Staff News

Kirstin Johnson on Sabbatical

Kirstin Johnson, Head, Music & Performing Arts Library, is on sabbatical February 16 – August 15, 2020. Marek Sroka, Literatures & Languages Librarian, will serve as Acting Head during this time.

Questions about library services and collections can be sent to mpal@library.illinois.edu. Messages sent to this email address reach both Marek Sroka, acting Head, and Kate Lambaria, Music & Performing Arts Librarian. Purchase requests can be sent directly to Kate at lambari1@illinois.edu.

Diane Pye Retires

Diane Pye will retire at the end of May 2020. Diane joined the Music & Performing Arts Library in September 2013. Many of you may have benefitted from her expert knowledge of billing and fines, or received her assistance at the 2nd floor service desk. There will be a farewell event later this semester. Please keep an eye out for more details and join us in wishing her a relaxing retirement!

Events

Monthly Player Piano Concerts

MPAL continues the Monthly Player Piano Concert series on the first Friday of the month from noon-1pm. All are welcome to stop by during the hour and listen to the player piano, explore our roll collection, and learn about the instrument and its role in early recording history.

Individuals or small groups can also make appointments to see the piano in action by emailing mpal@library.illinois.edu.
New Online Research Guides

Graduate Assistants at MPAL have been hard at work developing new online research guides and updating existing ones. New guides created this year include:

- **Electronic and Digital Music**: this guide can help students and researchers find resources and materials related to the large range of electronic music.
- **Writing Citations in Music**: this guide can help students learn how to cite sources using Chicago/Turabian and MLA. Common music sources are used as examples throughout the guide.

The following guides have also seen significant updates:

- **Dance Research Guide**: this guide is a great starting point for anyone conducting research on dance topics. It outlines search strategies and highlights key resources.

All online guides can be found on our website under the specific subject’s Research Resources page.

Forthcoming: New Library Catalog

The University Library is in the process of switching backend systems. This also means that a new online library catalog will be in place starting June 24, 2020. This transition will include all other 91 I-Share Libraries. More information about the project can be found here:

https://www.library.illinois.edu/geninfo/discoveryservices/.

We need your help! Interested in being a beta tester for this new catalog? Please contact Michael Norman at manorman@illinois.edu.

This will also impact our ability to purchase new materials as the semester winds down, so please place all purchase suggestions as soon as possible.

Digital Projects

Digitized Sound Recordings

The Music and Performing Arts Library is excited to announce the transfer of approximately 40,000 sound recordings to the Internet Archive (IA) for digitization and sharing with the world (in cases where copyright allows). These discs had been in storage for many years and include 78s, LPs, and some 45s, and are predominately gift donations that were either duplicates of our existing collection or outside of our scope.

The IA has already started digitizing the collection. You can find more information about the project here: https://archive.org/details/universityofillinoisaudioarchive. 78rpm recordings that have been digitized can be found here: https://archive.org/details/78rpm_universityofillinoisaudioarchive.

Significant Acquisitions

New Online Collections

The University Library has purchased the following new digital collections from Adam Matthew:

- **Ethnomusicology: Global Field Recordings**: the material in this collection includes thousands of audio field recordings and interviews, educational recordings, film footage, field notebooks, slides, correspondence and ephemera from over 60 fields of study.
- **Shakespeare’s Globe Archive: Theatres, Players, & Performance**: this collection documents over 200 performances through prompt books, wardrobe notes, programmes, publicity material, annual reports, show reports, photographs and architectural plans.

Adam Matthew provides access to several other digital collections that may be of interest, including **African American Communities**, which discusses the impact of gospel music through oral histories and magazine articles, and **Eighteenth Century Journals**, which features articles and reviews on performances during this time period.