University Libraries

The University of Iowa Libraries

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Report 92-93

University of Iowa Libraries
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Reviewing the Year

This past year was both a typical year in the University Libraries and an unusual one.

As in any year, the library staff continue to focus their knowledge and expertise on providing quality and timely service to a large and diverse University community while also serving citizens across Iowa and researchers throughout the United States.

Staff in a large research library like The University of Iowa Libraries provide a wide range of services. They select, acquire, and process information resources in all formats; they design and deliver educational programs so that individuals become effective information and library users; they assist individual library users through information and consultation services; they address the many problems related to preserving the collections housed in the Main Library and eleven departmental libraries. From the essential but routine activities such as reshelving hundreds of thousands of volumes to the design of complex electronic information systems, library staff bring a strong service commitment to all their activities. This commitment is coupled with their expertise in all aspects of information organization and delivery as well as their subject knowledge across all fields and disciplines.

Research libraries across the country are in a time of transition. Increasingly, computer technology will shape the way information is distributed, accessed, and stored, changing in the next century the very shape and concept of the university library. Services are being reconsidered in light of the ability to use interactive and multi-media technology along with powerful international networks to reach library users and to deliver information to wherever they are located. This time of transition, though, presents enormous challenges to library staff and to library users. We must juggle the funds we have between buying the still largely print publications that are required for teaching and research while also acquiring electronic resources that are in demand. And we must find ways to insure that library users—students, faculty, researchers—continue to develop knowledge and skills for locating and evaluating information resources from among a highly complex set of print and electronic sources.

As a multitude of forces contribute to changes in the universe of information, library professionals are actively engaged in shaping the future. A major focus in this transition period, when the complexity of locating and using information resources is increasing, is to create the teaching library.

The concept of the teaching library requires a fundamental shift in the role of the library and librarians. The historic role has been largely collection- and building-centered, and the individual has had no choice but to come to the library to seek assistance or locate the material wanted. The new paradigm of the teaching library is one in which librarians actively seek out users in a variety of settings to provide instruction about information resources and to assist them in acquiring skills in evaluating information. Using a variety of methods and locations for teaching (e.g., classrooms, interactive networks, multimedia presentations), as well as methods for delivery of information resources and services, librarians will create a "library without walls." The future library will be defined by connections through electronic networks to information throughout the world and to the information professionals who will be ubiquitous via electronic communication.

The 1992-93 annual report focuses on just a few of the many ways in which library staff continue to strive for excellence, even in times of strained budget resources, while also shaping a future that builds on new opportunities for service.

Sheila D. Creth
University Librarian
The education of library users is a primary focus of library professionals. During 1992-93 librarians conducted nearly 400 instructional sessions of varying types, reaching more than 7,000 individuals including students, faculty, and University staff. This represents an increase of 22 percent in the number of sessions offered from the previous year and an increase of 16 percent in the number of individuals participating in the educational sessions.

Many user education sessions are conducted as a collaborative effort between a librarian and a faculty member so that library instruction is timely, appropriate, and directly related to course content and assignments for students.

In addition to course-related instruction, librarians design and instruct students, faculty, and staff in sessions that are subject- or topic-specific or focused on using a particular type of information technology resource. With the ever-increasing amount of information produced in print as well as electronic formats, user education by librarians is essential to insure effective and efficient use of all types and categories of information resources.

The following, which describes examples of instruction programs, demonstrates the considerable commitment that exists in reaching and teaching members of the University with varied requirements for information to support teaching, research, class assignments, and independent learning.

Course-Related Teaching
Librarians provide specialized instruction on information resources and research techniques for a wide range of courses at the invitation of individual faculty members. In 1992-93 more than 100 such course-related sessions were designed and conducted. They included such topics as communication studies, American social history, English literature, history of slavery, Latin American studies, and Renaissance painting, to name a few. These instructional sessions are part of a course syllabus and, the librarians who present these sessions are individuals with subject knowledge on the specific topic.

Noncourse-Related Teaching
Business Library professionals increased the amount of instruction provided this year to support students and researchers in the College of Business Administration. They provided instructional sessions to introduce users to the many electronic business information sources. This year, for the first time, they developed a special class for business honors students to gain a general orientation along with an in-depth knowledge of sources in business and economics.

Psychology Library staff have been offering instruction in the electronic version of Psychological Abstracts, PsycLIT. Through these instructional sessions, students and others learn how to use this powerful electronic resource effectively.

Hardin Library for the Health Sciences staff developed user education offerings in two new areas. Healthnet availability, providing campus-wide access to journal citations in the health sciences, prompted the Hardin Library staff to begin designing and offering presentations and demonstrations on using the new system effectively. In 1992-93, Hardin staff members began planning, "Getting the Most from Healthnet", an hour-long workshop organized along the lines of "Getting the Most From OASIS." The Hardin staff saw at once the need to design a workshop that was flexible enough to accommodate the varying interests of the health sciences community. To insure maximum attendance, the workshop will have to be "taken on the road" and made available at various sites throughout the health campus. One of the goals of the Hardin Library staff for the next year is to offer the Healthnet course at least once every two weeks. Health Resources on the Internet is a presentation developed by a practicum student from the School of Library & Information Science in collaboration with librarians from the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. This presentation provides an overview of the rich global information resources available on health topics via the Internet.
OASIS, the online catalog for the University Libraries, is another focus for instruction. OASIS is a powerful, dynamic database containing records for most of the collections owned by the Libraries. In addition, OASIS contains a large amount of journal citation data and the records for the holdings of the Center for Research Libraries, a member-owned collection located in Chicago. Several years ago, staff began offering an introductory course entitled "Getting the Most from OASIS" for any University member to attend. In 1992-93, staff designed and offered "Getting the Most from Oasis: Advanced Session," which offers individuals instruction on complex searching strategies and keyword searching. These sessions are offered numerous times each semester, and are presented in departmental libraries as well as the Main Library.

Navigating the Internet is a course developed by librarians in the Main Library's Reference Department to instruct individuals on gaining access to a broad range of information resources available through the international electronic network. Individuals can search library catalogs around the world, locate journal citation files, subscribe to electronic discussion groups, receive electronic publications such as journals and newsletters, and transfer remotely located electronic information files to their personal computer.

Research Seminar Series
During 1992-93, library professionals continued the successful research seminar series. Rapid expansion of both print and electronic information and the increased interest in interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research led to the development of the research seminar series. Seminars focus on topics from an interdisciplinary point of view, and they are prepared and conducted by librarians who are subject specialists. In 1992-93, the following Research Seminars were conducted:

- The Latino Experience in the United States
  This seminar was designed to introduce researchers to information resources for the study of the Latino society in the United States, focusing primarily on the experience of three dominant groups: Mexican American/Chicano, Cuban American, and Puerto Rican.

- Library Resources for Historical Research
  (Primarily Europe, Russia, and the Americas)
  This seminar presented information on locally available primary sources as well as off-site primary materials, to include nonprint media (including films and videos) and was also designed to introduce participants to expert library staff.

- Old Texts/New Tricks: A Seminar on Language and Literature
  Emphasizing electronic sources and their use in linguistic and literary studies, the seminar presented bibliographic and full-text databases, text retrieval software, microform resources, and sources in the University Libraries' Special Collections Department.

- Connections: Gaining Access to Electronic Resources in the Social Sciences
  This seminar focused on recent developments in electronic access to social science research, including the Social Sciences Citation Index, the Internet, and the Iowa Social Sciences Institute.

Orientation Sessions
In addition to these teaching efforts, the library staff offer a variety of general orientation sessions to help new students become familiar with the library system —collections, services, policies, and procedures. There were 16 sessions held for new undergraduate and graduate students in the Main Library during 1992-93 as well as 10 sessions specifically for student athletes and 7 sessions for international students.
Reference Consultations

Reference librarians and subject specialists offer a consultation service to students and faculty who are beginning a research project to introduce them to the range of materials and information on their topic. This individualized teaching approach resulted in approximately 950 consultations in such areas as uses of Catalan, bilingual education in the United States, the social history of Emerson, disease control, laws in the Middle Ages, and the early writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reaching Diverse Populations

In every education effort, library staff are attempting to establish a welcoming and supportive environment for all members of the campus community. There are several programs conducted during 1992-93 that were designed to respond to special needs of individuals and groups.

During this past year, librarians worked with Weeg Computing Center staff to develop a two-week information literacy program for 30 students in the Preparatory Summer Program, a program to support incoming undergraduates who are academically at risk. Library professionals also worked with the Upward Bound Program to provide 62 high school and post-high school students with basic library skills. And a major study was completed to identify the needs of library users with physical disabilities, and a number of steps were taken to improve services for these users. A future focus on adaptive technology is aimed at serving individuals with physical disabilities.

The Information Arcade

From Spanish to statistics, pharmacy to philosophy, and civil engineering to social work, faculty and students in multiple disciplines have utilized the electronic classroom in the Information Arcade, located in the Main Library. Since the opening celebration in September 1992, more than 45 faculty have conducted over 25 courses each semester in the facility.

The Information Arcade is a state-of-the-art multimedia center designed to combine traditional print materials and electronic visual and audio resources for teaching and research. With instruction from library staff, users can develop new electronic methods to teach courses, perform research, or create a project using video, graphics, audio, and text simultaneously. The Information Arcade includes an electronic classroom with 24 networked personal computers; a bank of Macintosh, NeXT, and IBM computers that researchers can use to access databases campus-wide and worldwide; and multimedia stations that include computers, laser disk players, VCRs, and scanners.

Librarians have taken advantage of the new teaching and research technology by offering user education sessions in the Information Arcade such as “Accessing Information Resources on the Internet,” “Old Texts, New Tricks: A Research Seminar on Language and Literature,” and “Getting the Most from OASIS” noted earlier in this report. In addition, librarians provided instructional sessions for Upward Bound summer classes, the Secondary Student Summer Training Program: Investigations in Science, and international students. Librarians also used the electronic resources of the Information Arcade for consultations on topics such as history, philosophy, and use of the international network, the Internet, to locate information around the world. For example such tools as “Images of the French Revolution” laser disk, “Past Master” database of philosophical texts, and a database of the works of Immanuel Kant have been used by librarians as potent agents for instruction.

In a world in which network access to information and computer-based methods for research and teaching are increasingly important, the Information Arcade will be a model for future directions in library services as well as for changes in the academic curriculum.

Teaching with Technology

Library staff use new technologies to provide faculty and students with different methods of learning about information resources available locally and from other sources.
Information Resources

The University Libraries continue to build collections critical to supporting the teaching and research programs of the University.

Electronic Reference Service

Individuals in the University with a network account can now submit informational questions to librarians without leaving their homes or offices. The Electronic Reference Service provides, via electronic mail, access to subject experts for response to questions received electronically, twice a day, Monday through Friday.

Library Navigator

Library Navigator, a hypertext-based self-instruction program operating on an Apple computer workstation, provides students and faculty with an interactive, individualized approach to learning about the library system. Users can work through the program at their own pace and according to their schedule. Two workstations are located in the Main Library and one in the Hardin Library. Library Navigator also is available in the Instructional Technology Centers located around the campus.

Look it Up, Check it Out

Library users who prefer a visual approach for learning about the Main Library can view "Look it Up, Check it Out," a self-guided orientation video. The video is used by the Department of Rhetoric.

In the past year, the University Libraries added 31,635 books and received 27,411 journals, both purchased and received free. Additional electronic resources were acquired to provide library users with greater access to the vast worldwide knowledge base. Examples of growing collections include:

East Asian Studies

The University Libraries added more than 200 current Chinese journal titles and backfiles through a $120,000, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. (This grant also covered acquiring materials in African studies.) And a special collection of 78 original manuscripts of works by Chinese writers who participated in the University's International Writing Program has been established. The Taiwanese government recognized the UI collections as a major resource for East Asian studies and in March presented the University Libraries with a 28-volume collection of the official papers of Chiang Ching-Kuo, late president of the Republic of China.

The Japanese studies collection received approximately 600 new volumes, a 100-percent increase over last year. Many are cinema-related titles, unique among North American research libraries.

Iowa Women's Archives

The Louise Noun-Mary Louise Smith Iowa Women's Archives continues to collect, document, and preserve unique materials by and about Iowa women from all walks of life. The symposium on "Iowa Women in Political Life" was held in October 1992 to celebrate the opening of the Archives. More than 150 symposium participants explored the contributions, opportunities, and barriers faced by Iowa women involved in local, state, and national politics. Since the opening, the curator of the Archives has begun to build an impressive collection of manuscripts, scrapbooks, diaries, letters, oral histories, and other materials from Iowa women. Two projects, funded with private contributions, focus on gathering papers of Iowa African-American women and Iowa women in high school sports.

A generous lead gift from the Principal Financial Group was received to support a project to document the rich and long history of African-American women in Iowa. Though African-Americans settled in Iowa as early as the 1830s in a number of communities, there has been little historical documentation of their activities by libraries or historical societies. This project will address beginning identifying and collecting primary source material on African-American women and their organizations.
The University’s Black Alumni Association is leading fundraising efforts to support a project to document the experiences and contributions of African-American women at The University of Iowa dating as far back as the early 1900s. Existing sources of materials will be gathered and oral and video histories collected, thus creating a core collection of primary sources about the history of University of Iowa African-American women.

The Department of Women’s Intercollegiate Athletics and the Iowa Women’s Archives teamed up during 1992-93 to raise funds to endow an Iowa Women’s Sports Research Assistantship in honor of E. Wayne Cooley, Executive Secretary of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. Once the endowment goal is achieved, the funds will be used to collect materials and memorabilia now scattered across the state on the history of Iowa women in sports since the late 1800s.

Finally, the Iowa Women’s Archives was a sponsor of the “Nancy Drew Conference” held in April. Mystery lovers caught the nation’s attention when they convened to explore the work of Nancy Drew in the past, present, and future. Mildred Wirt Benson, author of early Nancy Drew mysteries, was a featured guest. Her papers are held by the Iowa Women’s Archives.

Healthnet

Health sciences students and the University community now have unlimited access to thousands of health science journals through Healthnet, a computerized informational database. Healthnet provides students, faculty, and staff with quick and efficient access to information on resources for their research and clinical activities. Healthnet is funded cooperatively by the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy; UI Hospitals and Clinics; and the University Libraries with contributions from the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Geographic Information System

The University Libraries has become one of 60 university participants nationwide in the Geographic Information System (GIS) Project, sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C. The GIS software, located in the Government Publications Department, enables users to view thematic maps and to create new maps with spatial data mounted on sophisticated computer equipment.

Automated Circulation

Completion of the final phase of the University Libraries’ online catalog of holdings is in sight. As part of the preparations for a fully-automated online circulation system over 60 library staff volunteers have placed more than 300,000 barcodes on materials in the Main Library during 1992-93. Circulation of library materials will be completely automated by December 1994, saving users and staff time and effort, and providing more information about the circulation status of library materials for users and important data on use of collections for librarians.

Quick Access Collection

Newly acquired materials are now more accessible to library users through the “Quick Access Collection” instituted in July 1992. Materials lacking records from national electronic cataloging services are assigned an inventory number and immediately sent to open stack areas in all libraries where users may retrieve them to check out or browse. Additionally, more than 38,000 titles, previously listed only in the card catalog, are now in the OASIS database as part of a project to continuously add University Libraries materials to the online database.

Improving Collection Access

Locating the millions of articles, documents, books, videotapes, scores, and other materials is easier, thanks to more efficient retrieval methods.
Conservation of Materials and the Apprenticeship Program

The conservation of rare and valuable materials for current and future library users continues to be an important activity for research libraries. Recognizing the national and international need for trained conservators, the University Libraries continues the conservation apprenticeship program through the appointment of two new apprentices in 1992-93. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provides support for this project through a $168,000 award, the second such grant it has made to the University Libraries since 1988. Apprentices, while learning the necessary range of conservation knowledge and skills, apply their training to the conservation of University Libraries materials.

Chemical Abstracts Document Delivery Service

The increasing cost of owning journals is a concern for many research libraries. The Chemistry-Botany Library, in September 1992, began a pilot project to obtain articles directly from the Chemical Abstracts Document Delivery Service from journals not owned by the University Libraries. More than 264 articles were delivered to library users in the first ten months of the project, demonstrating that this is a viable, cost effective method for obtaining research materials without absorbing large costs for purchasing the journals.

Electronic Journal Archives

Every 20 seconds, library users around the world access an international archive of electronic journals maintained by the CICNet (the Big Ten Network consortium located in Ann Arbor, Michigan). This network, begun in April 1992, provides access to more than 500 journals published in electronic format from a variety of disciplines.

Center for Research Libraries

The University Libraries is one of 150 members of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). This Chicago-based organization holds more than 3.6 million volumes and 1.1 million microforms of research materials that would otherwise be purchased by individual libraries. Donald Simpson, president of CRL, visited The University of Iowa this year to talk with librarians and faculty about the vast resources available from the Center. Faculty, staff, and students can locate many of these resources through the OASIS database and request materials through the Interlibrary Loan Office.

Interlibrary Loan

The University Libraries provides students and faculty access to more than 28 million records of items owned in a wide variety of libraries nationally and internationally. During 1992-93, 11,150 books and journal articles were obtained for UI library users through this cooperative program.
The Iowa Library Information Project

Linking the holdings of Iowa libraries is the goal of the Iowa Library Information Project. When completed, the project will enable library users from one academic or community library to quickly locate materials held in other libraries throughout the state. A grant of $40,000 from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust enabled the completion of a study to determine the feasibility of statewide linked catalogs during 1992-93. The three Regents Libraries provided the leadership on this project. A pilot project to implement the findings of this multi-type library study will be initiated under the guidance of the Iowa Research and Education Network.

Publications

Szathmary Culinary Arts Series. In 1992-93, two additional books were published by the University of Iowa Press in the Szathmary Culinary Arts Series, a joint project with the University Libraries. America Eats by Nelson Algren, published posthumously, was written for the government’s Illinois Writer’s Project during the depression. Chef Louis Szathmary purchased the manuscript in the 1970s and later, along with a collection of 22,000 culinary works, donated the manuscript to the University Libraries. A second work, The Khwan Niamut or Nawab’s Domestic Cookery, is a collection of Persian recipes. A facsimile of the original cookbook, published in 1839 in Calcutta, this version also includes updated recipes. David Schoonover, Curator of Rare Books, edits the series.

Scholarly Communication Symposium. New Technologies and New Directions: Proceedings from the Symposium on Scholarly Communication, edited by R. George Boynton, professor of political science, and Sheila D. Creth, University Librarian, was published by Meckler, Inc. As part of re-Inventing the world of learning, the University Libraries hosted the symposium in November 1991. The purpose of the symposium was to promote active involvement by those who are the primary contributors, consumers, and distributors of scholarly information in determining future directions for scholarly and creative communication. The proceedings contain papers from nine scholars and information professionals.

Friends of the Libraries

The Friends of the University Libraries, the University Libraries’ private support group, continued to provide invaluable assistance for fundraising and library promotion during 1992-93. The Friends Advisory Board approved and began implementing a major membership drive to increase the base of support for the library system during 1994, the 30th anniversary of the Friends. Friends activities during 1992-93 included:

Chautauqua on Film. The spirit of the Chautauqua was revived by the Friends during the Chautauqua on Film event held in April 1992. Begun in the 1880s in New York, Chautauquas were educational and social events of several days duration focusing on a specific topic. The Friends 1993 Chautauqua featured a presentation by award-winning documentary filmmaker Charles Guggenheim; an exhibition, “The REEL Thing: Behind the Magic of Movies,” featuring library movie script collections; a showing of Guggenheim’s films; and introductory lectures by Professor John Raeburn and Professor Franklin Miller for showings of two historically-based films, “The Long Walk Home” and “Apocalypse Now.”


A Century of Basketball at The University of Iowa. Iowa City was one of the first places where basketball was played. This exhibition retraces the history of the sport as played by men and women 100 years ago to the present.

Making Crime Pay. Writers of mystery and detective fiction were featured in this exhibition celebrating this popular genre.
The Teaching Library: Staff Appointments

Excellent staff make the teaching library possible at The University of Iowa.

**Musical Events.** Friends sponsored two concerts held in the Library’s North Lobby featuring young artists: the Borromeo String Quartet and the Center for New Music ensemble.

**Alumni Association – Library Outreach Programs.** The Friends of the University Libraries joined forces with the UI Alumni Association in presenting four educational programs for Iowa Clubs in Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Dubuque during 1992-93. Presentations included “Iowa Authors” given by Robert McCown, head, Special Collections, and “A Room of Their Own: The Iowa Women’s Archives” given by Karen Mason, curator, Louise Noun Mary Louise Smith Iowa Women’s Archives.

In 1992-93 four new staff were appointed to join the 180 dedicated professional and support staff members of the University Libraries.

**Anita Lowry** was appointed as the first manager of the Information Arcade. She comes to The University of Iowa with 20 years of experience at Columbia University Library serving as director of the Electronic Text Service, deputy head of the Butler Reference Department, and reference librarian. She holds the M.S. degree from Columbia University, the M.A. from New York University, and the B.A. from Indiana University. She has published numerous papers and given many presentations on electronic text and reference systems.

**Karen Mason** was appointed as the first curator of the Iowa Women’s Archives. She holds three degrees in history; a bachelor’s degree from Bryn Mawr, a master’s from the University of Minnesota, and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. She spent the last 10 years at the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, where she processed manuscript collections, engaged in field work, and assisted researchers in the use of collections. She also taught in the university’s School of Information and Library Studies.

**Gary Sloat** was appointed as a half-time department information specialist in the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. He holds a master of business administration and a bachelor’s degree in marketing from The University of Iowa. He has had experience in a wide variety of computer-related positions at the University as well as with the city management offices of Iowa City.

**Rijn Templeton** was appointed as Art Librarian, after serving as Interim Art Librarian since June 1992. She holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in English from Western Illinois University and a master’s degree in library science from Iowa. Before serving as Interim Art Librarian, she worked in the University Libraries Acquisition Department in charge of receiving and gifts operations.
Appendix A

UI Libraries Statistics 1992-93

Collections
Volumes held as June 30, 1993 .................. 3,317,265
   (includes Law Library)
Volumes added during the year ('92/'93) .................. 50,396
Number of monographs purchased .................. 31,635
Number of current serials purchased .................. 12,784
Number of current serials received
   (not purchased; includes government publications) .................. 14,627
Total microform units held
   (includes government publications) .................. 4,260,134

Personnel
Number of professional staff, full time equivalent (FTE) ...... 79.5
Number of nonprofessional staff, FTE ............................. 98
Number of student assistants, FTE ................................. 65
Total FTE staff .......................................................... 242.5

Interlibrary Loans
Total items loaned .................................................. 43,644
Total items borrowed ............................................... 11,150

Expenditures
All materials expenditures ................................ $4,416,822
Binding ................................................................. 147,950
Salaries & wages expenditures ................................. 6,039,652
Other operating expenditures ................................. 1,417,303
Total ................................................................. $12,021,727

OASIS Statistics
Bibliographic records ........................................... 1,173,714
   (includes Law Library)
Order, invoice and fund records .......................... 259,015
Public terminals ..................................................... 73
Staff terminals ....................................................... 95
Remote access ports .............................................. 14
Appendix B

Service Statistics 1992-93

Use of Materials
General circulation of materials: 424,899
Number of reserved readings circulated: 199,549
Number of items used within library units: 1,186,574
Total number of uses: 1,811,022

User Education
Number of user education sessions: 397
Number of user education participants: 7,051

Reference Services
Directional transactions: 289,124
Reference transactions: 95,269
Reference consultations: 953
Mediated data base searches: 3,647
Total directional/references transactions: 388,993

Building Use (Individuals)
Art: 44,789
Biology: 58,734
Business: 165,913
Chemistry/Botany: 91,549
Engineering: 170,306
Geology: 28,242
Hardin: 377,369
Mathematics: 75,723
Music: no count
Physics: 37,075
Psychology: 86,529
Main Library: 1,218,812
Total Uses: 2,355,041

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