Richard M. Daley donates papers

Materials document the evolution of Chicago as a global urban center

By Carlos Sadovi

The University of Illinois at Chicago is proud to announce that former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley has chosen to make UIC’s Richard J. Daley Library the repository for a large collection of papers and artifacts amassed during his 22-year mayoral tenure.

Daley’s donated papers are now available to researchers and students in the Special Collections and University Archives of his father’s namesake library. Visit go.library.uic.edu/richardmdaley for an inventory of available materials. A ceremony held on April 24, 2018 at UIC honored the donation and the anniversary of his first inauguration as mayor in 1989, as well as celebrated his 76th birthday.

“This donation by the Hon. Richard M. Daley reinforces the Daley family’s commitment to UIC. The papers of Richard M. Daley are important source materials documenting the evolution of Chicago as a global urban center,” UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis said.

“The documents are also important primary sources that will serve to provide integral educational opportunities to students and researchers who may want to study the history of Chicago. We are honored that the Daley family has continued to entrust UIC to be the caretakers of their archives telling the story of one of the most important families of our city.”

Re-elected five times as mayor, Richard M. Daley is the longest serving chief executive of the City of Chicago, surpassing his father’s 21-year record by a year. (Story continues on p. 4)
Mission

The Library creates, preserves and provides access to knowledge and shares expertise to foster user success.

In this issue

Read about the Richard M. Daley Papers on pp. 4-5.

A MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN 3
RICHARD M. DALEY DONATES PAPERS 4
LIBRARY CAREER EXPLORATION DAY 6
PARTNERING TO RECRUIT A DIVERSE WORKFORCE 7
 SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCHERS 8
DONOR SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD J. NOWAK 9
TAKING A CREATIVE APPROACH TO RESEARCH 10
OPEN TEXTBOOK FACULTY INCENTIVE PROGRAM 10
LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR COLLABORATION 11
Exams are almost here. Our facilities are packed with students focused on finishing papers and projects and finding quiet spots for intense reading and study. A recent survey tells us that students are having more difficulty finding space in our libraries, especially the Richard J. Daley Library. Since we began renovations a decade ago (enabled by the student Library/IT assessment and private donations), visits to the facilities have increased 245%! We surpassed three million visitors in FY2017. While this is a desired outcome, we need to make sure it doesn't get so crowded that students stop coming. To this end, one of our goals in the next two years is to create a Collaboration Commons encompassing much of the second floor of the Daley Library. The Collaboration Commons will provide additional seating, along with a variety of furniture arrangements, acoustical improvements and tools for effective group work.

Additional critical initiatives for the Library are emerging from our strategic planning process. One of our strategic goals is to reduce the barriers between the physical and digital collections and make all of our collections easy to access. A component of that goal is to update and expand our digitization capacity with renovated space and new equipment. A new Digital Imaging Lab will allow us to increase global access to the unique materials in our Special Collections and University Archives, while preserving the more heavily used collections.

Increased capacity to digitize also contributes to another of our strategic goals: enhancing support to students and faculty throughout the research life cycle. Scholars in the digital humanities are using computational methods on large online corpora of texts, enabling new lines of inquiry. Increasing the richness of these digitized texts with UIC's unique resources enhances scholars' work. The Library will also provide students and faculty with the tools and expertise needed to explore geographic information systems and visualization techniques for mapping and interpreting data. In addition, we are working to expand our current initiatives focused on helping researchers manage their data—a critical skill needed in almost every discipline today.

In our next newsletter, we will share additional strategic goals from our plan and progress to date.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to donors highlighted in this issue. The donation of his papers by former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley (see pp. 4-5) and the financial gift from Richard and Yvonne Nowak for Polish Studies resources (see p. 9) contribute significantly to our ability to provide excellent, in-depth collections to students and scholars. We are very grateful.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Case

University Librarian and Dean of Libraries

Stephen E. Wiberley Jr. Library Faculty Publication Award

In October 2017, the University Library faculty renamed the annual Library Faculty Publishing Award in honor of Stephen E. Wiberley Jr., who retired after a distinguished 40-year career at the Library. Wiberley was hired as a visiting assistant reference librarian and visiting assistant professor in 1977. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1984 and full professor in 1995. Wiberley retired in August 2017.

Wiberley authored or co-authored 27 peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, or encyclopedia entries, edited four books, was the principal investigator or co-principal investigator of six grants and presented numerous papers and posters during his career. Wiberley achieved an H-index of 17 (based on Google Scholar data) and was author or co-author of several highly-cited seminal works on patterns of information seeking in the humanities and the adoption of information technology by humanists. A generous mentor, he reviewed manuscripts and provided advice to numerous Library faculty.

The first recipient of the Stephen E. Wiberley Library Faculty Publication Award is Assistant Professor and Information Services Librarian Rosie Hanneke, for:


The study is the first in the U.S. to examine systematic reviews on obesity prevention policy and models a rigorous approach to deconstructing systematic reviews, revealing how researchers execute the process. It offers a valuable teaching tool to any researcher interested in learning best practices for conducting systematic reviews.
The donation includes more than 600 linear feet of documents, 200 linear feet of photographs and 30 linear feet of audiovisual items. The documents already processed and available include items from the mayor’s office, such as administrative files, memoranda, reports, schedules, speeches and news releases. The photographs and AV items, as well as artifacts and other ephemera included in the collection, are not yet available, said Dan Harper, UIC lecturer and assistant archivist for the Special Collections department.

In addition to materials that touch on the day-to-day functioning of the mayor’s office, unique items include memorabilia from the 1996 Democratic National Convention held in Chicago. In addition, a report about how the city accommodated the Batman movie franchise that helped usher in new filming opportunities in the city and materials from Chinese President Hu Jintao’s 2011 visit to Chicago are also included, said Harper, who is processing the collection.

Other items of interest include signed letters and photographs from sports greats like Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron, former Chicago Bulls Coach Phil Jackson and the Bulls 1990s dynasty teams. Also included are items from seasoned and up-and-coming politicians, including Hillary and Bill Clinton, Al Gore, former Senator and Vice President Joe Biden and former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

In addition, there is Daley’s massive desk that sat in his City Hall office, also used by his father decades earlier, Harper said.

Daley’s items join more than 700 feet of previously donated personal papers and artifacts from his father’s own tenure as mayor. UIC’s main library is named in honor of the elder Daley, who helped create the university.

Peter Cunningham, who worked for Richard M. Daley between 1991 and 1996 as a speechwriter and senior advisor and deputy, has been assisting UIC with its multiyear effort to enrich the collection with oral histories. Cunningham also consulted for various city agencies between 1997 and 2008 during Daley’s tenure.

Richard M. Daley donates papers

Materials document the evolution of Chicago as a global urban center

Between 1989 and 2011, when he chose not to run for re-election, Daley served six terms and left an indelible imprint on the city.

During his watch, Daley took control of the Chicago Public Schools system and helped transform it from one of the worst public school systems in the country to one of the fastest improving. He turned an aging rust-belt metropolis into a global center of technology and tourism; and was instrumental in helping attract world-renowned transportation, finance and manufacturing leaders to Chicago, including the Boeing Company.

Richard M. Daley said that he could not think of a better place to donate his papers than UIC. The university holds a special place of importance for himself and his family. He said his father always believed that having his papers at UIC would be the greatest award he could receive, and he wanted to follow his father’s example.

“His greatest achievement was this university; once he did it, I was going to follow,” Daley said. “When you’re mayor, there are a lot of decisions, and I think it’s a very important record that needs to be told as to how people make these decisions that have to be made.”

Daley’s daughter, Nora Daley Conroy, said she applauded the university’s use of her grandfather’s and now her father’s documents as a learning tool. An Honors College course on the history of Chicago currently utilizes the documents of Richard J. Daley as primary source materials and plans to do the same with the younger mayor’s papers.

“I look forward to so many more students here at UIC having the opportunity to learn directly from my grandfather and from my dad,” Nora Daley Conroy said.
Cunningham said other major highlights for Daley were the creation of Millennium Park, one of the top tourism draws in the country; the modernization and beautification of the city; and keeping "Chicago livable for working families by focusing on the basics and keeping the city affordable."

Cunningham, who has been conducting interviews for UIC of Daley’s top staff members, said the Daley family’s donations are important to local as well as national political history.

"Both mayors embodied the philosophy that good government is good politics. They are easily the most important father-son urban leaders in American history," Cunningham said. "Both of them loved the city and never aspired to any other job."

According to Cunningham, most important for Richard M. Daley is that he, "inherited a city divided by race and worked very hard to build common ground. That’s why his support in the black community rose with every single election."

Among the interviews that eventually will be available to the public is an interview with Arne Duncan, whom Daley appointed to serve as chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools. Duncan, who later became U.S. Secretary of Education under Obama, said Daley’s mantra to him was always to “do the right thing by children.”

He said he was impressed with Daley’s willingness to challenge him and others to think differently and what he called, “an encyclopedic knowledge” of the city. “He just had a map of the city in his head… at heart he was a builder who put a huge amount of time and energy into where schools should go,” Duncan said. “He embodied the city and he wore it on his sleeve. His legacy as a builder of the city is extraordinary.”

Also included is an interview with former President George W. Bush who, while a Republican, had a good working relationship with the Democratic mayor and admired him for his dedication to the city and its people. What drew the two men closer was that they were both interested in education reform.

Along with the Daley papers, the Special Collections and University Archives department houses rare books, printed materials, manuscript collections and papers from other elected officials and political organizations. These include papers from Chicago Mayors Martin Kennelly (1947-1955) and Michael Bilandic (1976-1979), as well as former Illinois State Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., and State Rep. and Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka. For more information, visit the library’s Special Collections website at library.uic.edu/special-collections-university-archives.

"It’s a tremendous opportunity for researchers. We have a very robust collection of materials about the history of Chicago,” Harper said. “For the Daleys, Chicago means home."

"UIC would like to thank the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, whose long-standing endowment for the library provided the funds to process the papers," said Mary M. Case, university librarian and dean of libraries.

*This article was adapted for the UIC University Library Newsletter from the original press release published on today.uic.edu.
Library Career Exploration Day

Challenges and rewards of careers in library science

The UIC University Library held its first Library Career Exploration Day on Nov. 18, 2017. The purpose of the event is to encourage UIC students, especially those from underrepresented groups, to explore the many different possible career paths in library science. Twenty-seven professionals from various academic, industry and public libraries and archives shared their expertise and experience on the rewards and challenges in the field with students.

Miguel Figueroa, head of the American Library Association’s Center for the Future of Libraries, delivered an inspiring keynote address to attendees. The mission of the Center for the Future of Libraries is to “inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning and cultural and civic engagement.” In his keynote, Collaborators for the Future, Figueroa dismantled stereotypes about the purpose of libraries and librarians as being simply focused on books and literacy. The profession is dedicated in “service to creation, expression, discovery and preservation” and “libraries exist to provide equitable access and education and help ensure and advance privacy, intellectual freedom and diversity,” he said. Furthermore, he remarked that “books, databases, media, even the computers and technology that libraries provide are just tools to achieve these meaningful ends and goals.” Figueroa concluded by explaining that libraries need diverse professionals as “collaborators for the future” to respond to the big picture trends defined by the Center for the Future of Libraries in education, society, technology, politics, government, economics and demographics in order to better serve communities for generations to come.

Following Figueroa’s keynote, professionals participated in a panel discussion focusing on topics such as day-to-day job responsibilities, favorite and least favorite aspects of their jobs and how students can prepare as undergraduates to pursue a career in library science. During and after lunch, students were given an opportunity to speak with professionals individually. Students found this one-on-one time invaluable and many made meaningful connections with professionals extending beyond Library Career Exploration Day.

“[The most valuable part of Library Career Exploration Day was] learning about the effort to make library science more diverse and accessible. There are so many types of librarians and it helped me figure out what I want to be.” – UIC student attendee

“UIC’s leadership in events like this is so important. Libraries’ futures depend on new perspectives—new ways to think about the future of information, education, campuses and society. By bringing together local leaders in the library profession and providing a space for new, prospective library professionals to talk about their future, UIC created an energy that speaks to libraries’ continued importance in our communities.”

- Miguel Figueroa, Head of the Center for the Future of Libraries
Partnering to recruit a diverse workforce

UIC and Northwestern Libraries co-host events for ARL initiative

In March 2018, the UIC University Library and Northwestern University Library co-hosted two days of professional development programming and networking for library science graduate students as part of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce (IRDW). The program aims to attract students from under-represented groups to careers in academic and research libraries and archives in order to foster a workforce that reflects the diversity of library users.

Both the UIC University Library and Northwestern University Library share a commitment to advancing diverse communities and long histories of collaborative initiatives, so the idea to apply to co-host the IRDW program together came naturally. Both libraries also recognized an opportunity to provide students with the chance to observe how issues related to research library strategy and operations may differ at public and private universities.

Participants of the IRDW program spent one day at each of the host libraries for presentations and panel and break-out discussions on diversity, evolving roles of librarians, student services, organizational development, strategic planning, regional and consortial collaboration and emerging services such as digital scholarship and visualization. Librarians and leadership from both universities, as well as professionals from the Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Reaching Across Illinois Library System and City Colleges of Chicago–Malcolm X College Library spoke with 18 library science graduate students.

“Northwestern University Libraries are really pleased to be collaborating with UIC on this initiative. It’s especially engaging to try to highlight our similarities and differences, to show some innovations and then to present all of this to a group of dynamic young professionals just starting their careers.”

- Sarah Pritchard, Dean of Northwestern Libraries and Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian
Supporting public health researchers

Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago librarians contribute to national Ithaka S+R report

Faculty members at the UIC University Library continually strive to identify new ways to improve services for users. In an effort to better understand how UIC School of Public Health scholars use and produce information, two librarians from the Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago conducted one-on-one interviews with 12 faculty members within different divisions of the school and published a report, Research Practices of Public Health Faculty Scholars at UIC. Rosie Hanneke, assistant professor and information services and liaison librarian, led the project in her role as liaison librarian to the School of Public Health; and Jeanne Link, assistant professor and information services and research head librarian, brought significant background experience in qualitative research. Their findings were incorporated into a national Ithaka S+R study with contributions from six other universities, Supporting the Changing Research Practices of Public Health Scholars. Ithaka S+R “provides research and strategic guidance to help the academic and cultural communities serve the public good and navigate economic, demographic and technological change.”

Public health is a highly multidisciplinary and collaborative field and many of the faculty members who participated in the interviews are also practitioners who teach at the UIC College of Medicine or work as community health researchers and policy influencers. During the interviews, UIC faculty shared personal anecdotes about their processes, revealing much about the challenging real-world circumstances that impact how efficiently research projects are conducted.

Two faculty members who participated in the interviews experienced challenges related to information discovery for global health research in low- and middle-income countries. One researcher reported using a mobile phone to photograph every page of a book in order to bring the information back to the U.S. because it was unavailable in an electronic format. Another who collects surveys as part of her research described the impact of losing large amounts of data after the hard-copy surveys she had attempted to ship home from abroad were lost.

In addition to facing these kinds of roadblocks, faculty must try to keep up with the overwhelming volume of newly published research by combing through scholarly journals and books, as well as government reports, data sets and other types of emerging, non-traditional reports, referred to as “grey literature.” Because it is not always possible to stay abreast of all recently published literature, scholars often focus on the information they need in the moment. Because librarians know how to target information precisely, they can provide much needed support in this area.

Data management practices vary widely among the interviewees, and many think of it simply as data storage and organization rather than a critical process which impacts all phases of the research life cycle: creating, processing, analyzing, preserving, giving access to and re-using data. With support from the library, many faculty members could streamline this process and save time and frustration in the long-run and make it much easier to retrieve and share the data they need. (See p. 11 for more on data management.)

Public health scholars need to reach a wide variety of audiences who access their research via many different platforms. They publish often but not exclusively in scholarly journals. In order to reach all of their desired audiences, they may publish in interdisciplinary publications that are oriented more towards policy or clinical medicine than traditional public health journals. It can be a challenge to write for these journals because of differences in jargon used in other fields. Once published, scholars appreciate support from the library in increasing the visibility of their work. Often, public health journals are not indexed in the health sciences databases typically accessed by scholars.

Writing for a scholarly journal is very different from writing for other kinds of publications. For example, a researcher might prepare a one-page factsheet featuring infographics to be distributed during a visit to Capitol Hill for a meeting with policymakers. Another might contribute to a website for an advocacy group that spreads awareness of the impact of a specific public health issue. One interviewee reported to Hanneke and Link that his research team had created an educational graphic novel for use in a community health intervention.

Receiving feedback on how UIC Public Health faculty actually create and use information is invaluable to Hanneke and Link as they explore new avenues to improve information access for researchers. Increasing knowledge of data management best practices, assisting with grey literature searches or helping faculty learn new methods of data visualization for real-world platforms are just some of the many possibilities.

Research Practices of Public Health Faculty Scholars at UIC: uofi.box.com/s/4lbw7stshdr1nsfaoznox1u54fw5m60v

Supporting the Changing Research Practices of Public Health Scholars from Ithaka S+R: doi.org/10.18665/sr.305867

“We’re coming at it from a helpful place. Interviews give you an understanding of the exact situation. They help inform how to approach faculty and meet them wherever they are at. We want to improve their research process experience.”

– Jeanne Link, Assistant Professor and Information Services and Research Head Librarian
Donor Spotlight

Richard J. Nowak

Richard J. Nowak was born in Abderdare, Wales in the U.K. to parents of Polish ancestry. The family moved to the United States when Nowak was eight years old and eventually settled in Chicago. Nowak attended UIC (known then as University of Illinois at Chicago Circle) from 1965-1970. A commuter student, Nowak worked for United Parcel Service (UPS) at its Jefferson Street location while earning his college degree. After graduating with a BS in accounting from the College of Business Administration, he was hired full-time by UPS to a management position. He worked for the company for more than 30 years, spending his entire career in accounting and finance roles. He retired in 2003 and turned his attention to giving back to the causes and communities he cares about the most, among them UIC.

Over the years he and his wife, Yvonne, have generously supported several different areas at UIC. The UIC University Library is grateful for a recent, significant gift that honors Richard J. Nowak’s family heritage and supports a highly regarded discipline at UIC—Polish Studies.

Thank you!

“This generous gift will enable the Library to acquire Polish Studies materials to support the unique research produced by UIC faculty and students in this highly-esteemed and growing academic program.”

- Carl Lehnen, UIC University Library Assistant Professor and Reference and Liaison Librarian for Languages and Literature

In the fall semester of 2017, Richard J. Nowak gave a major gift to enhance the Polish Studies Collection at the UIC University Library. In recent years, Polish Studies has experienced rapid growth, and UIC scholars in the field have been increasingly recognized for their important research. The Nowak gift will be used to augment the Library’s collection with much-needed Polish language materials.

“I spent many hours in the Library between classes and prior to going to my part-time job at UPS. That part-time job led to a full-time position at UPS, which evolved into a 31-year career. It was that career at a wonderful company that put me in the financial position that allowed me to make this gift to the Library as well as other gifts to UIC,” says Nowak. “My father was very proud of our family’s Polish heritage, as am I. I was pleased to give this gift to the Library to enhance the Polish Studies Collection, which both honors my family heritage and also helps professors and students continue their research in Polish culture and history from across the world in the vibrant Polish ‘Second City’ of Chicago.”

Richard J. Nowak’s other contributions to UIC include support to renovate the Circle Reading Room at the Richard J. Daley Library. The renovation included replacing furniture with modern study carrels and adding more electrical outlets for students’ computers. Today, students from all disciplines in need of comfortable, quiet study space work on their laptops or read by the fireplace in the Circle Reading Room. In 2008 Nowak established, and continues to grow, the Richard J. Nowak Scholarship Endowment in the College of Business Administration. He has also given to Men’s Basketball and Men’s Baseball.

UICC Yearbook photo of Richard J. Nowak, College of Business Administration Class of 1970. Yearbooks featuring photos of the alumni who made the Circle Reading Room renovation possible are on display at the Richard J. Daley Library.
Taking a creative approach to research

Students learn to combine topics of personal interest with research into documentaries, memoirs, graphic novels and more

UIC Honors College students are learning how to apply the academic research skills they acquire in college to explore their personal interests and communicate with general audiences in the “real world” after graduation. Research Unbound: Creative Expressions of Scholarship is a new course created and taught by UIC University Library faculty Annie Armstrong, associate professor and liaison librarian, and Valerie Harris, associate professor and special collections librarian. The course challenges students to consider a wide-range of non-traditional formats beyond the scholarly paper that can be used to share research findings. Examples of non-traditional formats include graphic novels, documentary film, TED Talks, memoirs, performing arts, infographics, websites, blogs and social media. When students use these highly visual, narrative, or multidisciplinary formats to communicate with diverse audiences, their presentations have the power to captivate, inform and enact change.

Students in the class investigate how authors, artists, documentarians and performers have used their preferred mediums to address themes like war and conflict, immigration, human rights and scientific discovery. At the same time, they learn to consider how data or other sources of information have been integrated into the works and to what extent artists and authors have adhered to traditional standards for source attribution and copyright. A different non-traditional medium is introduced each week along with relevant readings, items from UIC Library’s Special Collections or film viewings. Students explore their ideas through various brainstorming, visualization and writing exercises. They are encouraged to think about topics they are personally invested in, such as those related to social issues or career interests, throughout the semester and incorporate them into a final research “prospectus” or plan to execute a project using a non-traditional medium.

At the end of the fall 2017 semester, each of the 18 Honors College students from many different disciplines presented their unique visions for their works. One student designed a documentary concerning the decline of fandom in baseball. One student planned an exhibit of photos examining commuting on Chicago’s transit system. Another planned to create a video clip on healthcare reform geared toward healthcare professionals or health administrators.

The Research Unbound course encourages students to approach research through a creative lens and engage in the creative planning process. Students learn that creativity does not simply happen. Along with inspiration, it takes thorough research, forethought and hard work. Throughout their professional careers, such experience will prove invaluable as they share their research discoveries and stories with their future colleagues, clients, patients, lawmakers, friends, families, communities and others.

Research Unbound will be taught again in the fall 2018 semester.

“This class inspired us to always bring creativity into our own practice, and to think about how we can help students infuse research with creativity on a more regular basis.”

- Valerie Harris and Annie Armstrong, Research Unbound: Creative Expressions of Scholarship Instructors

Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program

Anouncing the first recipients

The UIC Office of the Provost and the University Library are proud to announce the awardees for the first year of the Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program. This new program encourages faculty to use and develop open educational resources (OER) as alternatives to traditional textbooks for undergraduate courses. The incentive program is part of UIC’s student success initiative and was developed in response to student concerns about the high cost of course materials.

Eleven faculty members will each receive a portion of the $20,000 allocated for this initiative. Faculty members’ plans include adopting open textbooks and other open education resources, modifying open textbooks, creating new open education material and incorporating library resources in their courses. Instructors will be able to use resources more pertinent to their courses and tailor exercises and quizzes to their syllabi. Applications were received from the colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Applied Health Sciences and Nursing and UIC Global Faculty. More than 4,500 students who enroll in the faculty awardees’ courses could potentially save approximately $700,000 by using the OER materials instead of purchasing new textbooks.

Learn more at researchguides.uic.edu/opentextbooks.
Laying the groundwork for collaboration

New class helps researchers standardize and share data across disciplines

Abigail Goben, associate professor and liaison librarian at UIC’s Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago, is teaching a new interdisciplinary graduate-level credited class, Intro to Research Data Management, during the spring 2018 semester. Goben created the course in order to address a major crisis facing today’s researchers across disciplines—effective management of research data. Simply put, “Data management is data sharing with your future self,” says Goben. “It has to do with documentation—what you did and when you did it.” By teaching graduate-level researchers to consistently use data file-naming conventions and to accurately identify and follow best practices throughout the life cycle of their research projects, Goben hopes to initiate a cultural shift across disciplines to adopt effective data management practices that will lead to increased ease of communication and collaboration.

The ability to consistently and ethically handle, preserve, reproduce and share data is critical to researchers in both academia and industry for several reasons. Although it may require more work initially, data management saves time and money in the long-term because others can easily find, verify and use the data. When researchers publish accurately preserved data sets along with their papers, they ensure that they and others may reproduce the work and refine, expand or improve upon it to make new, potentially important discoveries.

Moreover, federal agencies like the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health and others require a data management plan as a condition of funding. Data management also facilitates collaboration across disciplines to enable researchers to effectively share findings and communicate. For example, a research team for a new medical device may include different types of engineers, basic science researchers, clinical practitioners, designers and marketers who all use discipline-specific procedures and technical terminology. Data management best practices clearly demonstrate how each team member has developed their data and open a door to further conversations about differences in how the data may be interpreted and used by other professionals.

While it would seem that adhering to standardized data management practices is simply common sense, it is not widely practiced by researchers largely for cultural reasons. For example, clinical medical researchers often restrict data sharing because of concerns for human subjects’ protection. In other fields like chemistry, researchers are not incentivized by receiving credit for their data. Goben believes that educating graduate-level researchers about the benefits of data management can create positive cultural changes from within because these students often set the standards for research project management and influence the primary investigators’ behaviors.

Goben’s course adds to the many initiatives related to data management provided by the UIC University Library, including workshops, webinars and individual consulting done by many Library faculty. Learn more at researchguides.uic.edu/dataplans.

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program Awardees

Suresh Aggarwal, COE, Mechanical & Industrial; ME 428 – Numerical Methods in Mechanical Engineering
Adrian Barkan, LAS, Physics Department; PHYS 100; potentially PHYS 141/142 track and/or PHYS 105/107 track
Trischa Duke, UIC Global Faculty, Tutorium in Intensive English; ASP 033 & ASP 034
Giamila Fantuzzi, AHS, Kinesiology and Nutrition; HN 202, Culture and Food
Sandra Gibbons, LAS, Biological Sciences; BIOS 350 General Microbiology
Aidan Gray, LAS, Philosophy; Phil 102, Introductory Logic
Zachary J. McDowell, LAS, Communication; COMM 206 – Public Relations and Digital Media
Andrea McGinley, LAS, Biological Sciences; BIOS 351 Microbiology Laboratory
Preston T. Snee, LAS, Chemistry; HEM 340-Physical Chemistry for Biochemists I
Catherine Tredway, Nursing, BSN Completion; NURS 322 Nursing Research and Statistics for Evidenced Based Practice
Theresa Williams, Nursing, BSN Completion; NURS 390 Nursing Leadership and Management in Health Care
THE FUTURE DEMANDS MORE—MORE INSIGHT, MORE KNOWLEDGE, MORE DISCOVERY.

The UIC University Library helps create the future.

With your support, the Library will:

Expand our collections to reflect our diverse communities.

Create the environments to inspire great ideas—thoughtfully-designed spaces for quiet study and collaboration.

Make all of our collections easily accessible to everyone.

Enhance expertise and services to empower our users to succeed in an information-rich world.

A gift to the UIC University Library today will help create a stronger tomorrow.

To learn more and give: advance.uic.edu