Nursing Collections in the Iowa Women’s Archives

Kären Mason, Curator, Noun-Smith Iowa Women’s Archives

LEON, IOWA, NOV. 2, 1954

Dear Classmates: The R.R.[Round Robin] flew in this a.m. on election day, so I’ll drop a few lines and let it fly right out again.

The “Round Robin” was a packet of letters circulated among several friends who graduated from the University of Iowa School of Nursing in 1936. When the Round Robin “flew in” the recipient removed the letter she’d written a few months earlier, added a new letter, and sent the packet on its way. Lucille Ketchum Carter saved her round robin letters and in 1994 donated them to the Iowa Women’s Archives where they are among many collections that document the history of nurses and nursing education in Iowa.

Carter wrote to her former classmates about family life, the weather, and her husband’s campaigns for political office. She also reflected on her own career path. She worked for three years as a nurse but stopped, at her husband’s request, when she became pregnant, and she never held another job in her field. She did put her training to work, teaching Red Cross classes, forming a polio organization, and setting up a vaccination program in the county courthouse.

(Continued on page 9)
Much More than a Paycheck

Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian

When you were a student, did you work part-time in the Libraries? Each year, we hire hundreds of students to assist with a wide range of responsibilities throughout our twelve library facilities. As I write, we have 317 student employees on our payroll. They reshelve books and other materials, assist users with multi-media and computer equipment, staff service desks, help us order and process collections, and assist with directional and basic reference questions. These are only a few of the many ways student employees contribute to library services.

For many of our student employees, a part-time job in the Libraries offers more than a salary. Many find that working in the Libraries is invaluable to their course work. They learn to use library resources, they get to know their way around the stacks, and they get acquainted with library staff. As part of their job, many student employees need to learn how to use InfoHawk effectively in order, for example, to search online literature in a particular discipline. They also learn the important skill of distinguishing reliable sources from others less reliable. This knowledge helps them with their own course work and research. Graduate student employees have written theses and dissertations based on special collections they helped to organize. Had they not worked in the Libraries, they might never have known that these collections even existed.

It has been said that we live in “the age of information.” No matter what kind of work students choose when they finish their degrees, they will need information-searching skills to be effective and successful, to adapt to an ever-changing environment, and to grow with their profession. Recently I was thrilled to receive a note from an alumnus who had worked in the library when it was located in Macbride Hall in the late 1930s. He was a student assistant during his entire student career, and he credits the library not only with making it possible for him to afford college but also for the many lifelong skills he learned on the job. In this issue of Bindings, we share comments from some of our current student employees who offer similar observations.

While most of our student positions are supported by state funds, some are funded through the generosity of donors. I welcome the opportunity to talk with anyone interested in supporting a library student employee. What a wonderful way to help a student financially and, at the same time, offer them a special opportunity to develop critical lifelong learning skills. What a fine legacy, indeed!
Preservation 101

Nancy E. Kraft, Preservation Librarian

The critics have spoken—Preservation 101, a new statewide training program designed to help Iowans care for their collections, gets an enthusiastic “thumbs up.”

Sample participant comments: “I have learned so much—now to find time to improve the conditions in our archives!” “Little did I know I would use what I learned so immediately—I just got a job assisting with an exhibit.” “These sessions have helped me state my case to my boss to purchase much needed supplies.”

Preservation 101 almost did not materialize. Several years ago, I suggested to the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium (ICPC) board that they apply for Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) funding to develop a training program. The grant request was initially denied. After rewriting and further planning, culminating in a town meeting via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) in November 2002, the program was launched.

During the town meeting, participants indicated that a preservation training program was desperately needed. They wanted lots of training immediately, but were unable to travel very far and had little money.

No small challenge given ICPC’s limited budget. To reduce travel, lectures are conducted over the ICN to 18 sites around Iowa. Registration fees were kept low because Libraries experts donated their time. UI Preservation Department staff, Susan Hansen, Kristin Baum, Bu Wilson, and Gary Frost, provided much of the early training and are now a part of an expanded training team that I coordinate.

Participants attending the entire series will receive 18 hours of lecture and 15 hours of hands-on training. Topics range from identifying photographic processes to pest management to emergency planning. Participants learn techniques needed to repair books, use environmental monitoring instruments, flatten photographs, and clean textiles.

More than 150 Iowans have attended at least one class; more than 40 have taken the entire series. Whether paid staff or volunteers, they provide care for all types of collections, including books, photographs, manuscripts, textiles, and museum objects.

Like Oliver Twist who dared to ask for more, Preservation 101 participants have asked for more—more in depth, more hands-on, more topics! ICPC is requesting HRDP funds for Preservation 102.

The Preservation 101 series is sponsored by the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium (ICPC), a membership organization seeking to initiate, encourage, and enhance preservation and conservation activities by providing basic preservation education and training. Planning for the series was partially funded by the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa through the Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP). The Libraries is a member of ICPC and provides office space and limited administrative support for ICPC.
Last September, Emeritus Professor Himie Voxman celebrated his 91st birthday in Germany. One of the highlights of his trip was visiting Lübeck to sit in the church to which J.S. Bach had traveled to hear another famous composer and organist, Dietrich Buxtehude, play a recital. Staff in the Rita Benton Music Library know this because Voxman makes near-weekly visits to the library, and there’s a history lesson with every conversation, whether it’s about the University or a funny story about a librarian Voxman met on his many European travels. By the same token, it is next to impossible to talk about the history of the School of Music or the Rita Benton Music Library without talking about Professor Voxman. For more than 70 years, his life and career have been woven into the life and growth of both.

Voxman taught clarinet lessons to pay tuition while earning a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1933. The following year, while working on the M.A. in Psychology, Philip Greeley Clapp, director of the School of Music, convinced Professor Carl Seashore to split Voxman’s quarter-time assistantship in half to keep Voxman involved in the life of the music school. By 1939, Voxman was a member of the UI faculty. In 1954, he became Director of the School of Music, a post he held until his retirement in 1980. The building which houses the School of Music was named in his honor in 1995.

Voxman remembers the library’s music collection when it was housed in Schaeffer Hall, then in Eastlawn, and then its move to the current home in the music building. His reliance on librarians and library collections for his own research has made him, he says, a devoted library donor and supporter. In the 1960s, when Voxman began traveling to Europe in search of unknown, early examples of clarinet music, he would take a “shopping list” supplied by music librarian Rita Benton to search for scholarly resources not readily available in the States.

During these travels the value, as well as the necessity, of music librarians became more and more apparent to Professor Voxman. Rita Benton also supplied letters of introduction to music librarians at numerous European libraries, most of whom she knew personally through her work with the International Association of Music Librarians. Entrée to collections at the British Museum, the Paris Conservatoire, and collections in Germany, Italy, and Sweden, to name a few, allowed Voxman to meet and learn from music scholars such as A. Hyatt King and Claudio Sartori (“who smoked constantly and liked jazz”), and noted antiquarians Pierre Schneider and Otto Haas. When recounting these travels, Voxman also recalls the many staff members at these libraries who also offered a certain kind of entrée, but at a level that deepened his love of libraries and librarians even more.

These experiences underscored his understanding of the necessity to support libraries to his fullest abilities. His generosity has funded a graduate assistant position in the Music Library for several years, and his donations of printed music, microfilms, and photocopies of manuscripts and early printed editions of woodwind music easily number in the thousands. Asked why he thought it important for faculty to support the Libraries, Voxman said that faculty “must support the scholarship that’s going on.” He added that libraries need support because they buy music and recordings and support composers while at the same time filling a role that music stores can’t always fill, namely guiding the customer to the “right thing” in the form of research materials.

Professor Voxman remains a working musician and scholar who maintains a small teaching studio at his home and still practices on a regular basis. He is also still a devoted library user who can often be seen poring over a reference book or tracking down a piece of music in the stacks. His generous spirit, expressed over many years, assures that many of the scores taken off the shelf will have “Himie Voxman” stamped on the inside cover, an indication of their previous owner. In a recent conversation Professor Voxman said, “Libraries are like great monuments; they give us history.” Thanks to Voxman, the Rita Benton Music Library will continue to be a place where that history is preserved.

As a student library worker, I’ve not only become aware of the many resources available but I have also learned powerful ways of utilizing them. My own research has been greatly enhanced due to the skills I’ve acquired and developed through assisting patrons.

Steve Gliske
Rita Benton Music Library
math, physics, and music
The Power of Private Support
Deborah Dreusicke, Director of Development for the University of Iowa Libraries, University of Iowa Foundation

The University of Iowa Libraries can change students’ lives. And it can do so more effectively with help from alumni and friends who help the Libraries transform print and electronic resources into learning experiences and lasting skills.

The Libraries has been a campus and national leader in the creative use of technology to foster excellence in teaching and learning. Its most significant contributions have been focused around two major service centers: the Information Arcade® in the Main Library and the Information Commons in the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. The Libraries system seeks to continue its leadership in educational innovation.

As part of the UI’s Good. Better. Best. Iowa. comprehensive campaign, the Libraries will raise $3 million for library innovation to support teaching and research. This funding will help us establish an endowment to:

- Provide start-up support for the latest technological applications in the delivery of information resources to students;
- Offer graduate assistants opportunities to gain critical career development and training experience for academic and professional careers;
- Work closely with teaching faculty to design creative instructional programs in the effective use of information resources that complement the curriculum.

These objectives are part of the Libraries system’s overall $11.9 million goal for the comprehensive campaign in 2005. Such funding is essential to the Libraries’ continued excellence, especially in a time of shrinking state and University budgets. Private-support resources will help ensure that the Libraries remains a vital learning community for everyone who walks through its doors—into the Main Library or one of its 11 branch libraries.

UI students are library users and, in some cases, work-study staff. The Libraries employees with whom they collaborate understand just how vital private gifts are to the learning process. As librarians and information specialists, these employees do their best to provide Iowa’s students with exceptional research and educational opportunities—but they still need your help.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about how you can support UI students, faculty, and other Libraries users by contributing to the $3 million goal for innovation in teaching and research—or any other project or area within the Libraries system. I also would be glad to discuss the many ways in which you can make a gift this year.

By investing in the Libraries, you will be investing in Iowa’s future. With the right educational tools and experiences, UI students can go on to change their local and global communities. That is the true power of your private support.

Contributions

- Offer graduate assistants opportunities to gain critical career development and training experience for academic and professional careers;
- Work closely with teaching faculty to design creative instructional programs in the effective use of information resources that complement the curriculum.

These objectives are part of the Libraries system’s overall $11.9 million goal for the comprehensive campaign in 2005. Such funding is essential to the Libraries’ continued excellence, especially in a time of shrinking state and University budgets. Private-support resources will help ensure that the Libraries remains a vital learning community for everyone who walks through its doors—into the Main Library or one of its 11 branch libraries.

UI students are library users and, in some cases, work-study staff. The Libraries employees with whom they collaborate understand just how vital private gifts are to the learning process. As librarians and information specialists, these employees do their best to provide Iowa’s students with exceptional research and educational opportunities—but they still need your help.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about how you can support UI students, faculty, and other Libraries users by contributing to the $3 million goal for innovation in teaching and research—or any other project or area within the Libraries system. I also would be glad to discuss the many ways in which you can make a gift this year.

By investing in the Libraries, you will be investing in Iowa’s future. With the right educational tools and experiences, UI students can go on to change their local and global communities. That is the true power of your private support.
With this issue of *Bindings*, the Libraries celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the dedication of the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. There will be open houses and exhibitions throughout the calendar year to mark the occasion.

The Hardin Library serves the needs of the Colleges of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Staff members provide the usual wide array of library services and continue to pioneer the integration of new technologies for the delivery of information resources and scholarship.

The Hardin Library is home to the Information Commons, a facility that supports and delivers courseware development, classroom instruction, health-related research, and independent learning. It boasts several high-end multimedia development workstations, two networked 50-seat electronic classrooms, and information research workstations for searching health-related databases and the Internet. There is wireless Internet access throughout the building.

Also of special note is HardinMD, a locally produced website that provides easy access to comprehensive resource lists in health-related subjects. HardinMD is one of the most heavily used health-related web sites in the nation and earns accolades from both professional and consumer groups.

The Hardin Library has provided 30 years of leadership and service locally and nationally. We salute these efforts and honor the many staff members whose collective dedication, pride, and service, continue to enhance the Libraries’ reputation.

**HISTORY**

Today’s users of the Hardin Library take for granted the well-maintained and service-oriented facility that serves their information needs. Earlier users were not as fortunate. The earliest medical library was formed in 1882 with the construction of the old Medical Building. Shuffled from floor to floor, the collection was eventually lost when the building burned to the ground in 1901. For the next quarter century, the library went through numerous divisions, consolidations, and mergers. At various times it was housed in the Hall of Liberal Arts (now Schaeffer Hall), the old Medical Laboratories and Anatomy Building, and the Natural Sciences Building (now Macbride Hall). In 1927, it was shifted to the Medical Laboratories, where it flourished.

By the late 1960s, however, the collection had outgrown this home. Veteran faculty and staff can still remember the crowded, narrow stacks, low ceilings, and limited study space of the old Medical Library. Staff members had to transport books from floor to floor by means of a dumbwaiter, and the books relating to nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, and speech pathology and audiology were still separated from this collection, each of these disciplines having developed their own libraries over the years.

Along with expansion of the University Hospitals and Clinics and construction of the Dental Science Building, the Bowen Science Building, and the College of Nursing Building, the Hardin Library was part of an amazing building surge that took...
place on the west campus in the early 1970s. Its completion marked the first time that all University health sciences information resources were located in a single building—a building whose unique architecture continues to stimulate controversy.

Serving the needs of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Public Health as well as the University Hospitals and Clinics, the library and its resources have gained a well-earned reputation for service and dedication both on campus and nationally. At the time of its dedication as the “Health Sciences Library” (the name was changed to honor Dr. Robert Hardin in 1988 [see sidebar]), health science literature was almost exclusively print-on-paper and the computer revolution that would alter forever the way in which information is stored and delivered was hardly anticipated.

Changing with the times, the Hardin Library staff has not only taken advantage of the new technologies but has in many cases taken the lead, developing new methods of packaging and delivering information to UI students, staff, and faculty and beyond.

Working at Hardin Library has really helped me to learn a lot about researching. It has made me more familiar with the useful search engines at the University and has also taught me how to use them. My academic experience has been more pleasant because of my four years of working here.

**Kim Flickinger**
Hardin Library Circulation & Reserve Services
social work and psychology

Working at Hardin Library has improved my education. It has also been helpful to me as a nursing student because I know how to search using Ovid and InfoHawk and can locate a journal article or book quickly. I am aware of and am able to use the College of Nursing books on reserve.

**Leslie Urbain**
Hardin Library Circulation & Reserve Services
nursing

The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences is justly proud of its association with Dr. Robert C. Hardin (1913-1988) whose guidance was instrumental in establishing the UI Carver College of Medicine as one of the premier research institutions in the nation.

During his internship and residency at University Hospitals and Clinics he began pioneering research in the preservation and banking of blood that proved of vital importance during World War II. He served as commanding officer of Blood Banking in the USA European Theatre of Operations and was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work.

Following his return to the University in 1945, Dr. Hardin established a national reputation in the field of diabetes research and, in 1969, was elected president of the American Diabetes Association. He was appointed Dean of the College of Medicine in 1962 and put his administrative acumen to work reorganizing the medical curriculum and strengthening the role of the faculty within the college. Later, as Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. Hardin spearheaded the efforts that resulted in the expansion of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the funding and construction of the health sciences library that now bears his name.

After his retirement in 1983, Dr. Hardin remained active as an emeritus faculty member until his death in 1988. In the words of his longtime colleague Dr. Lewis E. January, “As it provides enlightenment to future generations of scholars, it is most fitting that this library bear the name of Robert C. Hardin—dedicated teacher, distinguished researcher, caring and effective physician, and truly great public servant in every sense.”
Recent Gifts and Acquisitions in Special Collections

Sid Huttner, Head, Special Collections

Almost every day some member of the Special Collections staff has an opportunity to share excitement about a book or manuscript or collection that has just arrived. We share the excitement with each other, we share it with readers working in our reading room, and we share it with faculty and staff whom we know will be equally (or even more) excited. Not infrequently one of the people with whom we’re working will say, “What a great job you have. Every day is like Christmas!” This isn’t entirely true; but it isn’t entirely wrong either.

There’s not space to illustrate all of the new acquisitions noted in this issue of Bindings but browse our web pages at http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/gifts/intro2003.htm. You’ll find color images and longer discussions.

Among the wonderful things that have come in recently is an entirely unexpected gift from a person who found our digital database, Traveling Culture: Circuit Chautauqua in the Twentieth Century (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/iauhtml/) and sent a diary kept by Martha Stelzl, a young woman who performed with her parents and sister on the 1914 Britt Chautauqua circuit. All the Stelzls were born and musically trained in Germany, and in 1914 they lived in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. They played their first date in Havelock, Nebraska on July 4th, proceeded on to Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming, and points further north and west into Canada, returning to Mount Pleasant in early September. Martha wrote careful entries at each stop (“Cheyenne is a dandy town and I would like to live there. Everything seems up to date.”) and illustrated her journal with candid photographs, clipped bits of ads, and her own good-humored captions. Such carefully observed accounts of life on the circuits are few and far between, and those that survive are of immense scholarly interest.

Jack Leggett, former director of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, completed his full-scale, ten-years-in-the-writing book A Daring Young Man: A Biography of William Saroyan (New York: Knopf) in 2002 and shortly thereafter presented the Libraries with his research files. Leggett was denied permission to quote unpublished material, which makes his files all the more important to other researchers. The five-linear-foot collection also includes two of Saroyan’s original typescripts.

Among the members of the Special Collections “family” are the students in the Center for the Book, Art and Art History, and Art Education programs, and to support their work we go to some lengths to find examples of unusual processes by which books have been printed, illustrated, and bound. Consequently we were delighted to spot a group of “Mauchline” bindings and to acquire two examples (one with funds provided by the Friends of the Libraries, the other with funds provided by Charlotte M. Smith). As the bookseller from whom we obtained them explains, “Mauchline Ware originated in the Scottish town of Mauchline in the 1830s and was made by applying a transfer print of a wood engraving, sometimes a color design like a tartan or floral design, to a lacquered wooden object. By the 1860s, photographs were being applied, and at some point ferns were used as stencils to create three-dimensional designs. Mauchline Ware was especially popular in the manufacture of items sold to the tourist trade in Scotland, but was also sold in England and America, and reached a peak in popularity in the 1880s; the very last Mauchline Ware was made in the 1920s. Mauchline Ware book-bindings, snuff boxes, egg cups, letter openers, and thread dispensers were popular.” The book now in the collection is an edition of Wordworth’s Poems with photographs and ferns on both front and rear boards.

Another kind of thing we keep an eye out for is ephemeral material that enhances and enlarges the Libraries’ strong collection of popular culture materials for the period 1890-1940, a period during which live performance gave ground to movies and radio (and was further much dimin-
Carter’s letters flesh out the statistics in a 1961 survey of UI nursing alumnae compiled by Ruth Becker. Nearly 1,300 responded, and while a quarter had never worked in nursing, three in four had. Many of those who stopped working to raise children returned to work after their children were in school. Becker concluded that “The charge that money spent on higher education of women is largely wasted because they never practice their profession was proven wrong as far as nursing graduates of The State University of Iowa are concerned.”

To ready its Heritage Room for remodeling in 2003, the UI College of Nursing transferred historical records to the Iowa Women’s Archives. These records provide considerable information about the early history of the School of Nursing, the inauguration of the College of Nursing in 1949, and student life. The files of College of Nursing deans Myrtle “Kitch” Aydelotte and Geraldene Felton provide insight into nursing research and the academic discipline of nursing.

A broader history of nursing in Iowa can be gleaned from the considerable records of the Iowa Nurses Association, dating back to 1904, and other nursing organizations. Nursing practices from the early twentieth century are described in lecture notes taken by Mary Ungerer Hauth while she trained at the German Lutheran Hospital in Sioux City from 1910 to 1912. Some nurses educated in Iowa ventured far beyond the state’s borders. Martha Eimen’s papers include photographs that document her work and travel for the Public Health Service and the United Nations in Italy and the Middle East in the late 1940s. Persons interested in the history of nursing will find a wealth of information at the Iowa Women’s Archives.

I have worked at the library for three years, and I am glad to be welcomed back each year. Not only did I get to take an InfoHawk class, but I have also learned my way around the library inside and out. I am glad to help others when doing research or when they are looking for materials. I know that I too would be confused about what to do or where to go if I did not work here.

Amber Van Schindel
Special Collections Department management

My work at the archives exposes me to women’s personal situations from the 19th century to today and enables me to put my women’s studies education into a local and individual context. As a researcher I could come in and gain some of the same information, but working here allows me to indulge in more intensive research than I would have time for if I didn’t work in the archive.

Nickol M. Himschoot
Iowa Women’s Archives
women’s studies
Lexi-Drugs Platinum, ePocrates, Tarascon Pharmacopoeia Deluxe PDA, Clinical Pharmacology OnHand . . . the list of pharmacy programs for handheld computers goes on and on. Busy nurses, doctors, and pharmacists are improving your health care by finding dosing amounts, identifying generic alternatives, and reducing side effects—all on computers the size of cell phones. Easy, fast, reliable, and up-to-date—these are the keys to the popularity of PDA drug information resources.

Thanks to the Library Innovation, Service, and Entrepreneurship Fund, which was established in honor of former University Librarian Sheila D. Creth, librarians at the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences are collaborating with College of Pharmacy faculty on personal digital assistant (PDA) projects that will position the Libraries as a key player in the growing field of handheld computing.

Our PDAs are chock-full of drugs! Drug information, that is. Faculty, staff, and students can visit the Hardin Library to check out a Palm loaded with pharmacy software to use for three days in home, office, clinic, or dormitory. Adding PDAs to the already-popular wireless laptop and network card checkout program allows library patrons to explore new technologies.

The Libraries has a long history of leadership in educational technology with extensive programs supported by the Hardin Library Information Commons. Working with the nationally ranked Department of Otolaryngology, we have produced the Iowa Head & Neck Protocols Manual for Palm and PocketPC PDAs.

Building on this expertise, Denise Britigan, Reference and Education Librarian, has begun an exciting partnership in the Pharmacy Practice Labs (PPL), a six-semester course in the Pharm.D. curriculum. As a member of the PPL drug information team with College of Pharmacy faculty members Vern Duba, Lucinda Harms, and Jeffrey Reist, she has assisted in revising the PPL curriculum to incorporate handheld computing. Denise lectures and works in the practice labs with students, teaching information searching and evaluation skills with books, Internet websites, and PDA software. We deliver instruction at staff meetings, workshops, and continuing education programs and take PDAs to the faculty and staff.

Hope Barton, Assistant Director for Information Resources, worked with College of Pharmacy faculty to identify key drug programs for PDAs. Faculty in all the health colleges have asked us to buy pharmacy PDA software for use in clinical and educational settings. Unfortunately, the current budget climate prevents us from adding these highly desired resources to the Libraries’ collections.

Hardin Library PDA Drug Information Resources programs are a tremendous opportunity for librarians to take a leadership role in the introduction of PDAs in the curriculum of the College of Pharmacy and to model this role for the other health sciences colleges, the UI Hospitals and Clinics, and the university community. The projects have just begun, and we look forward to working with handheld computing initiatives in the coming year and beyond!
Libraries Receives Grant to Train New Librarians

The Libraries and the UI School of Library and Information Science have received a $392,347 grant that will help recruit and train a new generation of librarians. Shared with libraries at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska, the grant is one of 27 awarded nationally as part of a $10 million initiative from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in anticipation of a significant shortage of librarians in the twenty-first century. The grant will focus on the recruitment and education of university librarians serving the sciences and health sciences.

The grant provides an opportunity for the libraries to experiment with effective ways of recruiting students with baccalaureate or graduate degrees in scientific or technical disciplines to UI’s School of Library and Information Science to earn a master’s degree in library and information science. Concurrent with their course work, nine graduate students will be awarded assistantships at one of the three participating universities to work alongside experienced science and health science librarians. The project will draw from the knowledge and expertise of librarians as well as the unique environments at the three universities.

Celebrating 150 Years

“Our university is but in its infancy the present being the first Session of the University proper. We are wishing to collect a Library as fast as possible, and as this is the only one of your Const[?] which we have, can you not furnish us with the previous 5 volumes? If so please direct to Iowa City.”

This inquiry from the UI’s Office of Public Instruction went to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute on May 7, 1855. While it is unknown if these volumes were sent, approximately 50 books from the incoming University President, Amos Dean, then still in New York, did arrive in November of 1855. These were placed in a small room in the Mechanics’ Academy, and thus was started the University’s library.

In 2005, the Libraries will celebrate 150 years as the intellectual center of the University. We will be commemorating this occasion with special exhibitions and campus and community events. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of Bindings.

Exhibition

Four Decades of Hamady and The Perishable Press Limited
March–July 2004
North Lobby, Main Library
Open to the public without charge during regular building hours

Since 1964 when Walter Hamady published his first book, The Disillusioned Solipsist, The Perishable Press Limited has issued 128 books. These volumes have included the poetry of Hamady and some of his family as well as Paul Blackburn, Robert Creeley, W.S. Merwin, Diane Wakoski, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Michael Ondaatje. The books feature illustrations, fine bindings, handmade papers, maps, rubber stamps, UI Hospitals scrubs, fastening devices, and arguably the most enjoyable colophons in the private press world. Hamady says that his press’s name “reflects the human condition which is both perishable and limited.” The range of content and form in these Perishable volumes goes far beyond the limits of what might be expected in books. Readers and viewers can take delight in the multitude of directions to which Walter Hamady—conceiver, designer, papermaker, printer, writer, publisher, and marketer—takes us. This exhibition will feature Hamady’s books, ephemera, and examples of his “constructions.”

Share Your Memories

Do you have fond memories of working or studying in the University Libraries? Were you a student worker in the Reserve Library in the Old Armory; did you use the general collection in Macbride Hall; did you study in an old branch library? We would like to hear from you! Please send us your memories, by mail to Kelly Avant, Administrative Offices, 100 Main Library, Iowa City IA 52242 or e-mail lib-friends@uiowa.edu. View the history of the Libraries online at: www.lib.uiowa.edu/history
Student Employees at the Libraries

Since beginning work at the Psychology Library the summer after my sophomore year, I have increased my ability to do research fivefold. Unlike many other students, I do not limit my researching to what I can find available online in full text. Working here at the Psychology Library also gives me an opportunity to see other psychology students and faculty I might otherwise not be exposed to. Most importantly, I have a wealth of knowledge at my fingertips, and I know how to access and use much more than the average college undergrad.

Erin Scott Hesse
Psychology Library

I feel like the two and a half years I’ve spent working in the circulation department has really given me some advantages at the UI. For starters, I quickly became familiar with how the library works, things like using reserve, knowing how to get around InfoHawk, finding books by Library of Congress call numbers, etc. I also became familiar with a lot of faculty and staff (through their checking out books all the time), and have met several interesting people that I otherwise wouldn’t have gotten to know.

Dawn Frary
Main Library Circulation Services

Psychology and Marketing