The pages of a book are held together by its binding. Sewn together, one after another, each page adds to the book. **Bindings** represents the continuing relationship between the University of Iowa Libraries and its supporters.

**Architects Smith Metzer rendering of the new Main Library exhibition space.**

**Cover Image: Artist – John Baltadonis**
“Constant disequilibrium.”

This phrase, coined by the consultant leading the Association of Research Libraries through a strategic thinking and design process to describe the current state of research libraries, has strongly resonated with me for much of the past year. There is no question that libraries – including the University of Iowa Libraries – continue to undergo radical change. Is this bad? No – change will drive the Libraries to embrace innovation in creating new services and building and maintaining collections to meet the needs of 21st century researchers.

Over the course of the last year, the Libraries completed its University-mandated program review process. Program review was an extremely positive experience for the Libraries. The process gave the organization the opportunity to deeply examine its structure, services, and role within the broader University and an external review provided a helpful outside perspective of the Libraries. The recommendations from this process will inform a new Libraries’ Strategic Plan. Already we are working with the University’s Office of Organizational Effectiveness to assist us in reviewing our mission, vision, and values with the goal of completing a new Strategic Plan in 2015.

We continue to move forward in a variety of new areas even while we complete the strategic planning process. In this issue of Bindings, you’ll read about several new initiatives. We are delighted, for example, to finally be contributing Libraries content to the Google Books service. Our new initiative to digitize science fiction fanzines from the James L. “Rusty” Hevelin Collection is equally exciting and will give us the opportunity to utilize our innovative crowdsourcing transcription platform in an entirely new way. And finally, the Jewish Women in Iowa project highlights how private support is helping us to build a rich new collection within the Iowa Women’s Archives. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about these interesting new endeavors!

Our new Strategic Plan will surely outline new initiatives or innovative projects that we may not be able to support under our current funding model. Private support will be increasingly important as the Libraries continues to transform to meet the needs of today’s students, faculty, clinicians, and other library users.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to mention a couple of recent transitions. Our long-time public relations manager, Kristi Robinson-Bontrager, left the Libraries in December to focus on her own small business. At the end of 2014, Randy Rumery, the UI Foundation liaison to the Libraries, retired. Best wishes to Kristi and Randy as they embark on these new chapters. We are still making plans related to filling Kristi’s vacancy. Mary Rettig has assumed responsibilities as the Libraries’ liaison to the UI Foundation. Look for more about Mary in the next issue of Bindings.

We are grateful for your support of the UI Libraries and look forward to seeing you at an event in 2015!
Dr. Camila Alire, Dean Emerita at the University of New Mexico and Colorado State University, was the invited speaker for the Ada Stoflet lecture held in October. The lecture titled “Footprints of Our International Students: Why Should We Care?” stressed the importance of international students, examined some of the challenges they face studying in the US and how we can best serve them.

The University of Iowa has had a yearly increase in international students. That increase in students has brought many benefits but also challenges. Alire explained that international students bring a significant amount of financial benefit to the university and US economy. Additional benefits include students having different perspectives on topics that can enrich the campus community and curriculum. Challenges included student isolation, community acceptance and adjusting to a completely new culture. Some suggestions for serving international students included engaging with the students through workshops and connecting international students with other students on campus.

Dr. Alire is the past-president of the American Library Association and Dean Emerita at the University of New Mexico and Colorado State University. She received her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Northern Colorado and an MLS from the University of Denver.

The Stoflet Lectureship was established through a special fund by the late Dr. Arthur Benton in memory of Ada M. Stoflet, an exceptionally dedicated member of the UI Libraries staff for more than three decades. The lectureship is designed to bring outstanding lecturers in librarianship and related issues to the UI campus.
Kari Kozak, Head of the Lichtenberger Engineering Library, is recipient of the 2014 Arthur Benton University Librarian’s Award for Excellence. This award is given biennially to a University Libraries’ professional staff member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and/or leadership in furthering the mission of the Libraries in providing service to the University community. The honor includes a $1,500 award that may be used to support professional development activity expenses in support of research projects and publications related to services, or it may be taken as a cash award.

The award committee noted that Kari offers an “example of excellence in innovation, service, and instruction of which we should be proud. We are excited to recommend her as the recipient of the 2014 Benton Award.”

Kari was nominated by Keri Hornbuckle, Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Engineering who notes that she “introduced new electronic texts on engineering standards and codes – and taught us how to use them. This innovation changed the way some engineering projects are assigned. Now we know our students have full access to this information, and so the faculty now require students use them in their design projects.”

Kari has also worked extensively with Julie Jessop, Associate Professor. “For my Chemical Engineering Process Design II course, I need to gather materials from a large reference list for the annual AIChE national design competition. She has been so helpful in amassing the references for me (even working her industrial contacts to find a presentation record in a company library) and having them ready for the start of the competition.”

Professor David G. Wilder believes Kari’s “secret is that she actively solicits and acts on ideas for improvement of the library. She has made the library an attractive multidimensional center of inquiry and understanding, not only facilitating users’ abilities to understand the latest search systems, but also creating excitement with events like “Pi - day” (3-14) and facilities such as collections of videos of classical engineering principles (Junk Yard Wars) and the touch-and-feel aspect of engineering with a tool library.”

Kari joins Jen DeBerg, Dottie Persson, John Forys, Edward Miner, Kathy Magarrell, Kären Mason, Dave Martin and John Schacht as recipients of this award.

The University Librarian’s Award for Excellence and the Ada Stoflet Lectureship were made possible by generous endowments from the late Dr. Arthur Benton, Professor in the Department of Neurology, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The Libraries appreciates Dr. Benton’s forward thinking in creating endowments that support excellence in librarianship. While many donors understand the need to maintain collections or update equipment, human resources are also an important part of what makes a library outstanding. These endowments provide staff with recognition and opportunities for professional development so that they can meet the needs of students and faculty in a rapidly changing educational environment.
The James L. “Rusty” Hevelin Collection

Peter Balestrieri, Curator, Science Fiction & Popular Culture

The UI Libraries is pleased to announce a major digitization initiative in partnership with the University of Iowa’s Office of the Vice President for Research. Almost 10,000 science fiction fanzines will be digitized from the James L. “Rusty” Hevelin Collection, representing the entire history of science fiction as a popular genre and providing the content for a database that documents the development of science fiction fandom.

Rusty Hevelin was a fan and a collector for most of his life. He bought pulp magazines from newsstands as a boy in the 1930s, and by the early 1940s began attending some of the first organized science fiction conventions. He remained an active collector, fanzine creator, book dealer, and fan until his death in 2011. Rusty’s collection came to the Libraries in 2012, contributing significantly to the Libraries’ reputation as a major international center for science fiction and fandom studies.

Science fiction fanzines are amateur publications made by individuals or groups that discuss books, films, politics, and many other public and personal matters. They were initially written for a limited audience and distributed via personal connections and gatherings, beginning in the 1930s in the United States and Europe. Within the pages of science fiction fanzines lie previously inaccessible and unstudied primary documentation of the social history and popular culture of the 20th century.
Science fiction fanzine writers were intimately involved with many aspects of science fiction literature during the golden years of its development. The list of names is impressive: Ray Bradbury, Robert Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Robert Bloch, Leigh Brackett, Frederik Pohl, Harlan Ellison, Joe Haldeman, Roger Zelazny, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Robert Silverberg, Roger Ebert, George R.R. Martin, and many others were actively involved in fanzine culture.

The fanzine portion of the Hevelin Collection, numbering approximately 10,000 fanzines, will be digitized in its entirety. “Nothing on this scale has been attempted with fanzines before, and we are thrilled to be able to finally address the concern we have been hearing for years from fans and scholars, to find a way to enable them to discover exactly what these pieces contain,” notes Greg Prickman, Head of Special Collections.

Once digitized, the Libraries will incorporate the fanzines into its DIY History interface, where a select (up to 30) number of interested fans will be provided with secure access to transcribe, annotate, and index the contents of the fanzines. This group will be modeled on an APA (Amateur Press Association) structure, a fanzine distribution system developed in the early days of the medium that required contributions of content from members in order to qualify for, and maintain, membership in the organization. The transcription will enable the Libraries to construct a full-text searchable fanzine resource, with links to authors, editors, and topics, while protecting privacy and copyright by limiting access to the full set of page images.

To learn more about the project and to follow its progress, please visit hevelincollection.tumblr.com

Digital Capture System Essential to Preserving Materials

The Preservation and Conservation Department just purchased a new topdown digital image capture system that allows us to leave fragile books face up while capturing images at national preservation capture standards. The setup for this new equipment is unprecedented for this department. Our small scanning room had to be cleared out entirely in order to make room for it. This new digital reprographic system uses a Phase One digital camera back, taking high quality images of each item. At 80 megapixels, it uses one of the highest-quality cameras currently available. This equipment is essential in undertaking the digitization of the 150 scrapbooks in the Keith/Albee Collection and the zines from the Hevelin Collection.

Finding funding for one-time purchases can be challenging. Since 2008 we have repaired flood damaged materials for the Johnson County Historical Society, the African American Museum of Iowa, and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. We were able to use money from these flood recovery activities to pay for the camera system. Our last major piece of equipment, a book freeze dryer, was purchased in 2009 with donations from the Friends of the Libraries.

Visit the growing Keith/Albee digital archive online: digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/keithalbee
Joan Lipsky grew up hearing the story of how her grandfather Henry Smulekoff emigrated from Russia to the United States as a young man in 1886. He lived first in New Jersey before making his way to Iowa, where he worked as a peddler, walking from farm to farm selling needles, thread, thimbles, ribbons, and other small items out of his backpack. As his business grew, he bought a horse and wagon, allowing him to carry more goods and travel greater distances to sell his wares. This itinerant lifestyle was fine until a young Russian immigrant in Keosauqua caught his eye. In 1889 he married Emma Rasen, settled in Cedar Rapids, and purchased a small furniture store on May’s Island. Smulekoff’s Furniture was a mainstay of downtown Cedar Rapids for the next 125 years.

Henry Smulekoff’s life followed a familiar pattern for 19th century Jewish immigrants to Iowa, who worked as peddlers before settling in town and establishing businesses. But what of the women? Their stories are less well known, told obliquely through family photographs and letters or the records of temple sisterhoods. Young women worked in domestic service, factories, or shops, often with family members. They raised families and carried on the cultural and religious traditions of their faith but too often their names and stories are lost to later generations.

Joan Lipsky and the Jewish Women in Iowa Project

Kären Mason, Curator, Iowa Women’s Archives
Joan Lipsky worried that the stories of these women would be forgotten unless a concerted effort was made to save them. She asked the Iowa Women’s Archives to help preserve photographs and documents of these women. In 2013 Lipsky made a gift of $50,000 to establish the Jewish Women in Iowa Project, funding a graduate research assistantship in the Archives.

Lipsky is a longtime supporter of the Iowa Women’s Archives and was enthusiastic when her friends Louise Noun and Mary Louise Smith founded the Archives. “Iowa has always had women of great skills and talents, often unsung,” she commented. She understood that the Iowa Women’s Archives would illuminate the important roles women have played in our state.

Joan Lipsky helped make history herself in 1967 when she and four other women became the largest group of women to serve in the Iowa General Assembly. Lipsky’s papers in the Iowa Women’s Archives document her service in the legislature from 1967-1978 as well as her civic activism. Among her papers are family stories she wrote for her grandchildren and a brief history of the Jewish community of Cedar Rapids. The Jewish Women in Iowa Project seeks to gather the history of Jewish women in Iowa, past and present, and to make that history known broadly through online resource guides and a digital collection. We are grateful to Joan for her generous gift.

Curator Kären Mason and graduate assistant Jeannette Gabriel look forward to visiting towns and cities across Iowa to publicize the project through public presentations, talks to women’s organizations, and meetings with individuals. In order to continue building relationships, gathering collections, and recording stories that illuminate the rich history of Jewish women in Iowa, we are seeking funding to extend the graduate assistantship to four years.

To donate historical materials or request a speaker, please contact the Iowa Women’s Archives at 319-335-5068 or lib-women@uiowa.edu. To provide financial support for the project, contact Samantha Terrill Crow at the University of Iowa Foundation: samantha-terrill@uiowa.edu.
The University of Iowa Libraries
Honor Roll of Contributors

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who contributed $100 or more from July 1, 2013 through June 20, 2014 to the University of Iowa Libraries through the UI Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University.

The UI Libraries appreciates all its contributors, whose generosity helps ensure that the Libraries’ resources distinguish The University of Iowa and the educational and research opportunities it provides.

Library Excellence Club
($5k or more)

Henry H. Albers
Marjorie K. Albers
Celia R. Burger
William H. Burger
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
Carol de Saint Victor
Pamela J. Ehly
Stewart W. Ehly
Donna Louise Finkler Estate
Stewart W. Ehly
Pamela J. Ehly
Carol de Saint Victor
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
William H. Burger
Celia R. Burger
Marjorie K. Albers
Henry H. Albers
($5k - $999)

Fellow ($5k - $999)

Judith P. Aikin
David Avraamides
Joan Utenn Axel
John W. Axel
Mary Gail Bentz
Bruce C. Bidle
Kathy Bickley
Robert M. Bickley
Douglas E. Born
Meg V. Born
Lois E. Briggs
Roderick E. Briggs
Bonnie A. Edwards
Averyle M. Ehrle
Roy W. Ehrle
C. Eugene Fiffield
Dorothy O. Fiffield
Joseph J. Freiberger
Carolyn H. Glasgow
William M. Glasgow
Frederick J. Hansen
Albert B. Hood
Jean M. Hood
Mary C. Huey
Edwin R. Hunter
Steven J. Jacobsen
Steven K. Jacobsen
William C. Johnson
Margaret N. Keyes
Janadene L. Harvey
Brian L. Harvey
Willona Graham Goers
Steven D. Goers
Donna Louise Finkler Estate
Stewart W. Ehly
Pamela J. Ehly
Carol de Saint Victor
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
William H. Burger
Celia R. Burger
Marjorie K. Albers
Henry H. Albers
($5k - $4,999)

Friend
($1k - $499)

Freddie Acedo
Mark F. Albertin
Melanie J. Albertin
Harl P. Aldrich, Jr.
Lois G. Aldrich
Linda R. Alleman
American Psychological Association
BJ Anderson
David S. Anderson
Doris M. Anderson
Doris S. Anderson
Gordon H. Anderson
Karl B. Anderson
Maury Anderson
Charles Anema
Marion G. Anema
Mary T. Anglim
Susan E. Annett
M. Sunday Antrim
Richard L. Antrim
Laverne A. Arb
Scott C. Aumuller
Nusayba A. Baggio
Raymond R. Bagley, Jr.
Hooman Bahmandeji
Steven M. Baird
Patricia B. Baker
Anne L. Balluff
George J. Balluff
Stephanie H. Barch
Anna M. Barker
James W. Barker
Paul A. Barns
Caroline A. Barnes
Jack E. Barnes
Alice W. Barry
James H. Barry
David L. Batman
Janet L. Batman
Judith Baughman
Emily S. Baum

University Librarian’s Club
($1k - $4,999)

Edwin L. Anderson
Margaret S. Anderson
Nancy (Rusty) Barcelo
Dianne Barker
William S. Barker
Dale M. Bentz
Joan N. Buckley
Mary K. Calkin
Arthur Canter
Miriam R. Canter
Fredda Ellen Caplan
Richard M. Caplan
Brenda M. Carey
Ronald L. Carey
John P. Culshaw
Steven R. Dean
Susan Ettor Dean
George L. Eichacker
Lois H. Eichacker
John E. Erickson
Ed Folsom
Patricia Folsom
William J. Griffin
Jill Hunt
Elizabeth Stege Huttner
Sidney Huttner
Iowa Women’s Foundation
Jean Irwin
Monte J. Jefson
Ann E. Jepson
Mark A. Jepson
George F. Johnson
Gretchen R. Kauffman
Leon A. Lammers
Rose Marie Lammers
Chun Ping Li
Jean Lloyd-Jones
Michael O. McDermott
Susan W. McDermott
Charles W. McGuire
Nancy K. McGuire
Brian Mechl
Cindy Mechl
Ann E. Montgomery
Robert A. Opplinger
H. Rand Petersen
Mary Louise Petersen
Shari L. Piekarски
Randi L. Rust
William F. Rust III
Robert F. Smith
Dona Southwick
John S. Strauss
Susan T. Strauss
Charles A. Swenson
Joanne M. Swenson
Daniel D. Teoli, Jr.
Delores J. Thompson
H. Stanley Thompson
Harold Lincoln
Thompson Estate
Sara L. Thompson Estate
Richard M. Tubbs
Gerald T. Wedemeyer
Robert C. Kratz
Donna J. Lager
Lee Fahnestock Leggett
Alan L. Light
Judith Liskin-Gasparro
Susan S. Marks
Rebecca E. Martin
Kristen L. McCormack
Stephen L. McCormack
Carl E. Mutters
Virginia Weimar Mutters
Laura Louise Nelson
Winer N. J. Nelson, Jr.
Jeffrey D. Oliver
Lloyd J. Palmer
Thelma W. Palmer
James B. Patterson
Gary M. Peterson
Trudy Huskamp Peterson
Barbara K. Rolph
David K. Rolph
Catherine E. Rymph
David G. Schaal
Jean S. Schaal
Naomi K. Schedl
Julie K. Scott
Scott Southwick
Clark M. Stanford
Carolyn K. Strandberg
Jeffrey E. Strandberg
Karen L. Strating
Sharon K. Tinker
Rhoda L. Vernon
Dale J. Villhauer
Jean E. Villhauer
Timothy G. Walsh
Victoria L. Walsh
Diana Hix Warner
Steven R. Warner
Fonda L. Weber
Lyle S. Weber II

10 Bindings
**New Staff: Katie Buehner**

Katie Buehner came to us from the University of Houston’s Music Library and was appointed Head of the Rita Benton Music Library in January 2014. Katie holds master’s degrees in Library Science and Musicology from the University of North Texas. She is also a member of the American Musicological Society (AMS), the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centers (IAML), and the Music Library Association (MLA).
New Staff: Carmelita Pickett

Carmelita Pickett began her position as Associate University Librarian at the Libraries in October, coming to us from Texas A & M University where she had been the director of collection development operations and acquisitions services since 2009. As an associate university librarian, Carmelita is an integral part of the Libraries’ administrative team and provides leadership to a group of subject specialists who represent every discipline at the University of Iowa. Carmelita is excited and humbled to be part of such a dynamic group of professionals. Looking towards the future, she states, “The focus of 21st century collections, spaces and services should be to meet the needs and wants of users rather than maintaining old systems and structures that inhibit the academic enterprise in its core mission: research, teaching, and learning.”
New Staff: Liz Kiscaden

Liz Kiscaden, a native of Rochester, Minnesota and a recent transplant from Forest City, Iowa, joined us in April as the Head of Hardin Library Services. Liz is thrilled to be part of a health sciences library again where librarians have an important role in supporting evidence-based practice. When she's not at work, you might find her yurt-to-yurt cross-country skiing in the Boundary Waters, dog-sledding, taking a self-guided bike tour overseas, or practicing her woodwork and filling her house with wonky side-tables and crooked footstools.
Friends (con’t)

Joy C. Steele
Oliver L. Steele
Gary E. Steeles
Judith K. Steeles
Glen T. Steffensmeier
Meridee J. Steffensmeier
John G. Steiert
Paula S. Steiert
Denae Steine
Hans E. Steine
Beth Holden Stence
Daniel R. Stence
Dorothy A. Stewart
Duncan R. Stewart
Rachel A. Stewart
Robert M. Stewart
Sharon L. Stewart
Stephen P. Stewart
Suzan L. Stewart
Charlotte Hill Stickler
Robert B. Stickler
James M. Stiles
Virginia K. Stitt
Jeanne M. Stoukes
Clifford D. Stoutner
Deanna K. Stoutner
Cindy A. Strand
Mel Strand
Donna Jean Stransky
Frank W. Stransky
Faye Hyde Strayer
Gordon B. Strayer
Ann M. Stromquist
Shel Stromquist
Joyce P. Summerswill
W. Richard Summerswill
Florence M. Swanson
Martin E. Swanson
Mrs. Joseph Szertics
Joseph Szertics
Katherine H. Tachau
Winona M. Tanaka
Martha G. Taylor
Judson R. Te Paske
Susan Carew Te Paske
Jeanette Thelen
David C. Thies
Kathy M. Thies
James E. Thomas
Margaret A. Thomas
Tim A. Thomas
Linda A. Thompson
Van C. Thompson
Maggie Tinsman
Wallace J. Tomasini
Mary Fran Tracy
Andrea L. Travillian
Marc A. Travillian
Gayle A. Travis-Kenze
David L. Triplett
Mary Ann Triplett
Marjorie L. Trump
Walter N. Trump
Cheng-Hsiu Tung
Yueh-Hwa Tung
Kent C. Turner
Sarah A. Turner
Deborah A. Tyler
Robin Unger
Steven R. Unger
Robert C. Vancura
Sara J. Vancura
Margaret Gustad
Vande Kamp
Norman E. Vande Kamp
Jerry S. Vidalis
John P. Viner
Teresa A. Viner
Carolyn K. Vipond
William R. Vipond
Kathleen J. Volz
Joan M. Vanderhaar
Michael J. Vanderhaar
Brian N. Vonk
Mary Vonk
Sarah M. Voss
Zachary S. Voss
Margaret Lidjedahl Wagner
Virgil D. Wagner
Jonathan R. Wait
Laura K. Wait
Alice D. Waite
Daniel E. Waite
Elizabeth M. Waldor
Joseph A. Waldor
Gary W. Walker
Tamara E. Walker
Joel A. Walker
Mary E. Walter
Christine H. Walters
James P. Walters
Paul J. Ward
Jeffrey B. Warner
Michelle E. Warner
Helene M. Washington
David H. Weinglass
Kristine Jensen Weis
Robert F. Weis
Eunice Hanlin Welsh
Robert L. Welsh
Cynthia T. Weresch
William H. Weresch
Jan Westerner-Beatty
James W. White
Polly White
Jean A. Whiting
Helen Y. Widmer
Cynthia J. Williams
Patricia M. Williams
Alex W. Willingham
Johnnie S. Willis, Jr.
Sue A. Willis
Lance W. Wilshusen
D. Freda Wilson
James M. Wilson
John B. Wilson, Jr.
Larry T. Wilson
Marc S. Wold
Amy N. Worthen
Thomas F. Worthen
Karl C. Wozniak
C. Larry Wright
Dale E. Wulf
Kim W. Yang
Sue S. Yang
Donald E. Young
Lawrence W. Zeringue
Ekhard E. Ziegler
Wendy K. Ziegler
Donald A. Zinn
Margaret M. Zinn
Frank J. Zlatnik
Gail Parson Zlatnik
Dennis W. Zuber
Elaine K. Zuber
Frederic J. Zucchero
Loretta C. Zucchero
Paula J. Zumaris
Philip A. Zumaris

New Staff: Marina Zhang

Our new Engineering and Informatics Librarian, Qianjin (Marina) Zhang, came to us in September from the University of Arizona, where she completed her Master of Arts degree in Information Resources and Library Science. While there, she received practical training, interned, and was especially excited to be able to combine information and library science with biology through the University of Arizona’s research direction in bioinformatics. Marina is originally from Nanjing, China, the capital of the Jiangsu province.

New Staff: Beth Stone

Beth Stone started out as a volunteer at the Libraries in 2008. Since then, she finished her MFA in Book Arts and worked as a student employee in Preservation and Conservation, helping to salvage flood-damaged items from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library and the African American Museum of Iowa. In July, Beth was hired as Project Conservator in Preservation and Conservation where she’ll be working to conserve and digitize the Keith/Albee Vaudeville Theater Collection.
Investment in large-scale digitization projects is not an uncommon pursuit for libraries. These large-scale digitization projects improve public access to research materials that would otherwise be inaccessible. The American Memory Project (memory.loc.gov), one of the earliest large-scale digitization projects developed by the National Digital Library Program of the Library of Congress, set an ambitious goal to make freely available millions of historical items to the public. The American Memory Project is now a common research tool accessible to the world. Following in this ambitious tradition, Google set out to digitize books, keeping with its mission “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.”

In 2007, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) entered into a cooperative agreement with Google to digitize distinctive collections across 12 national university libraries. The cost for each school to individually digitize its unique collections is prohibitive. Partnering with Google, this large-scale digitization project will allow the UI Libraries and other CIC members to preserve its print legacy collection. In 2015, Google will be working with the UI Libraries to scan selected titles from our collections. After scanning, books will be returned to the Libraries. The digital copies of these texts will be stored in HathiTrust Digital Library (www.hathitrust.org) where Iowans, students, and scholars will be able to access these digital texts 24/7 to support their research. The University of Iowa is a member of HathiTrust, signaling our continued commitment and investment in secure infrastructures and strategic planning required to preserve the cultural record.

How are collections from the University of Iowa identified for the Google Books project? The UI Libraries has sent Google a list of all its books published before 1923. Based on a review of the Libraries’ holdings information, Google identified public domain books they had not already scanned but wished to include in the Google Books project. Based on this, the Libraries estimates the project will take a year to complete. At this time the Libraries cannot disclose the exact number of books that will be processed for the Google Books project. Google has firm privacy policies and has made significant investments in developing its digitization process. Since the project’s inception, Google’s digitized corpus contains more than 25 million volumes. Google’s digitization process for scanning books is safe as evidenced by the participation of 40 libraries which include national libraries, CIC, and other research institutions.

The Google Books project has not been without controversy. In 2013, Google won an eight year-old lawsuit filed by the Authors Guild. This suit alleged that Google made digital copies of books for an online library without permission. The court ruled in favor of Google defending Google’s characterization of fair use.

As technology continues to influence research and scholarship, research libraries have to balance the care of legacy print collections while providing access to digital resources. Students and faculty expect reasonable and quick access to library resources. This balancing act requires exploring opportunities to participate in scalable large-scale digitization projects. The UI Libraries is excited to partner with Google to further showcase and support wider access to its collections.
Main Library Gallery
We are in the process of a much needed renovation of our exhibition space – a space constructed in 1951 and unchanged since that time. Over the next several months, the air handling, filtration, and lighting systems will be upgraded to museum environmental standards. For the first time we will be able to safely showcase our rare books, documents, photographs, artifacts and other items. Total cost of the project is estimated to be at $1.3 million which includes the renovation and the furnishings such as exhibit cases. The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust has generously contributed $500,000. This renovation will provide a dynamic and interactive exhibition space that will positively impact student success at the University and provide new opportunities for engaging the campus and the community.

If you would like to support this renovation, please contact Mary Rettig, UI Libraries' liaison for the UI Foundation, at mary-rettig@uiowa.edu or 319-335-3305/800-648-6973. You may also visit www.uifoundation.org/libraries.