

**Literatures and Languages Library  
Unit Annual Report FT15  
September, 2015**

**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.

**Staffing**

**Professional Staff:**

- Paula Carns, Head, Literatures and Languages Library (on sabbatical until August 2014), subject specialist for Western European studies
- John Wagstaff, Interim Head, Literatures and Languages Library. John covered for Paula while she was on sabbatical leave, July -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

**Students**

- Graduate Assistants: Meredith Riddle (0.25FTE); Erica Parker (0.25FTE) and Adrienne Seely. Adrienne and Erika left the unit in May 2015, while Meredith stayed until August 2015 (graduate hourly from May 16-August 16, 2015). Iker Garcia Plazaola joined the unit in summer 2015 as a graduate hourly. The GA projects are listed below.
- Eight Student Assistants who performed the following duties: circulation, greeting patrons and fielding reference questions, weeding and shifting.

## **Activities and Accomplishments**

A major accomplishment for FY15 was moving the main entrance of the library from room 200 to the north-south hallway. The move required locating the circulation desk to the new entry point, placing a security gate at the new entrance, changing offices so that the head of the library and staff could near the primary service point, removing shelving from the entrance and extending sections of the stacks; and rearranging the public computer stations and seating. The reconfiguration has a number of benefits: the library is now more easily accessible from the heavily-trafficked north-south corridor; patrons are more aware of our unit's existence and location; and now the librarians and staff can provide help to patrons who enter the second floor from the south entrance, many of whom are unfamiliar with the building and need help finding their way around. The result is higher foot traffic for our unit and greater service to visitors to the Main Library. Reconfiguring our library met our goal to provide better access to our collections and to subject specialists.

Another major accomplishment which should be mentioned, though it occurred this past summer after the July 1, 2015 deadline, was the securing of Marek Sroka as the new Literatures and Languages Librarian (75%) and Central European Studies Librarian (25% in the International and Area Studies Library). Marek will start his duties in May 2016, after his sabbatical concludes. His work will be in the areas of German language and literature, comparative literature and outreach. Having Marek in our unit will help us to meet several of our primary goals: we will regain a faculty line that was lost when Janice Pilch left in 2012; we will have a librarian dedicated to outreach activities and thus will be able to do more in this area; the librarians who had been handling German studies and comparative literature will be able to dedicate more time to other duties; and we will have more staffing for coverage.

## **Collection Development and Management**

Building deep and rich collections is the primary way that the Literatures and Languages Library fulfills its mission to the UIUC campus. Faculty and students across campus appreciate that the librarians at Literatures and Languages Library are passionate about and dedicated to building internationally-renowned collections and have the expertise and skill to do so. These collections help campus departments not only with research and teaching but also with recruitment and retention of faculty and students. The campus and library administration's support for collection development allows the librarians to continue to purchase widely and deeply. Were collections funding to be cut, the Literatures and Languages would struggle to meet its mission. Below are some of the highlights of Last year's collection development:

- Harriett Green curated and expanded the English literature collection with new print,

multi-media, and digital materials that supported curricula in literary studies. New acquisitions include the newest volume of Letters of Charles Dicken collection.

- Robert Cagle continued to expand and develop monograph and serial holdings in the areas of cinema studies, comparative literature, and critical theory. During Summer Session 2015, Cagle oversaw the purchase of more than three thousand individual titles from the That's Rentertainment collection. Cagle worked collaboratively with donor Dena Strong, who organized a GoFundMe campaign upon learning of the business's closing. At the same time, Cagle was corresponding with various faculty members who regularly use media in their courses to arrive at a list of titles to purchase from the same collection. Ultimately, with the support of gift funds made available by AUL for Collections Tom Teper, Cagle, with the assistance of MACS faculty Diana Jaher, Richard Leskosky, and J.B. Capino, and Library faculty Mara Thacker, was able to augment UIUC's holdings in international and independent cinema, and international television drama. Cagle hopes in the very near future to develop an online resource for potential Library users highlighting significant additions to the Media collection, thus encouraging both University-affiliated users and local residents to make use of this valuable resource.
- Paula Carns developed our holdings of French materials by purchasing books and journals and, in particular, by subscribing to newly available electronic resources. She bought *La Bibliographie de la littérature française/ Bibliography of French Literature*, an impressive bibliographic tool that documents all the studies on French and Francophone literature from the sixteenth century to the present day published between 1998 and the present day (2014) in France and abroad *an La Dictionnaire de la langue française d'Émile Littré/Online Publication of the Dictionary of the French Language by Émile Littré*, an important dictionary for the study of the history of French. Carns also ran a trial for *Open Edition*, a French open-access platform for journals and books with a subscription to various services, so that faculty and studies would have access to "fremium" services to the database and be informed about open access issues and materials.
- Paula Carns worked with our German vendor to come up with a small approval plan for books and films relating to Nordic cinema, a growing area in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and on campus.
- Paula Carns worked with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures to transfer unique collections they had received over a period of years from the ministries of culture for Switzerland and Norway to the Literatures and Languages Library.

## **User Services (online guides and tutorials, reference and instruction)**

Every year the librarians and graduate assistants at the Literatures and Languages Library are busy with numerous projects to provide excellent and cutting-edge user services to patrons. Informing our patrons about our wealth of resources and instructing them in how to use them efficiently and effectively is one of the main ways we fulfill our mission to the UIUC campus.

Last year the librarians in the unit taught numerous instructional sessions and offered many research consultations. Harriett Green taught approximately 30 library instruction sessions for courses in the departments of English, Linguistics, History, Media & Cinema Studies, and GSLIS.

Robert Cagle provided classroom-based bibliographic instruction for Survey of World Cinema, and one-on-one research assistance for students from several other courses, both graduate and undergraduate. He also worked closely with graduate students and faculty members to assist them with the preparation of manuscripts for publication in journals and anthologies. Paula Carns gave instruction and research consultations to roughly 100 people.. Many of these interactions were in the form of tours to prospective students, either to single individuals or small groups, to various departments in the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics. More and more, the departments that Carns serves, include her in the recruitment process and consider her to be a vital part of the students' educational experience.

Last year the librarians and graduate assistants spent a great deal of time updating and expanding the unit's vast network of online library guides. Harriett and the graduate assistants who worked with her—Adrienne Seely and Erica Parker—worked on multiple research guides in English literature, linguistics, history, and theatre. Harriett, Adrienne and Erica also created a video tutorial for the MLA International Bibliography database as well as of guides to digital humanities tools, including Scalar and the HathiTrust Research Center. Paula Carns reorganized and developed guides for Scandinavian, Italian and French studies.

The unit, under the leadership of the graduate assistant, Meredith Riddle, conducted a year-long assessment program on the Literatures and Languages Library's homepage. This entailed researching and summarizing website usability research methodologies; presenting a summary of research to librarians; and designing and conducting website usability study. Meredith's research findings will be invaluable to helping the Literatures and Languages Library improve their website and to make it more user-friendly for students. Thus the library will be able to meet its goal of providing access to materials to students as well as teach them how to use the library.

Harriett: How should we incorporate this statement: Harriett served as a faculty advisory board member on the English undergraduate research journal, *Re:Search*. She led a *Re:Search* author workshop on library research strategies and copyright, and worked with individual editors on digital publishing issues and copyright concerns.

## **Outreach**

The Literatures and Languages Library had a successful year with outreach activities. During the Fall 2014 semester, Robert Cagle worked collaboratively with University Housing's Unit One to host South Korean filmmaker Sang-woo Lee, who spent a week on campus screening his films and serving as artist-in-residence in Allen Hall. In addition, at the request of the head of the program, Cagle taught AAS 365, Asian American Media and Film during the Spring 2015 semester, for which he received a ranking as excellent by his students. In conjunction with the AAS course, Cagle worked collaboratively with several organizations, departments, and units on campus to bring two guests—director Steven Kung and Internet personality David So. Kung's *A Leading Man* drew a nearly sold-out house at the Art Theater Coop, and So's performance proved to be one of the largest ever held (well over 300 attendees in the space alone, with many others standing in the hallways and adjacent rooms) at the Illini Union Courtyard Café. Managements at both the Art and the Courtyard have extended open invitations to work with them again following these events.

Paula Carns mounted an exhibit on Jews in Medieval Spain at the Marshall Gallery and the Literatures and Languages Library in conjunction with the conference *Sepharad as Imagined Community: Language, Culture and Religion from the Early Modern Period to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, hosted by Departments of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and Anthropology and held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 2014. She also gave a tour of the exhibit and Library and exhibit to the conference goers.

Robert Cagle and Paula Carns worked with the Library Advancement office during Summer 2015. Cagle meet with a subject-specific donor and began planning for the 2015 Friends Weekend event. Carns worked with Advancement and WILL on their preview of PBS's Poldark series. She and a graduate student created a library guide to the series as well as its author and presented the guide at the showing.

## **Digital Humanities**

As the librarian for Digital Humanities, Harriett Green carried out a number of initiatives. She taught approximately 5 instruction sessions to courses in Media Studies, English, and History on digital humanities tools. Harriett also held approximately 11 individual research consultations throughout the year in the Literatures and Languages Library to assist graduate students and faculty in their digital scholarship research projects. In addition, she

taught 12 Savvy Researcher workshops on digital humanities research topics over the 2014-2015 school year: The workshops were led by Harriett Green and/or other Library colleagues and Scholarly Commons GAs, and covered topics such as XML and text encoding, Omeka, data visualization, text mining with the HathiTrust Research Center, and building your own Wordpress site. With help from the LLL graduate assistant Erica Parker, Harriett created three new LibGuides on digital humanities research topics: a Guide to Text Mining, A guide to Scalar, a multi-media online publishing platform; a guide to the HathiTrust Research Center. She also worked with Erica Parker and Scholarly Commons staff to coordinate the Digital Humanities Symposium held on campus in February 2015.

### Graduate Students

- Meredith Riddle, 0.25FTE, state funds, August 16, 2014-August 15, 2015.
- Erica Parker, 0.25FTE, state funds, August 16, 2014-May 15, 2015
- Adrienne Seely, 0.25FTE, state funds, August 16, 2014-May 15, 2015.
- Iker Garcia Plazaola, 0.25FTE, May 15, 2015-August 15, 2015, state funds

Graduate Assistants are a vital part of the Literatures and Languages Library and perform, as evident below, a wide variety of tasks that allow the unit to provide excellent public service to its patrons. Without them, we would not be able to offer extensive and up-to-date online guides to the many subjects we serve, keep up with our many and varied serial subscriptions, and do specialty collection development projects.

### Adrienne Seely

- Updated handouts for in-class English Department research instruction sessions; created LibGuides for English Department courses; observed and assisted with research instruction sessions for undergraduate and graduate English courses.
- Updated Literatures & Languages LibGuides with current links, navigation paths, and other information.
- Conducted a literature review of e-learning strategies and methods, specifically with respect to academic libraries' usage of video tutorials.
- Revised content and layout of Literatures & Languages' instructional pamphlets for film databases.
- Conducted journal reviews for LLX collections development and checked existing collection for newly reviewed monographs.
- Wrote posts for the Literatures & Languages Library blog.
- Updated documentation regarding monographic series (Early English Text Society) and for the Kolb Proust archive materials.
- Created screen-cast video tutorial for potential use on the LLX website introducing students to the MLA; this video covered the database's scope, utility, and its accessibility via

the Literatures & Languages and main library homepages.

Erica Parker

- DH Blog Content Creation / Blog Management--Created blog posts announcing books, workshops, on campus events, and news of interest to the digital humanities community at Illinois.
- Reference and Instruction / Research and Information Services--Worked three hours/week providing reference services at the Main Library Information Desk and Virtual Reference Desk (chat).
- TRC Storyboards / Instructional Materials--Drafted two storyboards for Hathi Trust Research Center introductory videos: 1) an overview of HTRC and 2) an introduction to worksets.
- HTRC LibGuide / Instructional Materials--Created "Introduction to Hathi Trust Research Center" guide, giving an overview of HTRC and how to use HTRC tools (e.g. algorithms) for research.
- Digital Humanities Symposium / Event Help--Modified print user survey for feedback from participants; created web survey; printed event materials; attended the Symposium and helped with set-up and takedown, greeting participants, etc.
- Text Mining Libguide / Instructional Materials--Created an introductory LibGuide on text mining and analysis. Guide includes information on how researchers can use text mining for their research; vendor policies of text mining; listings of relevant on campus projects; and text mining tools and educational resources.
- Campus Directory for DH scan / Research--Created a directory of scholars at Illinois for future digital humanities environmental scan report.

Meredith Riddle

- Did a year-long project on assessing the LLL's website, which entailed researching and summarizing website usability research methodologies; presenting a summary of research to librarians; and designing and conducting website usability study.
- 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.
- Expanded the LLL's rich and extensive suite of Libguides for German studies by adding new resources and developing new sections of pages.
- Created an English-as-Second-Language Learning guide for international students.
- Updated database links on the CMS. With the change from the old proxy server to the SFX, many of the links on the Literatures and Languages Library's website were outdated and

in need of changing.

Iker Garcia Plazaola

- Reviewed the Literatures and Languages Library's subscriptions to almost 400 English serials to determine titles that need to be re-vended, cancelled or flipped from print to online.
- Worked on the Literatures and Languages Library's Catalan guide.

### **Goals for FY16**

The Literatures and Languages Library has a number of goals for FY16. With regards to collection development, we will continue to purchase large quantities of print and electronic resources in the areas we support. We will also investigate the purchase of new online tools to make access to our vast collections easier. In terms of user services, we will build a series of online video tutorials about literary databases, revise the Literatures and Languages Journals database and develop our online guides to meet the scholarly and research interests of our users. We are planning events for the Department of English, Creative Writing Program and film studies. We will continue our assessment efforts and have already begun keeping more systematic data on users.

## **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

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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.



- Summer I 2014 40

## 2. Personnel

### Faculty

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

John Wagstaff Interim Head, Literatures and Languages Library [during Paula Carns' sabbatical, July-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

### Graduate Assistants

Meredith Riddle (0.25FTE), state funds

Erica Parker (0.25FTE), state funds, left May 2015

Adrienne Seely (0.25FTE), state funds, left May 2015

Iker Garcia Plazaola (0.25FTE), May-June 30, 2015

Eight Student Assistants

## 3. User Services

- Gate Count (as reported during FY15 Sweeps Week): Fall, 34; Spring 26; yearly 960.
- Circulation: Charges, 8563; Renewals; 16082; Discharges, 8921.

- Instructional Sessions:

Harriett Green: 38 presentations to 324 participants in 2014-2015.

Robert Cagle: 3 presentations to 215 students in 2014-2015.

Paula Carns: 4 presentations to 59 people; 11 tours to 39 people in 2014-2015.

