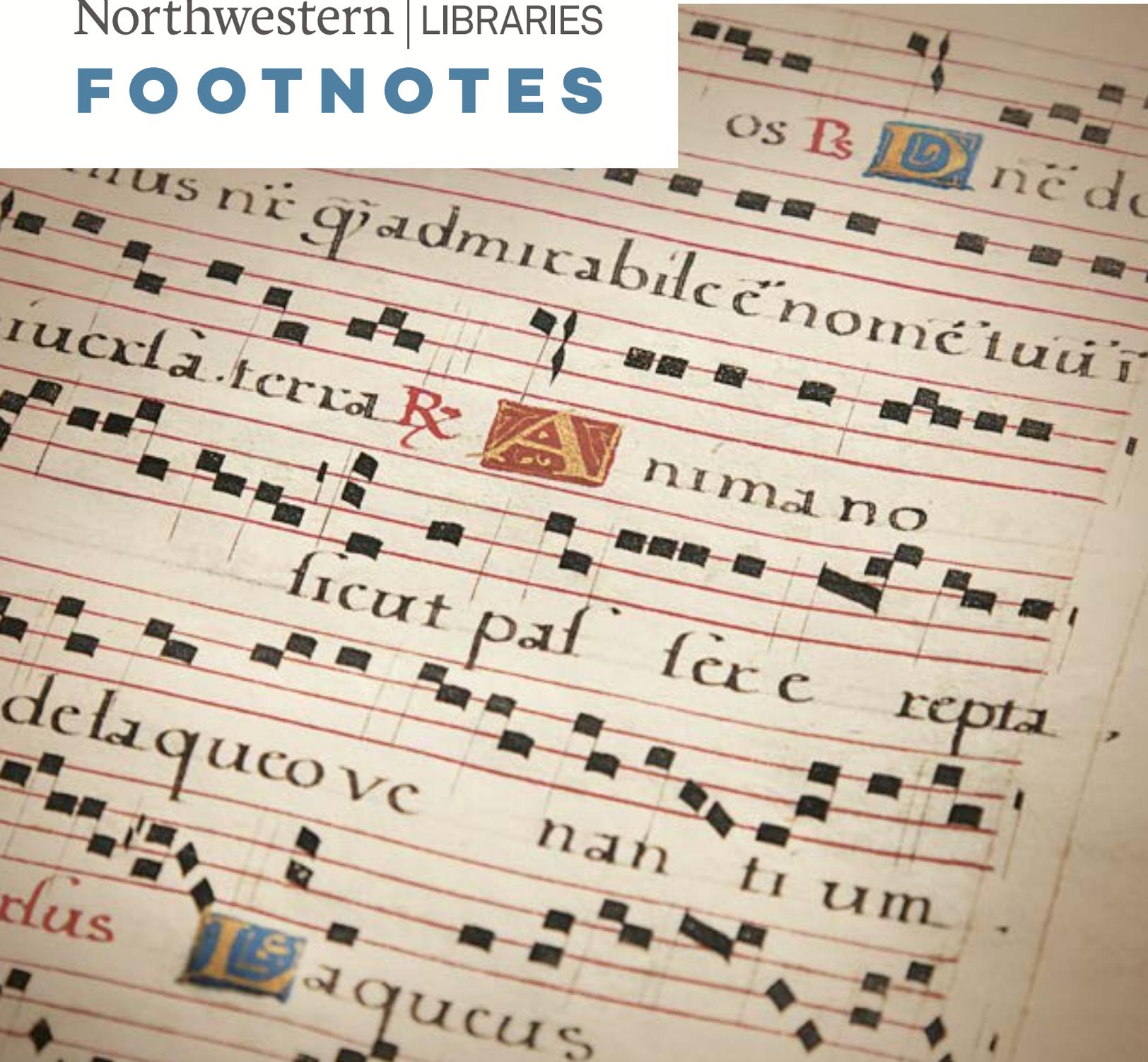


Northwestern UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
FOOTNOTES



FOOTNOTES

WINTER 2017, VOLUME 42, NUMBER 1

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On the cover: For a graduate class project, Jeffrey van den Scott '14 MA, '16 PhD researched this uncataloged 16th-century French manuscript from the Music Library. He confirmed the parchment is a Gradual (a responsorial chant in the Catholic Mass) about the Feast of the Holy Innocents, and he supplied the library with a complete translation and modern musical notation.

Answers to geography quiz, opposite page: 1. Machu Picchu, Peru. 2. O'Hare International Airport, Chicago. 3. Agra, India. 4. Victoria Falls, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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An aerial quiz for the geography whiz

The Libraries' annual observance of Geography Awareness Week (held November 14–18 in 2016) traditionally features students competing to assemble geography-themed jigsaw puzzles in record time. This year, in addition to the popular GeoPuzzle Challenge and other programs that promote the Libraries' map and Geographic Information System software services, planners introduced an aerial photography quiz that challenged students to identify locations shown in satellite photos. Here are four of the cryptic pictures. How many can you identify? (See opposite page for answers.) For more information about the Libraries' GIS capability, visit www.libraries.nu/GISguide.





Distinguished guests tour Herskovits Library

Last fall, the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies hosted three high-profile guests.

In September, Baffour Osei Hyiaman Brantuo VI, *manwerehene* (a level of chieftaincy) of the Ashanti people in Ghana, visited the library to examine its holdings on the history of his people. Brantuo was accompanied by Ghanaian painter Samuel Akainyah, a US resident



(Left) Baffour Osei Hyiaman Brantuo VI, foreground, and Samuel Akainyah in the Herskovits Library. (Above) National Organization for Women president Terry O'Neill '74 speaks at Northwestern in November. Photo by Alex Furuya.

and special envoy, who presented curator Esmeralda Kalé with a print of one of his paintings.

Michael Strautmanis, the Barack Obama Foundation's vice president for civic engagement, visited in November to view the Herskovits Library's Obama-related materials. His visit is a precursor of potential collaboration between the Herskovits and the Obama Presidential Center, the official library slated to open in Chicago's Jackson Park neighborhood as early as 2020.

NOW president gives postelection lecture

Terry O'Neill '74, president of the National Organization for Women, gave an impassioned speech at Northwestern a few days after the November 8 US presidential election. More than 100 people at the McCormick Foundation Center heard O'Neill implore women to engage in grassroots political activity if they were dissatisfied with the election results. She also encouraged renewed attention to intersectionality—the overlapping

of social factors like gender, race, and class—in identifying and fighting discrimination.

Her talk was sponsored by University Libraries and the Women's Center in conjunction with the Libraries' fall exhibit about the late Karen DeCrow '59, NOW president from 1974 to 1977.

Library collaboration uncovers hidden text

When University Libraries conservators noticed faint traces of text on parchment in the binding of a 16th-century book, they sought the sleuthing skills of NU-ACCESS, the Northwestern University/Art Institute of Chicago Center for Scientific Studies in the Arts.

In Renaissance-era bookbinding, it was common to reuse parchment by scraping the original text off the durable animal hide surface. In the case of the Libraries' 1537 edition of *Works and Days* by the Greek poet Hesiod, only one side of the reused parchment in the binding had been scraped.

To reconstruct the faded handwriting that remained, NU-ACCESS technicians used a process called hyperspectral imaging, which allowed the parchment to be viewed outside the range of visible light.

X-ray fluorescence, another process often used to analyze ceramics, paintings, and murals, isolated the iron element found in the ink, making the manuscript much more visible.

The result resolved the mystery: The text fragment is from *The*

Institutes of Justinian, a codification of sixth-century Roman law laid down by the Byzantine emperor Justinian I. The source of the parchment remains unknown.



Hidden text on parchment revealed through hyperspectral imaging.



(Above) Jackie Mayer '64; (right) Kate Shindle '99.

Former Miss Americas donate archives

Kate Shindle '99, who was Miss America 1998, visited University Archives in October to help archivists identify items in her recently donated papers and effects. Shindle is currently touring the United States as the star of the musical *Fun Home*. Her archive chronicles her activity on the pageant circuit, as well as her post-Miss America career as a performer and AIDS activist.

Shindle's archive joins a recently donated set of papers from Miss America 1963, Jackie Mayer '64. After Mayer recovered from a near-fatal stroke at age 28, she helped found the National Stroke Association and became a vocal advocate for heart health and awareness. Her papers include correspondence, speeches, photographs, awards, and other memorabilia.

Correction

The summer 2016 issue of *Footnotes* incorrectly identified the date of the Libraries' copy of Shakespeare's second folio. It was printed in 1632.



Here to help: The Circulation Desk

Many roads lead to the Libraries' service hub

Library circulation desks stopped stamping checkout cards long ago. Digital self-checkout has been the standard technology for years.

But that doesn't mean that circulation desks aren't essential to library services—or that they won't continue to evolve, said Beth Clausen, head of Access Services.

"We offer very diverse assistance these days, because we are the central access point to many of our collections," Clausen said.

"We represent much of what the Libraries have to offer."

The "Circ Desk" at University Library began in 1970 as just one of several service points for users. But over time, the Libraries have consolidated other services there in an effort to help users find what they need in the shortest amount of time. Librarians discovered that visitors were likely to begin their inquiries at the Circulation Desk anyway, so consolidation made sense.

The most obvious example is directly across from the desk. The former interlibrary loan counter's retractable metal screen has been closed since 2013 and features a sign directing users to the Circulation Desk to pick up the materials they've requested from other institutions.

"This is a desk for convenience," Clausen said. "Every library has a circulation desk, down to the public library where you got your first card, so we're the one constant everybody knows."



I can check out what?

The Circulation Desk offers supplies and essential technology that can be checked out with a University ID. Here are the items borrowed most since June 2015. (The first three items have loan periods of just a few hours, which inflates their numbers.)

Mac laptop charger	2,140
Headphones	2,062
Whiteboard supplies	2,025
Umbrella	295
Video camera	256
iPad	222
Tripod	219
Laptop lock	214
Digital camera	173
Audio recorder	39
Microphone	23

Clausen's operating philosophy for the desk is "GIFT" (get it for them). "Users don't care about the processes we have to go through; they just want their materials," she said. So the Circulation Desk endeavors to make the background operation invisible, from the work required to deliver books to a professor's office to the reciprocal agreements needed to give a student from a nearby university access to Northwestern's collections.

A task commonly affiliated with circulation desks is the dogged pursuit of overdue fines. But at University Libraries, "it's not the fee that's important to us—it's getting our materials back," said circulation services supervisor Alice Tippit.

In keeping with this philosophy, the Circulation Desk promotes an annual Food for Fees drive, inviting patrons with outstanding balances to reduce their fines by donating food—\$5 credit per can.

The happy result is hundreds of returned library items every year, plus pallets of nonperishable food for the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

For Tippit and Clausen, that's just one more facet of a service area that's called on to do a little bit of everything for everyone. "In some ways, this is everybody's desk," Clausen said. "Students, faculty, community visitors—at some point they're probably going to come see us." ■



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Digital curators save important
collections for study anytime, anywhere

Preservation in ones and zeros

In a satirist's illustration from 1881, a Parisian showgirl shows off her legs in the light of a newfangled electric bulb. She's not just preening, says professor of art history Hollis Clayson; she's profiting from the illumination of her figure. The dense illustration is packed with other commentaries about gender roles, social customs, and even the impact of 19th-century technology, all of which Clayson unpacks with wit and a keen eye in a recently published article.

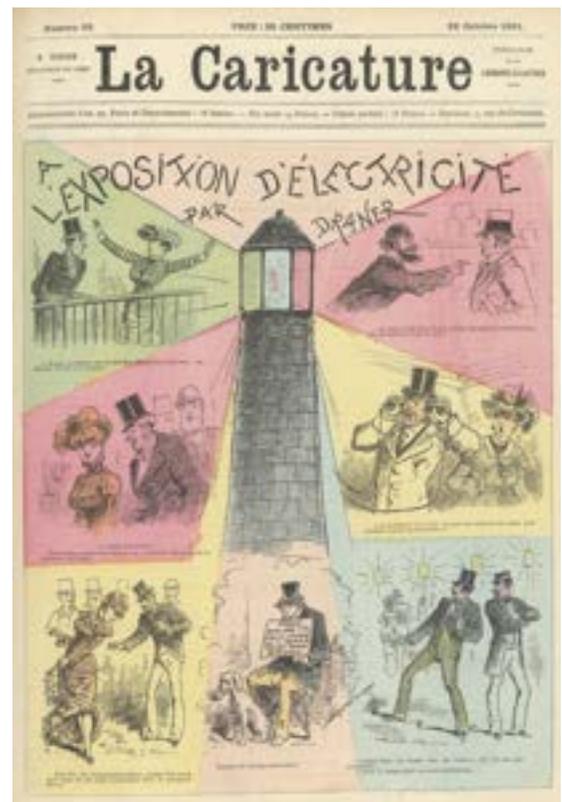
The object of Clayson's analysis, a cover of the French satirical weekly *La Caricature*, is part of an ongoing digitization project at the Libraries to support scholarly study. The Repository and Digital Curation (RDC) group ensures that high-interest collections, such as the colorful and whimsical run of *La Caricature* housed in the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections, are captured digitally and made available online for researchers worldwide.

"Many scholars are interested in period caricature," Clayson said. "They will use our digitized collections without fail."

Clayson's work is just one academic endeavor filling the ever-growing queue of digitization projects, said RDC head Carolyn Caizzi. "Our role is about preservation of and access to special, unique—and sometimes not so unique—materials," she said. "The point is to make sure that digital collections will be available for this and future generations."

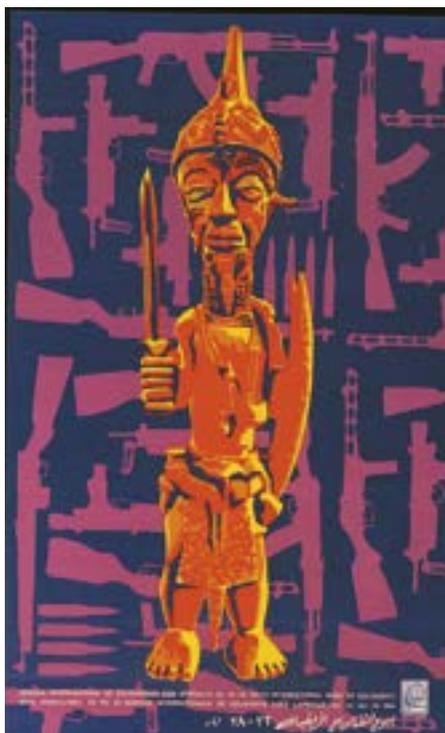
Some projects are undertaken in response to a faculty request, like Clayson's, while others are chosen by curators. For example, librarians might determine that a collection could dovetail with a timely area of study if only the materials could be accessed more easily, or they may identify a collection in such a fragile state that further study would be difficult without digitization.

RDC must manage more than books and magazines, of course. Objects from library archives, such as masks, posters, color slides, and unusual artifacts, all come with their own



(Above) The October 22, 1881, issue of the French satirical weekly *La Caricature* depicts the public reacting to the International Exposition of Electricity. For a closer look at illuminated ankles and other whimsical details, visit www.libraries.nu/2j5jHsR.

(Left) Associate professor of art history Rob Linrothe worked with the Repository and Digital Curation team to provide better access to and preservation of his more than 4,000 slides of Buddhist art of the Himalayas.



challenges. Three-dimensional objects must be photographed in a professional studio and the files saved at exceedingly large sizes to enable study of the tiniest details. Flat objects can be scanned, unless they are too big even for the Libraries' oversized equipment.

In those cases, the team must farm out such work to a vendor with larger-format equipment, or the problem must be solved in house. For the recent Libraries exhibit about former National Organization for Women president Karen DeCrow '59, curators wanted to replicate a seven-foot-tall poster from the early-20th-century suffrage movement. At that height, the poster was too tall to display. RDC suspended the poster and separately photographed its upper and lower halves. A technician then stitched the two images together into a single, seamless digital file that was reproduced at a reduced size more suitable for display. Even careful inspection doesn't betray the digital splicing.

"Our type of operation is like a miniature library in itself," Caizzi said. "All our functions have a direct corollary in the physical library world."

For example, RDC must identify and intake collections in an organized manner, use ample metadata to catalog the items it photographs and scans, manage and ensure access to items (as a circulation desk would do), and deal with issues of preservation—not of the original physical objects but of the final digital products that must be housed safely and kept free of corruption and data loss.

The group's work also incorporates video, film, and audio files, bringing fresh challenges to the archiving process. Older media may not have a corresponding playback machine or may be too brittle for review. With careful curation (and when necessary, the help of outside specialists), these artifacts can be added to the digital record.

The master classes of clarinet professor Robert Marcellus (1928–1996) are one early RDC success. Marcellus was "an amazing teacher who spawned a school of clarinet study," said Music Library head Greg MacAyeal, and his summer master classes in the 1970s and '80s were legendary among clarinet students. Now 64 recordings from 13 years of master classes—more than 150 hours of open-reel tape—can be streamed online.



(Top) The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies holds nearly 4,000 posters depicting many facets of African history, including politics, health, religion, social issues, and art exhibitions. The Libraries have scanned nearly 600 posters thus far.

(Bottom) The Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections holds several drawings by 19th-century portraitist Ramón Casas, donated by the family of the late Charles Deering, Casas's longtime friend and a Northwestern trustee. The digitized collection includes whimsical scenes from Casas's travels with Deering (at left in this image). The drawings were included in *Charles Deering and Ramón Casas*, a 2012 book published by Northwestern University Press.



Students visit the exhibition *Salaam Cinema! 50 Years of Iranian Movie Posters* at the Block Museum of Art during Wildcat Welcome 2016. Photo courtesy of the Block Museum of Art.

Before the digitization, “people regularly contacted us to ask if they could come listen,” MacAyeal said. “We kept having to say no because the tapes were in such delicate condition.” Now the files get thousands of online visits a month from conservatories, universities, and studios around the world. (Marcellus’s classes are particularly popular in Paris, according to MacAyeal’s data.)

Sometimes collections belong to a faculty member who could use the Libraries’ help to preserve and access materials. For years, RDC has scanned and stored the photographs of associate professor of art history Rob Linrothe, whose study of the Buddhist art of the Himalayas has led him to accumulate boxes and boxes of color slides. The Libraries’ work to digitize and catalog those slides has helped Linrothe use the images in his teaching and research.

Last year, School of Communication professor Hamid Naficy approached the Libraries about digitizing 250 of his vintage Iranian film posters. Dating as far back as the 1960s, the posters are one way of documenting the social history of Iranian cinema during a tumultuous time. After RDC provided high-resolution scanning of the collection, librarians worked with a Farsi-speaking translator to record basic metadata such as titles and opening dates to fill out a proper catalog entry. Then undergraduates in Naficy’s Iranian Cinema course helped curate those posters for an exhibition at the Block Museum of Art. *Salaam Cinema! 50 Years of Iranian Movie*

Posters marked the first exhibition of its kind in the United States. It closed in December, but the posters remain on perpetual display online.

“We don’t want any collections languishing on shelves,” Caizzi said. “We also don’t want a collection that’s been getting a lot of use to fall apart.”

In addition to the examples shown on these pages, many more collections are in the pipeline for RDC’s digital preservation, including recordings of the Waa-Mu Show and black-and-white footage from University Archives documenting graduations, parades, and other Northwestern events. ■

Explore the repository

The Libraries’ constantly growing digitized collections can be found at www.images.northwestern.edu. Most are available for the public to browse. Audio and video projects, such as the Marcellus tapes and Northwestern’s archival football films, live at www.media.northwestern.edu.

Mastering the research maze

FORUM GUIDES GRAD STUDENTS THROUGH LIBRARIES' RESOURCES

In September, life sciences librarian Steve Adams stood before eight incoming graduate students, preparing to open the door to University Libraries' vast world of resources. But first he had to diffuse some anxiety.

For many of the students, the coming academic year would mark their first encounter with the demands of graduate-level research. Though the Libraries are a natural partner in that effort, Adams knows the sheer quantity of an academic library's holdings can seem overwhelming.

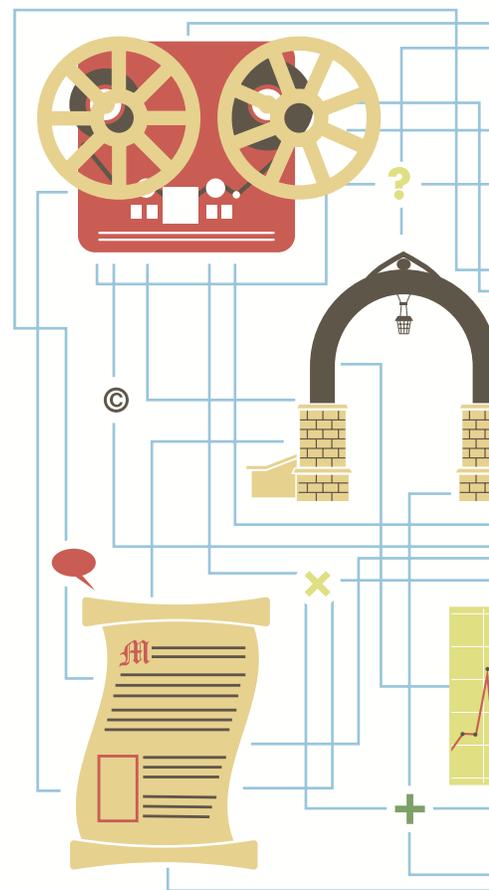
"Sometimes grad students feel like they ought to know this already, but they don't have to," he told the students, gently trying to set them at ease. "Librarians are here to help you with all kinds of stuff."

Adams then began an overview of databases that could be useful to these biological science students, offered tips for evaluating reams of journal articles, and introduced the students to issues they may never have considered, like determining which sources to cite when participating in certain scientific conversations.

Adams's session was one of dozens held in early September, and the students were among several hundred who would go on to participate in an event known as the Research Resources Forum (RRF). Created in 2002 in partnership with Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and Northwestern University Information Technology, the forum seeks to demystify the Libraries' sometimes intimidating maze of information and services.

During the event, graduate students mingled with the librarians assigned to their fields of study, toured labs and work spaces, and attended sessions on app-based time-saving tools, automated bibliographic software, and mapping programs.

In her session, data management librarian Cunera Buys covered a topic that might have struck many students as an afterthought: what to do with all the data collected during research. In federally funded research, for which data should be made available to all,



“Libraries and librarians are still your best bet for finding the precise information you need in the least amount of time.” — Harriet Lightman

students must be prepared to face multiple questions: How will your data be shared? What provisions do you have for reusing it? How will others be able to review it?

Of course, Buys said, librarians are standing by with software solutions, consultations, and advice for managing the monumental process.

The RRF represents a vital effort by the Libraries to help students find essential resources that

are “hidden in plain sight,” said Harriet Lightman, history librarian and head of Research and Learning Services. But the forum didn’t start out as an intensive library orientation; in the early days, the event highlighted the Libraries’ nascent digital collections for just a few dozen graduate students.

“Over the years, it became clear that students have grown accustomed to finding resources

themselves from a laptop or smartphone,” said Lightman, who also helped create the annual event. But many important resources are unavailable via a cursory sweep of the free web, she noted. “Libraries and librarians are still your best bet for finding the precise information you need in the least amount of time.”

The RRF has now become an essential boot camp for graduate-level research, and the Libraries partner with all schools on campus to showcase the Libraries’ offerings.

“It has given us unparalleled exposure,” Lightman said. “We’ve been able to help our graduate students navigate the immense complexity of our library in particular. And we’ve reinforced the notion that the library is a full partner in all campus activities.”

Now, with hundreds of attendees each year, the RRF is the chief method of disseminating what may be the most important message these students will receive: “You can do this. And the Libraries can help.” ■



Illustration by Tom Deja

H I D D E N T

O F N O R T H W E S T E R N U N



What is it? One of a collection of nearly 400 posters from the May-June 1968 strike in France. (Translation: "Let's continue the fight. Capitalism is sinking.") The strike, initiated by students and taken up by factory workers, protested capitalism and the populist policies of President Charles de Gaulle. The spontaneous movement spawned a flurry of creative protest and had a profound influence on French society. Despite the bravado of posters like this, the movement died down shortly thereafter.

Where is it? Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections



REASURES

I V E R S I T Y L I B R A R I E S



What is it? Embellished fencing mask commemorating Laurie Schiller's 1,000th win as head coach of Northwestern's women's fencing team. In his 38 years at the University, Schiller led the team to over 1,250 wins and numerous top 10 NCAA and top 3 Midwest Conference championship finishes. Vice president for athletics and recreation Jim Phillips praised Schiller, who retired in 2015, as "one of the most accomplished coaches in college athletics history, regardless of sport, gender, or division."

Where is it? University Archives

What is it? Photo album documenting the adventures of five friends who biked through several US and Canadian national parks throughout the 1940s and '50s. The Transportation Library collects many such noncommercial travel remembrances as a way to re-create moments that would otherwise be lost to history. "Personal narratives are one-of-a-kind, and they put the researcher in intimate contact with experiences that don't exist anymore," said Transportation Library head Roberto Sarmiento. For more on bicycle research at the Libraries, please visit www.libraries.nu/cyclingguide.

Where is it? Transportation Library



What is it? Poster for the premiere of *HPSCHD* (pronounced "harpsichord"), a multimedia musical happening created by composers John Cage and Lejaren Hiller and visual artists Calvin Sumsion and Ron Nameth. The piece debuted in 1969 to a crowd of 6,000 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The five-hour performance combined amplified harpsichords with computer-generated sounds and projected images in what became one of the major avant-garde events of the decade.

Where is it? Music Library

FOOTNOTES

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The mystery of the scroll

In 1957 a visiting professor of Arabic wrote to University librarian Jens Nyholm to needle him about the sculpture of an Arab scholar mounted on the newel of a Deering Library staircase. The professor wrote with bemusement about the statue, which is supposed to represent the Arabs who advanced scholarship during Europe's Dark Ages. The scholar holds a scroll with lettering that could be a mixture of ancient alphabets, the professor wrote, but the language is ultimately nonsense. "It reminds me of ... the playful fantasies of comic strips," he wrote. He suggested that the lettering could be interpreted as "And Moses was dazzled by the light" or "And Moses was roaming the desert." In either case, though, the translation requires "plenty of imagination."

