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The University of Iowa Libraries 2007 Annual Report

University of Iowa Libraries

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A message from the University Librarian...

Once again, it is my privilege to call to your attention the many, varied accomplishments of the University Libraries this past year. This brief summary highlights a wide range of initiatives designed to meet the learning and research needs of our students, faculty, and staff. At the same time, there are a number of projects that also benefit the people of Iowa and others outside the borders of our campus.

Our new agreement with the Google Book Search project is this year’s most newsworthy accomplishment with the greatest, long-range implications for researchers everywhere. I am proud to call your attention to our participation in this project.

While our collections and services are increasingly digital, there are still impressive acquisitions and initiatives that are essentially print based. Like all libraries of this era, our services are dependent on both traditional and new technologies. More than anything else, our Libraries rest on the shoulders of our first-rate staff. Without their dedication and efforts, none of this would be possible.

Outreach...

Along with alumni of the College of Education, Libraries’ Friends spent the evening at the Iowa Women’s Basketball home opener on November 1, 2006. Members of the 1969 women’s club team were recognized for their national tournament appearance. The Girls and Women’s Sports collection in the Iowa Women’s Archives was highlighted and on display at this event.

Retirees have been coming back to the library for special sessions; in November, they learned how libraries have changed over the past few decades and were presented with an overview of the new Libraries website. A later session taught participants how to find quality health information on the web. The purpose of these sessions is to highlight the breadth of resources available in the Libraries and to re-connect with our retired faculty and staff.

The University Libraries participated in two outreach activities for the Sudanese Community. The first was a community dinner and forum on Darfur, cosponsored by the African Studies Program, UI Center for Human Rights, Sudanese Community Services Inc., and the Libraries; the second was a library research instruction class for the Sudanese community.
Services...

The Libraries purchased a site license to the citation management software *RefWorks*, which allows university users to import citations from databases like Academic Search Elite, organize citations, share them with colleagues, and insert citations into papers and research publications, formatting them in any of hundreds of bibliographic styles.

To improve our users’ chat experience, we adopted use of the MeeboMe Widget, which allows users to chat with our reference librarians without requiring them to register with a chat service such as AOL. The service has seen a substantial increase in activity since this change.

Behind the scenes, our technical services staff have qualified as contributing members to two programs that enhance the level of cataloging records shared by libraries all over the world. The OCLC WorldCat Database Enhance Program allows catalogers to upgrade the content and quality of shared records in the international database of over 88 million cataloging records. The Library of Congress Name Authority Cooperative Program for Chinese-Japanese-Korean and Arabic materials allows our catalogers to share their expertise in these areas by creating and enhancing name authority records for all customers of the Library of Congress and users of the OCLC WorldCat Database.

Interlibrary Loan staff continued to improve lending turnaround time for Main Library and the nine branch libraries. The average time for book loans is less than two days, and the average turnaround time for photocopies is less than one day.

### Filled Loans and Copies to Iowa Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Copies + Loans</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None books or articles were provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-50</td>
<td>1 to 50 books or articles were provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-200</td>
<td>51 to 200 books or articles were provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>201-1,000</td>
<td>201 to 1,000 books or articles were provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,001-3,350</td>
<td>1,001 to 3,350 books or articles were provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Almost 16,000 books and photocopied articles were provided to academic, public and special libraries in 96 of the 99 counties in Iowa (see map).
The Libraries’ joined the Association of Research Libraries’ MINES (Measuring the Impact of Networked Electronic Services) project. This is a customized assessment instrument that will survey users of in-library and remote networked electronic resources to identify demographic differences and users’ purposes for accessing specific resources. The results will provide valuable information on the use of an important and growing portion of the Libraries’ collections.

**New Electronic Resources**

- Congressional Research Digital Collection - reports from 1916 to present
- Decennial United States Census reprints from 1790-1880 capture early history of the U.S. by describing the people and activity in the country.
- CQ Almanac Online - coverage and analysis of U.S. congressional legislation
- American Statistical Index – full-text access to a variety of U.S. government statistical sources of information

**Collection Highlights**

- Sutton Hoo Press Archive. Extensive records of a prominent hand press printer, Chad Oness, noted for painstaking design and exquisite production of finely illustrated and printed small editions.
- Ernest Horn Collection – 18th and 19th century books on English popular song collected by an education faculty member. An Iowa City elementary school is named in Horn’s honor.
- Pedro Lastra Letters – a collection of nearly 1,000 letters from South American writers to a prominent critic and editor that expands our South American literary holdings.

Conservation treatment highlights for this year included a Vicksburg siege newspaper (1863), *Tycho Brahe Astromiae* (1602), rehousing of 30 incunable leaves and early movie poster restorations. Of particular note was a special project with the UI Center for the Book to treat over 100 damaged and inaccessible 18th c. pamphlets, using Mohawk vellum beige endpapers.
The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) – a consortium of 12 research universities, including The University of Iowa – announced that its members have entered into an agreement with Google to become partners in the Google Book Search project. Google will work with the libraries at all of the CIC institutions to digitize distinctive portions of their collections, making those works searchable and easier to access, and preserving many materials that are fragile or deteriorating.

Nearly 200 online collection guides have been added to the expanding University Archives’ web site, including a guide to the Manuscript File Collection on Early University History. The collection consists of records dating back to the UI’s first years of service.

The *Anatomia universa* of Paolo Mascagni, an eighteenth-century Italian physician and teacher, is an exceedingly rare elephant-sized folio anatomical plates in the John Martin Rare Book Room at Hardin Library. This “book” is so large it has never been bound, but now Conservation staff have painstakingly remounted 44 hand-colored lithograph plates into acid-free panels to protect Mascagni’s work and provide easier access.

**Additions to the Iowa Digital Library** ([digital.lib.uiowa.edu/](http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/)) **included:**

- **UI Libraries Conservation Lab Bookbinding Model Collection.** Works created by Bill Anthony, past conservator of the Libraries, and his students form the core of this digital collection, including a wide range of binding techniques; historic, modern, wooden board, and monastic binding. The 60+ models range from practical to experimental and many reproduce traditional bookbinding techniques of various cultures.
- Over 90 extremely brittle 1930s plat books showing land ownership maps for townships in Iowa counties published by W.W. Hixson & Co. of Rockford, Illinois were cataloged, scanned and converted to paper and digital formats.

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**Collections Budget Expeditures**

![Collections Budget Expeditures](image-url)
Staff & Diversity...

This past year, nine professional positions and two merit staff positions were filled.

With significant funding support from the Provost’s office, the Libraries was able to create a “Recruitment and Outreach Librarian” position to help with librarian recruitment, assist with outreach efforts, and to work as part of the Iowa Women’s Archives’ Mujeres Latinas project.

The Iowa Women’s Archives oral history project, Mujeres Latinas, has been recognized with the UI President’s Award for State Outreach and Public Engagement. This annual award honors those who demonstrate exemplary outreach to the State of Iowa and the public in general.


Facilities...

Based on student requests, the Hardin Library has added new group study rooms and removed the old study carrels in favor of more functional and comfortable study spaces.

Using gifts from Prof. T. F. Smith (retired) and the College of Engineering, the Lichtenberger Engineering Library staff created an internet-accessible, comfortable study area for students inside the library.

Preparations have begun for the building of the new Archival Facility. Staff have begun identifying less used Libraries materials that could be moved to the new facility. Nancy Baker has been meeting with interested academic departments on campus to discuss this new facility.

This year Special Collections and University Archives updated their public space with new carpet and developed an expanded classroom facility adjacent to the department.
This past year, gifts to the Libraries totaled $897,941, with 64% of that coming from estate gifts and gifts-in-kind. General and restricted gifts were over $320,000. These funds are used for expensive collections, various programs and services, and awards, including:

- Funding to create a program to introduce Libraries’ student employees from historically underrepresented groups to a broader range of the work done in libraries was awarded from the Library Innovation, Service and Entrepreneurship Fund. It is hoped to encourage students to consider librarianship as a career or have a greater understanding of the value of librarianship and libraries.

- A $225,000 estate gift from Clarice E. Krieg, a 1932 UI graduate, will assist the Libraries in purchasing books and reference materials far into the future. Krieg worked at the Libraries as a cataloguer in the 1920s and 1930s, and her previous gifts included a collection of Christmas-related greeting cards to the Special Collections Department.

- Reference and Library Instruction Head Kathy Margarrell was the fourth recipient of the Arthur Benton Excellence in Reference Services Professional Development Award, which is given biennially to a Libraries’ professional staff member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment in providing reference services for the university community.

New grants included $298,927 from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to acquire electronic journal backfiles in the sciences; and $117,416 from the Carver Trust to help renovate and expand the Main Library’s Information Arcade®.

Information Arcade classrooms are among the best-used on campus.
Statistics & Budget...

Gatecount ........................................... 1,883,562
Hours of Computer Use .................. 518,502
Seating ..................................................... 3,565
Public Computers ........................... 402
Catalog Searches ............................. 1,902,510
Reference Questions ....................... 90,723
Instruction Participants ................. 16,595
Instructional Sessions ..................... 610
Staff (P&S & Merit FTE) .................. 178
Budget (state funds) ................. $20,221,577

Statistics from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Law Library data is not included as it is separately administered by the College of Law.