



THE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

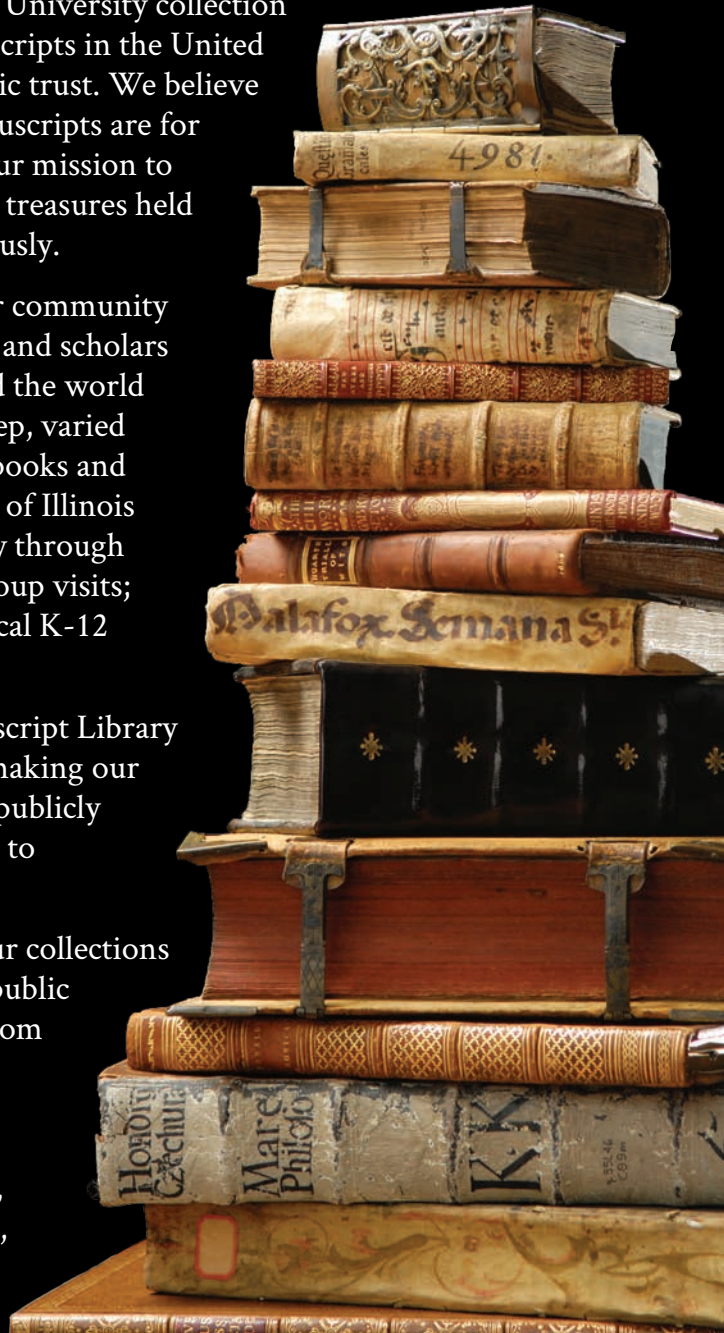
WELCOME TO THE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY!

In keeping with the University of Illinois' public education mission, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML) staff stewards the largest publicly available University collection of rare books and manuscripts in the United States as part of the public trust. We believe that rare books and manuscripts are for everyone, and we take our mission to preserve and share these treasures held in public trust very seriously.

Students and faculty, our community both on and off campus, and scholars and visitors from around the world join us daily to access deep, varied collections of historical books and manuscripts. Thousands of Illinois students visit us annually through hundreds of class and group visits; we also regularly host local K-12 school groups.

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is deeply committed to making our shared cultural heritage publicly available to all who wish to interact with it.

In addition to making our collections available to the general public for use in our reading room upon request, we have a robust public outreach program, including exhibitions, conferences, workshops, open houses, and lectures.



COLLECTIONS

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is one of the largest publicly accessible special collections repositories in the United States. The collections—over 600,000 volumes and just over two linear miles of manuscript material—encompass the broad areas of literature, history, art, theology, philosophy, technology, and the natural sciences.



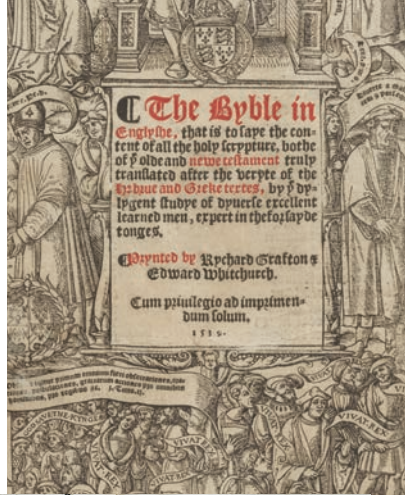
PRE-1500 BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscript collections date from approximately 3000 BCE to 1500 CE, and range from clay tablets to illuminated manuscripts and early modern historical documents. Topical strengths include religion, rhetoric, pedagogy, law, and English literature and culture. The collection of over twelve hundred fifteenth-century printed books, known as incunabula, is one of the largest university collections in the U.S. and is especially strong in classical texts, theology, pedagogy, and science.



EARLY MODERN BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS (1500-1800)

Particular collection strengths lie in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with distinctive and deep collections across English and continental literature and history, including works by and about Shakespeare and Milton, editions of the Bible, English and German pedagogy, Italian history and culture, the Spanish Golden Age, religion, philosophy, emblem books, literature, drama, and history.



The history of scientific publishing, including first and early editions by Euclid, Galileo, and Vesalius, and an alchemical manuscript by Sir Isaac Newton, also feature prominently in the collections.

MODERN BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS (1800-PRESENT)

Literature, history, and science are well represented, with strong holdings in first editions of nineteenth- and twentieth-century English, German, and French prose and poetry, books related to travel and exploration, and social history. Also noteworthy are collections in radical literature, natural history, fine press and typography, theater history, television and film scripts, and the history of publishing.



Literary archives include the papers of H.G. Wells, Carl Sandburg, W.S. Merwin, and Gwendolyn Brooks, letters of Marcel Proust, and archival collections from creators such as Shana Alexander, Perry Miller Adato, D.H. Melhem, Haki R. Madhubuti, Shudha Mazumdar, Lewis Carroll, and John Richardson.

A SAMPLING OF OTHER COLLECTION STRENGTHS

STEM FIELDS

History of Geology
Medicine and Herbals
Arctic Exploration
Botany
History of Economics
History of Technology
Chemistry
History of Mathematics
History of Engineering
Astronomy
Entomology
Ornithology

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Spanish Civil War
Television & Movie Scripts
French *fin de siècle*
Art and Architecture
English Civil War
Anarchism
Commonplace Books
American Wit and Humor
Modern Poetry
Early Modern Pedagogy
Illinois History
Travel Literature



PUBLIC EVENTS

Materials from and inspired by our collections are celebrated in numerous regular and special exhibitions, presentations, lectures, open houses, and workshops for the community. From Camp Cursive to exhibition opening lectures and receptions, to our annual holiday party and open house, we welcome newcomers and regular attendees alike to join us in exploring our shared histories and interests through RBML collections.



TEACHING

We collaborate directly with faculty members across campus to provide customized class sessions and assignments that incorporate hands-on work with primary resources directly into their curricula. Whether working with medieval manuscripts, artists' books that play with typography, early scientific works, historic sheet music, or recipe cards in Gwendolyn Brooks's hand, students, faculty, and visitors of all ages interact daily with historical materials directly relevant to their areas of study.



SCHEDULE A CLASS

Class and group visits can be scheduled through our website: <https://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/research-instruction/schedule-a-class>.



RESEARCH

Scholars from around the world find their way to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library each year to work with our magnificent collections. Since 2006, the Velde Visiting Scholar program has annually provided financial support to researchers unaffiliated with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who have compelling research projects that would benefit from use of our collections.



We work with local faculty and graduate students to develop research topics and regularly communicate with scholars at a distance, answering hundreds of specialized bibliographic and reference queries through our Ask-a-Curator service annually.





VISITING THE LIBRARY

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is located on the third floor in the northwest wing of the Main Library. All readers must register (visit armarium.library.illinois.edu) before using the collections. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr at IllinoisRBML.

Our hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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