

**Unit Annual Report**  
**Literature and Languages Library**  
*August 29, 2014*

**I        Unit Narrative**

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The Literatures and Languages Library's (LLL) mission is to provide library materials and services to the UIUC campus for research and study of the literature and languages of Western Europe, North and South America, and Franco- and Luso-phone Africa as well as cinema studies, translation studies and linguistics materials. The unit serves as the primary library for the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, the Department of English, and Cinema Studies. The unit's major functions are the selection and ordering of print and online materials (books, journals, magazines, films, reference works and databases), plus reference, instruction, and outreach to the campus and local community. Through its various activities the LLL participates in the Library's strategic mission to the UIUC campus. Last year was the Literatures and Languages' third full year of operation since its opening in January 2011.

Paula Carns was invited to be affiliate faculty in the Center for Translation Studies (she is also faculty in the Program for Medieval Studies) and to be an editor for *The Medieval Review*. In September 2013, in conjunction with Antonio Sotomayor, Librarian for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Paula mounted an exhibit in the north-south corridor of the Main Library to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

**Staffing**

**Professional Staff:**

- Paula Carns, Head, Literatures and Languages Library (on sabbatical from November 2013), subject specialist for Western European studies
- John Wagstaff, Interim Head, Literatures and Languages Library. John covered for Paula while she was on sabbatical leave, November 2013-August 2014.
- Harriett Green, English and Digital Humanities Librarian
- Robert Cagle, Cinema Studies and Media Services Specialist, also covers Comparative and World Literature

### **Civil Service Staff:**

- Stuart Albert, Senior Library Specialist
- Carl Graves, Library Specialist. Carl is on medical leave from August 2013. Stuart temporarily absorbed Carl's duties with the help of student assistants.

### **Students**

- Graduate Assistants: Meredith Riddle (0.25FTE); Garrett Traylor (0.25FTE) -- see below for their projects. Garrett left the unit in May 2014, while Meredith returns in August 2014 for a third year. The unit will have 3 GAs in FY15.
- Graduate Student Volunteers: Erica Parker and Jessica Williams -- see below for their projects.
- Eight Student Assistants who performed the following duties: circulation, greeting patrons and fielding reference questions, weeding and shifting.
- Iker Garcia was hired on gift monies from the Dean's office to help Paula Carns with collection development in French studies.

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### **Collection Development**

For the English Literature collection, Harriett Green continued to acquire materials and resources in support of supporting English and literary studies curricula. The arrival of the Gwendolyn Brooks Archive at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library was a historic acquisition for our English literature holdings, and Harriett is currently collaborating with RBML colleagues to develop outreach activities that will promote the Brooks Archive to the campus and broader Champaign-Urbana community. She also continued to collaborate with Library colleagues to acquire interdisciplinary materials such as the LGBT Archives, and in the unit, she also began to build up the acquisition of texts and materials related to digital humanities.

In August 2013 Paula Carns took over responsibility for French studies from Caroline Szylowicz, who now works full-time in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Paula's first step in assuming responsibility for this region was to review faculty and graduate student interest as well as course offerings so as to develop current profiles for domestic and international approval plans and firm orders. For example, in collaboration with new faculty in the department, Paula expanded the profiles to include new works from France in anthropology and sociology. She also worked with Laila Hussein, Librarian for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, to acquire French literary materials published in the Maghreb. In addition, Paula analyzed the hundreds of journals and book series coming in on French funds to make decisions about possible cancellations and additions. Erica Parker, one of the unit's volunteers, helped in this process by creating a definitive and

accurate list. Paula also began talks with faculty in French about ways of facilitating book requests. The department is very active in making requests. She will continue to work on this project in FY15.

Paula Carns' other major collection development projects included:

- European multiculturalism: An emerging theme on campus in European studies is multiculturalism and, in particular, the role of Muslims in Europe throughout history. Paula worked with faculty and graduate students in a number of departments (French, German, Italian, Linguistics) to identify publishers and to collect books and journals in this area.
- Arctic Studies: In the last couple of years the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures has become very active in researching and teaching Arctic Studies, which includes such aspects as literary and filmic representations of peoples living in the Nordic region, environmental studies, polar exploration, and politics. With the help of Garrett Traylor, Paula purchased books, journals and films in this area.
- In May 2014, Paula ceased to handle collection development for Latin American literature and language (though she will continue with reference and instruction for this area). Antonio Sotomayor, Librarian for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, will now cover these subjects.

Robert Cagle purchased a sizeable collection of print materials on the cinemas of India and returned to working on building the UIUC collection of avant-garde, experimental, and independent cinemas from countries around the world. He added significant new titles from such distributors as Artificial Eye (UK), Eureka (UK), Filmmuseum (Germany), the Winnipeg Group (Canada), and the Canadian Filmmakers' Cooperative (Canada). He is collaborating with Caroline Szyłowicz of the RBML to develop programs related to the Library's extensive holdings of film and television scripts.

### **Collection Management**

As in previous years, the Literatures and Languages Library received a great many print books and serials. Literary and film studies are still primarily formatted in print form, and, with the exception of journal articles, faculty and students in these disciplines much prefer print copies over digital analogs. Given that the LLL shelves were almost to capacity as the start of the year, it was imperative that the collection be weeded. The collection was shifted in order to evenly distribute growth room provided by transfers to STX or STOS. Criteria for transfer included redundant copies, superseded editions, and works no longer deemed to be of immediate importance to the Library's mission. Selection for transfers was done by subject specialists, the transfer procedure (including records maintenance as necessary) was handled by staff, and the bulk of the physical relocation of the pieces was handled by students, under staff guidance and supervision.

### **Online Guides/LLL Web Site**

After taking on responsibilities for French studies, Paula revamped the existing online guides for this area as well as developing new ones. The former guides were in relatively decent shape but needed better organization and updating. Paula created Libguides for French languages, French literature, and French and Francophone history. The new guides not only point students to library resources but, more importantly, also instruct them in how to use the library and be information literate.

Graduate assistants and librarians continued to update the website with new resources and links. New LibGuides were created for African American literature, World War I literature, and Grimm's Fairy Tales.

### **Library Instruction**

Harriett taught instruction sessions to approximately twenty-nine courses in the departments of English, Linguistics, and Media Studies. Multiple sessions were provided for English courses and drew upon the multi-disciplinary collections of the Literatures and Languages Library to promote research resources and tools for literary research. But a significant portion of her instruction focused on digital humanities tools and resources, and she worked with 10 undergraduate classes in English, Media Studies and History to teach them how to use Omeka, Wordpress, and Scalar as digital publishing platforms for their research portfolio projects. She also collaborated with Scholarly Commons colleagues to teach a half-day fall workshop on Omeka and other digital tools for the GSLIS LEEP course LIS 590HSL: Public History.

Harriett also worked closely with several different faculty members in English and Media Studies to pursue new initiatives in undergraduate and faculty research. In particular, the launch of the English department's undergraduate journal *Re:Search* is a notable new initiative for undergraduate research in the humanities. As a member of the journal's Faculty Advisory Board, Harriett works closely with the journal's student executive editors and the department's faculty advisor Professor Lori Newcomb to produce the journal, which published its first issue in spring 2014.

Paula presented two instructional sessions to a total of 30 students, a reduction on previous years since she no longer presents sessions for course SPAN200, Readings in Hispanic Texts.

Robert Cagle continued to provide one-on-one research mentoring to students enrolled in cinema and media-related courses, as well as to faculty and other patrons. (The most interesting of these was assisting a patron seeking to track down any extant copies of a 1916 documentary short,

*Trapeze Work With Miss Leitzel*, originally screened as part of a larger program of short documentaries, *Uncle Sam At Work*, or Lillian Leitzel's own home movies illustrating her art.)

## Reference

The librarians and staff at the LLL offer reference services either in person or via phone or email, and answer a number of questions daily. The reference interviews are increasingly in-depth research consultations rather than ready reference questions that can be handled in a matter of minutes. In addition to helping patrons with reference needs the librarians continue to develop the LLL's vast reference collection, create complementary online guides and weed older materials, especially in room 200 where there is very little space for new works.

While Paula Carns was on sabbatical, Harriett, Bob and Caroline Szylowicz handled reference questions for her.

## Outreach

In the fall Paula organized two outreach activities with librarians from the International and Area Studies Library at the Foreign Languages Building known as "Librarians Live at FLB." In these sessions librarians met with faculty and studies and told them about library services.

Paula gave a number of tours to visitors during the year, including five candidates for a position in French diaspora studies. She had the pleasure of hosting for an afternoon a well-known Brazilian author (J.P. Cuenca) who was on campus for an author reading.

Robert Cagle worked collaboratively with Mara Thacker (International and Area Studies) to fund, program, and oversee *Past, Present, Future: Indian Cinema at 100*, an academic symposium and film series highlighting some of the most revered classics of India's prodigious mosaic of regional film industries. The event brought together scholars and participants from across the United States to discuss the origins, development, and possible new directions of what the rest of the world knows as "Indian" cinema. Special guest Onir screened two of his works, and discussed his career as an outside artist.

## Graduate Assistants

The LLL employed two graduate assistants, each with 0.25FTE appointments: Garrett Traylor and Meredith Riddle. Erica Parker and Jessica Williams also worked as volunteers (Erica in fall 2013 and spring 2014; Jessica in summer 2014) to assist with LLL collection development and special projects. Garrett has graduated, and the unit will have three GAs next year: Meredith will be continuing, Erica was hired as a 0.25FTE GA (a shared position with the History, Philosophy, and

Newspaper Library), and a third graduate assistant, Adrienne Seely, has been hired to focus on instruction and reference (a joint position with the Music & Performing Arts Library).

#### Meredith Riddle

- Meredith completed substantial web development and collection development projects in German, Austrian, and Italian literatures and cultures. She updated current pages for German studies with information about finding and using historical German newspapers and German children's literature. In the pre-existing Germanic Cultures & Media guide a tab was created that offers links to digitized historical newspapers. Meredith also developed a guide to non-English language digital humanities initiatives and projects.
- For collection development research, Meredith identified desirable items for purchase for German documentaries, general German studies databases, and other linguistics and biographical sources in German. She also evaluated Italian diaspora literary titles for possible inclusion in the LLL collections; and she updated the German section of our Collection development guide with links to blogs and major publishers
- Meredith also provided back up coverage for circulation, reference and instruction services in the LLL, along with Reference Hub coverage 3 hours a week at the Info Desk.

#### Garrett Traylor

- Garrett was responsible for ordering books, films and journals for Scandinavian studies and tracking the purchases via a spreadsheet.
- Garrett regularly updated and modified the LLL LibGuides. He conducted a review of the existing LibGuides and identified gaps.
- Garrett conducted an assessment project for the English poetry collection, where he reviewed book reviews and catalogs for works of poetry not in the UIUC collection.
- Garrett contributed 5 updates to the Literatures and Languages Library blog, ranging from upcoming events and innovations in the field of literature and library science to obituaries of recently deceased writers.
- Garrett curated three glass-case exhibits for the Literatures and Languages Library. This work included generating themes, selecting items to be displayed, writing item labels, and arranging the display. Themes included slave narratives.
- Garrett worked three hours each week for Reference and Scholarly Services doing desk reference and Virtual Reference through the Ask-A-Librarian service.

#### Erica Parker

- Erica assisted in ordering books, films, and journals for the French collections, and in evaluating current holdings for the French collection.

- Erica also worked on collection development and assessment of the poetry collection.

#### Jessica Williams

- As a summer 2014 volunteer, Jessica created a LibGuide for World War I literature and film that will be highlighted as part of upcoming campus WWI memorial events during 2014-2015.
- Jessica also curated an exhibit on Brazilian literature in the Literatures and Languages exhibit case. The display includes a selection of works from the Library's holdings.

#### **Meeting FY14 Unit Annual Goals**

The Literatures and Languages Library faced few new challenges in FY14. Fortunately, Paula Carns' sabbatical, from November 2013-August 2014, did not prove to be onerous for the unit. John Wagstaff served as Interim Head during this period and handled all administrative matters expertly and with good cheer. The lack of a subject specialist for French Studies was also not a problem; Paula Carns agreed to do it and was given funding to hire a student assistant to help place orders. Stuart and the student assistants willingly took on Carl Graves' duties and thus these functions got done and in a timely fashion. One of the hallmarks of the Literatures and Languages Library and the Arts and Humanities Division is a willingness to lend a hand to fellow librarians and staff so that units can stay open and library functions get done.

#### **Challenges**

Three ongoing challenges are worthy of mention. First, there is no private space for professional staff to make phone calls or have private conversations. The offices are only separated from the public area by 7' makeshift walls that do not prevent sound from carrying throughout the unit. When needing to make phone calls or have private conversations, the librarians and staff are forced to use the Seminar Room 225A, find another quiet space in the library or go outside. One solution to this problem would be to annex the nearby offices (just across the hall from the back door) now inhabited by the Library's Office of Advancement.

Nor does the Literatures and Languages Library have space to hold classes larger than 8 people (The LLL Seminar Room holds a maximum of 8 people) or to host public events. During the academic year faculty often request in-house instruction for their classes. To accommodate these requests, librarians have come up with two creative solutions: either hold the class in room 200 and separate the class from other patrons with screens; or split the session between one of the Library's instructional labs (for the actual demonstration) and the LLL (for a tour).

The unit also lacks support for help with acquisitions. The diminution of professional staff in the unit, from 4.5 in 2010 to 3 FTE in 2014, has resulted in librarians taking on more collection responsibilities and thus placing more orders. In FY12 and FY13, in response to librarians taking on new collection duties, the Dean's office awarded the unit gift monies to hire students to assist with the placing of orders. The unit now faces the challenge of continuing this critical activity on its own.

### **Annual Goals for FY15**

- Finish the decoration of the Literatures and Languages Library. Art work was chosen and ordered from the Library's Digital Content Creation unit in summer 2013. The next step is to have the art work printed and framed.
- Work on assessing the Literatures and Language Library's services. To this end, Meredith Riddle has been hired as a 0.25FTE GA and will spend the entire academic year spearheading, with help from the Library's Assessment Coordinator, Jen-Chien Yu, a comprehensive assessment.
- Develop a rich suite of online instructional videos. Adrienne Seely has been hired as a 0.25FTE GA to create instructional materials, including online videos.



## II Statistical Profile

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### 1. Facilities

- User seating counts (if applicable)
  - at tables 16 (room 200); 24 (room 225)<sup>1</sup>
  - at carrels 0
  - at public workstations 1 (room 200); 4 (room 225)
  - at index tables 0
  - in group study rooms 6 (room 225A)
  - informal/other 2 (room 225); 8 “comfy chairs” (room 225); 8 “comfy chairs” (room 200)
  
- Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)
  - Summer II 2013 40
  - Fall 2013 56
  - Spring 2014 56
  - Summer I 2014 40

### 2. Personnel

#### Faculty

Paula Carns 100% Head, Literatures and Languages Library [on sabbatical, November 2013-August 2014]

John Wagstaff Interim Head, Literatures and Languages Library [during Paula Carns’ sabbatical, November 2013-August 2014]

Harriett Green 100% English and Digital Humanities Librarian

#### Academic Professionals

Robert Cagle 100% Cinema Studies and Media Collections and Services Specialist

#### Civil Service

Stuart Albert 100% Senior Library Specialist

Carl Graves 100% Library Specialist (Absent through illness for most of FY14)

#### Graduate Assistants

Meredith Riddle 25% State funded

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<sup>1</sup> While most of the Literatures and Languages Library collections are housed in room 225, its journals are in the main reference room, room 200. Seating associated with the LLL journals area are counted here, and *not* included in the RRSS statistical count.

Garrett Traylor 25% State funded

### **Student Assistants and Special Funding**

Approximately 8 student assistants were employed at one time or another during the year; wage budget was \$17,548.

Iker Garcia, gift money, \$2,000.

### **3. User Services**

- Gate Count (as reported during FY14 Sweeps Week).

Sweeps Week fall 2013: 240

Sweeps Week spring 2014: 432

- Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)

Initial charges: 9,212

Renewals: 16,238

- Manual 0

- Reference interactions (from DeskTracker)

- Units that maintain continuous reference statistics may substitute actual numbers instead of the Sweeps Week sample.

The Literatures and Languages Library did not record reference transactions during Sweeps Weeks in fall 2013 and spring 2014.

- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)

- Number of participants in group presentations:

Paula Carns: 3 presentations, total 68 students

**Harriett Green:**

**Robert Cagle:**