UNIT NARRATIVE

Major activities and accomplishments

As usual, MPAL can point to several successful projects and initiatives over the past year. One of the most visible of these was our second "Faculty Showcase." These showcases were the brainchild of Kirstin Dougan, and began in 2011. Further information about the event can be found at http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/exhibits/facultyshowcase2013.html. The showcase was attended by many dance, music, and theatre faculty, along with Dean Paula Kaufman and Dean Ed Fezer of the college of FAA. The showcases are proving to be very useful in bringing together library and academic faculty, and illustrate how MPAL supports these departments.

Another of Kirstin's initiatives that will benefit our patrons results from her application for a Library Innovation Grant to circulate iPads to patrons. As Kirstin noted in her grant application, technology is increasingly becoming a part of the arts and aids in the creative process in many ways. The grant will "allow us to offer iPads for loan for use in practice and rehearsal spaces, classrooms, and the Library—anywhere that our patrons could benefit from having access to technology. An iPad would allow patrons to use such apps as metronome, tuner, keyboard, and chord progression apps to aid musicians in practicing their instruments and in composition of new works. There are also ear training, music history, music analysis, improvisation, and other apps that could help musicians. Dance and theatre students could also benefit from apps to help with timing, movement, and so forth." We are pleased that the University Library has found innovation funds for this imaginative project, and are currently in the process of setting up the technical and administrative systems to enable us to circulate the iPads as soon as possible.

A further project that is still currently in the works but promises a great deal is an MPAL "mobile stacks" map, whereby patrons will, once they have found the call number of an item on the library shelves, be able to use the digital map to pinpoint the shelf on which that print item is kept. We know – both from our own READ results (we successfully implemented READ this year) and from published research – that "known item" search questions are the ones most frequently asked at our reference desk. This seems to have a lot to do with the variety of formats and sizes of material that are to be found in music libraries (the issue probably affects music patrons more than dance and theatre patrons). The mobile stacks map project is being carried out in collaboration with the Undergraduate Library.

MPAL has continued its outreach efforts through our continuing partnership with the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. A large part of MPAL's role here can be seen in our KCPA library guide: see http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/research/KCPAGuides.html for more on this. Each guide enables patrons attending performances in KCPA to delve more deeply into the content of the performance they are attending, by pointing them to appropriate resources in the library. Thanks again to Kirstin, and to a number of MPAL graduate assistants and grad hourlies, for their work on this initiative over the past couple of years.

One of the big problems for libraries with audiovisual media arises when formats change – LP to CD (and now, apparently, back again in some cases); VHS and Betamax to DVD; audiocassettes, and so on. During the past two summers we have been replacing older VHS recordings with DVD equivalents when available; and also subscribe to more online.

We take our responsibility to help educate new library professionals very seriously, and in FY13, in addition to one Graduate Assistant, we were able to welcome Chinese national Yun Fan as our first recipient of an IMLS-funded, ARL/Music Library Association collaborative project scholarship grant. This initiative helps under-represented groups on the road towards becoming successful library professionals. It is a three-year project that brings the University of Illinois into partnership with UCLA, the University of Pittsburgh, The University of Buffalo, and the University of North Texas. More details of this scheme can be found at: http://www.arl.org/leadership-recruitment/diversity-recruitment/arl-mla-diversity-inclusion-initiative. The University Library's commitment involved mentoring (by Kirstin Dougan and John Wagstaff), and training Yun in music librarianship. MPAL also benefited from this arrangement in gaining an extra staff member who was able – for example – to help out at the reference desk. We were delighted that, from July 2013, Yun will be working for the bibliographic database RILM (Répertoire international de littérature musicale) in New York as a Chinese-language editor.

Issues of concern

Physical Facilities

Reference has been made in previous annual reports to the poor environment in which our library operates. Our patrons and staff regularly comment that our physical space does not match our reputation as the largest music library at a US public university; and, of course, last year's National Association of Schools of Music [NASM] report made several critical comments about our library environment. Our space no longer meets the needs of our patrons, as it was designed prior to ubiquitous computing and the merger of dance and theatre materials into our collections. We have been pleased to have several meetings with Jeff Schrader of Library Facilities in spring and summer of 2013 which are aimed at coming up with an improvement plan for several areas of the library. It also seems that we may be moving, in collaboration with the School of Music, towards improving the library's ceilings, which have been causing problems for a long time. Working with Jeff we now have a plan to remodel our 1st floor public terminals area; and we are also looking at other issues such as remodeling our 2nd floor listening rooms, and creating

collaborative study spaces using alcove space on the 2nd floor. Having a plan, of course, is one thing: having the funding is quite another, and at the present time the project has not yet been approved for funding. Our thanks to Jeff for his work with us this year.

Information Technology

It would still be beneficial to our patrons to have access to Apple Macs, as well as PCs; and to offer them access to music notation software programs such as Finale and Sibelius. These programs are widely offered in other university music libraries, and patrons are often disappointed to find that they cannot access them in the library at Illinois. Furthermore, the School of Music is entirely Mac based, and therefore students and faculty are often more used to using Macs than PCs.

Staffing

When compared with many other library units on campus – and bearing in mind that our circulation figures are the fourth highest across the university library (after Undergraduate, Main Stacks, and Engineering), and our reference statistics are the sixth highest (after RRSS, Engineering, Undergraduate, SSHEL and the "Virtual Desk"), we do feel that we are under-resourced in terms of staffing. While historical comparisons are always subject to more than one interpretation, it seems appropriate to point out that back in 2005 the library had 4 0.25 FTE graduate assistants and now has 1 (or, at most, 2, the second one on grant funds). In 2005 we had 3 Faculty members (and we had 4 in 2007), and in spite of requests to appoint a specialist in dance and theatre we have not been successful. Having Yun Fan (see elsewhere in this report), and practicum students enabled us to fill in staffing gaps, but it is far from an ideal situation. We also still keenly notice the lack of a Library Operations Associate since Marlys Scarbrough's retirement three years ago. This has meant that many more administrative tasks have fallen to the two remaining librarians. We would welcome the chance to talk more with library administration about this.

Our Goals

The majority of our goals for FY13 are broadly similar to those for FY12, i.e.:

1. Continue to develop the 3-subject "Music and Performing Arts Library" concept so that the library becomes an essential resource and meeting place for students and Faculty from all three disciplines.

   Review: We increased the number of instruction sessions offered to the Department of Theatre this year, and made efforts to reach out to new faculty in all three of the subject areas that we support. John Wagstaff is currently working with Jen-Chen Yiu on a 5-year

assessment of the MPAL since its creation in 2008. It is to be hoped that some useful data will come out of this work.

2. Continue to make our special collections visible, by providing more detailed information about these collections on our website, and more finding aids and catalog records as appropriate. This is one area in which having an extra librarian would be very helpful.

   Review: We still have to dispose of materials from the Hunleth Collection (a collection of music purchased when the Hunleth Music Store in St Louis closed in the 1970s, and stored since then, uncataloged, in the Illinois University Press building) in the coming years. No progress on this goal was made in FY13. We continue to work closely with the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music to get other collections processed: sharing a Graduate Assistant with SACAM is a very useful arrangement for us. Our Music Special Collections Group, consisting of Tom Teper, Scott Schwartz, Bill Maher, and John Wagstaff, continues to work very well. We did not, however, get any materials from our collections digitized this year.

3. Work on making our media collections (CDs and DVDs) more physically accessible.

   Review: at the time of writing we have been unable to move any of our CDs/DVDs into more public areas of the library. Nevertheless this remains a medium-term goal, and in summer 2013 it formed part of discussions with Jeff Schrader concerning how to implement various changes to the library in the next few years. It will require additional funding.

4. Continue to work with CAM to ensure cataloging of MPAL materials in a timely and efficient manner.

   Review: We are grateful to members of CAM, especially our "on-site" catalogers, for getting material onto our shelves this year. In addition, our summer Grad Hourly worker, Lydia Tang, worked to help identify a large quantity of microfilms of music manuscripts that had lain unprocessed in MPAL for a number of years. Lydia's work was the first stage in getting these materials cataloged in Voyager. Our ARL/MLA Diversity Scholarship recipient, Yun Fan, worked to identify catalog records in WorldCat relating to a large collection of CDs of Turkish music that likewise have been in MPAL for a number of years. Once again, Yun's work is the first step on the road to making these items available to patrons in Voyager. We do, however, still need to tackle various cataloging issues, including cataloging of "MO" materials; dealing with Voyager records that are far from full and complete; and correcting some formatting errors (for instance, where scores have been coded as "books" and therefore display incorrectly on our results screens).

5. Continue to contribute to the development of music, dance, and theatre librarianship through our presence at professional meetings, and by contributions to the professional literature.

   Review: John Wagstaff is a member of the Theatre Library Association, and is listowner of TLA-L, the Association's listserv. He also closely follows the Dance Librarian Group's listserv, DLDG-L, and participated in one of DLG's webinars in February 2013. We were, unfortunately, again not able to attend any professional meetings of dance or theatre librarians this year. However, John will be attending the TLA's annual meeting in Dallas in November 2013.

6. Continue to contribute to the achievement of the library's strategic goals.

   Review: Insofar as the items on this list contribute to the library's strategic goals (and we believe they do), we hope we have made an appropriate contribution in this direction.

7. The Music & Performing Arts Library has been in existence in its current form since 2008. We plan to go through an assessment exercise in 2012-13 with a view to finding out from our patrons how useful (or otherwise) bringing the three collection areas of music, dance, and theatre together has been. We shall be calling on the library's recently-appointed Assessment Coordinator, Jen-Chien Yu, for advice on how best to carry out this assessment.

   Review: see under item 1 above.

8. We are planning a "Media stacks party" in FY14. At present our CD and DVD collection is not openly accessible to patrons, so we want to give them a "behind the scenes" look at the collections, combining this with a social event.

   Review: Unfortunately this did not happen. We still hope to plan the event in FY14.

LIBRARY'S STATISTICAL PROFILE

1.   Facilities

User seating counts
   o   at tables: 91
   o   at carrels: 60
   o   at public workstations: 17
   o   at index tables: 5 [Index table is being done away with during FY14, however]
   o   in group study rooms: 6
   o   informal/other: 10

Number of hours open to the public per week

- o Summer II 2012: 48 hours per week
- o Fall 2012: 75.5 hours per week
- o Spring 2013: 75.5 hours per week
- o Summer I 2013: 40 hours per week

2. Personnel

Faculty positions

Kirstin Dougan (100%)

John Wagstaff (100%)

Staff positions

William Buss (100%)

David Butler (100%)

Chris Pawlicki (100%)

Gail Schmall (50%)

Nancy Taylor (49%)

Graduate assistants

Amanda Goodsett (25%) (August 2012-May 2013) [Shared grad assistant position with the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music] Mandi was involved in projects in a number of different areas during her time with us. Some of the highlights have been:

(i) Processing materials in our Kasura Collection of Russian music (see http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/about/collections/specialcollections/collections_descriptions/kasura.html), a large and difficult collection of material that has been partially processed by a number of staff members over many years. As a result of Mandi's work we now have much better control over a large part of this unwieldy collection.

(ii) Work on MPAL LibGuides, including our successful Krannert Center for the Performing Arts guide (see http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/research/KCPAGuides.html)

(iii)   Work at the library's reference desk. Mandi spent an average of 6 hours per week at the reference desk, and has become an effective, and valued, member of our reference team.

(iv)   Work on patron education, including creation of a workshop for international students (see associated LibGuide at http://uiuc.libguides.com/content.php?pid=295946), and another workshop on library research tips and tricks. Mandi also ran a successful workshop on Avoiding Plagiarism in 2012-13, which was attended by 8 graduate students; and a session for MPAL library staff on how to use Easy Search.

(v)   Designed and delivered a poster session on public engagement at the UIUC Students Union.

(vi)   Acquisitions work, including bibliographic checking of review journals such as the Music Library Associations' *Notes* in regard to possible purchases. Mandi also worked through a large backlog of music scores that arrived while John Wagstaff was music scores editor for *Notes*: as a result, a large number of these scores have either been added to MPAL's collections, or disposed of.

Lydia Tang (25% graduate hourly position working on special projects, May-August 2013). We used Lydia on a number of important projects too:

(i) MPAL has a large collection of microfilms (around 125) that need to be inventoried and catalogued. Some of these arrived at the library many years ago as part of Professor Nicholas Temperley's "Hymn Tune Index" project. In many cases we did not even know what is *on* a particular film. Lydia examined these films and boxed/described them so that our catalogers will be able to create Voyager records for them. This fits in, of course, with strategic plan objective to "make library collections visible", and to deal with backlogs.

(ii) Lydia helped with updating our very successful series of LibGuides devoted to the Krannert Center: see http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/research/KCPAGuides.html

(iii) Last summer our Grad Hourly, Emily Wuchner, did some great work identifying material available in VHS format that could be replaced on DVD (i.e. a DVD version was commercially available). Lydia followed up on this very valuable project.

Other

We had an Association of Research Libraries/Music Library Association Diversity Scholarship recipient, Yun Fan, working with us for 10 hours per week for a 38-week period in FY13.

Specify the amount of the unit's FY13 Student Assistant wage budget and Student Assistant FTE.

Budget allocation was $31,810, of which we spent $30,290. Student FTE was (very approximately) 3.5, based on 13 student workers working an average of 8 hours per week each. However, it should be noted that students frequently increase/decrease their hours, which is why this figure is an approximate one.

Circulation:

Charges: 30,504

Renewals: 20,504

Discharges: 30,355

Instruction sessions:

28 sessions to 746 patrons, spread across the School of Music, Department of Dance, and Department of Theatre.

Desktracker stats:

Directional: 590

Reference stats: 4,200 (151 phone; 3,940 in person; 11 instant message; 98 e-mail)

Cataloging totals:

Total new titles: 3,820

Total new items: 4,925

Voyager Location and Format	Total New Titles	Total New Items
Music	2,028	2,488
-- Monographs	905	1,081
-- Serials	1	11
-- Notated Music Collection	1	1
-- Notated Music	1,022	1,289
-- Projected Medium	47	52

-- Recorded Music	30	34
-- Kits	19	13
-- Manuscripts	3	7
Music InProc [noncirc]	389	396
-- Monographs	44	51
-- Notated Music	8	8
-- Projected Medium	4	4
-- Recorded Music	332	332
-- Manuscripts	1	1
Music Per [noncirc]	15	15
-- Serials	15	15
Music Per [nonrequest]	3	176
-- Serials	3	176
Music Rdy Ref [noncirc]	3	4
-- Monographs	1	2
-- Serials	2	2
Music Ref [noncirc]	22	187
-- Monographs	17	46
-- Notated Music	4	140
-- Notated Music Serials	1	1
Music Resrv	22	30
-- Monographs	18	26
-- Notated Music	1	1
-- Recorded Music	3	3
Music Spec Coll	1,296	1,587
-- Monographs	22	49
-- Serials	12	12
-- Notated Music	8	24
-- Projected Medium	322	386
-- Nonmusical Sound Recordings	2	3
-- Recorded Music	926	1,109
-- Computer Files	2	2
-- Kits	1	1
-- Realia	1	1
Music Spec Coll [noncirc]	42	42
-- Monographs	4	4
-- Serials	6	6
-- Notated Music	13	13

-- Projected Medium	4	4
-- Recorded Music	13	13
-- Kits	1	1
-- Manuscripts	1	1