrowed from elsewhere in the school--Especially with respect to improved audio for video production. We continue to encounter challenges following up with students borrowers, especially of chargers and headphones. We resolved to phase out "honor system" loans of computer chargers and to keep better tabs on headphone loans in the coming school year.

Our unit continues to communicate and collaborate with Media Commons as that unit makes its transition from Undergraduate Library to Main Library. Uni High Library benefits from the expertise of our counterparts at Media Commons and frequently receives offers of devices and accessories on a "hand-me-down" basis. We hope to continue that collaboration in the coming year.

And we notice that a portion of our loanable tech collection is aging out of usefulness. We plan to evaluate and send away equipment which has been superseded by newer gear--mostly pre-2015 consumer photo and video devices.

In a busy and dynamic environment like ours, some portion of these transactions will always be impossible to tally. Because our equipment circulation is largely self-service, these numbers should be regarded as being on the low end. As in past years, we've done our best to collect circulation statistics about loanable tech loans, but we acknowledge that a fair amount of

activity takes place without being recorded, either due to daily use of the same equipment by the same borrower or due to last-minute assembly of a media production toolkit or improvised production solution.

Accessories*	166
Audio Equipment	60
Camcorders	38
Chargers	139
DSLR cameras	52
Headphones	391
Loanable laptops	420
WACOM tablets	12

*"Accessories" includes loanable computer mice, USB-connected SD card reader, various USB and/or HDMI connector/converters, plus various analog audio converters and connector cables.

Collections

This year, as was the case last year, a continuing effort is being made to order books that reflect the diverse interests and identities of the students at Uni High. The collection of fiction was already strong in terms of reflecting diverse interests, but there is always room for growth for collecting works that reflected diverse identities. The graduate assistant, along with the practicum student, conducted a diversity audit of the fiction collection only. The results were encouraging in that our efforts to incorporate diverse interests and identities definitely show. The collection could still benefit from more of particular focus on acquisition of books with Native characters, Muslim/Middle Eastern characters, and trans characters.

Committee work within Uni High School and the University Library

During the 2019-20 academic year, the librarian served on the following committees/regular standing meetings: Leadership Team, Subfreshman Teacher meetings, Freshman Teacher meetings, and Central Public Services Division meeting (when able). The librarian contributed to efforts in searches for new Computer Science teachers, which rotate throughout the year. Library also served as a faculty sponsor for the Subfreshman class, the Latinx and Black Student Coalition (LBSC) and SLAC'ers (Student Library Advisory Committee).

2. Major challenges faced

Physical facility

Space constraints (as well as pedagogical demands) require ongoing assessment of the library space and collections in light of patron needs. However, this assessment process was de-emphasized during this year of virtual schooling.

3. Significant changes to unit operations, personnel, service profile, or program

Charlie Newman-Johnson continued working for us this school year, and he did an amazing job deepening the connections he had made with the high school students and the Uni High faculty the previous year. We also hired Charlie as extra help for the summer, and we continued to experiment with the model of virtual summer programming as we did the previous summer. It was an investment of time and energy that was worthwhile.

Additionally, this was the first year at least the past eight years that Uni High Library sponsored a practicum student. That student was Tori Gellman, and she did a fantastic job in a short period of time. Even though practicum are approximately an additional four per week, there was a good deal of content added during her time here in the spring of 2022.

4. Contributions to Library-wide programs and public engagement

We participate in public engagement in a number of ways. We are constantly considering various programs that will not only engage high school students, but also connect to either the University of Illinois community, or the wider Champaign-Urbana area.

- Small Press Fest happened in person this year, as opposed to being a virtual event. The Uni High Library contributed some volunteer hours to this event, and has enjoyed planning collaboration opportunities in the past.
- Planning for the Parable Path Community Book Read, focused on Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower and celebrating the arrival of Parable of the Sower: The Opera, continued in Fall of 2021, and the Uni High Library librarian regularly went to these meetings. Unfortunately, the main had to be cancelled due to Covid concerns, but there was still a lovely smaller event with one of the main producers,

Toshi Reagan.

- The librarian routinely responds to e-mail questions from other school librarians and school technology personnel requesting permission to use or adapt elements of the website, particularly from the Computer Literacy instructional material and the library's policy documents.
- The library continued with its participation in the Preservation Office's Integrated Pest Management program.

5. Progress on last year's goals:

- Some preliminary discussions have been had to pursue more collaboration with the Makerspace upstairs. In a few of our craft programs, we mentioned the Makerspace as a place where laser cut stickers could be made. The librarian led one program on Cosplay, and a couple of students were successfully encouraged to use the Makerspace, with some materials from the Makerspace being brought down to use.
- Since the introduction of the block schedule, as well as pivoting to in-person learning from online offerings, there has been virtually no demand for asynchronous library programming. However, e-resources still have been of use and in demand, so we should continue to explore those.

    Update: One notable exception has been the library Discord server, which was very popular and a useful tool for engagement over the course of the virtual school year in 2020-2021, and it continues to thrive. Much of our efforts are documented through our notes on weekly staff discussions, as well as through the Discord server itself.

- We have been reasonably successful in reaching out and partnering with new teachers at Uni, and encouraging them to use library resources. Much of this is through informal relationship building, as well faculty meeting presentations and word of mouth. However, we should put more energy into partnerships with other library units.

- We continue to need to develop appropriate metrics to measure success in our programming, and more consistently implement measures of success in our information literacy work.

6. Unit annual goals for FY22

The Uni High Librarian advises the following for 2022-2023:

- We should continue to pursue more collaborative efforts between the MakerSpace and library resources/programming

- We hope to continue and improve upon on our existing collaboration with other library units, in terms of both programming and instruction. It would be wonderful to see our current partnerships to extend into the broader community as well.

- There is still an interest from the student body in having more dialogue based programming held within the library; one goal will be to have more student-driven, dialogue based programming.

- We should reenergize our effort to gather more qualitative feedback from our high school and faculty users this year.

7. Number of GAs

One .50 FTE graduate assistant

8. Funding source for GAs

State funds

9. Major responsibilities of the GA and an overview of contributions made

The Uni High Library graduate assistant essentially acts as an assistant librarian. A unique requirement of this particular library is that undergraduate students cannot staff the position because the supervision of minor children is involved. Students form strong personal bonds with the graduate assistant, who serves as a role model and mentor.

The major responsibilities and contributions made by GA Charlie Newman-Johnson were as follows:

Library Administration
- Assisted with collection development—researching new acquisitions
- Maintained circulation of books in and out of new books section
- Maintained the Uni High Library Blog and Discord Server

Instruction and Instruction Support
- Class projects and reserve cart
    - Assisted with LibGuides; Pulled relevant materials from collection; went into classrooms to help with reference
- Reference services to faculty/staff and students
    - Reader's Advisory
    - Scholarly materials—searching and retrieval (books and articles)

Publicity
- Publishing a monthly newsletter (in close collaboration with the librarian).
- Advertising for virtual events on the library's social media

Events & Programming

Programming from the past year: Magic the Gathering club; Halloween Movie Marathon; NaNoWriMo library facilitated writing group; One Night Werewolf games hangout; Craft Hour; partnering with Spectrum Club for the Queer Lit Book Club; Relaxation Station; Among Us in the Library; Letterpress printing; March Madness Book Edition; Escape Room committee; Dungeons and Dragons campaign

Bulletin Boards, Displays, & Promotions
- Promotions/Campaigns
    o Book recommendations for National Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month; NaNoWriMo Celebration for those who completed the challenge; Fat Bear Week Bracket filling challenge; Blind Date with a Book; March Madness Book Edition
- Book Displays
    - Rotating New Books display; National Comic Book Day; What to Read; Black Futures Month

The major responsibilities and contributions made by spring practicum student Tori Gellman were as follows:

Library Administration
- Assisted with collection development—researching new acquisitions

Instruction and Instruction Support
- Reference services to faculty/staff and students
    o Reader's Advisory
    o Scholarly materials—searching and retrieval (books and articles)

Events & Programming
- Queer Trivia event
- Make Your Own Comic event
- Helping to run SLAC'ers meetings

Bulletin Boards, Displays, & Promotions
Book Displays
- Graphic Novels You Should Read; LGBTQIA+ Awesome reads

Statistical Profile

- **Facilities**

Total user seating:

4 circular tables that accommodate 4 people each

2 rectangular tables that accommodate 5 people each

1 rectangular table that accommodates 8 people

1 square table that accommodates 8 people

4 study carrels that accommodate 1 person each

1 individual desk that accommodates 1 person

4 public workstation or index tables that accommodate 1 person each

10 informal, individual chairs

Most of this was not used by staff or students for the majority of the year due to virtual teaching.

Number of hours open to the public per week:

Summer II 2021: 0

Fall 2021: 42.5 hours

Spring 2022: 42.5 hours

Summer I 2022: 0 hours

- **Personnel**

  DoMonique Arnold (Academic Professional) (August 2016 – present)

  Paul Kotheimer (Senior Library Specialist) (February 22, 2010 – present)

  Charlie Newman-Johnson (Graduate Assistant) (50%) (August 16, 2020-present)

  Tori Gellman (Practicum student) - 100 hrs over 1 semester (January 20th-May 13th, 2022)

User Services

- **Gate count** (extrapolated from FY19 Sweeps Week DeskTracker report for Uni's 18-week semesters): FY2020 Gate count: N/A

- **Circulation By Collection**

Biography	4
Fiction	894
Graphic Novels	386
New Books	48
None	11
Reference Non-circulating	11
Reserves Non-circulating	4
Stacks	421

Uni High Circulation total: 1,179

- **Circulation By Circulation Desk**
  Charges: 2,201

- **Reference questions**: 832

Presentations

Number of presentations to groups: 148* (including Computer Literacy 1 and 2) (an estimate based on last year's, as Uni High's data was not included in the aggregate data)
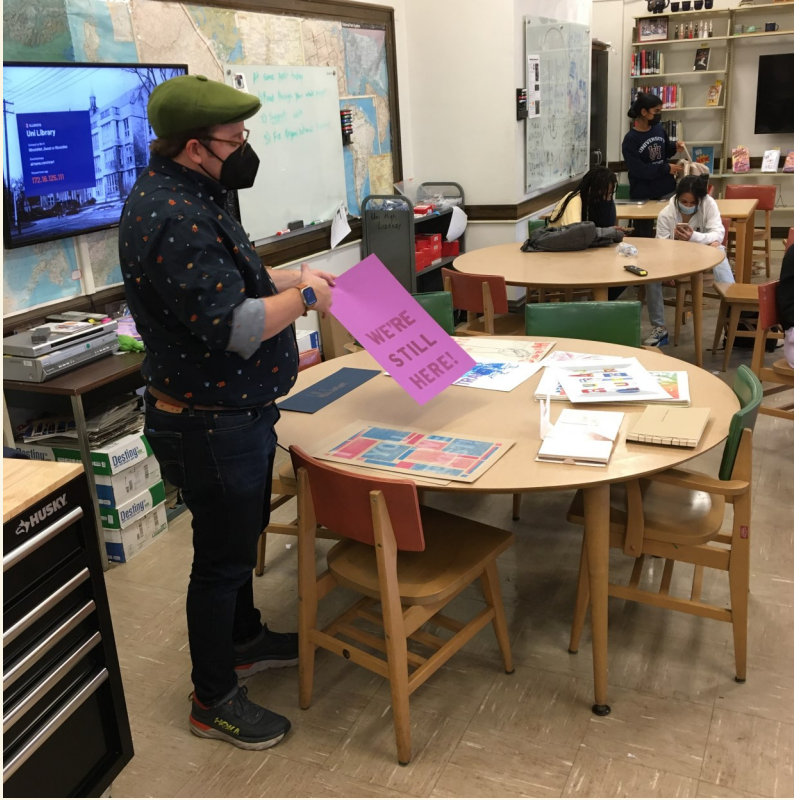
Number of participants in group presentations: 4,649**

*Due to the school shifting to a block schedule (to facilitate transitioning to online school), the number of sessions would be smaller, yet longer in length.

**Many of the presentations had overlapping groups, due to the nature of the school, which is something to consider when looking at that number.

Appendices:
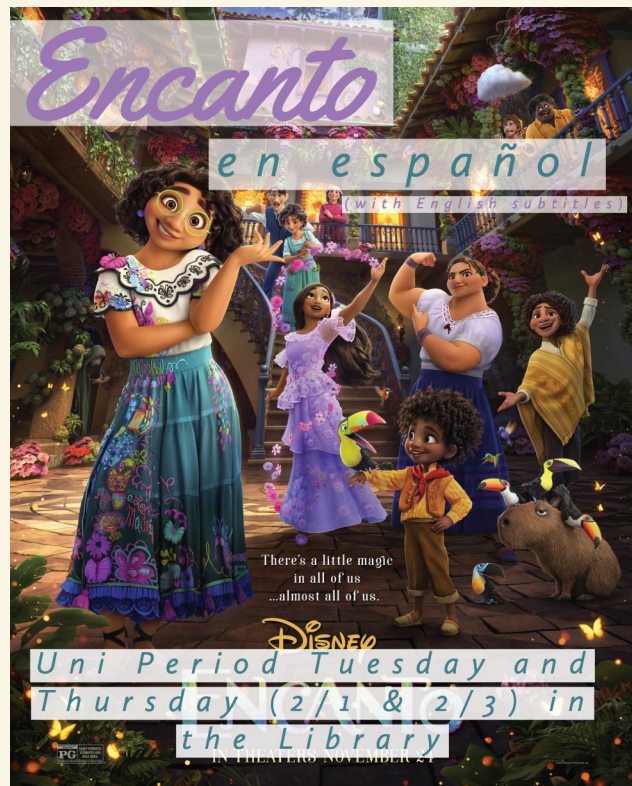
Appendix A: Uni Library Programming

Kadin Henningsen, a representative from a queer letterpress organization, visited and showed us how to make our own prints.

This was the 6th year we held our annual Escape Room. It has been named the John B. Garvey Escape Room, to honor a Uni High teacher who had passed away. Here are some lucky winners!

Another collaboration we did with the Spanish Uni High teacher was to hold a movie showing, featuring Encanto in Spanish only.

This was the first year that Uni High Library hosted a practicum student. Our first student was Tori Gellman, and here she is featured running a Queer trivia event.

Appendix B: A Sample Newsletter

Dungeon Letters

October—2021

The Uni High Library Newsletter

SPOOOOOOOKY MONTH

Pic of the Month

Isa and Amelie, leaders of Casa Café, organized a sugar skull cookie decorating event for Hispanic Heritage Month!

Student Review

Book Rec:

Radio Silence

You've encountered yet *another* pointless romance between the lead female and male characters. Annoying, right? Then I recommend *Radio Silence* by Alice Oseman! The novel follows Frances Janvier as she discovers that her past best friend's brother created her favorite podcast, starting an incredibly close friendship; its representation of close male-female friendships is commendable, and when there is romance, it includes gay and asexual representation. If you're bored with many YA novels' relationships, then *Radio Silence* will be a breath of fresh air!

-Savindi Devmal, class of 2024

Board Games— Have a block day free period? The library has lots of board games, from *Sorry* to *Race for the Galaxy*... and *Uno*. Come roll some dice or slam some 'draw 4's!

October SLACers Meeting...

...will be Wednesday, 10/6 during lunch time. Come get a treat and give us your thoughts about library happenings!

Upcoming Events!

October Events

- **Parable of the Sower** book events are happening! On October 13th during lunch, we'll be talking about near-future science fiction— both in general, and looking specifically at the unique flavor of it present in *Parable*. If you're interested in reading with us, come talk to a librarian about getting access to the e-book. A limited number of physical copies will be given away for free!
- **One Night Ultimate Werewolf** is a card game about deduction and lying, with quick rounds. If you like *Among Us*, this is the genre of game that inspired it— come play during 8th period on October 21st!
- **Halloween Movie Marathon!** The week leading up to Halloween, swing by the library for an endless string of Halloween-themed movies. Spooky!

Small Press Fest is an annual series of events celebrating zines, comix, and small press publications in Central Illinois! This year, there will be plenty of exciting new workshops, including one done by Urbana Poet Laureate Ashanti Files exploring identity and creative writing in the evening on October 15th. For more information on what's coming up, chat with Ms. Arnold or follow Small Press Fest on Insta @smallpressfestCU

go.illinois.edu/UniLibraryZoom   /UniHighLibrary   go.illinois.edu/UniLibraryDiscord   @UniHighLibrary