

Fall 2014

Founders Type Newsletter, Issue No. 56

Friends of NIU Libraries

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Friends
of NIU
Libraries

Founders' Type



A Newsletter of the Northern Illinois University Libraries and Friends of NIU Libraries

Save the date for NIU's 2nd Annual Open Access Week Symposium



During the week of October 20-24, the University Libraries will present a series of lectures, panel discussions, and other events to celebrate International Open Access Week 2014. Now in its seventh year, International Open Access week highlights the advantages that Open Access can bring to scholarly publishing and research.

Open Access issues have come to the fore in Illinois since the passage in 2013 of the *Illinois Open Access to Research Articles Act*, which requires each public university in Illinois to develop a policy on open access to research articles. Specific provisions include methods to ensure that faculty employed by each institution supply an electronic version of the author's final manuscript upon

acceptance by a scholarly research journal, that the institution enable free online public access to final peer-reviewed manuscripts or published versions upon publication, and that methods to ensure long-term preservation and continued free public access to published research articles are put in place. In addition, more and more Federal agencies are requiring open access publication and open access to the data supporting research.

OA Week events will include presentations by Lynne M. Thomas, Curator of Rare Books & Special Collections, on "OA in a Nutshell," providing an overview of Open Access issues and practices. Tracy Miller, Online Teaching Coordinator from the Faculty Development & Instructional Design will present on incorporating open educational resources into instruction. Confirmed guest speakers include Lorraine Haricombe, Dean of Libraries at the University of Kansas and current Chair of the Steering Committee for SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), and Robert Schatz of Biomed Central, an online publisher of 265 peer-reviewed Open Access journals in the sciences, technology and medicine. Additional speakers and events are still being finalized and will be announced in the coming weeks through *NIU Today* and other venues.



For more information, please contact the co-chairs of the 2014 Open Access Planning Committee, Sharon L. Nelson (slnelson@niu.edu, 815-753-2021) or Karl Pettitt (kpettitt@niu.edu, 815-753-9495).





What Is Happening To Our Libraries?

When did you last spend time in the academic library that you are affiliated with? Since you were an undergraduate or graduate student, have you taken a seat in the library and observed the changes that have taken place?

I ask these questions to encourage you to reflect upon your current awareness of libraries, and the changes in publishing and distribution that have radically changed how current academic library users consume information.

A cursory look in an academic library will reveal the following: there are no more card catalogs; talking is acceptable, as is food and drink; there are computers for almost all library related transactions. Most academic libraries were built when the electrical demand in these buildings amounted to vacuum cleaners and electric typewriters. Now library users demand electricity and bandwidth. Personal information devices (mobile phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) have become the means of choice for retrieval of information by current library users. Libraries have rewired to provide power and internet access, and provided space for library users and their devices. This is how information is sought and retrieved by the 21st century library user in our 20th century library building.

I wish to alert you also to the existing limits of free information.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated the value of education and the need for access to information: "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy therefore is education." However, in the last twenty years, public funding for public education has eroded to the point that public education is almost an oxymoron. Education and access to information -- essential elements for democracy -- are becoming restricted to those that are economically privileged. For the purpose of this essay, I'm focusing on journal publications: a dwindling number still produced with ink and paper, the vast majority born and disseminated digitally.

Due to ongoing consolidation and privatization in the publishing industry, a few private, for-profit companies own the rights to the distribution of large swaths of information. The need to pay for access to information has limited the number of those able to gain access.

To illustrate, without using any proxy access, compose a Google Scholar search on a research topic. Click on a few academic sounding results and see how many you cannot access without running into a paywall. If you can pay -- or if you pay tuition to or are employed by an academic institution that can pay -- then you can have access to the information.

Defeats the noble concept of public education and free access to information don't you think? Rather un-democratic, at the least. Like education, if you can afford it, you can have access. I want to draw attention to two ways that are helping to keep the dissemination of information free and unrestricted and therefore democratic.

The first is the Open Access movement in scholarly publications. Information can be found (for free!) at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access or you can go to http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/hoap/Good_practices_for_university_open-access_policies for further information. The Faculty Senate for Northern Illinois University has passed a resolution in support of Open Access as well: http://www.niu.edu/u_council/reports/FS-Academic-Affairs/2013-2014/OA-resolution-FS-10-02-13.pdf While publishing in Open Access journals occasionally involves publication fees, the University Libraries maintains an Open Access Publishing fund (<http://www.ulib.niu.edu/find/OpenAccessPublishing.cfm>) to help scholars with these costs.

The second is to make scholarly information available by retaining your copyright and

depositing scholarly information in an open access institutional repository such as Huskie Commons: <http://commons.lib.niu.edu/>. The beauty of retaining copyright and using an institutional repository is that the author of a work may still publish in a for-profit "traditional" publishing source (for example an academic journal) and contribute to their tenure packet. The author can deposit that work (after the assigned embargo period required by many publishers so they can still make money off the work) into the institutional repository. This deposit makes their work publicly available, which advances education, research and discovery, contributing to an informed democratic society.

For further information on open access publication or Huskie Commons the NIU institutional repository contact your departmental library liaison, or the librarian affiliated with your department <http://www.ulib.niu.edu/aboutus/personnel-subj.cfm>

Please work to keep public education and access to information available to everyone, not just those who can pay.

Patrick J. Dawson
Dean, University Libraries

**2014-2015 Friends of NIU Libraries
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The Regional History Center Common Core Initiative for Students and Teachers

The Common Core is a collaborative initiative of educators and administrators that sets clear-cut goals for students to achieve by the end of their school year. Common Core standards align elementary and high school education to critical thinking skills, such as comparing multiple perspectives, determining the meaning of texts, and integrating data to make an analysis. These core standards are needed for success in college and future careers. While the standards are specific, they do not stipulate the materials necessary to support them. This gives educators and school districts creative license to choose the materials that would best support their students in acquiring the skills set by the Common Core.

Primary sources provide the building blocks for establishing essential thinking skills. It can be a challenge for teachers to find significant, appropriate primary sources for students in the classroom. The Regional History Center has a plethora of such materials. During the spring of 2014, the Center created lesson plans for teachers looking for primary source materials which have local significance and align with the Common Core standards.



The RHC offers materials spanning many eras throughout United States history. One of our lesson plans uses sources from shortly after the Civil War. This lesson entitled, *Life after War: Caring for Veterans*, begins by looking at present veterans' conditions and then asks whether or not this issue is new or has had historical precedent. Students then have the opportunity to examine source material from shortly after the Civil War to determine the conditions of veterans during that era. This lesson includes multiple primary sources such as diary entries, newspaper advertisements, and federal decrees from the Northern Illinois area to answer the essential question "Does a country have an obligation to care for its veterans after war?" This lesson teaches students to compare multiple perspectives concerning the same topic, a skill set by the Common Core.

Another lesson plan that the RHC offers is called *Student Protests at Northern Illinois University*. It features university records of student protest events that took place at NIU in May of 1970 after the shooting of four



students on the campus of Kent State University. This lesson plan begins with historical background information and then explores the events in detail with multiple primary source materials that include video and audio recordings, photographs, newspaper articles and transcripts of oral histories. The materials deliberately offer multiple points of view from the university administration, security staff, the community of DeKalb, and Northern Illinois students. This lesson plan is designed to correlate to the common core standard which helps students to determine central ideas of primary sources and to provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the texts.

Both of these lesson plans, as well as several others regarding such topics as censorship,

women's rights, immigration, fashion, and labor strikes, are accessible on the Regional History Center's web page listed under Teacher Resources at <http://libguides.niu.edu/content.php?pid=567586>. The library is in a perfect position to introduce students to the skills that are described in the Common Core. The Common Core initiative at the Regional History Center is not just for educators or for students of education but for students, faculty, and teachers in all of the disciplines who wish to have access to primary and secondary source materials to augment and encourage critical thinking skills.

Aimee Berkowsky
Janette Clay
Regional History Center Student Workers

Save These Dates for Friends Events!:

- Thursday, September 4, 2014, 4-6 pm. Annual Faculty & Staff Wine & Cheese Social. Rare Books and Special Collections, Founders Memorial Library, 4th floor. This is an invitation-only event.
- Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 7:30 pm. The Big Read: Panel on Fantasy Literature. Rare Books and Special Collections, Founders Memorial Library, 4th floor. Part of the DeKalb Library's Big Read Program. This event is free and open to the public!
- Thursday, October 23, 2014, 4:00 pm. Public Lecture/Talk and book signing with Kathy Reichs. Kathy is a forensic anthropologist, award-winning author, and a producer of TV series "Bones." Anthropology Museum Gala begins at 7:30. The lecture is free and open to the public. The museum gala is by registration only.

Explore the science behind your fiction with NIU's STEM Read

What would a shark, a lion, and a timber wolf say to each other if they met in group therapy? That's the premise of *Carnivores* by Aaron Reynolds, one of the honor books selected by NIU's STEM Read program this year.

If you're more of an herbivore, check out the STEM Read honor book *The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau. In this dystopian YA novel, the best and brightest teens have to pass a series of tests to attend the university. When they are told to check their answers to an edible plant quiz by eating the plants they believe are not poisonous, they realize that passing the Testing might be the only way to get out of school alive.

STEM Read uses popular books like these as a gateway to help readers explore the science behind the fiction. The program sponsors live events throughout the year and creates free online videos, games, collaborative writing prompts, art activities, and lesson plans that align with Illinois state learning standards. In the past year, STEM Read has engaged nearly 4,000 students, educators, and community members in their programs.

"Sci-fi books are the gateway drugs of the literary world," says Gillian King-Cargile, coordinator of the STEM Read. "They are flashy and fun and they immerse readers in an entirely new world. After book one, you're hooked and you have to binge read the rest of the series."

King-Cargile, who also coordinates Community Connections for NIU's Center for P-20 Engagement, works with youth librarians and other literary experts to find fun, engaging books that will spark curiosity in readers. The program has hosted live events with authors Cory Doctorow ("Little Brother"), Ilsa J. Bick ("Ashes"), Colleen Doran ("Orbiter"), Mike Mullin ("Ashfall"), Kat Falls ("Dark Life") and others.

With the help of the Friends of the NIU Libraries, STEM Read presented two popular on-campus events in the spring and summer. In April, STEM Read hosted "Maze Runner at NIU," a field trip event that brought over 200 middle and high school students to campus for a day of hands-on activities related to the novel *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. Dashner visited NIU during the event and also spent time at Founder's Memorial Library Staff Lounge for a casual breakfast with students, faculty, and staff. Dasher said the visit was the best educational event he had ever attended.

In June, STEM Read hosted a professional development dinner for thirty educators and librarians at Founder's Memorial Library Staff Lounge. The keynote speaker was Daniel H. Wilson, author of *Robocalypse*. Wilson visited NIU to attend an interdisciplinary summer camp for teens that was based on the science behind his book. Campers spent the week on campus programming LEGO robots with NIU's STEM Outreach, creating concept art for human-helping robots with SmartSpace@NIU, and writing short stories about how they would prevent a Robocalypse with STEM Read.

King-Cargile says that STEM Read is planning several author visits to NIU in the coming year. "We encourage all members of the NIU community to attend these events and see best-selling authors right here on campus. This is a great opportunity to learn about new and exciting books and to dig deeper into the STEM concepts behind them."

Up next, Aaron Reynolds will spend the day talking about *Carnivores* at STEMfest in NIU's Convocation Center on October 18. This year's other STEM Read honor books for young adults include *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells and *The Martian* by Andy Weir. Additional honor books for young readers include *Papa's Mechanical Fish* by Candace Fleming and *The One and Only Ivan*

by Katherine Applegate.

To learn more about the program and upcoming events, visit stemread.niu.edu or contact Gillian King-Cargile at gkingcargile@niu.edu.

Thank you to our Life Members (donating \$1000.00 or more)

Adra Baker-Gallagher
Paul & Jean Burtness
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Arthur & Pat Young
Jerrold & Carol Zar

Renovations Improve Founders' Library Student Lounge



On June 23, 2014, workers completed the renovation of Founders Memorial Library's Student Lounge. Located on the Library's lower level, the lounge has long been available for a variety of activities, including studying and socializing. In recent years a coffee bar and a charging station for mobile devices have added new amenities to the space's appeal.

The lounge has seen regular, heavy use, and its furnishings and floor surfaces had begun to show their age. Heavily worn furniture and carpets reflecting the tastes of preceding decades, assembled in an eclectic mix, made the lounge uncomfortable and unsightly.

This summer's renovation project has provided the lounge with a new, wood-grain flooring surface and new furniture, ranging from tables, chairs and couches to restaurant-style booths. Combined with the easy chairs, recently provided by Friends of the Library, in an adjacent space, the new additions provide the NIU community with a sizeable, flexible space suitable for many uses.

In addition to providing the NIU community with a more comfortable and attractive lounge area, the renovation reflects the changing ways in which faculty, students, staff members and members of the public use the library. The lounge's cosmetic upgrades complement the provision of increased wireless network capacity and the placement of a multifunctional copier/printer device, allowing individuals and groups to direct print jobs in the lounge.

The lounge also provides library users with an opportunity to gather and work in groups in a flexible environment allowing them to arrange tables and chairs to suit their needs.

Reflecting on the planning behind the lounge renovations, Dean of Libraries Patrick Dawson remarked: "The way academic libraries are utilized by the current generation of students continues to evolve, driven by the use of mobile computing devices and the ever evolving preference of students for personal and group space. Renovations to the student lounge have captured for the present these trends and leave it flexible enough to serve the preferences of students in the future as well."

Drew Vandecreek
Director of Digital Initiatives

Member Benefits:

Receive a 10% discount on merchandise at the following stores:

-Ed Ripp Fine Art Books, Chicago

Friends tote bags! {email (aschroeder@niu.edu) or call (815-753-8091) Angie Schroeder for details.}





A Note from the Friends Faculty Liaison The Ensuring Our Future Tree Is on the Move!

A local move, anyway...

Over the summer, we moved our Ensuring the Future Tree to face the Library's main entrance, making it much more visible as people enter Founders Memorial Library.

Purchasing a leaf (\$200), an acorn (\$500), a stone (\$1000), a large rock (\$5000), or a small tree (\$10,000) on our Ensuring the Future display is a great way to honor loved ones, colleagues, and friends, while providing essential funds to the Friends of the NIU Libraries endowment. Over time, your contribution to our tree helps us to purchase additional materials for the library. As state budgets shrink, your support becomes more important than ever.

You can find more information on how to support the Friends endowment in our membership brochure, available on the first floor of the library near the Friends Book Sale.

Lynne M. Thomas
Faculty Liaison, Friends of the NIU Libraries



Giving to the Intellectual Heart of Campus

The Friends of the NIU Libraries is a group dedicated to ensuring the Library's future as a great research resource by providing funds for important and unique materials that may not otherwise be acquired. Why give to the Friends of the NIU Libraries? To date, more than \$6,000 has been given to the Friends through payroll deductions. And it's a fast and easy way to support what a fine library has to offer to University life.

I interviewed several library staff who give to the Friends through payroll deduction, to see what made them choose to give to the Libraries.

Lynne M. Thomas, Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at Founders Memorial Library, hopes that her financial contributions to the Friends will help to continue to grow the Library as the intellectual heart of our campus. Patrick Dawson, Dean of the Library system, agrees. As does staffer Angie Schroeder. They are among several NIU staffers who contribute to the Friends endowment regularly through payroll deduction. Dean Dawson says he is a "librarian working in a library, so of course he contributes" regularly. Angie Schroeder feels that giving to the Friends "makes the Library a better place to work, and being in the Rare Books and Special Collections has made [her] appreciate books and their history so much more."

I remarked to Lynne that she contributes greatly to the value of the Library through her excellent work and her own stellar reputation as a science fiction and fantasy literature expert, editor and Hugo Award winner. So why is it so important to her to contribute financially as well? She had several answers. "The job [of Faculty Liaison to the Friends] involves asking everyone to pitch in to do their part; if everyone gives even a little, we all benefit. So I give because I ask others to do so, too. A better library benefits us all: every department and unit, across campus and our greater community."

It is incredibly easy to make either a onetime contribution or an ongoing payroll deduction. If you don't see it, you don't miss it! There is a one page form on the Friends' home page at <http://www.ulib.niu.edu/friends/Friendsindex.cfm>, or download it directly at <http://www.ulib.niu.edu/friends/5400-%20NIU%20Foundation%20Payroll%20Deduction%20Form.xls>

The Friends of the NIU Libraries has more than 120 members dedicated to library support, through ongoing payroll deductions, gifts and bequests that provide funds for the purchase of books, manuscripts and other materials. These Friends matter deeply to the Library, especially the Special Collections. In addition to funds, some donors give gifts in kind – books, literary papers, archives, etc. -- to the Libraries, including specialty departments such as Rare Books and Special Collections department, The Regional History Center and University Archives, or the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection. One recent addition is the collected song sheets of NIU alumnus Lee Schreiner, a 100 year collection that hints at America's social history in song.

Every public and private educational institution, at any level from Pre-school to University, depends on donors for assistance in staying the course and growing strategically. Libraries have been particularly hard hit with financial reductions and technology changes that have driven up the cost of materials for library users. The Friends of the NIU Libraries are helping the Library system to grow and evolve into a strong and solid 21st century institution and becoming an ever stronger resource for students, faculty, researchers and the surrounding community – the 'intellectual heart of our campus'.

So, please give whatever you can through the Friends of the NIU Libraries.

Ruth Anne Tobias
Secretary, Friends of the NIU Libraries

Friends of NIU Libraries
Founders Memorial Library
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

Yes! I/We wish to join the Friends of NIU Libraries at the following level:

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Make checks payable to Friends of NIU Libraries
NIU also offers Payroll Deduction for faculty and staff

If a gift is in memory or in honor of someone, please include the purpose and the name and address to which acknowledgement should be sent.

Would you like any of the following brochures?

- Friends of NIU Library
- Ensuring the Future Trees Library Book Fund

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Mail to: Friends of NIU Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868
Thank you for your support!