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ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 25, no. 1, January/February 2015

President's Piece



Welcome to 2015! There are great things in store for ILA-ACRL this year. A special welcome to our new members and our student members! Thank you to Dan Chibnall, who served as President in 2014; as is the custom, he continues as Past President/Chair of our Awards Committee and I am grateful that he is around to show me the ropes! Thank you as well to Ryan Gjerde, who completed 10 years on the ILA/ACRL Board at the end of 2014; this is truly an accomplishment and we have benefitted from his long-term view.

A few important things to be aware of as we start the year:

The ILA/ACRL Spring Conference will be held March 20, 2015 at Drake University in Des Moines. The theme is “Bold Moves: New Connections”. The call for presentation proposals is available at the following link: <http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/conference/2015/proposals>. Thank you to Liz Kiscaden, Chair, as well as all members of the Spring Conference Committee, who are working hard to plan a successful conference! We are excited that our keynote speaker will be Michael Scott, our new State Librarian. You’ll notice the date is earlier than in the past few years; this enabled us to book a great conference location and it also allows us to encourage library science students to attend as it is University of Iowa’s spring break. Note that again we are partnering with the Iowa Private Academic Libraries (IPAL), which will hold their conference the previous day, also at Drake. Start thinking positive weather-related thoughts!

One area of focus for the Board this year is information literacy. Due to the sunset of the K-12/Higher Ed Ad Hoc committee at the end of 2015, I have appointed an IL Task Force, which includes Ericka Raber (chair), Sara Scheib, and Pam Rees. They will be gathering information and providing a recommendation to the Board regarding how to continue the IL assessment pilot project, how to partner effectively with the Iowa Association of School Librarians to support K-12 library programs, and how to provide professional development opportunities regarding information literacy to our members.

Another area of focus is increasing membership numbers. Please help us ensure the continued strength of our organization by encouraging membership among your colleagues. In addition, ILA/ACRL's success relies on your active involvement; nearly half of the association's members need to serve on committees or the Board in order for our group to function! The Nominating Committee, chaired by Vice President/President-Elect Sara Scheib, will soon be requesting volunteers and nominees for various positions. Please consider volunteering, agreeing to serve if contacted, or nominating someone. It is truly telling when many Board members, upon ending their terms, ask to continue in some role. It's a great group of creative, dedicated, and fun librarians. Most work is done virtually.

Don't hesitate to contact me or any Board member (listed at: <http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/about/people>) if you have suggestions for the association. The group is what we make it! Thank you all for your active membership and I look forward to a great year.

Anne Marie Gruber, University of Dubuque

Mary Hammond Iber Iowa ACRL Spring Conference Scholarship



Mary Hammond Iber was an exceptional librarian, mentor, and friend. A librarian and archivist at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, she died unexpectedly on January 2, 2014. Mary was known for her kind, creative, and helpful nature and her vibrant approach to life. She taught as an adjunct instructor at the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science and was involved with Iowa ACRL leadership, including serving as President in 2010 and chairing the Nominating, Awards, and Newsletter committees.

To honor her commitment to continuous learning and growth, Iowa ACRL makes available the Mary Hammond Iber Spring Conference Scholarship. The scholarship will help fund attendance at the Iowa ACRL Spring Conference, March 20th, 2015 at Drake University in Des Moines. The scholarship will cover the registration fee and up to \$100 in travel, hotel, and meal expenses.

Applicants must be either:

- 1) Paid members of Iowa ACRL, working full-time in an Iowa academic or research library, and either:

Attending their first Iowa ACRL Conference, or have worked in an Iowa academic or research library for fewer than three years.

OR

- 2) Library science students and/or support staff working in an Iowa academic or research library. Student and support staff applicants do not have to be paid members of Iowa ACRL.

Previous Iowa ACRL Spring Conference scholarship recipients are NOT eligible.

Please submit the application below, including a 250 word or less essay describing how the conference theme “Bold Moves: New Connections” is related to one of your professional goals. Scholarship winners are selected by the Awards Committee on the quality of the essay. Please apply at <http://bit.ly/iowaacrlspring2015> or <http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/awards> or by contacting Dan Chibnall, chair of the Awards Committee, at dchibnall@grandview.edu. The deadline for applications is February 20th, 2015. The winner will be notified by March 6th, 2015.

Dan Chibnall, Grand View University, Awards Committee Chair

Regents Universities Library News

University of Northern Iowa

Rod Library Mini-ComicCon 2015



The date is set for the 2nd annual Rod Con at the Rod Library. This year's event will be held Saturday, March 28, from 11-4 p.m. There will be artists, panel presentations, a costume contest, and new for this year: a special Kidzone full of crafts and activities for our younger patrons! This year we have been busy collaborating with campus programs, Waterloo and Cedar Falls public libraries and the community to ensure this event is a hit. Check out the website for more details as they unfold: www.library.uni.edu/rod-con All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you at this super soiree!



The University of Iowa

Main Library Exhibit Space Renovation has started. There are pictures on the UI Libraries Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UofIowaLibraries>

University of Iowa libraries welcome its new staff: Madde Hoberg, Library Assistant in Access Services; Katie Hassman, Undergraduate Engagement Librarian in Research and Library Instruction; Ken Clinkenbeard, Web Services Specialist in Library Information Technology; Tom Keegan, Head of Digital Research and Publishing.

Iowa Research Online had an impressive 1,506,333 items downloaded in 2014. Full story here: <http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/drp/2015/01/06/1-5-million-downloads-from-iro-in-2014/>

School of Library and Information Science, The University of Iowa

Graduate Public Digital Humanities Certificate

The University of Iowa now offers graduate students the opportunity to obtain a Public Digital Humanities Certificate, which is designed to help them develop expertise using digital technologies, methods and applications in humanities disciplines while also cultivating research and career skills. The new certificate, approved in the spring of 2014, provides students with core technical training in the use of digital platforms and the creation of digital projects, which focus on increasing the public's engagement with humanities works and ideas. It also provides students context for understanding digital humanities work and its applications

Digital humanities techniques create new insights as scholars explore issues too complex or too large for traditional humanities methods. Computational approaches to humanities research allow us to create new visualizations that convey very complex relationships and ideas in easily accessible ways. History, anthropology, religion, philosophy, language, art, music and literature can become newly accessible for a largely digitally-engaged public through imaginative multimedia formats delivered through mobile applications, websites, games and virtual environments. The University of Iowa Public Digital Humanities Certificate program provides formal structure and credit for graduate students to forward their academic careers and specialize in this exciting new area of research.

For more information see the [Public Digital Humanities Certificate at Iowa](#), or contact [Professor James Elmborg](#), Director of the Public Digital Humanities Certificate.

Private Academic Library News – Part I

Cowles Library, Drake University

Drake University Archives and Special Collections is happy to announce the arrival of Senator Tom Harkin's papers. Early on the bitterly cold morning of January 5, 2015, approximately 800 boxes of materials spanning Tom Harkin's 40-year (1975-2015) Congressional career arrived at Cowles Library.

The Harkin Collection is the centerpiece of the rapidly developing Political Papers Collection at Drake University. In addition to the papers of Senator Harkin, the collections consist of the papers of former Representative Neil Smith and selected items from Governor Robert D. Ray's career.

Shown in the photo is Hope Grebner, the Political Papers Archivist, who will be managing the Harkin materials.



Clarke University

Our Literature faculty, Ann Pelelo, recently got a \$1,000 grant from the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission for the library to buy books, DVDs, and instructional materials about Japanese culture. They are being used this semester for an interdisciplinary course on Japanese culture that is being taught by faculty from the art, religious studies, history, literature, philosophy, and sociology departments.

Hawkeye Community College

The Hawkeye Community College Library implemented two collaborative learning study rooms in August 2014. Each room contains a 55 inch TV monitor and network connections for up to four different devices, including iPads, pc laptops, MacBooks, smartphones, etc. Students who may need an HDMI adapter may check them out at the circulation desk. The library uses Springshare's LibCal room booking software to allow online reservations of these rooms and the other six study rooms.

Western Iowa Tech Community College

Western Iowa Tech Community College Library has said goodbye to Charles LeMaster, a 50 year veteran in the Sioux City Libraries. Charles worked as the Director of the Morningside College Library for 27 years before retiring. Retirement couldn't hold him down long. A year later, Charles stated working for Western Iowa Tech Community College Library and stayed for another 24 years.

Western Iowa Tech's Library has since hired two new library staff. Alexandra Patnaud from Sioux City joins us during the day and Tyler Hahn from Marcus, Iowa joins us in the evenings.

Central College

Geisler Library is pleased to welcome Mary E. Anderson as Integrated Learning Librarian. Mary previously worked at Gustavus Adolphus College where she was visiting Academic Librarian with an emphasis on reference and instruction. As Integrated Learning Librarian, she will be involved in research assistance & reference, instruction, and assessment to support [Central College's integrated learning initiative](#).

We also said bon voyage and farewell to Reference Assistant Greg Teets (Central College '14) as he departed for Malaysia to teach English through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program.

Geisler Library hosted Central College's third Undergraduate Research Symposium on December 11, 2014. This semi-annual event showcases independent research projects, Honors theses, and other significant student research experiences, culminating in more than 100 concurrent presentations taking place throughout the library as a day-long celebration of undergraduate research and creative inquiry.

The Geisler Library Writers Reading series features the following writers during its 2014-2015 season:

Novelist Chitra Divakaruni, author of *One Amazing Thing* and *Oleander Girl*, among other works; Poet Matt Rasmussen, author of the award-winning collection *Black Aperture*; Journalist Kyle Munson from the *Des Moines Register*; Memoirist Tim Bascom, Director of Creative Writing at Waldorf College and author of *Chameleon Days: An American Boyhood in Ethiopia* (March 26, 2015); Poet and Professor of English at Central College, Keith Ratzlaff (February 19, 2015).

Kyle Winward represented Geisler Library at the Iowa Innovative Users Group (IAIUG) meeting at Urbandale Public Library on September 19, 2014.

Together with colleagues from the Central College faculty and Writing Center, Library Director Beth McMahan co-authored the article “An Embedded Model: First-Year Student Success in Writing and Research”, recently published in *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal* 12.1 (2014).

Beth McMahan joined the 2014-15 cohort of the ACRL College Library Directors’ Mentor Program. Jill Jack, Director of Stewart Memorial Library at Coe College, will be her mentor throughout this academic year.

St. Ambrose University

New Resource Access and Cataloging Librarian

Elizabeth [Beth] Shoemaker assumed her duties as the Resource Access and Cataloging Librarian at St. Ambrose University in June 2014. In addition to her normal catalog duties, Beth will also be teaching Information Literacy classes. She also has an advanced degree in Music. Beth and her husband are passionate about hand-made books.

New Archivist

Onnica Marquez assumed her duties as the Archivist at St. Ambrose University in May 2014. Onnica has a Master’s degree in Museum Studies from Western Illinois University. She also works part-time at the Putnam Museum. She and her husband also enjoy ballroom dancing in their spare time.

Therapy Dogs during Finals Week

Finals week has always been one of the most stressful times during the academic year. In addition to providing students with snacks such as coffee and cookies, St. Ambrose University Library has also been providing students with a little TLC courtesy of therapy dogs. The dogs came to the Library for three nights during Finals Week, at two different times each night. Thanks to the Caring Canines program and Pawsitive Hearts student group, students had the opportunity to visit with these cuddly pups!



Special Libraries News

Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides books, magazines, and other materials in Braille, audio, and large print formats to Iowans who cannot use standard print. Materials circulate by mail, free of charge, or can be downloaded at the patron's convenience.

- Books and magazines in audio, Braille, large print and descriptive videos
- Playback equipment for audio materials
- Transcription of print materials to Braille and audio formats for instructional, employment, and leisure use
- Independent access to the Library's collection through the On-Line Public Access Catalog
- Download on Demand service for audio materials
- BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download)

New Library Director

Sarah Willeford assumed her duties as the new Library Director in February 2014. Sarah is the past-president of the Iowa Library Association and she has been the director at public libraries in Clarinda and Ankeny. She has enjoyed her first year with the library.

Library Resource Center

The Library Resource Center now has an iMac laptop, a 3D Printer and a Digitizer 3D Scanner thanks to funds provided by the Friends of the Library for the Blind. Patrons can use the iMac for running Apple programs, browsing the Web and trying out new apps. It also runs the 3D printer and Digitizer which will be used for creating three-dimensional tactile graphics for

students and patrons. Also, in the Resource Center is a PC with Window, Braille Display, printer and scanner.

Braille Challenge Event

Students throughout Iowa, in grades 1st-12th, will test their skills at the Iowa Braille Challenge on Saturday February 7th. Held at the Iowa Department for the Blind building in Des Moines and co-sponsored by the Iowa Braille School and the Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This annual event gives Iowa students a chance to shine! Students will demonstrate their Braille skills in the areas of reading and comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading, and tactile graphics.