Spring 2017

Bookmarks (spring/summer 2017)

Iowa State University Library

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Welcome to the spring/summer Bookmarks. Much has happened in recent months, and I’m excited to let you know what lies ahead for the University Library.

In the last couple of Bookmarks issues, we’ve provided you updates on the comprehensive space feasibility study underway with the Perkins + Will architecture firm. The study is now complete, and we’re inspired by the possibilities.

In the last year, 2,304,477 people visited Parks Library and 14,828 on one day in April. Library users expect different things from an academic library than they did in 1983 when the latest addition to now Parks Library was complete. To meet today’s learning and research needs, we must provide enhanced technology and more varied spaces, while respecting the historic part of the building and its amenities.

The feasibility study report outlines in great detail what’s possible with our project goals and details six building phases.

Planning is underway for Phase 1, a project to renovate 57-year-old restrooms on all floors of the building. This initial (and important) piece should be completed by the fall of 2018. Phase 2 will address the significant mechanical and HVAC issues in Parks Library. This will enable us to move forward with phases 3-6 while adding square footage for additional student amenities.

Phases 3-6 include adding a second-floor commons that increases student space for individual and group study, a third-floor reading area, fourth-floor renovation and the addition of much needed collection storage to Special Collections and University Archives.

This is a long-term project that will require some stamina and patience. In the end ISU will have a revitalized library facility. Watch for updates in upcoming issues of Bookmarks.

This Bookmarks introduces you to some new faces and includes updates on librarian and library staff professional activities (p. 8).

Librarian Dawn Mick takes you on a trip with a-day in-the-life-of an interlibrary loan item (p. 4). Digital Initiatives Archivist Kim Anderson gives you a front-row seat in creation of our new Extension and Outreach page (p. 6). Did you know ISU Extension predates the national Extension movement?

The University Library has provided excellent collections and services for over 100 years, and we continue to focus on the unique things we bring to campus. Thank you for your support, and I welcome your thoughts and feedback. I hope you enjoy this spring/summer Bookmarks.

Sincerely,

Beth McNeil
Dean of Library Services
Curtis Brundy joins the library administrative team

Curtis Brundy joined the Iowa State University Library as the Associate University Librarian (AUL) for Scholarly Communication and Collections.

Prior to joining ISU, Brundy served as the college librarian and director of the the Vogel Library at Wartburg College, Waverly. Brundy was the learning resource center director at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff, from 2011-13; and reference and technology librarian at the Reinnert-Alumni Memorial Library at Creighton University in Omaha, from 2009-11.

In his new AUL position at Iowa State, Brundy will shape and direct the work of the Collections & Technical Services Division, which includes the collections program, electronic resources, metadata & cataloging and resource sharing & acquisitions management. In addition, he will lead scholarly communication efforts for the Library.

Brundy is a doctoral candidate in Education Leadership and Higher Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned his Master of Library Science from the University of North Texas, Denton and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Student, library assistant, engineer

Ricardo Camargo-Lemus graduated from Iowa State University in the fall of 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering. Ricardo was a student assistant at Parks Library and worked in a variety of areas including at the Library Storage Building where he fulfilled special requests from around the world.

He conducted research and fixed citations to provide patrons with correct articles. Ricardo helped relocate parts of the general collection books in order to improve the overall organization, a benefit for all users.

Ricardo decided to come to Ames from his hometown in Moroleon, Guanajuato, Mexico, for a variety of reasons. “Iowa State is home to a beautiful campus, great sports spirit, and a very competitive aerospace engineering program,” according to Camargo-Lemus.

While at Iowa State, Ricardo attended engineering conferences around the U.S., and he represented Iowa State in many tournaments including a National Collegiate Tournament in Tae Kwon Do. Ricardo was active in many Iowa State clubs: Cyclone Martial Arts Club, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Latinos in Science and Engineering, Mexican American Young Achievers Society, and Cyclone Business Jet.

As part of a two-semester course, Ricardo’s senior project required each of six teams to plan, design, manufacture and test a radio-controlled transonic model aircraft. When tested at a local airfield, the model made by Ricardo and his group was one of two planes to successfully fly.

Dean of Library Services Beth McNeil and Ricardo Camargo-Lemus (2016) with his model aircraft.
Readers have long been aware that books can transport you to another time and place without leaving the comfort of home. But what if the book you want to read is located halfway around the world? While the Internet has made so much available at our fingertips, not everything is online nor are all digitized items freely available; they may require payment or membership or be buried so deep in a list of search results that they can’t be found. That’s where Interlibrary Loan comes to the rescue.

The Interlibrary Loan department (also known as Resource Sharing) serves both Iowa State community members and libraries around the world by obtaining and sending items, physically and electronically, to users wherever they are located. This quick and easy service can put a copy of the world’s first magazine (Erbauliche Monaths-Unterredungen, published in 1663) into a library user’s inbox, or send volumes of Nelson Information’s Directory of Investment Research to the other side of the world (Singapore). The Resource Sharing staff work with a variety of national and international libraries to provide resources and to borrow them, so that no one library has to collect every item ever published to meet their users’ one-time needs.

Interlibrary Loan service is available to anyone with an active Iowa State University Library card for little to no cost. The library covers shipping and borrowing costs to support the University’s research needs and, sometimes, just the desire to read a good book. Users generally receive articles within 24 hours and books within 5-7 business days. Complicated requests take more time, but we are proud of the fact that Interlibrary Loan consistently fulfills 90% of our borrowers’ needs. While U.S. libraries meet the bulk of requests, Resource Sharing staff will gladly go beyond our borders to get what our users need. A few examples include a thesis about the cell wall structure of woody dicotyledons from the National Library of Japan, the 1931 Paris colonial exposition from the British Library, and a list of Scottish Episcopal Clergy from the National Library of Australia. In 2016 alone, out of the 10,543 requests fulfilled, we borrowed 154 items from 35 international libraries.

But we don’t just borrow. Our rich and diverse Iowa State collection has fulfilled the needs of researchers from Toronto to China. Some of the more unique items lent to international libraries include an article from the 1890 Annals and Magazine of Natural History.
2016

22,938 items loaned to other libraries

303 items loaned to international libraries

10,543 requests fulfilled

154 items borrowed from 35 international libraries

Users generally receive articles within 24 hours (fastest article delivery time on record: 12 minutes)

Users generally receive books within 5-7 business days

History, The Astronaut’s Cookbook, Immigration and asylum: From 1900 to the present, and the Concrete Way journal. The South Korean Ministry of Education, Denmark’s State and University Library, University of Haifa (Israel), and El Colegio de México, respectively, borrowed these items from Iowa State on behalf of their users. In 2016, the Resource Sharing staff lent 22,938 items to other libraries, lending 303 of those to 65 international libraries. Closer to home, we’ve provided resources to NASA’s Ames Research Center, the National Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the FBI Academy, and several state and federal entities.

By acquiring resources to serve the Iowa State community, the University Library fulfills the needs of our researchers, while supporting the research and information needs of users around the world.

Collaborating with national and international libraries is just one of many ways that the University Library supports Iowa State’s mission to “create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.”
By Kim Anderson  
Digital Initiatives Archivist

A New Way to Browse: Building a County-based Extension and Outreach Portal to Digital Collections

Sioux County farmers and Iowa State University (then called the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts) cooperated on seed corn improvement 114 years ago, thereby establishing the “extension idea” that would later be enacted nationwide through the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. Building from the success of the experiment with Sioux County and Perry Holden’s Extension Service work (established in 1906), Iowa State University and Iowa counties began formally organizing for Extension partnerships in 1912. From 2012 to 2019, Extension will celebrate its centennial in all 99 counties. As the counties prepare for their centennials, they plan to draw on the university archives and digital collections to showcase some of their history. Jed Findlay, of the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Advancement Office, reached out to the library in January to see if we could help make it easier for Extension offices to find digital images related to their counties from the library’s digital collections.

Currently, the library offers over 200 images and documents from the Extension archives online via the library’s digital collections site and Flickr account. Additionally, over 3,700 open access Extension publications are available in the Digital Repository. In order to fulfill the need expressed by Extension and Outreach, we are building a new Web portal that will enable browsing by county. The project has three parts: 1) new Web content; 2) assign county locations to digital content whenever possible; and 3) merge the Flickr materials into the digital collections.

New Web Content

In 2014, the library secured a Silos and Smokestacks Intern grant to hire intern Hillary Hollinger who developed an online exhibit, “Reflections on ISU Extension,” on the history of Extension in the early part of the 20th century. A new space linking to the gamut of digitized Extension and Outreach content will supplement the exhibit. A new map of Iowa that will enable users to browse digital collections material by county features prominently in the design. Lori Bousson, Digital Initiatives Department staff member, built the map in ArcGIS that will be deployed in Drupal-based pages.

The Digital Repository lives in a separate system from the Digital Collections. We plan to manually link to the relevant Extension materials from the new portal.

County Location Terms

Typically, material in digital collections is described using standard terms; however, geographic locations are
Lori Bousson builds the county map in ArcGIS.

not usually used as a subject term unless the location is the subject of the material.

For example, the “Oat train at Waukon” photograph was described in terms of what it depicts – an educational train. For the portal, we are adding a location to digital materials pertaining to Iowa so that we can make sure these materials can be browsed by county. Waukon is in Allamakee County, so we added the county as a location term for this image. When someone clicks on Allamakee County on the map, this image will be one of the items returned for browsing.

Digital Initiatives Production Coordinator Lindsey Hillgartner reviewed over 11,000 digital items during the course of applying the location terms.

**Merger of Collections**

Historically, the Library has used Flickr as a quick way to provide online access to frequently requested archival materials. We now have a robust digital collections platform that is purpose-built for digital collections in libraries and which integrates with the library’s catalog. The request from Extension and Outreach to have downloadable content, organized by county, all in one place, provides us with an opportunity to test out this merger with a subset of materials.

The merger requires us to review materials for duplication, retrieve the master files for the digital materials, create small files for quick loading on the Web, and to match the metadata and descriptions for all the files. After those steps, we create new merged description spreadsheets, load the smaller files into the digital collections software, and ensure that the descriptions map to the files correctly. Finally, we check the public interface and generate search strings for each county that will be used behind-the-scenes in the browseable map on the portal page. The end goal is for users to have a seamless experience where they can click on a county and see relevant materials.
Publications:


Conference papers, posters & presentations:


Brenda Linares, Dracine Hodges and Harrison W. Inefuku. (2017, January). When things get real: Navigating a career in a research library or archive. Presentation at the ARL Leadership Symposium, Atlanta, GA.


Awards:


Digital Repository

Papers deposited 65,638
Downloads since the beginning:
- 2012: 231,528
- 2013: 750,939
- 2014: 1,576,533
- 2015: 2,755,512
- 2016: 3,627,595
- (to date) 2017: 1,734,667

Total to date: 10,676,774
Once upon a time in the library

Painted eyes of past Iowa State presidents watched and soft music played. On Jan. 14, 2017, Joel Lynch knelt before Cara Szymanski in the expanse of the Historic Reading Room at Parks Library and posed a simple question: “Will you marry me?”

Months before, Lynch started to take care of a few small details, like buying the ring and making the perfect yellow gown for his belle, Cara. That’s right. Lynch sewed the satin dress like Belle wears in Beauty and the Beast (Cara’s favorite), on a sewing machine he bought. Lynch stored the dress at his house and hid it from Cara.

Meticulous planning for the Beauty and the Beast-themed proposal continued as Lynch reached out to Kathy A. Parsons, space and stacks management department head, to make the admittedly uncommon appeal. “I was pleasantly surprised how accommodating the library could be in helping fulfill (what I imagine is) a rather unusual request,” he said. The room is an especially popular study place and always quiet.

A few library staff members were in on the secret and zealous in their efforts to make it happen. Lynch stopped by the library a few days in advance to check out the space and to make sure there would be a private place to stage the dress he’d crafted and a place for Cara to change.

Libraries are some of Szymanski’s favorite places. Not only would she like to be a librarian someday, on this particular day, it was Cara who wanted to go the library to look at some books. Getting her to Parks couldn’t have been any easier. As far as the proposal, Szymanski was overjoyed, but probably not surprised, with the obvious connection to Belle’s story.

“Joel planned well in advance and wanted his proposal to be special for Cara,” said Brenda Currier, space and stacks management night supervisor. “We wanted to help him keep the secret and allow for that personal moment to be memorable for both of them.”

Joel and Cara met at his best friend’s wedding. He was the best man, and she was a bridesmaid. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and works in Hudson. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Iowa State.

Cara loves books and the Periodical Room at Parks Library is now an important part of the beginning of their happily ever after. Cara and Joel plan to get married at the James J. Hill Reference Library in St. Paul, Minn.

By the way, she said yes.
Quiet, please.
(On the cover)
Students use the Historic Reading Room in Parks Library early 1940s (inset) and spring 2017. The Reading Room is a popular place for quiet study. Room decor and clothing styles have changed over the years, but it remains a recognizable space in the library and a topic of fond memories for members of the Iowa State community.

Take a break.
(Right)
Nothing says best study break ever like spending time with the dogs at Barks@Parks. Each day during Dead Week, certified therapy dogs visit with students at Parks Library. This event began as a test to see how many students would be interested and has grown to be extremely popular and well attended. The spring 2017 event was held in the Upper Rotunda to accommodate more students.

Get the message.
(Below)
Effective communication was the event topic at a Leadership Services workshop for students held in Room 198 in Parks Library. Participants sat back-to-back and tested their ability to give and receive directions by drawing an object based on verbal instruction. Business and email etiquette were also discussed.

Bookmobile visits campus.
(Below right)
The Ames Public Library Bookmobile comes to campus each Thursday. Visitors can check out, return and request items in advance. The Ames and ISU libraries have a longstanding collaborative relationship.

“This exciting partnership with Ames Public Library and the Bookmobile expands the reach of both our libraries,” said Dean of ISU Library Services Beth McNeil. “Students, faculty and staff now have convenient access to Ames Public Library popular materials in addition to the research collections of the University Library.”

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Coming events

Through 2017, Iowa State University Library Special Collections and University Archives exhibition “This movement for a more beautiful Iowa”: The Early Years of Iowa’s State Park System is open on the 4th floor of Parks Library.

Sept. 18, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, the University Library will co-sponsor a talk by Harriet A. Washington, author of Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present.

Oct. 12, at 8 p.m. in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, the University Library will co-sponsor It’s What I Do a talk by Lynsey Addario, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her photographs of an 18-year-old lab/shepherd mix; Lacy, a two-year-old schnauzer mix; and Lila, a nine-year-old rat terrier.

Development Director

Meet Christine Laumer, assistant director of development at the Iowa State University Foundation. Laumer dedicates her time to development efforts in the University Library. She is an ISU alum and has worked at the Foundation for several years in the Annual and Special Giving Unit. Christine joined the Library in September and is focused on getting to know staff and how the library work gets done.

“You can really feel the “pulse” of campus when you work in the Library,” Laumer said. “It’s the only building that regularly serves all students, and it has an energy that can’t be found anywhere else.”

Laumer is a 2013 graduate of the biological/pre-medical illustration program, which is co-administered by the Colleges of LAS and Design. On the second day of her freshman year, she began a position in the Phone Center at the ISU Foundation.

Laumer is passionate about Iowa State and is a firm believer in the land-grant mission. She is steadfast in her belief that everyone with a desire should have access to education. In her development work, Laumer is able to share her love of Iowa State and foster relationships with alumnae and others who have a similar admiration for the school, its mission and all the things that contribute to the Iowa State adventure.

In her spare time, Laumer reads, cooks and runs, and she is busy tending to the needs of her three dogs: Lambeau, a three-year-old lab/shepherd mix; Lacy, a two-year-old schnauzer mix; and Lila, a nine-year-old rat terrier.

As she travels to meet with donors, Laumer gets to hear a lot of stories. Each one is a chance to learn about the person telling it and to learn more about Iowa State. She sees an opportunity when people don’t know how they can impact a large institution like Iowa State.

“With so much happening and endless initiatives, projects, and research to support, a gift of any size truly does make a difference,” she said.

Laumer's top goals for 2017:
1. Learn as much as possible about the Library and the people who make it run
2. Meet with donors and friends of the Library to learn what drives their support of the Library
3. Share what she knows and has learned about the Library

“Working with the staff and faculty at the Library has been such a pleasure so far,” said Laumer. “I’m excited to continue doing so, as well as share their passion for their work with ISU alumni and friends.”

For additional information, contact Christine Laumer at 515-294-4462 or clauemer@foundation.iastate.edu.

[Note: Future Bookmarks will offer information about the ongoing Forever True, For Iowa State campaign. The goal for the library is $5.2 million and $2.76 has been raised so far thanks to all of our generous supporters. In the coming issues, we’ll share compelling library stories from current students and alumni.]

You generous supports our goal.

Our mission is to help students achieve academic success. Please consider making a donation via the Give button at lib.iastate.edu.

Contact us:
Email: bookmarks@iastate.edu Phone: 515-294-3642