Willett Peach.
Above: Directed by David Bradley ’50, the 1950 amateur film Julius Caesar starred childhood friend and fellow Wildcat Charlton Heston ’45. The low-budget film earned Bradley enough attention that he was hired by MGM immediately after graduation. (For more on Shakespeare at Northwestern, see page 10.)

Celebrating 140 years as a federal depository

This year marks University Libraries’ 140th anniversary as a federal depository, an official designation that makes Northwestern a home to government information resources.

“Government resources offer unique content that supports research in every discipline,” said Marianne Ryan, associate University librarian for user service strategies. “Our collection is a gold mine.”

University Libraries receives publications at no charge in exchange for organizing, maintaining, preserving, and helping users find this information on careers, business opportunities, consumer matters, health and nutrition, demographics, the environment, economic conditions, and many other subjects.

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(continued on page 2)
Alumni publications

All Northwestern alumni publications from 1903 to 1987—the bulletins and newsletters that predate Northwestern magazine—are now available online to the Northwestern community and the public:

Collections go digital

Three widely divergent University Libraries collections have been digitized and are now available online to the Northwestern community and the public:

Alumni publications

All Northwestern alumni publications from 1903 to 1987—the bulletins and newsletters that predate Northwestern magazine—are now viewable at hathitrust.org, a digital collection of millions of titles from libraries around the world.

This collection of the University’s official alumni publications is fully searchable by text, simplifying research for historians, alumni, and genealogists. Until now, these publications were available only in physical form in University Archives without a complete index, leading researchers on long and frustrating hunts.

“The greatest source of information about a university is its student newspaper, but alumni publications are a close second,” said University archivist Kevin Leonard. “We reference the alumni publications all the time. Now we’ll be using them even more and to greater effect.”

High-use environmental studies

Through a digitization project in conjunction with Google, 33,000 environmental impact statements held by the Transportation Library became available online this spring. The documents, fully searchable by text, are hosted at hathitrust.org.

According to Transportation Library head Roberto Sarmiento, digitizing the documents is a monumental step because of the large number of people who use them to research legislation and infrastructure. Previously, researchers would “camp out for weeks” for access to the physical documents in University Library, he said. Just days after the documents went online, Sarmiento received a letter from a grateful executive at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation who was able to use the newly available resources for an audit of statewide environmental services. The executive estimated that the state saved two months of work and thousands of dollars, telling Sarmiento, “The phrase ‘Northwestern Transportation Library’ is very popular around here right now.”

WNUR football game recordings

University Archives has digitized WNUR radio broadcasts from two highly successful football seasons. Donated by Asher Golden ’97, the only student staff member of WNUR to cover both the 1996 Rose Bowl and 1997 Citrus Bowl, the recordings of the 1995 and 1996 seasons include pregame shows and play-by-play calls from some of the most thrilling moments in Wildcat football. To hear the broadcasts, go to media.northwestern.edu and search for “Asher Golden.”

Mudd renovation begins

The Seeley G. Mudd Library building on North Campus closed for renovation in March and is scheduled to reopen in September 2017.

The renovation is part of a University-driven initiative to provide much-needed space for state-of-the-art scientific research laboratories. The building that houses the three-floor library will expand its footprint dramatically and add two floors. Mudd Library will occupy one floor in the newly christened Mudd Hall, which will remain connected via the existing bridge to the Technological Institute, and a prominent new ground-floor entrance will open on the north side.

When reopened, Mudd Library will offer all the same services, such as interlibrary loan pickups, research consultations, and book requests. In addition, designers are planning new spaces and services, including a GIS mapping software lab, a “maker space” for creative projects, and a “one-button studio” for simple video recording.

Sargent painting restored

A treasured oil painting by one of America’s greatest portraitists has been fully restored, thanks in part to a grant by the Alumni of Northwestern University.

Mrs. Augustus Allhusen, painted in 1907 by John Singer Sargent, was once owned by Charles Deering and was later donated by his family to adorn Deering Library. The portrait hung for decades in the northwest corner of the Eloise W. Martin Reading Room but was moved to storage several years ago to prevent further deterioration.

Professional conservators repaired the frame and canvas, removed a yellowed varnish layer that had dulled the colors, and added protective varnish and resin. After a brief viewing in May, the painting went back into storage to await a hoped-for restoration of Deering Library.

A rendering of the thoroughly restructured Mudd Hall, to open in September 2017. Rendering by FLAD Architects Inc.

A rendering of the thoroughly restructured Mudd Hall, to open in September 2017. Rendering by FLAD Architects Inc.
asmine Huff ’16 MFA struggled to find words to describe her first experience visiting University Archives. “It’s like your geeky best friend who’s so excited to tell you about something,” she said at last. “The people there know everything. When I asked for an item, they went straight to it—they didn’t have to consult a guide to find it. It was crazy.”

Huff first entered the Archives in 2015 for Narrative Techniques, a course in the School of Communication’s documentary media MFA program. Taught every winter quarter by radio/television/film assistant professor Kyle Henry, the class introduces students to various storytelling techniques and advanced technical skills. It culminates in a final assignment with a unique requirement: students must interact with an archive to complete a short film.

“At some point in their lives, documentary filmmakers will have to use an archive,” said Henry, which is why he requires his students to learn now—and to start by talking with an archivist. “We emphasize the archivists as the most important element of the archive. So many of the boxes there don’t say precisely what’s inside; they just list items. Archivists become an amazing living resource who can point you in the right direction, if you know to ask.”

Though the course does not require using University Libraries’ resources, many students prefer to start on the first floor of Deering Library, home of University Archives, or with one of the Libraries’ other collections. (Some choose to explore archives elsewhere in the city but may still consult with a Northwestern archivist first, Henry said.)

Poetic heartbreak
Like most of her classmates, Huff was new to archival research. When she walked into Deering, she was taken aback.

“I had been to the [Archives] website, but that doesn’t do justice to the experience of going there,” she said. “There’s just something about touching original materials.”

After talking through her ideas with assistant archivist Janet Olson and requesting various boxes and books in a hunt for inspiration, Huff found the spark she needed: a poem in a 1945 issue of *Pegasus*, a campus literary magazine. The half-page poem, “Rhapsody in Heartbreak” by Elinor Pries ’47, conveyed emotions of flirtation, infatuation, and the ache of loss.

From there, Huff knew she could reimagine the narrative in a different context. She set the poem in a modern classroom, using actors to portray a student and the new instructor with whom she is suddenly smitten. In Huff’s minute-and-a-half final film, a narrator reads the poem in voiceover while the relationship plays out—the meeting of eyes across the classroom, an enigmatic exchange of glances, the student’s love-drunk interpretations of tiny gestures, and, by the final class, a note from the instructor breaking it off, leaving the student feeling shattered.

Henry singled out Huff’s film as one of the more inventive works to debut at the traditional end-of-quarter screening. Huff credits the archivists with guiding her to just what she needed.

“What mysteries lie within this box?” Simmons and classmate Sara Reed ’16 MFA teamed up to document what may be the Archives’ most touching love story. University archivist Kevin Leonard introduced them to the tragic romance of 1880 graduate Katharine Alvord, an actor and later Northwestern drama teacher, and Fred Randolph, a fellow student who exchanged intimate correspondence with her after dropping out.

Their letters ranged from tender words to sweeping debates about contemporary culture, but the letters stop after two years. Randolph died in 1882 of asphyxiation.
caused by his apartment’s faulty stove. Alvord lived to 102 and never married.

Simmons and Reed open their 12-minute film inside the Archives as they set up their recording equipment, interview Leonard, and review Alvord’s file. The film soon transitions to a dramatic reading and reenactment of the letters by the filmmakers in period costume, shot inside the library.

“We turned the space into a character, like the ghost of the Archives,” Simmons said of their film’s opening. “I definitely think there are specters of the library hanging around there. There’s so much that could be forgotten if someone wasn’t keeping track and chronicling it all.”

Beyond simply revisiting a tragic love story, Simmons hoped the film would also spread awareness of a library archive as a bridge to a past that has much to teach modern society.

“For an archive to serve its purpose, people need to come in and engage with the material,” she said. “Sometimes the past is more contemporary and can speak to what we’re doing now better than our own times can.”

Sandi Lynn Riggs

After nearly 25 years of volunteering on multiple boards and committees at Northwestern, Sandi Riggs ’65 could almost be accused of planning a slow-motion takeover of the University. But she swears she has no designs on domination.

“I wish I could say it was all part of a master plan,” Riggs said, “but it wasn’t like I sat down and made a list of what I wanted to do. It just snowballed.”

Riggs’s financial support and outstanding service to the Libraries, including her membership on the Board of Governors, earned her the Libraries’ 2016 Deering Family Award, which she received at the 13th annual Deering Society Recognition Dinner in May. Riggs had also received the 2003 Northwestern Alumni Association Service Award.

“I don’t feel I’m that deserving [of awards and honors],” she said. “I consider it an honor to engage with people who are so interesting and are doing such great things for the University.”

Riggs is proud of her work on Libraries programming, lectures, and other events, especially the recent collaboration with the Block Museum to mount A Feast of Astonishments, drawing on the Libraries’ archives of avant-garde cellist Charlotte Moorman.

What’s next? Riggs, who found Deering Library a haven for quiet study as an undergraduate, has set her sights on the impending renovation of the iconic landmark.

“It’s going to be stellar, and I’m hoping to get people on board to support it,” she said. “The reopening of the doors [in 2012] gave us a taste of what could be. Now we need to move on to the main event.”

(Right to left) Dean Sarah Pritchard, Sandi Riggs ’65, and Board of Governors chair Steve Strachan at the 2016 Deering Society Recognition Dinner.
Like radio stations airing songs from the top 40 list, academic libraries also have hits—the items that students borrow over and over. Here’s a look at University Libraries’ most-checked-out items since 1980.

The Libraries’ Top 50

1. INTRODUCTION TO QUANTUM MECHANICS
2. INTRODUCTION TO THE MECHANICS OF A CONTINUOUS MEDIUM
3. SOLID STATE PHYSICS
4. THE GODFATHER
5. THEORY OF DISLOCATIONS
6. ESSENTIAL CELL BIOLOGY
7. AMÉLIE
8. SPIRITED AWAY
9. STUMBLING ON HAPPINESS
10. PRINCIPLES OF BIOCHEMISTRY
11. MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS
12. THE WIRE: SEASON 1
13. PRINCESS MONONOKE
14. PHYSICS: PRINCIPLES WITH APPLICATIONS
15. THEORY OF DISLOCATIONS
16. MEMENTO
17. INTRODUCTION TO QUANTUM MECHANICS
18. SPIRITED AWAY
19. PRINCIPLES OF BIOCHEMISTRY
20. THE DEPARTED
21. THE BIG LEBOWSKI
22. MANUFACTURING PROCESSES FOR ENGINEERING MATERIALS
23. ELEMENTARY FLUID DYNAMICS
24. KINETICS OF MATERIALS
25. A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
26. THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU
27. THE SECOND WORLD WAR
28. THE LOST WORLD
29. THE EGYPT OF NASSER AND SADAT: BEFORE EUROPEAN HEGEMONY
30. SOLID STATE PHYSICS
31. AMÉLIE
32. THE GODFATHER
33. ESSENTIAL CELL BIOLOGY
34. ULYSSES: EN-GENDERED PERSPECTIVES
35. REAR WINDOW
36. THE SPOTLESS MIND
37. THE HITCHHIKER’S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
38. THE DEPARTED
39. LA DOLCE VITA
40. MULHOLLAND DRIVE
41. THE GODFATHER
42. THE SPOTLESS MIND
43. BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE
44. THE DEPARTED
45. THE GODFATHER
46. THE SPOTLESS MIND
47. THE HITCHHIKER’S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
48. THE DEPARTED
49. THE GODFATHER
50. THE SPOTLESS MIND

● Mudd mainstays
Books about the sciences and humanities fill this list, but you’ll notice an inordinate representation of physics, chemistry, math, and engineering. Why?
According to science librarian Elsa Alvaro, it shows the value of fundamentals in science. “You need to build a very solid foundation to keep advancing and deepening your knowledge in science,” she said. “Having access to many classic titles is part of that journey, and that’s what our library supports.”

Many of these books are course reserves set aside by instructors for particular classes. Course reserves often have shorter loan periods (some just a few hours) so they can circulate more frequently. Alvaro points out that this list includes both introductory textbooks (no. 5, Physics) and graduate-level volumes (no. 1, Introduction to Quantum Mechanics), illustrating the essential role the Libraries play at every level.

● Films
While students have a taste for classic films, including those directed by Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, and Stanley Kubrick, they have a real affinity for the anime fantasy of Hayao Miyazaki, who has three entries in the top 50. Although it may be hard to tell which are purely for fun and which are for film study, this is Northwestern—so why not both?

● Leisure reading?
Are students too busy to relax with a book that hasn’t been assigned? Nonacademic bestsellers are rare on the list. The only fiction in the top 50 is The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, a humorous 1979 sci-fi classic by Douglas Adams, though works by Tom Wolfe and Margaret Atwood squeak into the top 100.

The most-requested items from outside the Libraries’ general collection:

Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections

The Nuremberg Chronicle
This extensively illustrated book, printed in 1493, contains 1,809 woodcut illustrations. Its wide-ranging text covers Bible tales and history of the then-known world. From religious studies to art history, faculty members from many disciplines have reason to show this work to their classes.

Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies

The Humphrey Winterton Collection of East African Photographs
This collection of 7,610 photos depicts a century of everyday East African life beginning in 1860. Assembled by British collector Winterton, the archive is used heavily by historians, publishers, and documentary filmmakers.

Music Library

Concert Pieces for John Cage by Yoko Ono
Created for composer John Cage’s Notations project, these nine works include Ono’s notable creation “Cut Piece,” in which audience members are invited to use scissors to cut off bits of clothing from a seated, passive performer.

Transportation Library

With its groundbreaking research, this article has proven invaluable to lawyers in several trials.
very fall more than 100 students enroll in Introduction to Shakespeare, a Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences class that starts at University Hall, makes a stop at Deering Library—then flies direct to the English Renaissance.

Alumnae of Northwestern Teaching Professor and associate professor of English Susan Phillips doesn’t just teach plays in the course; she puts them in historical context in a most tangible way: one-on-one time between students and rare books in the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections.

“There’s something magical about holding a work created in Shakespeare’s time,” Phillips said. “It makes history come alive and asks us to think about how books were made, how they were read, and who read them.”

Phillips’s class features prominently in an exhibit on display in University Library this summer: Page and Stage: Shakespeare at Northwestern Libraries features reproductions of the Special Collections books that Phillips uses in her course, along with holdings from University Archives and the general collection, that suggest just how easily a Northwestern student can connect with the Western world’s most famous author 400 years after his death.

Among these is a 1561 edition of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales. Though written almost 200 years before Shakespeare’s birth, it appears in Phillips’s class as the earliest example of collected stories that appealed to a mass audience.

The exhibit also highlights various archives documenting student and faculty productions on campus, including the papers of the late David Bradley ’56, who filmed an amateur version of Julius Caesar starring classmate Charlton Heston ’46; Frank Galati ’65, ’67 MA/MS, ’71 PhD, the award-winning actor, director, and retired Northwestern professor; and Virgil Johnson ’67 MA, a former School of Communication faculty member and prolific costume designer.

The exhibit also calls attention to a collection that hardly needs to be enclosed in museum cases: the plays, analyses, and pop culture books that help prove Shakespeare’s lasting influence in modern times. Bookshelves and cozy armchairs at the exhibit invite students to spend time with these materials, because, in the words of exhibit curator and theater librarian Charlotte Cubbage, “relating to Shakespeare shouldn’t be difficult or rare.”
What is it? George Bellows, a 2012 exhibition catalog documenting the career of the American social realist painter George Wesley Bellows (1882–1925), best known for his paintings of boxers. Bellows played semiprofessional baseball before launching his career as a New York City artist. “These paintings contain movement and muscle and really give a sense of the physicality of the subject,” said Art Library curator Cara List. Where is it? Art Library

What is it? A full-page illustration from the June 1794 issue of The Sporting Magazine, or Monthly Calendar of the Transactions of the Turf, the Chase and Every Other Diversion, Interesting to the Man of Pleasure, Enterprise and Spirit. Published in London from 1792 to 1870, Sporting Magazine featured everything from racing scores to theater reviews. Where is it? Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections

What is it? The official program of the 1929 National Air Races in Cleveland, Ohio. Aviation and air racing captured the popular imagination in the 1920s, attracting spectators worldwide and making celebrities of pilots such as Amelia Earhart, who competed at the 1929 event. Where is it? Transportation Library (for more on the library’s air racing holdings: http://bit.ly/Air_Racing)

What is it? A makanuka, a hand-cut, hand-painted hard hat worn by soccer fans during the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. The artful headwear is one of the World Cup commemorative items collected by University Libraries to mark South Africa’s historic nomination as the first African country to host the tournament. Where is it? Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies
Joe Girardi '86 had a great day at the plate in the second of Northwestern's two winning baseball games against North Central College on April 10, 1985. Girardi, who went on to become a Major League Baseball catcher and the current New York Yankees manager, had a walk and two hits (one a home run), scored three runs, and netted one RBI. This official scorebook is housed in University Archives.