

Unit Annual Report Instructions
Literatures and Languages Library
August 31, 2022

I Unit Narrative

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 North and South America, Western Europe, and Francophone and English-speaking countries as well as cinema studies, translation studies and linguistics. The unit serves as the primary library for the Department of English, the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, and Cinema Studies. The acquisition of print and online materials (books, journals, magazines, films, reference works and databases), and providing reference, instruction, and outreach to the campus and local community are the unit's main functions. Through its various activities the LLL participates in the Library's strategic mission to the UIUC campus.

Physical Space

The LLL occupies The Reading Room (room 200) and 225, where the Classics Library Collection and staff offices are housed. The renovations in 200, begun several years ago, wrapped up in fall 2021 with the installation of a new HVAC system, which left the room without heat for long stretches of time and quite cold, and new lamps on the tables. The Reading Room is a very popular space on campus for filming and photographing. Last year we hosted numerous film crews from around campus.



Staffing

Professional Staff:

- Paula Carns, Head, Literatures and Languages Library, subject specialist for Romance and linguistics (100%)
- Matthew Roberts, English and Drama Librarian plus Comparative and World Literature (100%)
- Marek Sroka, Literatures and Languages Librarian for German and Translation Studies (75%)(25% in International and Area Studies for Polish studies)

Civil Service Staff:

- Stuart Albert, Senior Library Specialist (100%)

- Michael Cleveland, Library Specialist (100%), since May 16, 2022
- Karen Huck, Library Specialist (100%)
- Kim Lerch, Senior Library Specialist (25%)

Graduate Students

- Graduate Assistants on State Funds: Alexandra Byerly (0.25FTE)

Staffing Summary

The LLL staffing profile grew by a staff member, Mike Cleveland, on May 16, 2022 as the result of the closure of the Undergraduate Library (UGL) and merger of its staff and services with the Main Library. The LLL was a recipient of a staff person because librarians in the unit had assumed duties formerly done by the UGL, namely selecting popular fiction and media.

Marek Sroka (Chair), Paula Carns, and Kim Lerch participated in the search for the next Classics and Medieval Studies Librarian, which resulted in the library hiring Elias Petrou, who will start on Oct. 16, 2022.

Karen Huck was active in library committees:

Library Staff Support Committee

- Continued as liaison between the Arts & Humanities Division and the LSSC
- Hosted drop-in sessions each semester for employees to air concerns
- Collaborated on 5-yr Review Committee

Exhibits Committee

- Publicized GA Exhibit Contest and acted as liaison between committee and contestants
- Designed potential posters for North/South Corridors for times when no Exhibits are planned

Organization Development and Training Advisory Committee

- Collaborated to develop Framework for the University Library Supervisory Competency Model

Collection Development

With the return to primarily in-person classes, librarians at the LLL returned to purchasing the bulk of materials in print, especially from Western Europe, as the European market for electronic books is geared to individuals and not institutions, though each year progress in this direction is made. Two areas where the LLL furnishes electronic books stand out: Linguistics and Translation and Interpreting Studies. Scholars and students of the former prefer electronic access because the majority of books in the field are collections of essays, not book-length monographs. International students in the online Translating and Interpreting Master's program do not have the benefit of ordering print books, like classmates in the continental US, and rely on electronic ones. Over the past few years Matt Roberts has been purchasing e-content for English literature as well.

Ebook Packages and Databases

- 2023 Frontlist Oxford Handbooks of Linguistics; 2023 Frontlist Oxford Handbooks (Literature

- Collection)
- Proquest One Literature
- Cambridge Companions Literature Collection
- Drama Online (Core Collection; Nick Hern Modern Plays; Oberon; Playwrights Canada Press; Critical Studies and Performance Practice

Significant Items and Areas

- Paula Carns made the following significant purchases:
 - a. Through a donation \$3,662 via Friendscript, Paula Carns purchased a facsimile of Dante's Divine Comedy, Strozzii 152 Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Strozzii 152.
 - b. With the help of Alexandra Byerly, Paula Carns purchased several hundred titles of contemporary French fiction, both literary and popular.
 - c. Paula Carns increased the number of titles of fiction from France, Italy and Spain by transferring from the Main Stacks recent books coming in via the European Blanket Order.
- Matthew Roberts performed the following significant collection development projects:
 - a. Initiated subscription to ProQuest One Literature, which integrates ProQuest primary and secondary source collections, MLA International Bibliography, and Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature into a single platform.
 - b. Continued support of drama and theater history with ongoing acquisition of Drama Online content/updates including: Drama Online Core Collection; Nick Hern Modern Plays; Oberon Books; Playwrights Canada Press; Critical Studies and Performance Practice.
 - c. Expanded collections of translated literature beyond scope of Literatures and Languages traditional support of European language literature to include literature and literary criticism translated into English from Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Russian, etc.
- Marek Sroka purchased the following important volumes of Polish literature:
 - a. Two books relating to Polish science fiction writer Stanisław Lem.
 - b. The latest installment of English translations of Lem's prose (short stories) *The Truth and Other Stories* translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2021) https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIU/gpiosq/alma99955000509505899
 - c. The English translation of *Zagłada i gwiazdy* (Holocaust and the Stars: The Past in the Prose of Stanisław Lem) by Agnieszka Gajewska (2022). Part of the Studies in Global Genre Fiction series (Routledge), this English translation of the Polish original, which has already been considered a milestone in Lem studies, brings a fresh perspective on the writer and his work. https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIU/gpiosq/alma99955047661605899

Collection Management

As of May 2021, there were approximately 93,000 items in the Literatures and Languages Library

collection, with roughly 50,500 in the modern collection (English, Romance, Germanic, linguistics, cinema studies and translation studies) and 42,500 in the Classics Library Collection. Due to the remodeling of room 200, about 70% of the 50,500 was temporarily hosted on 6E of the Main Stacks. When the remodeling was finished in late July of 2021, and it was time for LLX to re-house the hosted books, there was considerable doubt whether the shelf space would suffice to hold it, as many new books had been acquired and added to the collection during the remodeling project. Because we had a very short window to withdraw the collection from Main Stacks (the space in Stacks was needed for materials from the UGL), we used the library's standard rubric for departmental collections: items older than five years that have not circulated in five years should be sent either to Main Stacks or Oak St. Library. Roughly 2,450 items were deaccessioned. The remaining shelf space was redistributed by shifting.

Because we were permitted to transfer up to 4000 titles and to provide more space for incoming items, throughout the year we reduced pockets of the collection using the following criteria set by individual librarians for their areas. The selection process was done by the subject specialists, working directly from the shelves, piece-in hand.

- Approximately 1,350 items from the A-O Library of Congress call number ranges were selected for transfer to STX, freeing up 40 shelves for redistribution. (Items classified in the call number ranges A-O and Q-Z impinge upon the study of language and literature, without being necessarily central to its concerns).
- Collections of essays in the areas of cinema studies, linguistics, and romance languages
- Quartos—less frequently-used titles in cinema studies
- French language and literature reference—older items were relocated to Main Stacks
- The Proustiana collection was interfiled with the circulating collection.

Collection Management: Classics Library Collection

- A group of graduate students in an iSchool Preservation Class did an exhaustive and extensive review of the physical condition of the collection, both in terms of items and library space, as part of a class project, the results of which they provided to us.
- Shift into reference: Kim Lerch shifted all of the 871 and 881 items from CLX-CIRC to CLX-REF—these Dewey ranges represent essential primary texts and commentaries frequently used by Classicists.
- Reclassification: Kim began the long-planned reclassification of collection and started with the circulating collection. By the end of the period covered in this report, she had “flipped” from 001-300. The 200s are religion and took quite a bit of time. She also focused on the non-Q circulating collections when items are returned. She has also done some of the reference section and the Qs.
- Kim moved out of 225 all ceased journals to either the Main Stacks or Oak St. Library, depending on the location of earlier volumes. Current journals, unless already destined to be moved to the Main Stacks or Oak St. Library by previous instructions, have their last 5 years on shelves in 225. When their time expires (> 5 years' worth of journal on shelves), the oldest of will be shelved with their older cohorts.
- Working with the Classicists and Content Access Management, Paula Carns and Kim Lerch decided to keep the following text series together (rather than interfile them) and came up with a cataloging solution: Bude, Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries, Corpus Christianorum: Series Graeca, Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics (the “Green and Yellows”), I Tatti Renaissance Library, Loeb Classical Library, Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis (Oxford Classical

Texts), Oxford Medieval Texts, Sources Chretiennes, and Teubner. Kim transferred all the bound journals from Room 225 to the Main Stacks

- Working with the Classicist, Paula Carns established the following parameters for weeding:
 - a. Any 1924 and 1925 that have been digitized.
 - b. Any piece in CLX-CIRC published before, say, 1970, that hasn't been checked out in the last ten years.

Libguides

Libguides are critical to fulfilling the LLL's mission to educate faculty and students in library resources, services, and policies relating to literature and languages. Last year we substantially modified the following Libguides:

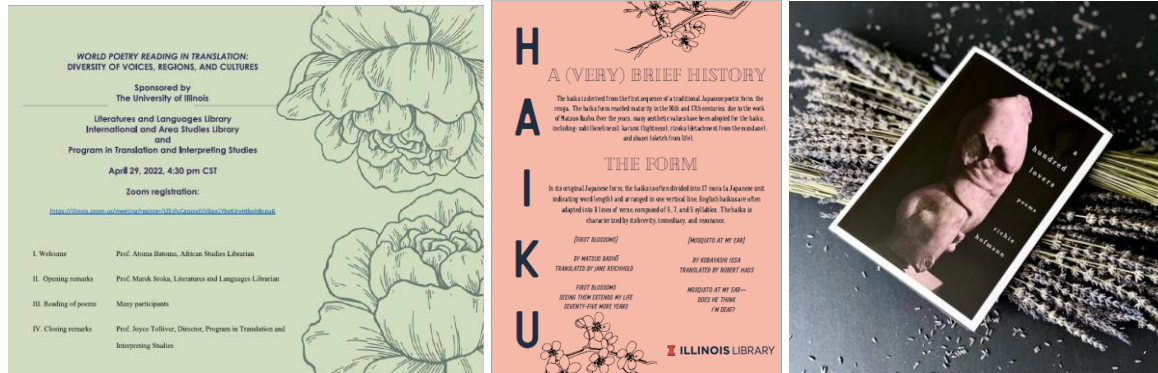
- French language and literature—Paula Carns with the help of Alexandra Byerly substantially reworked this section of the French and Francophone Libguide to harmonize the reference books with the newly weeded reference.
- Proustiana Libguide (<https://guides.library.illinois.edu/proust>) in conjunction with the interfiling of the Proustiana Collection with the circulating collection, Paula Carns with the help of Alexandra Byerly created a comprehensive guide on the author and era.
- Matthew Roberts and Alexandra Byerly created LibGuide template to standardize future LibGuide development.

Events

After a year and a half hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, we started offering in-person and virtual events again.

- *Build-a-Book Event*
A collaboration with the Residence Hall Libraries, International and Area Studies Libraries, and Preservation, this event took place on Reading Day, spring semester, and featured instruction on making a book from scratch and writing a Haiku, which could be added to the just-made book. 18 people attended.
- *4th Annual Graduate Symposium in Memory Studies (70 guests)*
Time: Mar 25, 2022 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada). Main Library 106. 50 guests (in person); appx. 20 guests (virtual).
Conference sponsored by The Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, Memory Studies (HGMS), School of Literatures, Cultures, Languages and Linguistics, the Program in Comparative and World Literature, Beckman Institute, UIUC Library, and the European Union Center
- *English Graduate Student Orientation (25 guests)*
The English Graduate Student Orientation hosts incoming students, sets up their library accounts, offers a tour of the library, and introduces students to library resources.
- *Poetry Reading and Discussion with Ritchie Hoffman (60 guests)*
Co-sponsored by the Friends of the University Library and the Robert J. Carr Visiting Author Series, this event took place on April 19th in the Temple Buell Architecture Gallery, Architecture Building.
- *World Poetry Reading in Translation: Diversity of Voices, Regions, and Cultures*
Co-sponsored with the International and Area Studies Library, and Program in Translation and

Interpreting Studies (as part of the celebration of National Month of Poetry) this virtual event was open to the public. The international event featured poems in thirteen languages (from Arabic to Yoruba) and their English translations. Some poems were translated by participants themselves. The event was attended by over thirty participants. Some participants “zoomed in” from other countries.



In addition to the LLL events, we hosted the Office of the Provost’s Tenure and Promotion Bookplating Event (November) and Bronze Tablet Event (Reading Day, Spring) as well as an iSchool recruitment event, all in the Reading Room.

Social Media

Instagram posts continue to invite patrons to see New Books and events @LitLangLibrary. And they are working: a quarter of our circulating titles are new books, according to Alma Analytics (over 1500 of over 7000 items). Presently we have over 600 posts (we post generally 5 days each week) and over 400 followers.



With regards to our LitLang Library Blog (<http://publish.illinois.edu/litlanglibrary/>), this past year we posted at least 1-2 times monthly). Most correspond to major calendar events, such as Black History Month, Hispanic American Heritage Month, and Asian Pacific American Month and featured new or relatively new works of fiction. Marek Sroka wrote “The Trauma of War and Displacement in the Poetry of John Guzlowski” that featured the Polish-American poet and writer John Guzlowski and his haunting poetry stemming from his childhood and his parents’ World War II experience.

Exhibits

- Mounted 10 monthly themed exhibits in Display Cases in the Reading Room (see list below in table)
- Mounted 2 Table-Top exhibits for Winners of Prestigious Literary Awards (Nobel and PEN Awards)
- Collaborated with Sarah Christensen to mount exhibit of Small Press items held by the LLL in Marshal

Gallery to complement her exhibit in the North/South Corridor

- Mounted ongoing exhibit of new book covers in 225 (covers rotate as new items transition to standard collection from New Books Display)



Date	Exhibit	Location
8/23-31/21	English Poetry You Might Have Missed	2 Display Cases in LLX
9/1 - 10/12/21	Making the Medieval Modern	2 Display Cases in LLX
Date	Exhibit	Location
9/1-1/3 (rotating covers)	We've Got These Great Books	Classics Wall
10/7-1/18/22	Nobel Prize Winner for Literature: Abdulrazak Gurnah	Top of weeklies Cabinet
10/1 - 10/31/21	Small Press Fest - publish with a small press	Marshall Gallery
10/12-10/31/21	Spooky Stories and Stanzas	2 Display Cases in LLX
11/1-12/13/21	Celebrating Indigenous Writers and Writing	2 Display Cases in LLX
12/13-1/31/22	Light Up the Holidays / Light up the Winter	2 Display Cases in LLX
2/1-2/28/22	African American Writing	2 Display Cases in LLX
3/1 - 3/31/22	Writers on Writing	2 Display Cases in LLX
4/6 - 5/1/22	Literature and the Environment	2 Display Cases in LLX
1/19 -	PEN Winners	Top of weeklies Cabinet
5/3/22-8/15/22	The Flaneur in Literature	2 Display Cases in LLX

GA Activities: Alexandra Byerly

- Mounted multiple exhibits in the LitLang display cases, including not only books but objects d'art and relevant quotes and descriptions of the titles within
- Maintained the LitLang blog, highlighting new resources like Proquest One Literature and items in our collection which corresponded to events like Black History Month, Hispanic American Heritage Month, Asian Pacific American, and Literary prizes
- Designed publicity materials for LitLang resources and programs, including Rosetta Stone, prize-winning authors, and the Haiku workshop

- Updated multiple guides, including the Francophone and Spanish guides, making sure that the content was relevant and reflected our holdings
- Assisted with weeding the French reference collection, transferring old, out-of-date, and irrelevant titles to Main Stacks so that items that were most likely to be consulted would be accessible to scholars and students
- Developed collections for Francophone, Italian, and English studies, including researching relevant titles to expand our Francophone African and Francophone Asian dialect manuals and materials
- Provided 2-3 hours per week of reference services on the Information Desk, consulting with patrons on research questions across disciplines, resource troubleshooting, and library services
- Worked with Matt to create period guides for English studies, including tabbed boxes of relevant databases, significant figures and works, and digitized special collections
- Created a spreadsheet tracking our holdings of literary journals and magazines corresponding to the list available through Poets & Writers, to be consulted for future Creative Writing instruction and guides

Future Goals

- Welcome, train, and mentor Elias Petrou, the new Classics Librarian.
- Continue to train Michael Cleveland in collection management and development and other areas in his job description.
- Continue to hone the circulating collection through collection development and weeding.
- Talk to librarians in the International and Area Studies Library about featuring literature in their areas, either in exhibits, social media, or even a pop-up circulating collection.
- Continue to work with Mara Thacker, the Global Culture Studies Librarian, about join collections and services.
- Continue with our strong tradition of events and consider new avenues for events, both in terms of theme, collaborations, and locales.
- Continue to reflect on ways that we can provide popular literature to campus and local populations.

II Statistical Profile

1. Facilities

- User seating counts (if applicable)
 - 225: 6 round tables with 25 chairs and 2 comfy chairs;
 - 200: 40 long tables with 320 chairs
 - at public workstations: n/a
 - at index tables: n/a
 - in group study rooms: n.a
 - informal/other: n/a

- Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)
 - Summer 2021: n/a
 - Fall 2021: 76.5
 - Spring 2022: 76.5
 - Summer 2022: 55.5 (Interim: 42.5)

2. Personnel (see above)

3. User Services

- Gate Count (as reported during FY22 Sweeps Week programs)
 - 44,904

- Circulation (from Alma fulfillment reports)
 - Circulation counts: 6,024; 4442 for LLL material; 1582 for Classics material

- Reference interactions
 - Circulation desk: 864
 - Total for librarians: 537

- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)
 - Number of presentations to groups: 12
 - Number of participants in group presentations: 137