



Collection Building

A collection explosion: finding our collection roots and examining how we got from there to here

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A collection explosion: finding our collection roots and examining how we got from there to here

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Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to present research findings from a project to identify, locate and examine the first collection of a large academic research institution. The article also examines changes in collections over time and some of the factors influencing changing collection development policies and practice.

Design/methodology/approach – Methodology included historical archival research, collection discovery and item by item comparison.

Findings – As electronic access, shared repositories and access to shared content reshape the collection development landscape, the emphasis is shifting toward global access and unique local content. And yet, we see that this new model is built on a solid foundation of collection development almost 150 years in the making.

Originality/value – Understanding how the University Library got to where it is will help inform future decisions and directions regarding collection development, and allow others to compare our findings against their own institutional growth and forward trajectory.

Keywords Collection development, Collection management, Library history

Paper type Research paper

Library collections behave in many ways like living organisms: they grow at different rates and in different directions, change shapes and sizes over time and can be surprisingly complex. As the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign approaches its sesquicentennial anniversary in 2017, it seemed a fitting time to examine the history of the University Library collections and their growth over time.

Now, a collection measured in the millions, the University Library collection began like any other with a small nucleus of materials that grew at varying rates over many decades. It was unclear at the start of this project that how much of the early collections were still held in the University Library, where they might be located and in what condition, and what the composition of that collection was. Finding the answers to those questions led to a better understanding of both the original collection and how we got from there to here. Understanding how we got to where we are will help inform future decisions and directions, and allow others to find compare our findings against their own institutional growth and forward trajectory.

The original library collection

The University of Illinois, founded in 1867 under the original name of the Illinois Industrial University, was renamed the University of Illinois in 1885. The library was originally housed in the office of the first regent, John Milton Gregory, and students were “required to check out each book with the Regent himself”. (Ebert, 1967, p. 1). The original collection consisted of 420 titles in 1,078 volumes and covered 7 subject categories: agricultural, educational, general literature, history and biography, law and politics, philosophical and scientific (Illinois Industrial University, 1868, pp. 209–215). As shown in Figure 1, nearly a third (32 per cent, 135 titles) of the collection fell under the history and biography subject area. Education covered 23 per cent (98 titles) of the collection, followed by general literature (14 per cent, 57 titles), scientific (11 per cent, 48 titles), philosophical (8 per cent, 35 titles), agricultural (8 per cent, 32 titles) and law and politics (4 per cent, 15 titles).

Regent Gregory purchased the nucleus of this library collection (271 titles in 644 volumes) on a buying trip to

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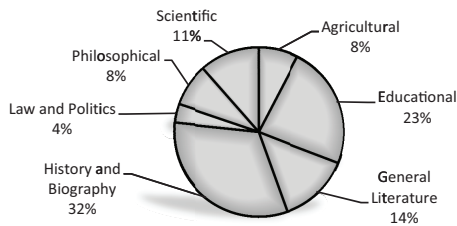


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Figure 1 The breakdown of the original collection by subject category



New York in 1868 for an average cost of \$1.58 per volume, including his expenses (Hoffman, 1982).

The composition of the original collection is particularly interesting in light of the original aims of the university as a land-grant institution. As noted in the first annual report of the Board of Trustees.

The aims of any institution necessarily control its organization. It should be fitted to its uses. The great general aims of the University are defined by the statutes under which it is established. Though not strictly confined by law to the objects proposed in the Congressional grant, we are yet bound to meet those objects fully and fairly. According to the language of the grant:

The leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes, in the several pursuits and professions in life. (Illinois Industrial University, 1868, p. 1).

The strong emphasis within the original collection on history and biographical materials, and relative scarcity of agricultural materials, can perhaps be contributed to a combination of Regent Gregory's own interests, and the lots of materials he found readily available for purchase on his buying trip to New York rather than support for the curriculum actually offered at the University.

Finding the original library collection today

One of the interesting challenges in tracking down the original titles held in the collection is that there was no card or printed catalog at the time they were acquired, so the list had to be compiled from the University's first annual report. The catalog records for the items, which were created at a later date, were minimal and often did not include much more than title (sometimes differing from the list of titles found in the annual report) and date. As with many retrospective projects, it is interesting to note that the cataloging standards of previous decades (or centuries in this case) would not be deemed sufficient for access following today's standards. It is not unusual, for example, for the library to have to invest in improving cataloging records for materials that have already been cataloged once (or more) before materials can be transferred to a high-density storage. This is not a new phenomenon, as each generation of catalogers seems to challenge the efficacy of previous work in allowing access. As noted in a history of the cataloging department:

Accessioning was done by Library School students under the direction of Miss Mann. In the interest of accuracy and consistency she recommended, in 1,899/1900, that only senior students be allowed to accession and that they work only under careful supervision (Hensel, 1936, p.14).

Hensel goes on to state that:

Miss Mann pointed out that inconsistencies, inaccuracies, and omissions in the accession records made the compilation of statistics very difficult. General misunderstandings on the part of library assistants as to what constituted the distinction between a book and a pamphlet, led to many inconsistencies (Hensel, 1936, p. 15).

It did not take long after the formation of the University Library collection for the emphasis to switch from simple acquisition of materials to an outcry for improved discoverability and access. An editorial in the Daily Illini from 1878 bemoans the lack of a card catalog, indicating that:

It takes five times as long to find a book that has in it what one wishes to know, than it does to read it after it is found [. . .] What we need and should have is a printed catalogue of the books of the library.

The article went on to state that "We are proud of our library. We know it is a most excellent one and would like to see it used" (Editorial, 1878).

Once titles from the original collection were identified online, the task of tracking the physical items down began. The original collection is now distributed across a number of locations throughout the University Library. Although the majority of the original collection is still held by the University Library, it was not viewed as a discrete collection; rather than being kept together as a cohesive whole, it has instead been scattered, as various collection management projects have resulted in transfers to different library locations. The majority of the collection currently resides in the main stacks or in the high-density remote storage. A significant number are housed in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, while the remainders are held in various departmental libraries (Figure 2). Over the last decade, there has been increasing emphasis on preserving and conserving the University Library collections and that is also shown in distribution of the original collection. Those items that are now held in high-density storage have been wrapped or tied, as appropriate, and are housed in ideal preservation conditions. However, many of the titles which have not yet been transferred to either high-density storage or special collections require further conservation work.

Though there was much debate about what the curriculum should include, and differing opinions about the educational philosophy of the then new institution, the original collection has withstood the test of time very well. Though there was no policy or practice which protected the original collection from weeding, and no particular emphasis until recently on preserving those items, 91 per cent of the original titles are still held, which indicates the longevity of interest in and use of the original collection (Figure 3). Table I illustrates how the still-held titles break down by subject area. The category with the highest percentage of titles still in the collection is History

Figure 2 Distribution of titles by current location

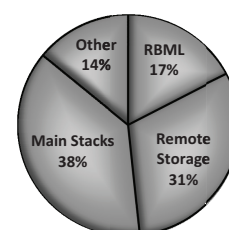
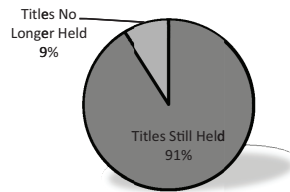


Figure 3 Percent of original titles still held

and Biography at 94.1 per cent, and the lowest percentage is Law and Politics at 80 per cent.

Uniqueness of the Original Collection

Of the original 420 titles, approximately half are currently also held by Harvard, the Library of Congress, and are in the Hathi Trust. Table II shows the breakdown of those holdings across the original seven subject categories described in the University's first annual report: Agricultural, Educational, General Literature, History and Biography, Law and Politics, Philosophical and Scientific. Many of these original titles are also held by other Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) libraries and by other libraries in the state of Illinois (Figure 4). Although other libraries hold many of these titles, there is still a large number of items that are unique in this original library collection, whether it be unique in Illinois, in the CIC, or a unique holding in Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) (Figure 5).

Growing the library collection

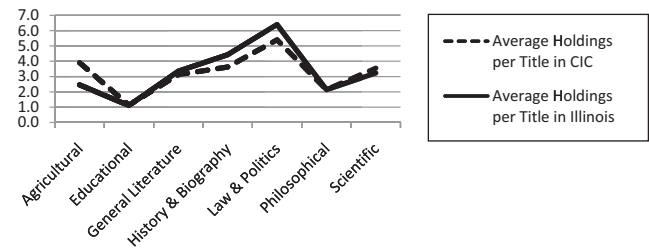
Library Hall (now known as Altgeld Hall) was built in 1897 and was the University's first "purpose-built" library. The library had the capacity for 90,000 volumes and held 30,000 volumes when it first opened its doors (Peoples, 2011). Space,

Table I Original titles held by university of Illinois by subject category

Subject category	Total titles	Total volumes	Still have original title	Still have original title %
Agricultural	32	38	28	84.8
Educational	98	101	87	87.9
General Literature	57	251	54	93.1
History and Biography	135	232	128	94.1
Law and Politics	15	318	12	80.0
Philosophical	35	46	33	91.7
Scientific	48	92	46	93.9
Total	420	1,078	388	91.1

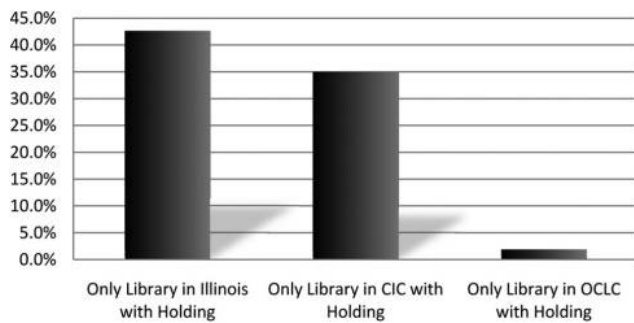
Table II Original titles also held by others

Subject category	University of Illinois titles	Held by Harvard University	Held by Library of Congress	Title in Hathi Trust
Agricultural	32	17	14	24
Educational	98	65	34	27
General Lit.	57	25	14	32
History and biography	135	73	50	90
Law and politics	15	10	8	9
Philosophical	35	11	13	18
Scientific	48	26	20	28
Total	420	227	153	228

Figure 4 Average copies held by subject

therefore, very quickly became a cause for concern. In 1912, University President, Edmund James, set a goal to increase the library's holdings to one million volumes and create a new facility to house them in an attempt to rise to the academic level of what he considered to be the great German institutions (Peoples, 2011). Although the goal was worthy, it would also be difficult to achieve. The facility was already "helplessly congested and deplorably overcrowded, to the point of serious embarrassment to both faculty and students" (University of Illinois Senate Committee on the Library, 1913).

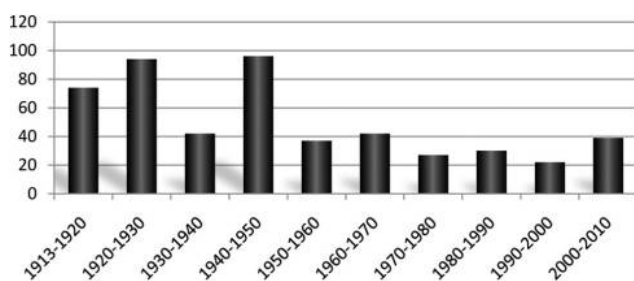
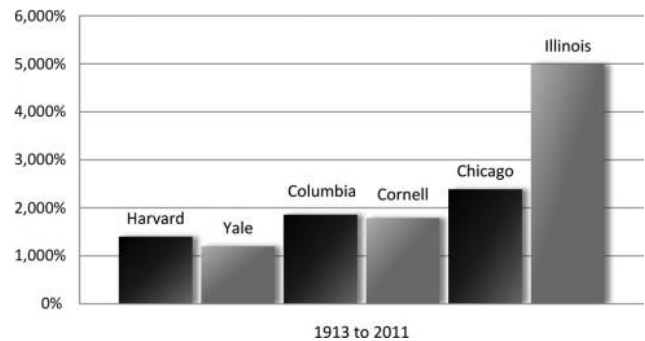
In 1914, Library Hall saw a major expansion, and yet, in 1916, an article appeared in the Urbana Daily Courier titled "Growth of University Demands New Library". The library was still overcrowded with 350,000 volumes and was forced to store collections in "non-fireproof buildings, a very undesirable condition" (Growth of University Demands New Library, 1916, p. 6). The Courier article pointed out that at that time Harvard had three million volumes, the New York Public Library had four and a half million volumes, the Library of Congress had six million volumes and Berlin had seven million volumes. Even by meeting President James' target of one million volumes, the University of Illinois would still be "distinctly a second-rate library".

Figure 5 Uniqueness of collection

By 1921, the University of Illinois Senate Committee had serious concerns about the state of the library, noting that “staff was beginning to box lesser used volumes because shelves could not possibly hold all of the volumes in the current collection”, and that “many class instructors were no longer requiring that students regularly use the library” because of the conditions ([University of Illinois Senate Committee on the Library, 1922](#)).

The new library building, which is still used as the Main Library today, opened its doors in 1926 with 649,924 volumes, and the sought after one-millionth volume was acquired in 1935 ([Peoples, 2011](#)). The University made a concerted effort to improve the library facilities and grow the library collections to compete with the best universities in the nation. Today, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library has celebrated the addition of its 13-millionth volume and ranks behind Harvard as the second largest academic library in the country.

In 1913, the earliest year for which consistent data to make comparisons was found, the University of Illinois ranked sixth among academic libraries in the USA for the number of items held, behind Harvard University, Yale University, Columbia University, Cornell University and the University of Chicago ([Association of Research Libraries, 2015](#)). Illinois’ growth exploded, particularly from 1920 to 1930, when the collection almost doubled in size, and again from 1940 to 1950, when it nearly doubled again, with several other decades of impressive growth ([Figure 6](#)). The University of Illinois’ total per cent increase in collection size from 1913 to 2011 was more than twice the increase seen at any of the other top five academic libraries during that time (see [Figure 7](#)), and yet the University of Illinois was the growth leader for only three of those ten decades ([Table III](#)), illustrating how tremendous the growth was in the 1920s and 1940s.

Figure 6 The percentage of increase in volumes held by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library by decade**Figure 7** The percentage of increase in total volumes held from 1913 to 2011

Getting from there to here

Growth has always been a priority for the University Library. Dr. Gregory, the first regent, was proud of the Library and a strong supporter of its ongoing growth and development. In his annual report from 1873 to 1874, he indicated that:

[...] the maintenance and steady increase of this library ought to be an object of prime concern. I trust that the state of our finances will soon enable us to restore to this use the entire income from matriculation fees ([Wilcox, 1931](#)).

Though the size of the original collection was modest, the emphasis placed on rapid growth was clear, as the collection doubled in size repeatedly in the first 30 years ([Table IV](#)).

There were many ways that growth has taken place throughout the years. As noted in a catalog of “Collections Acquired by the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, 1897-1974”:

The libraries of individual collectors have contributed significantly to the growth and excellence of the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Throughout this century, private collections have been sought out and acquired both by purchase and as gifts. These collections reflect a great diversity of approach to book collecting. Many collectors have focused their attention on a single type of literature, such as the writings of a single author, the history of an area of the world, all aspects of a specific public issue, or a thorough examination of one time period. Others have assembled balanced collections which had direct bearing on their own research. Still, other collections reflected the catholic interests of their owners. ([Major, 1974](#), introduction)

The catalog then goes on to annotate 185 collections purchased by the University Library during that time range, clearly demonstrating the great diversity of the collection as a whole.

In addition to acquiring collections that had been curated privately, the University Library of course also acquired materials through a number of other selection processes ranging from vendor-based approval plans to title-by-title selection by subject specialists. In a letter to the Officers of the Board, the Head Librarian wrote on October 4, 1897 that:

The appropriation of five thousand dollars (\$5000) for this year will be devoted to buying the books and periodicals most needed by all, while the appropriation for next year will be anticipated for expensive sets ([Head Librarian, 1897](#)).

As noted previously, the expenditures and composition of the original collection did not necessarily reflect the subject areas taught at the time, though after the initial buying trip, there was clearly input solicited from departments and faculty. However, current collection expenditures more closely match

Table III Percent increase in items held by decade

Year	Harvard (%)	Yale (%)	Columbia (%)	Cornell (%)	Chicago (%)	Illinois (%)
1913-1920	87	47	31	49	44	74
1920-1930	51	38	64	31	55	94
1930-1940	35	51	41	28	38	42
1940-1950	30	32	5	38	40	96
1950-1960	24	11	53	46	15	37
1960-1970	23	30	44	72	44	42
1970-1980	21	30	21	14	44	27
1980-1990	19	19	20	24	20	30
1990-2000	21	19	20	27	26	22
2000-2010	14	21	61	22	60	39

Table IV Volumes held 1867-1898*

Year	Volumes
1867-1868	...
1868-1869	1,092
1869-1870	3,646
1870-1871	4,538
1871-1872	7,307
1872-1873	8,427
1873-1874	10,000
1874-1875	...
1875-1876	...
1876-1877	...
1877-1878	...
1878-1879	...
1879-1880	12,550
1880-1881	...
1881-1882	13,510
1882-1883	...
1883-1884	14,000
1884-1885	...
1885-1886	15,300
1886-1887	...
1887-1888	17,288
1888-1889	...
1889-1890	19,000
1890-1891	...
1891-1892	21,216
1892-1893	...
1893-1894	...
1894-1895	27,750
1895-1896	28,200
1896-1897	30,100
1897-1898	36,990

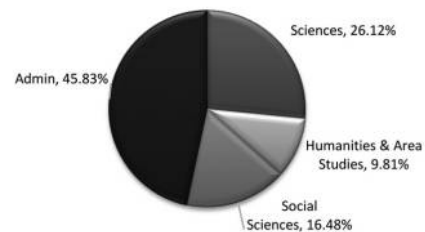
Note: *These figures differ slightly from the figures used for the research project, as different early accounts reported items in differing ways

the campus expenditures in corresponding areas, as shown in Figure 8.

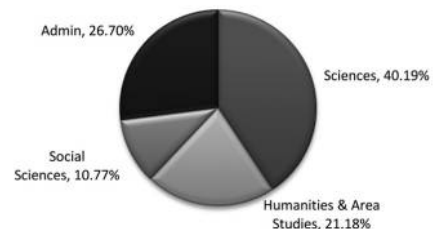
The increased correlation between the University curriculum and library collections can be seen through many historical documents. As an example, the University Library currently operates with an overarching collection development

Figure 8 Comparison of University versus Library funding by broad area

University Funding, total campus budget
5-Year average FY2006-2010: \$638,587,000.80



Library Funding, total collections budget
5-Year average FY2006-2010: \$12,577,642.71



statement that was developed and established in 1990. As noted in that statement:

This collection development statement is a written guide to the University Library's effort to support the instructional and research activities being undertaken at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The most immediate use of the statement is for the Library faculty to identify as clearly as possible the areas of collecting responsibilities among the numerous library units, which provide informational services and library materials to a comprehensive university, offering the PhD degree in over 90 subjects and supporting numerous independent research facilities, as well as a full range of undergraduate, Master's and professional programs. The policy statement is also intended to be a guide to the teaching faculty and university administrators to facilitate their understanding of the collections, and the vast network of collection development activities taking place in the third largest academic library in the country, which in 1986 purchased its seven millionth volume. Collection policies for academic libraries are first and foremost directed to the institution which they serve. But this document should also be useful to other libraries which seek to comprehend library's collection profile and policies to develop resource sharing and cooperative collection development agreements (University Library, University of Illinois, 2014b).

There have been a number of major shifts in philosophy and practice in collection development policies over time. For the

original collection, books were not directly available to students. In fact:

[. . .] students could only take out a book in the name of the librarian or of a faculty member. As late as 1,896, no books could be taken from the room without a written order from a professor (Herron, 1926, p. 14).

As time passed and student demand and access changed, so did collection development practices. In the period of 1904-1905, there were only six collections deemed worthy of the title “departmental library”, with varying levels of curation. By 1926, however, there were 22 departmental libraries or reading rooms outside of the Main Library building (Herron, 1926, p. 35).

Each departmental library and/or discrete subject area still maintains a separate, specific collection development policy today, and those individual policies have changed much more dramatically over time than the overarching policy referenced above, reflecting changes in campus units and format availability, as well as individual selector priorities and scope of available budgets over time. Some of those changes are documented on the library collections Web site, which includes collection development policies for different areas over time (University Library, University of Illinois, 2014a).

In the past decade, factors shaping collection development include the University Library’s New Service Model initiatives, the availability of library high-density storage, a shift toward electronic access and shared access rather than locally owned content, moving toward shared print repositories, and in general, an increased focus locally on unique print resources (e.g. international or area studies) while building cooperative arrangements for access to aggregated collections and data.

Began in 2007 and still ongoing, the New Service Model Programs were designed to help reshape collections and services for the new century (University Library, University of Illinois, 2014c). Building on existing traditional strengths, the goal is to ensure that the University Library remains a leader in the field. One of the results of this initiative has been the consolidation of a number of departmental libraries, merging collections and services from previously distinct areas into newly formed, often renovated spaces and models. This has created an opportunity (and necessity) to examine collections and their use, look at available electronic access and/or new content and shift collections to appropriate locations whether that be the new space, the main book stacks or high-density storage.

Library high-density storage has itself helped change the shape of library collections. The shift toward high-density storage was designed, at least at the onset, to optimize space available and make it not as critical, at least for a number of years, to consider space and growth concerns in collecting content. As materials stored in high-density facilities are not accessible by the public, but are only accessible by trained staff using industrial equipment, there is no browsing capability. That being the case, every item held in high-density storage needs to have a robust record in the online catalog for adequate access. In practice, this has led to the discovery and retrospective cataloging of a number of hidden collections, as the items could not be shifted until access points were created. For example, the Library had been quietly collecting the C-Collection, a collection of college and university

publications – bulletins, course catalogs, annual reports, schedules, etc. – for domestic and international institutions for several decades but without the resources to catalog the majority of these materials as they were added to the collection. More than 25,000 items have been added to the catalog, most of which did not have records in OCLC and required original cataloging, and so are believed to be uniquely held at Illinois. This, along with other cataloging projects, has resulted in unexpected growth in the collections, as materials previously acquired through a variety of means but never cataloged are added. Currently, libraries are planning for high-density storage not only to address space issues but also to provide efficient, effective storage proactively for materials deemed too important to withdraw but not likely to circulate heavily.

The rapid growth of the library collection as a whole is, of course, now largely because of the shift toward electronic content. In the 2013 fiscal year alone over 1,60,000 ebooks were added to the library online databases, and online serials and databases managed by the Library’s E-Resources unit comprise close to 70 per cent of the entire collections budget. Although in some cases, the Library still maintains both print and electronic access to specific titles, and this has become the exception, not the rule. Subject experts continue to maintain oversight of subject-specific funds, but there is an increasing emphasis and demand for centrally managed electronic content and corresponding expertise.

In addition to the shift toward electronic content, there is also a shift toward shared access rather than individual institutional ownership. Now, that many libraries have embraced individual high-density storage facilities, they are beginning to look more broadly at consortial storage, where material serves the needs of multiple institutions. Although there are a number of challenges inherent in that prospect (discovery, licensing, differing patron needs and circulation policies to name a few), consortial collection building and storage is already having an impact on local collections. Some materials are weeded from the collection against consortial rather than local holdings, and access to large packages is more economically acquired at the consortial level rather than by individual institutions. Examples of consortial collections and storage include the CIC Shared Print Repository (Committee on Institutional Cooperation, 2015), of which the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a contributing member, and the developing Hathi Trust Print Repository (HathiTrust Digital Library, 2014). Though the consortial nature of shared print collections is relatively new, the idea of institutional focus on unique strengths and local interest was represented by the original collection as well (Table II).

Collection milestones

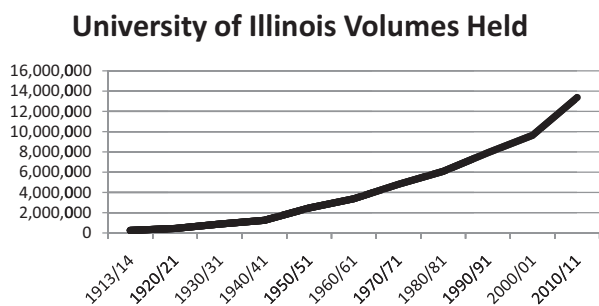
The Library has celebrated each millionth volume acquired by purchasing a special item to commemorate the milestone, all of which are housed in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. In 1935, the University Library acquired its one-million volume. This first major milestone took 68 years to achieve. The growth of the collection sped up dramatically after that, developing a collection two-million volume by 1946, only 11 years later. A Three-million volume was reached by 1956, ten years later, and the four-million volume was reached within

the next ten years in 1966. It only took nine more years to reach the five-million volume in 1975, with the acquisitions rate continuing to increase. The six-million volume was reached in 1982, seven years later, and the seven-million volume milestone took only four years to reach in 1986. The Library celebrated the addition of the eight millionth volume six years later in 1992, followed 6 years later by the celebration of the nine millionth volume in 1998. Reaching ten million volumes took five more years, which was achieved in 2003, and it took the Library six years to reach 11-million volumes in 2009. The rate of acquisition increased even more dramatically when the Library acquired its 12-millionth volume just one year later in 2010, and its 13-millionth volume two years after that in 2012 (Figure 9). As mentioned earlier, this most recent explosion is because of the increased acquisitions of traditional print materials, as well as an increase in purchasing electronic content and project-based work to add long hidden collections in various cataloging backlogs to the Library's catalog.

The specific volumes acquired to celebrate these milestones are listed below:

- *One-millionth volume*: Sir Walter Raleigh. *The History of the World*. London: Printed by William Stansby for Walter Burre, 1614.
- *Two-millionth volume*: Henry De Wolf Smyth. *A General Account of the Development of Methods of Using Atomic Energy for Military Purposes under the Auspices of the USA Government, 1940-1945*. [Washington, DC.: Printed in the Adjutant General's Office, 1945].
- *Three-millionth volume*: Pomponius Mela. *Cosmographia, sive, De situ orbis*. Salamanca: [Printer of Nebrissensis, Gramatica], 1,498.
- *Four-millionth volume*: Lycophron. *Lycophonos tou Chalkideōs Alexandra*. Geneva: Paul Estienne, 1,601.
- *Five-millionth volume*: *The Holy Bible: Containing the Old Testament and the New: Translated into the Indian Language and Ordered to be Printed by the Commissioners of the United Colonies in New-England, at the Charge and with the Consent of the Corporation in England for the Propagation of the Gospel amongst the Indians in New-England = Mamusse Wunmeetupanatanmwve Up-Biblum God Naneeswe Nukkone Testament Kah Wonk Wusku Testament*. Cambridge, [Massachusetts]: Samuel Green and Marmaduke Johnson: 1,661–63.
- *Six-millionth volume*: John Flamsteed. *Historiae coelestis libri duo: quorum prior exhibit catalogum stellarum fixarum Britannicum novum & locupletissimum*. London: J.

Figure 9 The rate of growth of the Library's collection



Matthews, 1,712 and John Flamsteed. *Atlas coelestis*. London: [s.n.], 1,729.

- *Seven-millionth volume*: Bernhard von Breydenbach. *Peregrinatio in Terram Sanctam*. Mainz: Erhard Reuwich, 1,486.
- *Eight-millionth volume*: William C. Gannett. *The House Beautiful*. [River Forest, Ill.: Auvergne Press, 1,897].
- *Nine-millionth volume*: Christophorus Lieb. *Practica et arte di cavalleria = Übung und Kunst des Reitens in welcher der Bereuter die Pferd nach ihrer Art und Natur zu unterweisen und abzurichten erfahren und geubt sein sol*. Dresden: Gmel Bergen, 1,616 together with Christophorus Lieb. *Gebissbuch, oder, Kurtzer und gruendlicher Bericht, von Gebiss und Zeumung der Pferd*. Dresden: Gmel Bergen, 1,616.
- *Ten-millionth volume*: *Unlocking Our Past, Building Our Future: A Commemorative Publication Celebrating the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as Resource, as Place, and as Experience*. [Urbana: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library], 2003.
- *Eleven-millionth volume*: Marcus Tullius Cicero. *M. T. Cicero's Cato Major, or, His Discourse of Old-Age*. Translated by James Logan. Philadelphia: Benjamin Franklin, 1,744.
- *Twelve-millionth volume*: H.G. Wells. *The Adventures of Tommy*. [manuscript, 1,898].
- *Thirteen-millionth volume*: Anonymous. *Ise Monogatari (or Tales of Ise)*. Compilation of 209 poems and 125 episodes from a poet's life. Published by Suminokura Soan, in co-operation with Hon'ami Koetsu, and Nakanoin Michikatsu, 1,608.

Conclusion

This project represents the first step in taking a retrospective look at the original collection at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and illustrates the extreme growth in the collections over the years. The University Library began with just 1,078 volumes in 1868, and that number nearly quadrupled in two years, increasing the collection to 4,051 volumes by 1870. Now, the collection has exploded to contain more than 13-million volumes. Currently, the Oak Street Library Facility (high-density storage), which opened in 2004, houses over 3,800,000 items and is growing daily. The main book stacks now actually houses a smaller collection, at 3,347,000. The virtual, online location within the library catalog, which was created in July of 2002 when the latest integrated library system was implemented, is more difficult to track, as there are not individual item records but rather holding records, includes over 1,200,000 records, the target that was initially sought for the print collections. As electronic access, shared repositories and access to shared content reshape the collection development landscape, the emphasis is shifting toward global access and unique local content. And yet, we see that this new model is built on a solid foundation of collection development almost 150 years in the making.

This research will continue to explore the guiding principles and collection development policies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and how those have changed and have shaped the collection over time. As the Library approaches its sesquicentennial, we must look more closely at what it meant and continues to mean to have a premier

research collection, thinking critically about where and how our collection should grow from here.

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