



IOWA

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE

University of Iowa, 2024



2024 SLIS SUCCESSES

The University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) continued to experience significant advancement during the 2023-2024 academic year. The School underwent strategic expansion while maintaining its commitment to educational excellence. Key developments included continued accreditation through the American Library Association, curriculum enhancements and expansion of degree pathways, the recruitment of additional faculty members, and notable achievements in external partnerships, research publications, and grant acquisitions directly benefiting the State of Iowa and beyond. Both incoming students and recent graduates continue to demonstrate the program's value through their contributions to the field, and a passionate commitment to community excellence. As always, I remain proud of our faculty, staff, and students who have shown remarkable adaptability and maintained their dedication to fostering an optimal learning environment. Here at SLIS we look forward to yet another year of contributing to the future of LIS, and the education of innovative, passionate, and community-minded GLAM professionals.



Dr. Lucy Santos Green
SLIS Director, Professor

SLIS AT A **GLANCE**

The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) is an academic unit housed in the Graduate College that has offered the Master of Arts in Library and Information Science since 1967. A distinctive aspect of our School is its focus on librarianship as a multifaceted profession that serves communities through libraries as, and within institutions. SLIS specializes in preparing students who will work in key areas of the profession, particularly public libraries; school libraries, with state certification; academic libraries, especially special collections, and archives. We offer a Certificate in Special Collections Librarianship and Archives led by two nationally-renowned faculty. Our long-established partnership with the University of Iowa Center for the Book (UICB) allows us to offer a joint MA/MFA and a Certificate in Book Studies and Library and Information Science Studies (BLIS), among other joint degree offerings. More recently, we built on the University's new undergraduate-to-graduate (U2G) program that enables students to obtain both an undergraduate and a SLIS graduate degree in 5 years by partnering with Wartburg College. Our newest interdisciplinary program of study: the joint Ph.D. in English and MLIS with the options to add either the BLIS or the Special Collections Certificate, has taken off with rousing success, enabling us to explore new partnerships with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to be offered in Fall 2025. This tandem effort to focus our areas of instruction and expertise, while continuing to expand our degree offerings, is critical to SLIS's educational mission.

2 NEW

TENURE-TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS

14 | 37

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

68 NEW STUDENTS

ENROLLED IN THE SLIS GRADUATE PROGRAM

149 STUDENTS

ACTIVELY ENROLLED IN THE SLIS GRADUATE PROGRAM

4 PH.D. STUDENTS

FOR THE COMBINED MLIS AND ENGLISH PH.D.

1 NEW

UNDERGRADUATE TO GRADUATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

8 GRANTS

OVERSEEN BY SLIS FACULTY

4 NEWLY

AWARDED GRANTS

\$920,000

AWARDED IN RESEARCH FUNDING

SLIS FACULTY **IMPACT**



Jackie Biger

Associate Professor of Instruction

Teacher Librarian Program Coordinator

In 1984, iconic New York City pop artist, Keith Haring, visited Horn Elementary in Iowa City in response to an invitation from teacher Colleen Ernst. Ernst -- fondly referred to as "Dr. Art" -- and her students began a letter-writing campaign with Haring that year, and he accepted their invitation to visit the school. In 1989, Haring returned to Horn Elementary and painted a mural for the school based upon the suggestions of the students. This mural hung in the Horn Elementary School Library since its creation but was temporarily relocated in the spring of 2023 while school renovations at Horn were underway.



The mural is currently on display at the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art as the centerpiece of an exhibit titled, [To My Friends at Horn: Keith Haring and Iowa City](#). It will return to the Horn Library this spring.

Shortly after his second visit to Iowa City in 1989, Keith Haring sadly passed away in February of 1990, but his mural continued to inspire students at Horn for decades. Taking advantage of the temporary location at the museum this past year, SLIS and the Stanley Art Museum partnered to fund an interactive, interdisciplinary unit between ICCSD art teachers and school librarians, and the talented professional muralists who painted the large murals you see downtown! [Jackie Biger](#), Project Coordinator and SLIS Associate Professor of Instruction, met with three art teachers and three librarians during the summer of 2024 as they began to create the curriculum for this collaborative project. The three-day workshop included a visit to Haring exhibit, and the development of lessons centered on library research skills and aligned to art curriculum objectives. The unit was primed and ready for ICCSD art teachers and school librarians to collaboratively implement this past fall.





School librarians kicked off the unit this past fall by reading books to students about Keith Haring's life and guiding them through research on the muralist who would be visiting their school. They also taught lessons on letter writing -- like the letters Ernst's students wrote to Haring -- and the process of creating interview questions. Then, professional muralists visited art classrooms with the intention of recreating the experience that the students of Horn had with Haring. When the muralists visited art classrooms, students interviewed them about their background and artistic style, and muralists led a brainstorming session on what students wanted their school's mural to include. Then, students began to create their murals.

This experience expanded elementary student understanding of the language, purpose, authorship, and preparation of art, and will inspire them to look with new eyes at the art displayed in their community. Professor Biger's investment in her community through this partnership with the Stanley and the development of the interdisciplinary unit, reflects her desire to impact librarianship in the State of Iowa:

When the students at Horn worked with Keith Haring in 1989, they were asked the question:

“What do you love about your school?”

“My hope is that more districts will see the importance of having a school librarian to support their literacy initiatives as well as teach lessons in media and information literacy and inquiry. That ability to pause and consider the source, who (or what AI program) created this piece of information? How does using this platform make me feel? Can I also ask complex questions and use my skill set to figure out how to answer them? A well-prepared teacher librarian is a good investment! They are poised to help across all curriculums and can see the big picture and how the disciplines interconnect.”

Thank you, [Jackie Biger](#), for coordinating this project, and leading our school librarians, art teachers, and students through this work.





Kara Logsden (left)

Lecturer, Undergraduate
to Graduate Coordinator

Iulian Vamanu (right)

Associate Professor

SLIS Faculty Members Share the Impact of Public Libraries on Community Resilience in the United States

A group of University of Iowa faculty is helping strengthen the ability of public libraries to serve everyone in their communities, including those who need resources most. The “Public Libraries for Disaster Resilience: Assessing Libraries’ Community Impacts in Times of Climate and Socio-Economic Crises” project will assess the effects of public libraries on community resilience across the country and increase their ability to meet patrons’ needs, especially those who struggle most with economic hardships, extreme climate events, and accessing resources.

“We hope to tell the story of the value public libraries offer their communities,” says Kara Logsden, professor in the School of Library and Information Science and co-principal investigator on the project. “We want to give librarians the tools they need to quantify their work, tell the story about the difference they make in their communities, and provide training so librarians can help build resilience as a part of serving their communities. We also want to provide library staff with effective tools to support their work and their personal resilience.”

The project, which received \$150,000 in funding as one of the five initial grant recipients from the UI’s Jumpstarting Tomorrow P3 initiative, was most recently awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Jumpstarting Tomorrow seed grant program, administered through the Office of the Vice President for Research, provided grants to multidisciplinary projects that had the potential to establish or grow areas of research excellence at the university.

“We appreciated the Jumpstarting Tomorrow funds because we would not have formed our interdisciplinary team without the financial support from the university,” says Iulian Vamanu, associate professor in the School of Library and Information Science and principal investigator on the new grant. “Looking at an issue from multiple perspectives and leaning into everyone’s expertise means we can look at the research questions from many angles. The team conversations are very interesting and critical for advancing the research and scholarship.”

Lucie Laurian, a former UI professor and previous director of the School of Planning and Public Affairs, initially began the project and reached out to others to include multiple perspectives in the process. In addition to Logsden and Vamanu, the current team includes Megan Gilster, associate professor in the School of Social Work; Jennifer Glanville, professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology; Phuong Nguyen, associate professor and director of graduate studies in the School of Planning and Public Affairs; Haifeng Qian, director and associate professor in the School of Planning and Public Affairs; and Kang Zhao, associate professor of business analytics.

The team has also worked with 16 librarians in eastern Iowa to learn more about the needs of community members and library staff. “The librarians talked about how libraries are places where people come not only for collections and resources, but also for services and getting connected with community resources,” Logsden says. “The librarians also talked about staff burnout and resources staff need to support staff as they serve their communities.”

In 2022, the group piloted a survey, which garnered 505 responses, to obtain information about the programs and practices needed to support patrons who face economic, climate, and public health emergencies. A nationwide survey of library directors on the same topic is planned for in fall 2024. Survey results will then be distributed through IMLS-affiliated library organizations, and the data will be analyzed by summer 2025. Then, the libraries with the most innovative programs will be interviewed to learn more about the programs they implemented. All data collected through the project will be shared with library professionals and educators.

“The input from these librarians was invaluable in helping the researchers understand the services libraries provide to communities and the challenges that library and staff face when providing these services,” Vamanu says. “We hope the research findings will help public libraries identify best practices for building community resilience and the project will provide training for local librarians as well as librarians across the country.”

Written by: Kayli Reese



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SLIS's professional development series, **Professional Growth through Personal Engagement**, celebrated its second year with each semester's PD sessions connecting students, alumni, faculty, and interested LIS professionals with LIS scholars, professional and civic leaders, and legal experts. Fall 2024 featured a collection of powerful guest speakers. Starting off the series in September, [Carissa Vogel](#), Director of the University of Iowa Law Library and Professor of Instruction at the Ulowa College of Law, presented on [Law Librarianship: No You Don't Need a Law Degree](#), broadening our understanding of the opportunities available to LIS scholars in legal professional settings.

[Sam Helmick](#), Iowa City Public Library Community and Access Services Coordinator and the 2024 President-Elect of the American Library Association, joined us in October for a timely discussion on [How Libraries Foster Civic Engagement](#). November featured a refreshing take on [Future Forward: Emerging Career Paths for Archivists](#) with [Dr. Angela Fritz](#), author of [Sustainable Enterprise Strategies for Optimizing Digital Stewardship: A Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums](#) and University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science Visiting Professor.

The fall semester closed in December with [Amanda Jones](#), 2021 National Librarian of the Year, educator, and author of *That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America*. Her critical session on [Finding Hope in Darkness: My Journey to Protect Intellectual Freedom](#), encouraged us with a realistic and truth filled description of what advocacy looks like in one's day-to-day. We were honored to conclude the 2024 year with Amanda, winner of the 2023 AASL Intellectual Freedom Award, and the 2023 ALA Paul Howard Award for Courage.

Spring 2025 will highlight [Anastasia Collins](#), Instructional Librarian and Geographer-at-Large at Oliver Wendell Holmes Library, Associate Editor of [The Reservoir](#), and author of READCON's curriculum on [Disrupting Book Censorship](#). The 2024-2025 series will conclude with a spring presentation by Deputy Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and national library leader, [Cyndee Landrum](#). Visit slis.uiowa.edu for all SLIS events and details.



From left to right: Carissa Vogel, Sam Helmick, Angela Fritz, Amanda Jones, Anastasia Collins, and Cyndee Landrum.

2023-24 FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Micah Bateman

Assistant Professor

Bateman, M. (2024). [Distributed 'Blackishness': The uses of Black American poets among candidates of the 2020 US democratic primaries](#). *Book History* 27(1), 192-230.

This essay reads instances of social-media campaigns by candidates for the Democratic nomination to the US presidency in 2020 as using "Black-ishness" to create outgroup affiliations between mostly white candidates and mostly non-Black voters. These candidates' social-media campaigns draw from the authority of Black literary celebrities while sublimating their Blackness into a fungible outgroup-identifier in order to solicit many Black and mostly non-Black votes from the American left (or left-of-right).

Bateman, M. (2024). [Whitman's web: The political poet 2.0](#). In K. M. Price & S. Schöberlein (Eds.) *The Oxford handbook of Walt Whitman*, (pp. 198-222). Oxford University Press.

This study utilizes Twitter as an archive of responses to Walt Whitman, especially as partisan political response. While scholars on the Walt Whitman Archive trace "Whitman's drift," as Matt Cohen notes, across the rich mediascape of the nineteenth century, this paper reconceives their tracking of Whitman's reprints into the twenty-first century by examining contemporary, electronic remediations, uses, and associations of Whitman during American political contests and campaigns.



Jackie Biger

Associate Professor of Instruction

Biger, J., & Green, L. S. (2023). [Perspectives on practice: School librarianship](#). In J. B. Pierce & N. A. Henke (Eds.), *Librarians learning together: An introduction to the profession*, (Ch. 14). Iowa Pressbooks.

A chapter co-authored with SLIS professor and director, Lucy Santos Green, detailing K-12 school librarianship professional expectations, practice, and impact on student learning.



Stephanie Blalock

Assistant Professor

Blalock, S. M., McMullen, K., Schöberlein, S., & Stacy, J. (2024). ['One of the grand works of the world': Walt Whitman's advocacy for the Brooklyn waterworks, 1856-59](#). *Technology & Culture*, 65(1), 237-263.

When the Brooklyn Waterworks opened in 1859, it was one of America's most advanced water and sewer systems. Yet after Brooklyn was annexed by New York City, the waterworks' history slipped into obscurity, despite having a now-famous champion: the "poet of America," Walt Whitman, whose brother worked on the project. This article shows the Brooklyn poet's fierce, multiyear lobbying effort for the waterworks in various newspapers and introduces a wealth of newly recovered Whitman writings on the issue.



Jennifer Burek Pierce

Professor and Associate Director

Pierce, J. B. & Henke, N. A. (2023). [Librarians learning together: An introduction to the profession](#). Iowa Pressbooks.

A foundational exploration of theoretical and ethical issues related to the field, this open textbook for students in core Library and Information Science courses introduces students to selected historical and contemporary issues in LIS. Centered on the question, "What is a library?," the text includes explorations of norms of practice in libraries, information gathering, and professional values.

Pierce, J.B. (2024). [Readerly cartography: Finding fictional places and actual readers on digital maps](#). *Information & Culture*, 59(3), 266-284.

Maps that provide pragmatic geographic and location information can also be used to document and describe fictional places. Readers have used the affordances of Google Maps to add settings from favorite books to this online information resource, demonstrating a complex form of reader response that I call readerly cartography. This practice aligns with an interdisciplinary scholarship on maps as culturally constructed texts. The effect of readerly cartography is to document and collocate communities of actual readers.

Henke, N. A., Anthony, M., & Pierce, J. B. (2024). [Librarians' Roles in OER Authoring and Open Pedagogy: Lessons from the Field](#). *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 1-10.

This article discusses a partnership among two SLIS alumni and a SLIS faculty member, all trained as librarians, whose teamwork produced an OER textbook and an open-pedagogy-driven online course. The partnership represents an adaptable model of the types of contributions necessary to effective online instruction framed by the values and modalities of the open education movement. We explore the complex nature of this partnership by articulating the underpinning concepts and essential skills.

Pierce, J. B., & Biger, J. (2024). Outreach, community, and connections for readers and teachers using social media. In A. Bernier & S. Lee (Eds.), [Young Adult Library Services: Challenges and Opportunities](#), (pp. 19-24). Rowman & Littlefield.

A chapter co-authored with SLIS associate professor of instruction, Jackie Biger, contributed to a single volume that comprehensively introduces and addresses the most pressing issues and opportunities in young adult (teen) library services.



Lucy Santos Green

Professor and Director

Johnston, M. P., & Green, L. (2024). [A school librarian needs assessment on culturally responsive and impactful K-12 online teaching and learning](#). *Journal of Online Learning Research*, 10(3), 399-423.

This research study investigates the characteristics of the school librarianship knowledge gap on culturally responsive online pedagogy through needs assessment research. Findings indicate that school librarians are familiar with culturally responsive pedagogy, yet they struggle to translate it into implementation. Additionally, confusion between technology integration and tech-enabled learning exacerbates the knowledge gap on culturally responsive pedagogy.

Spiering, J., Green, L., & Bowman, J. D. (2023). [LGBTQIA+ inclusive school library research: A systematic literature review](#). *School Library Research*, 26.

Co-authored with SLIS alumna, Dr. Jenna Spiering, the study's objectives were to identify and categorize published empirical research on LGBTQIA+ topics in school and youth librarianship and to identify and categorize gaps in that research, proposing focuses for future research studies. Findings determined that little research has been done to examine LGBTQIA+ inclusive school library services for youth. Also revealed was a monolithic approach to the discussion of LGBTQIA+ identities and expressions.

Green, L. & Chassereau, K. (2023). [Modeling guided inquiry and school librarian instructional partnerships to pre-service teachers through digital video production](#). *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 64(2), 185-205.

This study examined the process and challenges inherent in designing and modeling Guided Inquiry units of instruction, through a school librarian instructional partnership model, in pre-service teacher education.

Findings indicate Guided Inquiry units co-taught by school library educators and teacher educators help teacher candidates both successfully navigate the research process and develop a mental model of the school librarian as a co-teacher.

Cooke, N., & Green, L. (2023). [Shut down the tent revival: Restructuring LIS for more equitable leadership](#). In K. Black & B. Mehra (Eds.), *Antiracist library and information science: Racial justice and community*. Emerald Publishing.

This chapter interrogates the leadership models found in library and information science (LIS) through the lens of Judeo-Christian religious social structures and terminology, along with an examination of transitional and transformational leadership frameworks, to suggest a more productive and less abusive leadership model.



Kara Logsden

U2G and Public Library Program Lead

Laurian, L., Doyle, E., Vamanu, I., & Logsden, K. (2024). [Libraries are resilience hubs: Evidence from the midwest](#). *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 91(1), 1-14.

Co-authored with SLIS associate professor, Iulian Vamanu, this study determined that beyond collections and information access, public libraries provide many services relevant to community and economic development and to disaster response. In addition, local public libraries act as resilience hubs in the face of economic stressors and extreme weather events, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are ready, flexible, adaptable, and willing to support patrons in times of need. Planners seeking to enhance community resilience can work with their local public libraries to build disaster preparedness and response capacity.

Addison, S. M., Gilster, M. E., Ronnenberg, M., Logsden, K., & Witry, S. (2024). [Examining library staff openness to social work collaboration: The role of empowerment and resilience](#). *Journal of Library Administration*, 64(7), 1-18.

Public library staff increasingly assist patrons with psychosocial needs (e.g. food or housing insecurity). To address growing demands for psychosocial support, libraries are engaging in social work (SW) collaborations; however, successful collaborations depend on library staff's openness to intervention. This study examined the relationship between burnout and openness to SW collaboration, and whether resilience and empowerment against burnout.



Iulian Vamanu

Associate Professor

Vamanu, I. (2023). [Documents as weapons: Secret police files in communist and post-communist Romania](#). *Journal of Documentation*, 79(4), 847-863.

This study examined dossiers of informative pursuit (DIPs), a particular type of secret police files, before and after the fall of Communism in Romania. These DIPs were often weaponized against citizens perceived to be anti-government. Comprehensive studies of DIPs can reveal possible parallels between surveillance by the Communist regime and the massive data-collection that occurs in democratic societies, particularly given the increased technical capabilities for processing data in these democratic societies.

Vamanu, I. (2023). [Cultivating imagination: A case for teaching information ethics with works of fiction](#). *The Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 64(1), 1-17.

The MLIS curriculum should offer information ethics courses that enable future information professionals to develop their imaginative powers through close study and discussion of fiction. LIS students reading ethical theory and fiction bring the two into conversation and as a result reach a better understanding of both. Crucially, this process presupposes the exercise of empathetic imagination, a mental capacity that helps us inhabit other perspectives and modes of being in the world.



SLIS **SUCCESSSES** IN 2024

SLIS Program Spotlight

Wartburg MOU

The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) and [Wartburg College](#), a private liberal arts institution in Waverly, Iowa, coordinated their Undergraduate to Graduate programs to allow undergraduates in their third year of study at Wartburg College apply for admission to the SLIS Master of Arts degree program. The Memorandum of Understanding will enable successful applicants who advance through one year of the combined Wartburg and SLIS [MA-U2G](#) program during their fourth and final year of study at Wartburg, to satisfy the remaining requirements for a bachelor's (BA/BS) degree from Wartburg College while earning 12 semester hours toward the MaLIS! The program provides an efficient mechanism for Wartburg students to enter the degree program prior to completing their undergraduate degree, thus saving time and money in earning both a baccalaureate and a master's. The condensed plans of study will allow students to enter the workforce earlier with an internationally recognized and professionally credentialed degree in a growing and vibrant information science field encompassing, public, private, non-profit, and government entities. This combined degree, a partnership with the only [ALA-accredited program](#) in the state of Iowa, also prepares students for further education in information science and interdisciplinary pathways such as law, health, and informatics. We look forward to welcoming the first Wartburg cohort in Fall 2025. Welcome Knights!

Alumni Student Spotlight

M Clark

M Clark, 2024 SLIS graduate, was awarded a [Fulbright Scholarship](#) to pursue a Masters Degree in Indigenous Studies with a Pacific Islands focus at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand beginning February of 2025. "The Fulbright and the degree I will be earning as part of my award will support my formalized education in Pacific Islands Indigenous cultures and histories and my career a Pacific Studies Librarian," said Clark. "This career will allow me to promote culturally informed collections management in libraries and to foster positive experiences and opportunities for Pacific Islanders through library use."

According to Clark, their goal is to learn about Indigenous Knowledge Organization Systems (IKOS) that diverge from the United State's common Dewey Decimal organizational structure by offering synergistic opportunities for the preservation of human knowledge.

"My professors and advisors have been nothing short of supportive of my culturally-specific career goals and interests," said Clark. "It was the support and freedom I have been given in that program that inspired me to take seriously the possibility of working as a librarian abroad, or visiting the South Pacific to inform my future career."



STUDENT AND ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Charlotte Brookins, MLIS Student

Brookins works as a graduate student with Professors Logsdon and Vamanu on their [IMLS funded grant](#). Their work with the UI School of Planning and Public Affairs, Sociology, Business, and Social Work was recently published by the Journal of [American Planning Association](#) (see pg. 5).

Kay Hansen, MLIS Student

Hansen was selected to present their poster, 'United Against Loneliness: How Trauma-Informed Practices Enabled Community Healing in Rural Iowa', at the [2025 American Library Association](#) conference in Philadelphia, PA.

Amelia Loew, MLIS Student

Loew presented her poster, titled 'Looking Forward: Web Game Preservation in the Digital Age,' at the 2024 [Midwest Archives Conference](#) (MAC) in Des Moines, IA.

Anna Luria, MLIS Student

Luria works as a Law Library Support Lead at the [University of Iowa Law Library](#), where she is revamping the law library's A-Z database. Luria also works as a graduate and research assistant with Director Lucy Santos Green.

Kenneth Mack, MLIS Student

As part of his practicum, Mack is facilitating outreach programs at the [Coralville Public Library](#) for individuals who are re-entering society after being incarcerated, or had previous justice system involvement.

Veronica Ruse, MLIS Student

Ruse was awarded the [Iowa Library Association](#) (ILA) Foundation [Jack E. Tillson Scholarship](#) at the 2024 annual ILA conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

Corissa Thompson, MLIS Student

Thompson is on the Iowa Library Association's (ILA) [Intellectual Freedom Committee](#) and is the current Vice-President and President-Elect of the [Iowa Association of School Librarians](#).

SLIS Alumni in the Field

- Christian Brauns ('24), Teen Services Librarian, Solon Public Library
- Kendra Evers ('23) Library Supervisor, Clinton Public Library
- Kelle Forkenbrock ('23), Public Services Librarian, North Liberty Public Library
- Himschoot, Breanna ('21), Metadata Librarian, Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania
- Justin Huston ('19), Head of Instructional Services Librarian, The University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law
- Damien Ihrig ('20), Curator of the John Martin Rare Book Room in Hardin Library for Health Sciences, University of Iowa
- Madeline Jarvis ('15), Director, Two Harbors Public Library
- Abigail Johnson ('24), Psychology and Neuroscience Liaison Librarian, University of Oregon
- Taylor Johnson ('23), Teacher Librarian, Tate High School
- Madison Knupp ('24), Research and Instruction Librarian at Hunt Library, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Kery Lawson ('17), Archivist-Historian, Nemours Estate
- Haley Lott ('16), Research and Student Engagement Librarian, Roger Williams University
- Hannah Purtymun ('23) Discovery Librarian, Drexel University
- Samantha Reid ('21) Youth Services Librarian, Des Moines Public Library
- Ella Von Hultum ('17) Project Archivist, Paley Collection, Rochester Institute of Technology

MLIS Student Spotlights

Eleanor Ball

[Obermann Center Library](#), University of Iowa

Three months ago, Eleanor Ball stepped into the Obermann Center's library for the first time. Her task was simple, if sizeable: She needed to organize the approximately 600 volumes in the collection by the end of the summer. Over the next month, she logged every Obermann book in the center's internal database. As she worked, she found intriguing ephemera tucked away in the pages: newspaper clippings, promotional bookmarks, typewritten letters to and from the authors, and, her personal favorite, an uncorrected Booklist review proof from 2002. This collection reflects the hard work of the Obermann Center as well as recent, groundbreaking scholarship on topics ranging from American politics to Medieval literature to medical ethics. Ball hopes the collection will serve as a site of sanctuary and inspiration for University of Iowa's future scholars and students.

Carmela Furio

[Medieval Manuscripts in a Modern World](#), Vercelli, Italy

This summer institute near Milan, Italy, explored digital humanities projects using manuscripts and artifacts at the Museo del Tesoro e Archivio Capitolare. Carmela was able to work with and learn about medieval manuscript maintenance, preservation, and conservation.



Dual PhD Student Spotlights

[Cary Stough](#)

Cary Stough is a publishing poet with an MFA in Literary Arts from Brown University, who was selected to speak at the 2024 American Literature Association's American Poetry Symposium.

"Both [English and SLIS degree programs] are dedicated to providing professional development and career preparedness as well as deep, critical analysis of those standards of professionalism and the future of their attendant careers," said Cary. "I certainly do not feel as if I am pursuing two degrees at the same time. Rather, I am receiving an education which takes my own (and others) multi-disciplinary affinities very seriously. I have never, as I do now, **felt such a powerful commitment to public librarianship** as a profession, as a site of advocacy, and as a vital social role."

[Sophia Craig](#)

Sophia Craig is the Managing Editor for the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review, the journal of record for Whitman Studies. She also contributes to Walt Whitman Archive projects, including the online bibliography. These roles are part of her new graduate assistantship position, with Professor Stephanie Blalock, which she began in August of 2024.



[Rachel Romero](#) ('23)

Rachel Romero was hired as a Collection Archivist at the University of Iowa Special Collections & Archives earlier this year. Romero worked as a Processing Assistant in the university's Special Collections & Archives department during her time as an MLIS graduate student. Initially Romero began her studies looking to pursue a career in public libraries, but claims her experience in the department shaped the career she continues to pursue today.

[Hang Nguyen](#) ('21)

Hang Nguyen (PhD, MLIS) is Reference Librarian at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City. She completed her PhD in Musicology in 2018 and the Master's in Library and Information Science in 2021 at the University of Iowa. She serves patrons all over the state, nationwide, and overseas with Iowa history and genealogy topics.

MIDWEST INSTITUTIONS WELCOME SLIS STUDENTS

SLIS students discovered the impact of real-world experiences across the Midwest this year, exploring new and exciting concepts within the field of library and information science. Thank you to the following institutions:

Central College, Iowa
Coralville Library, Iowa
Dubuque-Carnegie Stout Public Library, Iowa
Ely Public Library, Iowa
Grandview University, Iowa
Illinois Heartland Library System, Illinois
Iowa State University Special Collections & Archives, Iowa
Marion Public Library, Iowa
North Liberty Public Library, Iowa
Northwest Missouri State University Library, Missouri
Oxford Public Library, Iowa
State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa
University of Iowa Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, Iowa
University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa

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