

Friendscript

We're Here to Help!

Library remains vital during pandemic

When the coronavirus pandemic struck the U.S. early this year, the University of Illinois faced a daunting task: how to complete the semester while stripped of typical college elements, such as in-class dynamics, hands-on lab sessions, checked-out library materials, and a swirl of cultural, sport, and social activities.

Still, humankind has always proved inventive in finding ways to transmit information—from clay to electronic tablets, papyrus to the printing press, the telegraph to telephone to Twitter, Skype, and Zoom.

And so too the University Library—arguably the most significant scholarly resource on campus—nimblely adjusted its services and personnel to quickly respond to faculty, student, staff, and public needs.

Whatever the Library was renowned for before the pandemic—its deep collections, expert personnel, and committed sense of service—it ramped up even more so in reaction to the crisis, becoming a kind of virtual Library on steroids.

That attitude is clearly displayed in the headline flung across its new COVID-19 resource page (www.library.illinois.edu/geninfo/covid-19/): “We’re Here to Help!”

“I want to assure you all that we will do what we can to ensure your success during these unusual circumstances,” Dean John Wilkin wrote to faculty about the role of the Library during

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“I want to assure you all that we will do what we can to ensure your success during these unusual circumstances.”

—JOHN WILKIN,
DEAN OF LIBRARIES AND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



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Professor Marek Sroka (right) chats with Professor Emeritus Larry Miller whose gift established the Ralph Fisher University Scholars program in 2017.

Sroka Invested as Turyn Professor

Librarian named to five-year honor

In February, Central European Studies Librarian Marek Sroka was invested as the Andrew S.G. Turyn Professor.

The endowed professorship, offered on a five-year rotating basis, is open to full professors of library administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who are pursuing innovative research in any scholarly area. Sroka has held the post since August 2019.

Sroka earned a master's degree in English literature at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, and went on to study library and information science at Illinois. Since 1996, he has served on the Library faculty, working in various capacities in the Slavic and East European Library; English Library; History, Philosophy, and Newspaper Library; International and Area Studies Library; and Literatures and Languages Library.

A prolific writer, researcher, and lecturer, Sroka studies library and cultural history, including war losses of Polish and German libraries, Jewish libraries, recovery of displaced library collections, and post-World War II rehabilitation of Polish libraries in the context of Polish-American and Polish-British cultural relations.

The professorship was established through a gift from the estate of former librarian and longtime Library Friend Andrew Turyn, also a native of Poland, whose two degrees from Illinois include a master's in library and information science. In addition, Turyn's mother was a professional librarian who worked as a cataloguer on the Urbana campus; his father, a professor of classics, was also a member of the prestigious Center for Advanced Study.



From left, John Wilkin (University Librarian and Dean of Libraries); Marek Sroka (Central European Studies Librarian); and Paul Ellinger (Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost for Budget and Resource Planning).



Making History Today

Archives documents pandemic in real-time responses



Photo courtesy of Larry DeBrock

UI Professor Larry DeBrock, dean emeritus of the Gies College of Business, creates a webinar series from home to help business leaders understand the economic impact of the coronavirus. The project was one among dozens received so far by the University Archives in its effort to document the pandemic's effect on the campus community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic marks a seminal moment in time, the University Archives is actively preserving that history.

“What’s Your Story? COVID-19 and the University of Illinois Community” looks to document the virus’s effect on individuals in the campus community—from building workers to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Headed by archivists Bethany Anderson and Jessica Ballard, the effort seeks your story of how the pandemic and its ramifications are affecting you.

The call went out in late March, using email, social media, listservs, webpages, and other means to corral reactions in a range of formats—whether text, audio, video, art, or images. Within a matter of weeks, more than three dozen responses had been received, embodying a diverse array of styles, including photographs, journal entries, video, a rap song, and even a sculpture.

“It’s just been really remarkable to see how candid people are,” Anderson said. The submissions have caused her to reflect on her own experience while working at home during the statewide shutdown and provided some comfort with the realization she’s not alone in her reactions to the crisis.

In recognizing that uncertain times affect people physically and emotionally, the archivists are treating the items “with a little bit more sensitivity,” Ballard said; for one thing, respondents may reply anonymously. In addition, the unique situation the archivists find themselves in—that is, documenting a history that they themselves are part of—has necessitated taking some breaks for emotional relief. The “heartbreaking stories” take their toll, Anderson said. “It’s hard to understand the emotional effect that . . . archival contents can have on you.”

The final form of the project has yet to take shape, and at present, items (excluding the photos accompanying this story) are not accessible to the public. Submissions are actively sought through December 31. To participate, visit archives.library.illinois.edu/about-us/initiatives/covid-19/.

“I think there’s a lot of people that walk through the campus of the University of Illinois . . . [that] don’t always realize the fact that their presences on campus is very significant,” Ballard said. “We just really encourage people to . . . document what their experiences have been like.”

Towels are strategically placed to absorb sound during Professor DeBrock’s webinar for improved audio quality.



Photo courtesy of Larry DeBrock

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Professor's Donation Strikes Right Note

Gift Will Sustain Hymn Tune Index



Temperley recently donated a gift to the Library to sustain the colossal Hymn Tune Index he created.

Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

In Nicholas Temperley's life, passion twinned with professional fulfillment.

As a British lad with perfect pitch, he realized his life course early. "There was never any doubt," he observed to *Friendscript* in March, "that I was going to be a musician."

At compulsory chapel at Eton, a young Temperley fell in love with hymns, sparking him, in later years, to develop the massive Hymn Tune Index.

As a lifelong caroling enthusiast, he marked the 50th year of the Temperley Singers, his informal group of holiday well-wishers, by publishing "Christmas Is Coming," a collection of carol compositions.

And most recently, the professor emeritus of musicology, who passed away April 8, made certain his love of music and scholarship endures for others: His personal donation will help keep the Hymn Tune Index technologically current and sustainable.

"We are so grateful to Nicholas for providing the gift to update this important research tool," said Kathryn Heise, senior director of advancement operations at the University Library. "His generosity will ensure that this unique resource is available to scholars and students for years to come."

According to Kate Lambaria, a librarian in the UI Music and Performing Arts Library, the gift may offer ways to gather data and develop technologies to enhance the index's usability. "It's exciting," she said, "to have the opportunity to move to a new platform with more functionality" and to better understand—through analyzing its usage—the role the index plays in scholarship.

Temperley first arrived at the University of Illinois in 1959; having completed his studies at Cambridge, he looked for work in the U.S. After mistakenly sending an inquiry to Bloomington, Illinois (rather than Bloomington, Indiana), Temperley took the erroneously contacted

"His generosity will ensure that this unique resource is available to scholars and students for years to come."

—KATHRYN HEISE,
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT OPERATIONS

school's advice and reached out to the Urbana-Champaign campus. "I came here, and I've never regretted it," he said. "They were very keen on getting European-trained scholars here, and everything worked out very well."

Very well, indeed. Right off the bat, the postdoc Temperley met his future wife, Mary, at a new faculty reception and later invited her to join him in caroling. The two were married within a year.

At Illinois, Temperley deepened his reputation as a historical musicologist, specializing in the Classic and Romantic periods as well as opening up the fields of 19th century British music and English popular church music. A pianist, harpsichordist, and composer, he was well known for his prolific writing, ranging from "The Music of the English Parish Church" to scholarship on Haydn and the Romantic Age.

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Nicholas Temperley, left, and members of the Temperley Singers caroling group in 2009, the year his book, "Christmas Is Coming," helped mark the 50th year of the group's existence. From left, Temperley; his wife, Mary Sleator Temperley; and UI colleagues Chester L. Alwes, Marlys Scarbrough, Larry Knox, and Laurie Mattheson.

Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

We're Here to Help!, *continued from page 1*

the crisis. That role embraced three broad areas: adding online resources; offering support for online teaching and working; and continuing to provide services while protecting the health of both users and staff.

Online resources

“Serving a disciplinarily broad campus, the Library already spends well over 70 percent of its acquisitions budget on acquiring electronic resources” said Tom Teper, associate university librarian for collections and technical services. “However, no matter how much we spend on electronic journals, books, and media, there are always gaps in what we can acquire and deliver to our users, especially during a time when access to physical materials is restricted.”

To help fill that gap, the Library embarked on a variety of solutions. It created a guide of publishers (**guides.library.illinois.edu/expandedaccesscovid19**) who recently increased access to their e-resources, a list comprising more than two dozen links to a wide range of disciplines, as well as more entertaining pursuits such as NPR concerts, the Metropolitan Opera, and Flipster magazines.

In addition, the Library partnered with other libraries and publishers to significantly broaden its offerings. It expanded ties with the HathiTrust, which offers a collection of millions of titles digitized from academic and research libraries around the world (nearly half of the Library’s 14 million-plus volumes can be accessed in the trust); Cambridge University Press ebooks; and ProQuest Academic Video Online, where users can find more than 70,000 videos to augment online learning.

The Library continues to provide its Ask a Librarian service, research instruction (in online classes), and LibGuides to support class assignments. It also pivoted to address new questions posed by the COVID-19 situation, ranging from how to access paywalled resources when off-campus to how to handle overdue items.

Support for teaching/working online

To enhance the brave new world of online classes and work-from-home environments, the Library has provided technical knowledge and assistance; the process, however, wasn’t as simple as saying, “Here’s a link,” “Here’s the book in digital format,” or “Let me demonstrate how Zoom teleconferencing works.”

Case in point: the heroic effort to help students in two civil and environmental engineering classes gain access to a critical handbook normally on reserve at two campus



.....
*“Without
 [librarians],
 the Library
 is just a
 building that
 happens to
 hold books.”*

— KRISTIN
 HOGANSON,
 HISTORY
 PROFESSOR

libraries. Wading through a morass of hurdles (including licensing, membership, copyright, vetting, individual passwords, limited online access, budget constraints, and personal safety), the lecturer, librarians, staff, and graduate assistants struggled for a week to come up with this viable (and legal) solution: Scan nearly 1,000 pages of the university’s print version and place them in an online box with controlled student access. The process—involving ingenuity, commitment, coordinated communication, and many midnight emails—elicited a wave of gratitude and amazement, summed up in this quiet but succinct response: “Wow.”

Service with a smile—and protection

With the closing of most of the university campus—and all of its libraries—through May at press time, staff quickly leaped to analyze how faculty/staff/public needs would morph with the crisis.

When the transition to online teaching was announced, within seconds George Gottschalk, director of acquisitions, began receiving questions from Library staff about how they could better provide access to materials. “The questions were not ‘What about me?’” he said, “but ‘How can I keep contributing?’ or ‘If they have enough laptops, these are the things I can do for the Library [from home].’”

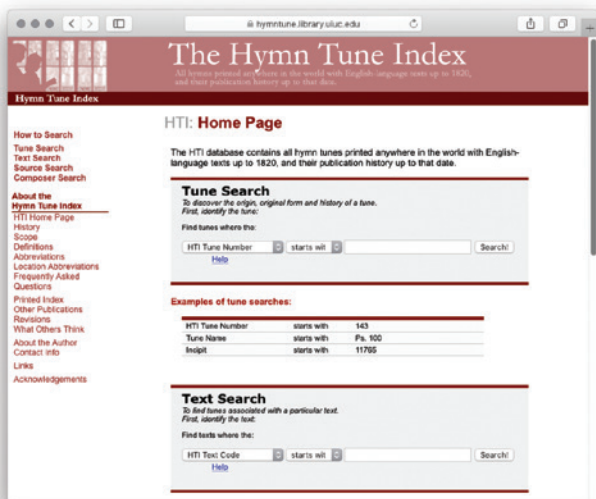
These examples, Gottschalk said, showcase that employees’ first thoughts were about patron access and other “very selfless considerations.” Selflessness aside, the university has imposed strict guidelines to

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Professor's Donation Strikes Right Note, *continued from page 4*

The Hymn Tune Index project, begun in the 1970s, was boosted by a three-year National Endowment for the Humanities grant in the early 1980s and later supplemented by the UIUC Research Board. Searchable by tune, text, source, or composer, the extraordinary document—considered a preeminent resource for hymnological research—covers more than 130,000 English-language hymn tunes and texts found in sources printed in or before 1820. Published in four volumes in 1998, it also has an online version managed by the UI Library (hymntune.library.illinois.edu). According to Temperley, the index, when last surveyed, counted hundreds of users per week.

A permanent School of Music faculty member from 1967 to 1996, Temperley launched the Hymn Tune Index project decades ago as a way to preserve and locate these compositions. Now his gift assures that such heavenly-energized music remains available, accessible, and inspirational well into the future.



The online version of Temperley's Hymn Tune Index allows users to virtually search all hymns printed anywhere in the world with English-language texts up to 1820.

We're Here to Help!, *continued from page 5*

protect the health of library users and staff. All efforts aim at obtaining electronic sources before finally opting to deliver print material (for essential research only) while adhering to safety protocols.



The new service point on the first floor of the Main Library opened in January; however, it currently awaits patrons while the campus libraries are closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The concerns run in both directions. In the Spring 2020 issue of "The Compendium," a newsletter for UI library faculty, history professor Kristin Hoganson says she considers the Library and its services "a prime perk" of her employment at Illinois, "the bedrock upon which all my teaching and research rests." Yet, while Hoganson has benefited from librarians' adding materials and services online in the midst of the outbreak, she has hesitated to request print materials as a "cardiological precaution, stemming from the recognition that at the heart of the Library are the librarians who make the whole enterprise tick."

"Without them, the Library is just a building that happens to hold books."

And while faculty and students have resorted to online resources by necessity, members of the public are turning to the Library's digital opportunities as a respite while sheltering in place. For Library Friend Julie Polonus of Peoria, Illinois, the online information at the History, Philosophy, and Newspaper Library, for example, continues to intrigue her. She reports using the website "for the old newspapers of various counties online, especially during . . . self-isolation. Thank you!"

This spring, as the coronavirus upended normal university life, Chancellor Robert Jones sent a video message to the campus community, saying, in part, "You are being asked to do something that has never been done before." During this global emergency, the Library is responding and remaining both vigilant and relevant. It is a time, Gottschalk said, "that was—and will be—chaotic, exhausting, but very heartening."

Upcoming Events



While in-person events have been postponed or canceled in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, please refer to the Library's online calendar for an expanding list of virtual events.

go.library.illinois.edu/calendar

We are disappointed to announce that the annual Library Friends Reception, originally planned for this fall on September 25, has been postponed. More information about the rescheduled event is forthcoming.

Library Friends

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Annual gifts strengthen the Library and ensure its standing as one of the world's preeminent public university collections. We invite you to join this tradition of private support, which makes a critical difference in the quality of the Library's collections, programs, and services.

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these items, call
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Library Is Looking For



Donations toward the University Library to enrich digital outreach efforts in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. As schools throughout the state remain closed by government order, in-person Library services and access have been severely curtailed; to fill the gap, the Library has vastly

augmented its digital resources (see *We're Here to Help!*, page 1). These gifts would help preserve the excellent standards of research and teaching the university has upheld throughout its history.

Donations toward the university to assist students and families undergoing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis. The Library encourages interested Friends to consider the Illinois CARES: COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund (with.illinois.edu/illinoiscares) offering emergency grant funds due to unexpected expenses, job loss, out-of-pocket medical costs, or other basic needs.

The following donors have adopted these items previously featured in *Friendscript*:

- ◆ **Paul Garcy** for *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* by Oscar Wilde (Rare Book & Manuscript Library)
- ◆ **Sonja Kuhn** for *German Jigsaw* (1944) (Map Library)
- ◆ **Adrienne Navon** for *Map of concentration camps in Soviet Russia* (ca. 1940s) (Map Library)