

1-15-2016

## Founders Keepers Newsletter 2016-01-15

NIU Libraries

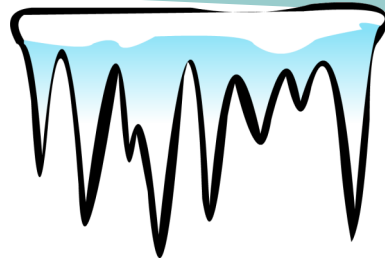
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# Founders Keepers

## Upcoming Events

- Classes begin Jan. 19
- Library Welcome Table Jan. 19-25
- FLA Survey Jan. 20-28
- Reception for Dean Dawson Jan. 25, 1:30-3

## Holiday Donations, by Pat Arne

Founders Library Association collected 8-10 bags of food that Beth McGowan and Pat Arne delivered to the Huskie Food Pantry. The Food Pantry also received a check from us for \$290.00. A check for \$100.00 was written to Barns on Baseline. The Huskie Food Pantry could always use more donations. See their website at <http://www.huskiesstudentfoodpantry.org/about.html> for ideas of



what to donate, or to sign up to help at the pantry. Also, results from the party were that Ginger Prothero-Schwersenska

was the Candy Guessing Game winner, and James Ingallino was the winner of the 50/50 raffle.



## Laptop Locker Availability, by TJ Lusher

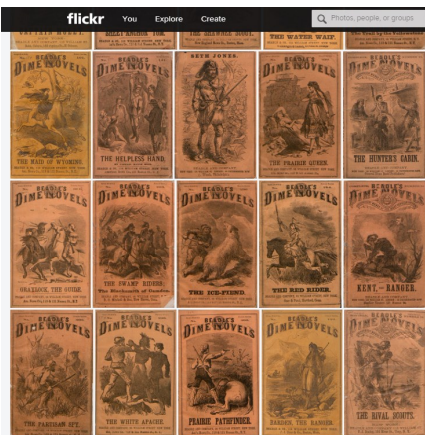
After an initial trial period for the laptop locker, it has been decided that since the locker is to provide laptops for students when classes are in session, the laptop locker will be placed back into its

online mode on January 19<sup>th</sup>. At the end of spring final exams, the locker will be placed into a check-in mode from May 12<sup>th</sup> until May 15<sup>th</sup> to allow for the return of laptops. Then on May 15<sup>th</sup>

the locker will be placed in the offline mode until the start of summer session. We hope to reduce issues with students failing to return laptops at the end of the semester.

## Digital Collections, by Matthew Short

In early January, the New York Public Library made 187,000 images from their collections available to download without restriction, also providing tools for bulk analysis and visualization. This is part of a growing movement on the part of libraries, archives, and museums to make their public domain materials more readily available to the public. Only last year, the British Library uploaded one million images to Flickr to be used, remixed, and repurposed, joining more than 100 cultural heritage institutions that belong to Flickr, including our very own Regional History Center. Where once libraries and archives might have limited access to their digital collections, either in hopes of control or profit, today they're investing resources to make them as widely available as possible.



Part of the reason for doing this is philosophical: libraries have a tradition of making information freely available,

including a role advocating for fair use, copyright law reform, and open access. January is the month, historically, when new works once entered the public domain. Because of the Copyright Term Extension Act, this won't happen in the United States again until 2019, which makes it all the more important to make use of those materials already in the public domain by aggressively encouraging their use and reuse. If you don't exercise a right, there's a good chance you might lose it.

Another reason is to engage with the public. The Web is huge and libraries occupy a very small corner of it. One strategy for letting people know we exist is to go where the people are, rather than waiting for them to come to us. By posting on social media sites like Tumblr, Flickr, or Facebook, we can get the word out about our collections to a much wider audience. We can also take advantage of tools for interacting with

the public that aren't currently available in our Digital Asset Management System, including things like tagging, commenting, and sharing. This goes beyond just providing access to the collection and allows us to start a conversation with our online patrons.

Which brings us to our digital collections. Beginning this month, select images are being uploaded to Flickr, starting with our dime novel covers. Our first priority when we started digitizing the dime novels was to enable research at Northern Illinois University and beyond, but we also hoped that the wider public would take an interest. Making these eye-catching illustrated covers more easily available will hopefully spark that interest. All of the images currently uploaded have been released with very few restrictions and each includes a link back to the full-text of the book. Nearly 1,400 images have been added already. Please check them out and stay tuned for further developments!

## New Arrival in IDS, by Gary Weishaar

Please join us in welcoming Keith Cochrane to our department! Keith is the new library assistant at the front desk. You may recognize him as he's been a student assistant and also extra help in the mailroom. He's also related to facil-

ities manager Joel Cochrane (don't hold this against Keith). When not serving the patrons, Keith enjoys sports and video gaming. Welcome, Keith!

## Founders Library Association Survey

The Founders Library Association (FLA) will be conducting a brief survey to gauge the interest of library personnel in FLA activities and events. The survey will

be launched on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and will close on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to respond. Watch for the announcement!



## A Note from Wanda Enburg

As I embark on a different path in life, I want to thank all the individuals that have given me tremendous professional and personal support during my career of 30+ years at the University Libraries. My experiences here have helped me to grow in so many ways. I feel I am a better

person for having known so many truly special individuals and special friends, and for having the pleasure of working with you over the course of many years. I cannot begin to express in words my feelings for what your kind words, generosity, and well wishes have meant

to me over the last few weeks leading up to my retirement. Your actions and words have humbled me, made me cry, and made me laugh. I wish you all the very best in life!

Sincerely,  
Wanda Enburg

## A Note from Dean Dawson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the work they have done during the last almost eight years that I have been at the NIU Libraries. Despite the fact that for almost each of those years we were faced with a reduction in funding and the accompanying cost saving measures, everyone has continued to work selflessly toward the goal of providing the best service and experience to our clientele. For that I truly thank you. There is no denying that

NIU and the state of Illinois are subject to worrisome fiscal challenges. However, politicians come and go, fiscal crises come and go, but the mission of providing and supporting education will endure. NIU will weather this crisis, and as a result of program prioritization NIU may not be the NIU of 10 years ago. The enrollment will not be in the mid 20 thousands again and some subjects and programs may change, be de-emphasized or expanded, but NIU will endure

and it will endure because of you, the people that come every day and make sure that we are fulfilling our mission of providing an excellent education. You keep the libraries open, running, and relevant to the education of our students.

I am off to a new opportunity and adventure but am thankful for the time here and the support of all of you during my time. I wish you all Godspeed in the continuing adventures of the NIU libraries.

## The Last Word

In January it is hard to be optimistic about anything. I can't get warm, even in my overly-warm office. Travel to ALA is always fraught with mishaps in one direction or both. The icy sidewalks bring to mind the times I have fallen and ended up quite bruised. When I put together my annual evaluation, I am reminded of a previous supervisor who wanted to be able to say, "I worked

hard and done good," and leave it at that. And the continued stalemate over the state budget just doesn't help. Nonetheless, with all of this, I am struck by the thoughtfulness of Wanda's taking time in send us a sweet note of thanks for the years and experiences she had at University Libraries, and although I am saddened to see Dean Dawson leave NIU, it is energiz-

ing to think of the opportunities he will have and the new challenges he will take on with his usual verve. Maryland's gain is obviously our loss, but the Dean's spirit and enthusiasm will remain with us for a very long time. Best wishes to Patrick and to all our recent retirees as they pursue new interests and opportunities!



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