

**CHEMISTRY LIBRARY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022**

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**1. Major Activities and Accomplishments:**

The Chemistry Library provides services to departments, research labs, programs and schools affiliated with the School of Chemical Sciences (Chemistry and Biomolecular and Chemical Engineering). The School of Integrated Life Sciences, Molecular and Cell Biology, and users in the National History Building (geology, atmospheric science, and geography) also utilize the Chemistry Library due to their proximity.

The Chemistry and Physical Sciences librarian provides collection services for the following departments based on number of faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and ICR generated income to campus:

<b>Departments/Colleges</b>	<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Grad</b>	<b>Undergrads</b>	<b>ICR Income</b>
Astronomy	11	30	140	\$641,000
Atmospheric Studies	12	50	57	\$1,568,000
Biochemistry	13	67	289	\$1,874,000
School of Chemical Sciences	50	398	984	\$9,058,000
Geology	11	36	50	\$598,000
Physics	58	321	271	\$5,956,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>1791</b>	<b>\$19,695,000.00</b>

Source: Division of Management Information Campus Profile

The University of Illinois continues to be the new venue for the **International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy (ISMS)** after 69 years at Ohio State University. ISMS attracts a diverse group of over 500 international researchers in physics, chemistry, electrical engineering and astronomy. After a two year online only symposium, the on campus symposium took place in mid-June 2022. **This year marks the 7th year the Chemistry Library has hosted the Registration and Vendor space.** Participants utilized the study rooms to practice talks, computers and collaboration tables to finalize presentations, and having a place to interact and serve as a primary meeting space for participants, speakers and symposium organizers continues to be a focus for the Chemistry Library's new services.

Also as part of the ISMS, the Chemistry Library continues to coordinate all ISMS presentations into IDEALS. Around 500 presentation abstracts are loaded into

IDEALS with the appropriate metadata and an IDEALS handle is assigned. They are then to **CrossRef and DOIs are established and re-ingested into the proper IDEALS record**. Colleagues in other science fields, research data services have noted that these types of **research and faculty interactions are important to the future of library services**.

The Chemistry and Physical Sciences librarian continues to coordinate all **materials selected** for the **Grainger Engineering Library**. This has enabled joint purchases that help interdisciplinary research such as materials science, chemistry, physics, and chemical and mechanical engineering. This is especially important as the Chemistry Librarian continues to be involved with the **International Institute for Carbon Neutral Energy Research (I2CNER)** based at **Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan**.

The Chemistry Library continues to serve as the new space for departmental events. This past year the library has hosted **retirement receptions, Lecture receptions, Chemistry and ChemE staff and corporate supported poster sessions of graduate research**. These events have been well attended and appreciated by the School of Chemical Sciences faculty, students and staff. The Chemistry Library now hosts a reception for each endowed chair bestowed in the School.

The **Physical Sciences and Engineering Division** now **coordinates graduate assistants** and other operational necessities in a cooperative, collegial, efficient approach for training and project development. PSED graduate students now spend time doing specific projects in the **Mathematics and Chemistry** Libraries in addition to Grainger. This benefits graduate students in job searches as they have learned about more disciplines and have a wider variety of library management experience.

**The Chemistry Library had an increase of 10,000 gate counts for the year, the 4<sup>th</sup> highest (after Grainger, Undergrad and SSHEL). Yet only has 1 staff member.** The ever increasing usage of the Chemistry Library continues to grow with renovated buildings in the area such as the Natural History Building, Chemistry Annex and Carle Illinois College of Medicine Building. Since the closure of the Geology and Biology Libraries, the Chemistry Library is the one remaining science Library on the Main Quad.

## 2. Review of Major Challenges:

The most significant challenge is that the Chemistry Library is now managed by the **subject specialist for astronomy, atmospheric studies, chemistry, geology, and physics**. Since four of these collections are housed in the Grainger Engineering Library, it is often difficult to staff the Chemistry Library with **one staff member**. Fortunately the Chemistry Library's one staff member is reliable, refers questions accordingly, supervises students well and is rarely absent or takes vacation time. Previously the Chemistry Library operations had a librarian whose responsibility focused on singularly on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. That operational function has changed as geology, physics and astronomy subjects were merged into

the Chemistry and Physical Sciences Librarian position. The Chemistry Library has very **limited staff** even during **regular Monday through Friday** business hours.

### **3. Significant Changes to unit operations, personnel, service profile, or service programs:**

The Library conference room continues to have new usages. Noyes Laboratory facilities staff have regular meetings in addition to **Career Services** student interviews, and TA office hours. All new wireless computer and projection equipment was made during the past year and paid with Chemistry Library endowment funds. New collaboration equipment was also added to the large group study, often used for TA office hours.

The addition of 4 collaboration monitors in the Witte Reading Room continue to higher usage. These were also paid for by Chemistry Library endowment funds.

Although Chemistry Library has 1 staff member, and a unit with lower student wage allocation, we strive to maintain the current level of hours. That will most likely change with the cuts to student wages. Discussions underway with the Chemistry Library Faculty Advisory committee.

### **4. Service to Library-wide programs:**

- Information services:
  - More interdisciplinary purchases between chemical and physical science
  - Chemistry & Physical Sciences librarian is referred the majority of difficult engineering reference questions, requests for purchase, industrial standards and patent/intellectual property questions.
- Instructional services:

The Chemistry & Physical Sciences Librarian coordinates instruction for library graduate assistants in geology, astronomy, physics, and atmospheric sciences since most of the collections are housed in the Grainger Engineering Library and is responsible for collection development, faculty liaison and training in these subject areas.

Each spring the Chemistry Librarian coordinates visitors from Chemical Abstract Services, the producer of Sci-Finder to come to campus for the organic graduate seminar on Library resources. This seminar also has a seminar from the Library Research Data Services.

The **Chemistry Learning Center** is utilizing space in both the Chemistry Library conference room and group study room for teaching assistant and instructor review sessions.

**Parkland College** organic chemistry class utilize the Chemistry Library to work on an assignment that teaches SciFinder Scholar, Web of Science, and other relevant chemistry resource tools. This is arranged directly with the American Chemical Society for SciFinder access.

- Scholarly communications:

International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy abstract load into IDEALS and CrossRef DOIs (discussed above).

The Chemistry Library is working with the PSED Research Data Librarian and Director of Research Data Services to help management research data in chemistry, biochemistry, molecular and chemical engineering. Regular meetings were arranged with department heads, research lab directors, and various graduate student seminar program coordinators.

A new Read and Publish OS plan is underway with the Institute of Physics by the BTAA is being implemented for 2023.

The Chemistry Library is working with chemistry-related research groups to provide spaces and equipment for graduate and undergraduate research poster sessions. Recommended by Chemistry Library faculty advisors and department heads.

- Assessment:

The Chemistry & Physical Sciences librarian continues to work closely with the Chemistry Library Faculty advisory committee for implementing new facilities and services.

- Digital content creation:

Working with department heads, departmental web developers and others, the Chemistry Library is digitizing many historical documents such as annual reports, photographs of notable chemists, alumni and academic family trees for ingestion into IDEALS.

- Staff training and development:

Working with Jeff Loftiss who has worked in the University of Illinois system for over 40 years, mainly in the UIC Urbana Health Sciences location until its closure in 2018. Jeff runs “all things ALMA” in Chemistry.

- Diversity/public engagement:

The Chemistry librarian, in cooperation with the former chemistry librarian, has written a peer reviewed article about Marion Sparks, the first chemistry librarian on campus<sup>1</sup>. Ms. Sparks experienced discrimination and bias from Library administration based on her appearance. However, she was a much respected and appreciated member of the School of Chemical Sciences, including publishing in *Science* with the Head of the School, William Noyes. Display about Ms. Sparks' achievements and contributions as the author of the first chemical literature textbook displayed in Chemistry Library.

#### 5. Review Progress on FY22 goals:

- Continue to integrate engineering and physical science collection development and decisions. **Ongoing.**
- Several important SCS lectures and receptions hosted by the Chemistry Library. **Completed.**
- Hosting registration, exhibits, and online publishing and DOI creation for the 76<sup>th</sup> ISMS symposium. **Completed.**
- New collaboration tables and services in study space. **Completed.**

#### 6. FY23 Goals:

- Removal of some library public terminals in order to create more study table spaces.
- Continue to integrate engineering and physical science collection development and decisions.
- Several important SCS lectures and receptions hosted by the Chemistry Library.
- Hosting registration, exhibits, and online publishing of 77<sup>th</sup> ISMS symposium.

#### 7. Number of GAs: 0

#### 8. GA funding: Chemistry library endowment contributed to a PSED graduate assistant.

#### 9. Major responsibilities of GA: Physical Science & Engineering Division responsibilities.

### Statistical Profile

#### 1. User Seating

- a. at tables: 54
- b. at carrels: 13
- c. at public workstations: 10
- d. at index tables: n/a
- e. in group study rooms: 16
- f. informal: 16
- g. conference room: 27

## 2. Number of hours open to the public:

- Summer II 2021: **36 hours per week**
- Fall 2021: **76 hours per week**
- Spring 2022: **76 hours per week**
- Summer I 2022: **30 hours per week**

## 2. Personnel

- Mary C. Schlembach, Faculty, **1.0**
- Jeff Loftiss, Civil Service, **1.0**
- FY22 Student Asst wage budget: \$20,000.00 and Student Assistant FTE **2.5**

## 3. User Services

- Gate Count:
  - Fall 2021: 1012
  - Spring 2022: 1166
  - **Extrapolated Annual: 34,840**
- Circulation (from online circulation reports)
  - Initial and renewal: 1696
- Reference interactions:
  - Desk Tracker (staff terminal): **1536 (extrapolated from Sweeps Week only. Does not include librarian's statistics).**
- Presentations (from librarian statistics)
  - Number of presentations to groups: **7**
  - Number of participants in group presentations: **181**

<sup>1</sup>Schlembach, Mary C., Chrzastowski, Tina E., "A Pioneer in Chemical Literature: Librarian Marion E. Sparks." *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*, 2022, 47,(2), 215-221.