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Bookmarks (fall/winter 2017)

Iowa State University Library

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Throughout Iowa State University’s history, the University Library has been central to the institution’s land-grant mission of creating, sharing and applying knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place for all.

Today, the University Library continues to serve Iowa State in carrying out this mission. At Parks Library, the Veterinary Medicine Library, the Design Reading Room and through our website, the University Library fulfills a vital role of providing access to extensive research collections, both physical and virtual. We honor a rich tradition of providing students and faculty with a beautiful place on central campus to study and conduct research. Most importantly, the University Library provides students with the formal information literacy and interactions that equip them with the skills essential to becoming critical thinkers in their careers and lives, and the information-literate citizens needed in our increasingly complex society and world.

As such, the University Library is key to Iowa State achieving the ambitious aspirations set for Forever True, For Iowa State, the university’s historic $1.1 billion fundraising campaign. Your support will enable the University Library to revitalize Parks Library to better meet the needs of students, faculty and library staff, now and for the future. We will be able to make prioritized decisions – from our physical and digital collections, to Special Collections and University Archives – needed to serve our users here on campus and around the world.

We will expand the library’s reach across campus, working with academic departments more seamlessly and effectively to support students’ education, as well as faculty scholarship and research needs. And we will better serve and be a valuable partner for citizens and libraries across the state.

Among the Iowa State University Library’s greatest strengths is that students, faculty, alumni and Iowans believe in us as a trusted resource always able to meet their needs. We have never been more dedicated to this mission than we are today – and never more confident that we will continue to serve our users wherever they are, with your support through Forever True, For Iowa State.

Sincerely,

Beth McNeil
Dean of Library Services and Professor, University Library
Iowa State University is strong today because, for generations, we have revitalized our mission and rededicated ourselves to applying it to the challenges faced by our society and the world. To ensure Iowa State University is prepared to fulfill its indispensable role in meeting the challenges our world faces, the Forever True, For Iowa State campaign seeks to further three strategic aspirations:

Aspiration 1:
Ensure access to an exceptional education offering practical, global and leadership experiences that shape the well-rounded citizens and informed critical thinkers needed in the 21st century

Aspiration 2:
Advance Iowa State as a world leader in addressing global challenges affecting our food, water, energy, health, security and environment

Aspiration 3:
Accelerate Iowa State’s contributions to the social good by extending its expertise, knowledge and values to improve quality of life within our state and the world

During Forever True, For Iowa State, we have an enormous opportunity – and great responsibility – to ensure the University Library is equipped to serve students, faculty, staff and Iowans both now and well into the future. We have developed strategies to revitalize its spaces, increase opportunities for group collaboration and individual research, expand its prestigious collections, and broaden the capabilities of the library faculty and staff.
Transforming University Library study, research and collection spaces

For generations, Parks Library has been Iowa State students’ “third space” on campus. Beyond home and classroom, Parks Library is where students at all levels and of all majors gather – to study and do research, collaborate on class projects, meet with tutors, get together in extracurricular groups and seek assistance with technology and with scholarly resources. As one of the only buildings on campus serving all 36,000-plus students – with an average of 11,000 users per day – Parks has never been busier.

Faculty, as well, benefit from having spaces for scholarship in the library. As academic research becomes more interdisciplinary, the library is the perfect place to bring burgeoning conversations across fields and expertise.

Since collaboration and teamwork is becoming ever more central to education and research, it is essential for the library to provide an invigorating environment that fully addresses these developments. For Parks Library to continue to be the place that students gather to meet their curricular and information needs, we must revitalize the building to accommodate the new ways it will be used, and to be flexible with these spaces as needs evolve.

As users increasingly access publications such as books, magazines and journals digitally instead of in print, the University Library must plan now to reconfigure space for Special Collections and University Archives, where we anticipate the primary growth in print collections, to house unique collections and archives that are important historically and for scholarship.

Plans for Parks Library include:

- transforming spaces for study, research, learning and collaboration
- creating flexible user-defined and high-tech spaces throughout Parks
- creating visible value-added customer services, along with consolidated points of service, throughout the library
- providing additional space for Special Collections and University Archives scholarship

Other facilities projects involve renovating the Veterinary Medicine Library in conjunction with the College of Veterinary Medicine renovation, and re-envisioning the Design Reading Room along with the College of Design renovation.
Truly Accessible

The hand-written and illustrated journals of Iowa ornithologists such as Philip A. Dumont and Frederic Leopold – brother to Aldo – are poised to take flight, so to speak, with funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

The 2016 Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives Award, a program of CLIR, which is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, provided $188,825 for the ISU Library to establish the Avian Archives of Iowa Online (avIAn), a portal for digital Iowa ornithological primary sources from 1895 to 2012. Once avIAn is completed, approximately 13,600 documents, more than 2,000 images, 14 field journals and seven audiovisual recordings will be freely accessible online.

“The staff at the University Library are passionate about helping students and faculty succeed,” says Kimberly Anderson, digital initiatives archivist. “We also live and breathe Iowa State’s land-grant mission. This project is a blend of the two – it helps us share the library experience beyond the library walls, and it transforms the materials to enable their use by new audiences.”

Truly Vital

The Iowa State University Library is a vibrant and busy place, in both its physical and virtual spaces. With approximately 2,500 seats in Parks Library, students come to study, do research, collaborate or relax. It’s no wonder Parks recently recorded its highest use in one day: more than 16,000 visitors!

The University Library holds more than 2.9 million print titles, a collection that grows every year. Yet the University Library is more than its physical space. The library provides 24/7 access to information online – e-books and journals for our students and faculty, as well as worldwide access to the research and publications of Iowa State faculty through the Digital Repository.

A True Blast From the Past

In 2016, the Iowa State University Library completed a six-year project to digitize the entire run of the campus yearbook, the Bomb. Consisting of more 45,000 pages and a century of memories, the Bomb documents the bulk of Iowa State’s history, from 1893 through 1994.

Unfortunately, the digital versions are not easily searchable. Over the years, the volumes have employed varied fonts, graphic elements and other aspects of the yearbook’s design that do not translate well to automated transcription processes.

Enter loyal Cyclones and members of the public. In the library’s “Transcribe the Bomb” project, anyone with computer access – Iowa State fans, alumni, employees and even those with no Iowa State affiliation at all – can transcribe as few or as many pages as they desire.

In just the first two days after the project’s launch, nearly 1,000 pages were transcribed. Once completed, Cyclones will be able to find themselves, their families and friends, moments in time, and documentation of world events in the pages of the Bomb online.
Expanding University Library collections and resources

With its extensive collections, resources and services – both physical and virtual – the University Library is central to Iowa State’s standing as a premier public research university. A vibrant, leading-edge library can be an especially powerful tool in attracting faculty and graduate students to Iowa State, and in elevating the university’s reputation far beyond campus borders.

Much of the Library’s work is related to scholarly communication, the means by which faculty and scholars make their work available and study the works of other scholars to advance their own research, often through journal literature.

Many of the materials now obtained by the library are in electronic form, such as e-books and e-journals. The fact that journal costs continue to rise, whether paper or electronic, is part of the crisis in scholarly communication that libraries will continue to grapple with for the foreseeable future.

Through Forever True, For Iowa State, we seek to establish an endowment to grow our research collections and resources – including documenting and preserving Iowa State’s unique collections available electronically. By expanding our digital collections, more Iowa State University history can be shared with the world.
“As a student of history at an agricultural and engineering university, it’s easy to feel overlooked. The library is the great antidote to that. Dr. Ed Goedeken, my liaison librarian has recommended sources for my thesis and dissertation research and emails whenever something new comes out that’s right up my alley. The Interlibrary Loan staff’s specialty seems to be obtaining for me some of the most obscure yet subject-specific articles in the field. The library is the great leveler, the great appreciator of what everyone brings and how we can all lift each other up.”

—Michael Belding, doctoral student in history at Iowa State
Extending University Library expertise

As many as 15,000 users visit Parks Library on an average semester day and rely upon the assistance of librarians and staff, who have the expertise and skills necessary to facilitate learning, teaching, research and outreach. Library faculty and staff are a tremendous resource that, together with our physical facilities and collections, truly comprise Iowa State’s scholarly commons. Accordingly, we must ensure that we have highly skilled professionals at all levels of the University Library so we are best prepared to support students, faculty and other users in their endeavors.

Critical to the library is its workforce of more than 120 student employees – without whom the library could not open its doors. Students interact with and learn from librarians and staff, and are immersed in stimulating positions that support the enhancement of educational experiences at Iowa State. As one of the largest student employers on campus, the library not only facilitates improved knowledge among student assistants, it provides critical financial support for their educational expenses.

During Forever True, For Iowa State, we seek support for faculty, staff and student enrichment through:

- Endowed library faculty positions, including the dean and the heads of Special Collections and University Archives, the Preservation Department, and Instructional Programs.
- Student assistant scholarships, and internships in departments such as preservation, special collections and university archives, for students who seek a challenging experience in an information-centered environment.
- Support for post-doctoral researchers to provide expertise and coordinate efforts, such as the Council on Library and Information Resources’ Digital Preservation Research Fellows to provide expertise and coordinate efforts to develop a digital preservation program at Iowa State.
Information Literacy for Lifelong Learners

Expert librarians and staff provide an array of services both in the library facilities and all around campus.

The demand for library expertise and services is ever-increasing in a society where the constant creation of research, data and new information, precipitates a need to make it available and cataloged so it can be discovered.

The University Library instruction program is well established, over 125 years old, and continues to provide students with the knowledge they need to discover and access information, cite sources and use effective search techniques. Last year, 14 librarians taught 103 sections of Library 160 and 7,807 students completed the course. Consistently, over 96% of students pass the course, which is required for graduation.

Each year, library staff conduct tours of Parks Library, a vast building of over 325,000 square feet, with over 2.9 million books. In 2016, 1,389 tours were conducted.

Our experts also conducted dozens of workshops and orientation sessions for 928 attendees.

Far left: Charles Yier, Liaison Librarian for Greenlee School of Journalism, and Su Jung Kim, Asst. Professor, Journalism.
Below: Erin Thomas, Liaison Librarian for Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering.
Enhancing University Library services

A fitting byword for describing the 21st century library is “ever-changing.” It is because the world in which we live - and in which the students educated at Iowa State will participate - is itself changing by leaps and bounds. Indeed, students’ ability to access information in its ever-expanding forms is especially important to their ability to contribute to society. On the faculty and graduate student side, new resources and tools in the research environment are shifting the markers for leading-edge scholarship and breakthroughs.

The Library is poised to support the ever-changing scholarly communication needs of our students and faculty. Through the Forever True campaign, the University Library envisions expanding several of our services to best anticipate these needs:

- Provide a technology “sandbox” where students can experiment with new software and hardware in a non-discipline-specific setting, led by other student experts
- Implement open access initiatives and assist faculty with their data storage needs
- Further faculty success in digital scholarship, an area of growing importance to the academy and to Iowa State faculty and scholars
- Re-envision the liaison librarian program, increasing librarians’ ability to devote more time to user engagement, such as:
  - Help students develop research skills over the course of their academic careers
  - Work with faculty and graduate students on information management such as citation management and productivity tools, managing alerts and feeds, and personal archiving
  - Collaborate with academic departments to integrate information literacy into courses

Forever Preserved

With a professionally certified conservator, talented staff and specialized equipment, the Library’s preservation department supports the educational and research endeavors of the Iowa State University community, as well as scholars worldwide, by preserving and providing care for the Library’s collections to ensure the future availability of current and historic research materials. Through outreach and consulting efforts, and an internationally recognized conservation internship, the preservation department supports the land-grant mission to connect its practice and research to the needs of the citizens of Iowa and the cultural heritage profession.
A True Repository

Researchers all over the globe tap into the wealth of free and open information housed in the Iowa State University Digital Repository. Established in 2012, it has grown to be one of the largest repositories in the world, with 11.8 million items downloaded. The 70,750-plus items in the repository cover a wide range of research areas. Faculty, students and staff from all colleges on the Iowa State campus have contributed items. Researchers in more than 230 countries have downloaded scholarship from DR@ISU.

Providing access to research is important – especially when funding comes from federal sources – and institutional repositories are more and more prevalent. The repository provides critical support to Iowa State’s research mission by ensuring ISU researchers’ findings are widely shared and accessible, thereby maximizing their potential for impact.

Top Downloads by Country

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DR downloads this year: 11,817,819
Papers deposited since 2012: 70,750

700th Faculty Participant

English Professor Debra Marquart was eager to participate in the Digital Repository when she learned that the platform could assist her in making many of her print-only publications available electronically. Digital Repository Specialist Hope Craft (right) recently met with Professor Marquart (left) to thank her and acknowledge her participation as the 700th faculty member to deposit materials. Professor Marquart initially deposited 45-50 pieces of her poetry and nonfiction work.

“We are so fortunate here at ISU that we have this wonderful library, but so many people around the country and the world have less access to big libraries,” Marquart said. “So the DR movement democratizes the distribution of ideas.”

September marked another milestone for the Digital Repository. Mary Ellen Muckenhirn’s 1960 article “Memo to suitcase stuffers” was the 70,000th item posted. The article was printed in The Iowa Homemaker, published from 1921-61 by ISU Home Economics students.

The repository continues to grow, with approximately 13,000 items deposited each year. Researchers all over the world have downloaded scholarship, which is available in most any discipline.
Coming events

Nov. 28, 2017, Giving Tuesday is a worldwide day of giving, and a great opportunity to remember your Iowa State University Library with charitable donations. Follow #GivingTuesday and participate in this social media-driven effort.

Jan. 17, 2018, “Do[ing] their bit:” Iowa’s Role in the Great War, an exhibition on World War I, opens in Special Collections and University Archives. A reception is planned and Dean Beth McNeil will welcome guests at 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, the University Library will co-sponsor Race and Justice in America, a talk by Bryan Stevenson, the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of Just Mercy, his memoir. The 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Series Keynote.

March 28, at 8 p.m. in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, the University Library will co-sponsor a talk by Winona LaDuke, founder and Co-Director of Honor the Earth. LaDuke is dedicated to protecting the land and way of life in Native communities.

From the Development Director

October marked a full year since I began my position fundraising for the University Library, and I’ve enjoyed my time immensely thus far. There are a lot of exciting things happening at the library, and more planned, which keeps me on my toes and gives me plenty to talk about.

The library faculty and staff are tremendous to work with and I am grateful for the opportunity to engage with people who are dedicated to the success of ISU students. I’ve had the opportunity to meet with alumni and friends of Iowa State all over the country and thank them for their generous support of the library, and I’m looking forward to visiting with more in the coming year. Donors continue to play an integral role in helping the library provide the ISU community with the resources and services they need.

The Thread™ technology added to the historic Reading Room (provides power outlets to tables) is an excellent example of a need expressed by students, and the library staff working to solve the problem. It wouldn’t have been possible without donor support.

Giving to the University Library is truly impactful due to the large portion of students and faculty we serve daily, both in the physical building and through online access to materials and collections. I personally enjoy exploring the digital collections, and seeing people all over the world download materials from the digital repository.

Whether it’s through monetary donations, time, or advocacy, supporters of the Iowa State University Library make what we do possible. Thank you for helping us advance the land-grant mission of Iowa State University.

Sincerely,

Christine Laumer
Assistant Director of Development-University Library
Iowa State University Foundation.
For additional information, contact Christine Laumer at 515-294-4462 or claumer@foundation.iastate.edu.

Be Forever True
As our world grows in complexity and information proliferates, the University Library is more important than ever. The Library is a gateway to all of the world’s knowledge, whether in print or electronic format, and meets the information resources needs of Iowa State University students, faculty and staff. Through the University Library, Iowa State students learn to access, evaluate and use information effectively, a skill set that serves them well as students and in the future for their lives, careers and communities.

- Beth McNeil

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