

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Library

ACRL Excellence
Award in Libraries
Application

2017

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Illustrations by Charles Xzavier (BA, Animation, 2019)

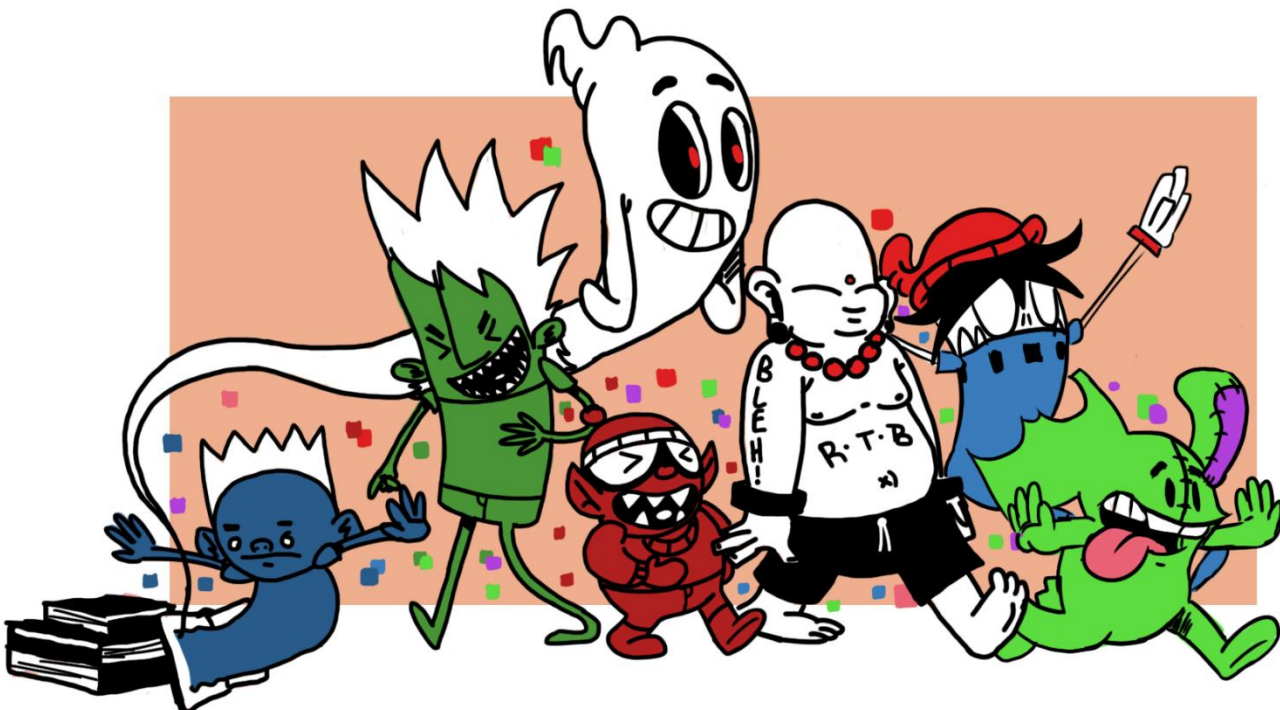
Photos by Library Staff

Introduction

In the 21st century, the role of any academic library is constantly in flux. Developments in technology, pedagogy, and student/faculty needs and desires shift over time, as do the mission and priorities of the academic institutions in which they are housed. Regardless of the size and focus of any institution, the library resides front and center of the college experience for all members of the academic community. This is especially paramount at Columbia College Chicago, whose emphasis centers predominantly on arts and media within the context of liberal education.

Here, the Columbia College Chicago Library serves as the intellectual and creative center of a thriving community of artists and other media professionals—an interdisciplinary nexus where students and faculty not only encounter the tools and resources that inform artistic practice, but also form creative communities, both within the library and extending into the greater world of arts and media. In addition, the Library, as a vast hub of physical and virtual resources, becomes a crucial component of the educational experience. Such resources form a bridge between theory and practice, providing ample context for burgeoning creative work. In much the same way that research-focused libraries provide a haven for traditional scholars, the Library becomes a similar haven for creatives, informing all stages of work—from inspiration and genesis to sharing and exhibition.

The Library excels in its endeavor to be the intellectual/creative center of the Columbia College Chicago campus, not only through its carefully curated spaces and collections, but also through an ever evolving, dynamic series of art and media-related programming and initiatives. The CCC Library also seeks to forge dynamic partnerships and explorations with faculty, embedding the Library as a pivotal part the 21st Century Curriculum, not only through traditional instruction sessions and research consultations, but also in making the Library an auxiliary learning space on campus—a space for creative synergy and collaboration among faculty and students.



[History]

Named in honor of the 1893 Columbian Exposition, the Columbia School of Oratory was founded in 1890 by Mary A. Blood and Ida Morey Riley as a private institution teaching elocution, oratory, and physical culture. Through the early half of the 20th Century, the curriculum expanded to include programs in radio, television, advertising, journalism, and the dramatic arts. By the latter half of the century, the College described itself a liberal arts college with a “hands-on, minds-on” approach to arts and media education with a progressive social agenda. The institution was accredited in 1974, and in 1975, purchased its first property at 600 South Michigan. By the late 1990’s and early 2000’s the college had branded itself as COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO and purchased

numerous buildings in the South Loop, expanding its offerings to include majors in a wide variety of visual arts disciplines, creative writing, film, photography, book and paper arts, and dance. The curriculum continued to evolve in recent years to offer newer programs Interactive Multi-Media, Creative Non-Fiction, Acoustic Arts, Arts Management, ASL, and Comedy Writing and Performance.

The educational purpose of Columbia at its founding has continuously informed the pedagogies, curricula, and student experiences as we have evolved. Unafraid of change, the College continuously incorporated new technologies into creative communications coursework to remain current and adhere to best practices. Columbia has woven itself into the fabric of Chicago and is an integral part of the South Loop community. The College’s motto *esse quam videri* (“to be rather than to seem”) and its original classroom philosophies of “learn to do by doing” and “theory never made an artist,” remain vital to the Columbia experience today.

[Mission]

Columbia College Chicago is an undergraduate and graduate institution whose principal commitment is to provide a comprehensive educational opportunity in the arts, communications, and public information within a context of enlightened liberal education. Columbia’s intent is to educate students who will communicate creatively and shape the public’s perceptions of issues and events and who will author the culture of their times. Columbia is an urban institution whose students reflect the economic, racial, cultural, and educational diversity of contemporary America. Columbia conducts education in close relationship to a vital urban reality and serves an important civic purpose by active engagement in the life and culture of the city of Chicago.

About Columbia College Chicago

“Columbia’s intent is to educate students who will communicate creatively and shape the public’s perceptions of issues and events and who will author the culture of their times.”

Columbia's purpose is:

- to educate students for creative occupations in diverse fields of the arts and media and to encourage awareness of their aesthetic relationship and the opportunity of professional choice among them;
- to extend educational opportunity by admitting unreservedly (at the undergraduate level) a student population with creative ability in, or inclination to, the subjects of Columbia's interest;
- to provide a college climate that offers students an opportunity to try themselves out, to explore, and to discover what they can and want to do;
- to give educational emphasis to the work of a subject by providing a practical setting, professional facilities, and the example and guidance of an inventive faculty who work professionally at the subjects they teach;
- to teach students to do expertly the work they like, to master the crafts of their intended occupations, and to discover alternative opportunities to employ their talents in settings other than customary marketplaces;
- to help students to find out who they are and to discover their own voices, respect their own individuality, and improve their self-esteem and self-confidence;
- to offer specialized graduate programs which combine a strong conceptual emphasis with practical professional education, preparing students with mature interests to be both competent artists and successful professionals.

[The Strategic Plan: Achieving Greatness]

For over 125 years, Columbia College Chicago has educated and prepared students to be the next generation of leaders in arts and media, and in 2015, College administrators led the development of the current Strategic Plan. *Achieving Our Greatness: A Strategic Plan for Columbia College Chicago, 2015-2020* builds on that foundation and provides a robust road map with a clear time frame to strengthen Columbia in six areas of focus: Student Success; 21st Century Curriculum; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Community Engagement; Optimizing Enrollment; Aligning Resources with Goals. These six pillars are the foundation for a sustainable and successful future for the College to the benefit of our students and the broader Columbia community, as well as beyond our campus. The plan recognizes Columbia's distinctive value among institutions of higher learning and raises the bar of our collective aspiration to ensure Columbia prepares students for success in their creative fields through innovation, engagement and real-world experiences. A 21 member Strategic Planning Steering Committee (chaired by Provost Stan Wearden) included trustees, faculty, staff and students and was supported and informed by an engagement program with feedback from members of the Columbia community. The plan was approved by the Columbia College Chicago Board of Trustees May 12, 2015.

Columbia College Chicago Strategic Plan:

<http://about.colum.edu/provost//achieving-our-greatness-columbia-college-chicagos-strategic-plan/pdf/Achieving-Our-Greatness-A-Strategic-Plan-for-Columbia-College-Chicago-2015-2020.pdf>



[Vision]

The Library

The Columbia College Chicago Library fuels discovery, sparks creativity, and ignites your future.

[Mission]

The mission of the Columbia College Chicago Library is to support Columbia College Chicago and its academic programs by providing access to information resources and teaching students to evaluate and use them. Our Library has a teaching mission, and is committed to preparing our users to be lifelong learners in an information rich society. It is a gathering place for intellectual and artistic freedom and expression, where we consistently surprise and delight our community with a fierce dedication to coloring outside of the lines in support of lifelong learning.

The Columbia College Chicago Library will fulfill this mission by providing:

- Relevant, organized resources in support of academic programs.
- Unique primary resources.
- An active instruction program dedicated to teaching students to be competent researchers and information users.
- Student-centered services and programs.
- A robust liaison program serving College departments.
- Clean, well-lighted, and welcoming spaces that promote research, reflection, and collaboration.
- Virtual and physical access to resources.
- Appropriate technology to promote communication and learning.
- Effective and visionary library management.
- A knowledgeable, accessible, and engaged staff.
-

2015-2016

Website Searches
8,233,397

Gate Count
340,602

Physical Items Used 108,284
E-Books Accessed 112,872
Full-Text Downloads 130,716

THE COLLECTION AT A GLANCE

Print Books:	295,362
E-Books:	61,291
Print Serials:	553
Full-text Online Journals:	63,991
Research Databases:	180
Digital images:	351,672
Streaming Video:	42,566
Film/Video Titles:	22,010
Film Scripts	563
Streaming Audio:	168,075
CDs:	23,844
Musical Scores	4,535

[Spaces]

The Columbia College Chicago Library is a welcoming physical environment conducive to research, creativity, and art-making. Vibrant color and dynamic artwork fill all five floors among the student spaces and stacks.

Furnishings offer flexibility for individual study and group work, while multiple spaces allow room for rehearsals, workshops, meetings, and other collaborative endeavors. The Library's first impression is creatively energetic, welcoming patrons on the 1st floor with our very own Coffee Bar, art installations and exhibit space, faculty & staff-curated display cases, and artwork vending machines.

Spaces & Collections

Study and Work Spaces

In recent years, renovations have paved the way toward more open and utilizable spaces, shifting and condensing reference and periodical collections on the Library's 2nd floor to introduce more student study and work spaces. In addition to open study spaces and computer terminals, the 3rd floor contains multiple study rooms of various sizes, including two with collaborative technology elements perfect for working on group projects and presentations. The 4th floor houses the bulk of our fine arts materials, including comic books and graphic novels, art and craft how-tos, music and photography. The 5th floor Media and Equipment area harbors multiple viewing stations and a Yamaha piano for student use adjacent to our sizeable collection of scores. Each floor hosts photocopiers, printers, and scanners (both high quality flatbed and SimpleScan machines).



MAKERLAB

2 Ultimaker Pro 3-D Printers
3-D Scanner
Vinyl Cutter
White Boards
Drafting Tables
Light Boxes / Light Pads
Exactos / Scissors
Hole Punches
Glue Guns
Jewelry Pliers
Sewing & Crochet Supplies
3 Button Makers
Laminator
Software:
Tinkercad
Meshmixer
Inkscape
Silhouette Studio
Sketchup.

Exhibit & Event Spaces

The 3rd floor North Reading Room was developed as a multi-use space, allowing not only a large open study area overlooking Grant Park, but swathes of gallery-style wall space and accommodations for various sized events, including openings, lectures, performances, small conferences and fairs. That area and other floors of the Library host ample exhibit space that continues to feature work artwork by students, staff, faculty and alumni, as well as collaborative exhibits with classes and other campus departments. Exhibits change frequently throughout the year, offering not only great visual interest amongst the stacks and open spaces, but also exhibition and curatorial opportunities for the entire campus community.

The Classroom

The Library classroom can accommodate up to 30 people in comfortable, flexible chairs, with 30 Google Chromebooks available on-site for student use. The instructor workstation is equipped with laptop, speakers, Ethernet, Wifi and projector, as well as ample white board space for brainstorming. Plans are currently under development to build a classroom for up to 50 students from a bequest from a former college employee. This classroom will meet an articulated need for classrooms in the 20-50 student range and be available for faculty to teach for full semester.

[Collections]

Print Collections

The heart of any library is its collection and resources. Columbia College Chicago Library aptly supports the needs of 21 academic departments and 120 programs on campus, as well as houses one of the largest selections of art-related materials in the Chicago area, including strong collections in visual/performing arts, communications, film/video, and arts management/marketing.

To assist students financially, the Library Reserve Collection on the 1st floor features both faculty requested materials and all course textbooks over \$40. The Library is also part of various reciprocal lending bodies, including the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), making millions of off-site materials available to patrons by request. With our unique collection of arts-related materials, our interlibrary lending is robust, lending nearly four times as many materials to other libraries as we borrow.

Electronic Collections & Resources

In addition to licensing streaming video and music, the Library subscribes to relevant databases in the arts to support the curriculum across all departments, bringing a huge variety of full-text content to users in arts and media related subjects. The Library continues to purchase e-books, particularly technology and business titles. The Library website offers easy 24/7 access to all electronic resources, including research databases, streaming media, research guides in subjects specific to course or discipline, and study room space reservations. Our social media endeavors remain engaged with the college community through various channels including Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest Tumblr, and Instagram.

DATABASES OF NOTE

Womens Wear Daily
Vogue
Artstor
Art & Architecture Source
Asian Film Online
Dance Online
Fashion Studies Online
Black Drama
Grove Dictionary of American Music
Harpers Weekly
Mintel
JStor



Media & Equipment

In addition to over 40,000 film, video, and music titles, patrons can also check out a wide selection of equipment at the 5th floor Media and Equipment Desk, including video and audio recorders, projectors, iPads, and cameras. In the Fall of 2016, the Library also began checking out select camera equipment in collaboration with the Television Department to widen the availability of check out hours on campus. Much of our newer equipment is funded by Friends of the Library.

College Archives & Special Collections

College Archives & Special Collections (CASPC) serves as the designated repository for records of Columbia College Chicago and collections of select rare books, publications, and manuscripts which:

- support College curricula in a student-centered environment
- document and disseminate the narrative legacy of the College
- weave Columbia College Chicago into the culture of the city and the world

Special Collections boasts limited edition, unique, and valuable materials, with an emphasis on graphic design, photography, typography, and fashion.

CASPC provides a welcoming interactive environment to discover, evaluate, and integrate primary and secondary resources of enduring value to a diverse community.



Center for Black Music Research

The Center for Black Music Research (CBMR) is a research unit of Columbia College Chicago devoted to research, preservation, and dissemination of information about the history of black music on a global scale. The CBMR collects, preserves, and disseminates information about black music in all parts of the world and promotes understanding of the common roots of the music, musicians, and composers of the global African diaspora. Founded at Columbia College Chicago in 1983, the Center for Black Music Research is the only organization of its kind. It exists to illuminate the significant role that black music plays in world culture by serving as a nexus for all who value black music, by promoting scholarly thought and knowledge about black music, and by providing a safe haven for the materials and information that document the black music experience across Africa and the diaspora. In 2016, the CBMR was aligned with the Library. CBMR staff report to the Library Dean, working together to maintain the high level of research, scholarship and collections developed since its founding.

The Chicago Collections Consortium

The Library is a member of Chicago Collections. The 20+ members collaborate, uniting their resources, to offer access and exciting learning experiences to both the general public and academic researchers. As a member we can share knowledge about and access to our Chicago-related archival collections with the world and learn about and access the Chicago-related archival collections of other members.

The Library and the 21st Century Curriculum

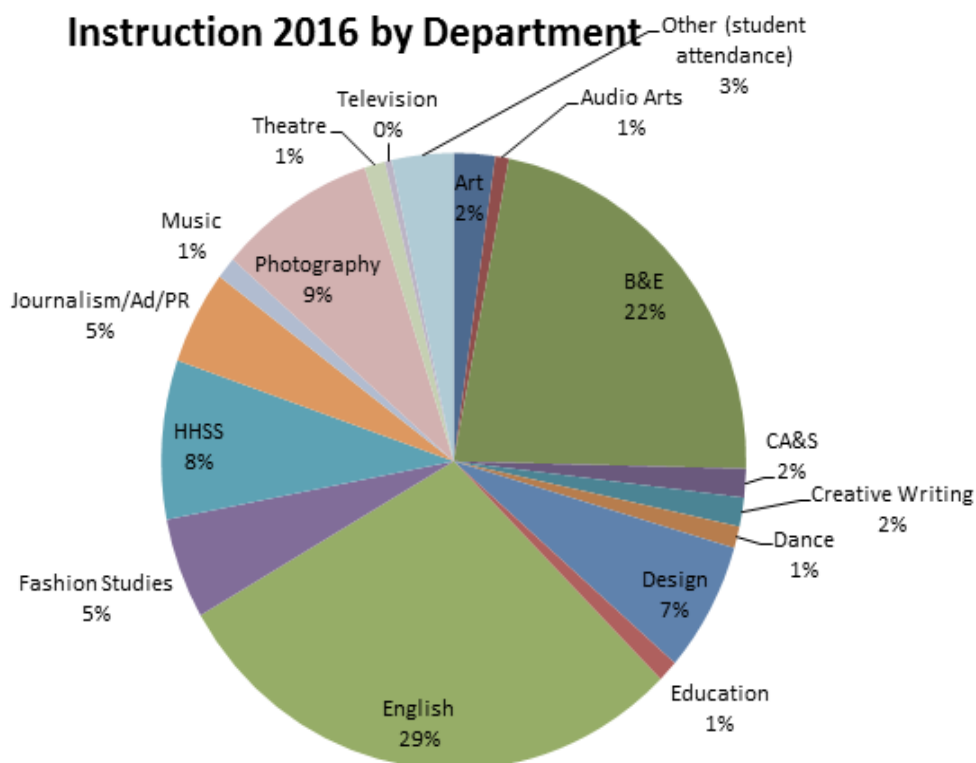
As a vibrant cultural and intellectual center on campus the Columbia College Chicago Library regularly pursues collaborative opportunities with Columbia faculty members, making the Library a thriving auxiliary learning space on campus—filled not only with traditional resources and materials, but greater opportunities to engage students outside the confines of the classroom. In addition to full schedule of research instruction sessions taught by the Reference and Instruction Department, the Library as whole works with Columbia faculty on a number of endeavors designed to reinforce the Library as a collaborative space, including exhibits, displays, and related programming. Library staff teach students about information literacy, research techniques, and the use of primary and archival materials, as well as offer instructional/informational sessions for faculty and the rest of the campus community.

[The Embedded Librarian]

Information Literacy Instruction

Each year, Reference & Instruction Librarians offer upwards of 250 Information Literacy Instruction Sessions to classes in various departments, serving 5,500 students. Sessions are designed to advise students in all aspects of the research process, from brainstorming and searching, to evaluating and citing sources.

Instruction 2016 by Department



Universal Learning Outcomes of Columbia College Chicago

The Universal Learning Outcomes represent the essence of Columbia College Chicago's educational values. They articulate the range of competencies, skills, knowledge, proficiencies, literacies and fluencies that all students will engage and derive from a Columbia College Chicago education.

The Universal Learning Outcomes ensure that we offer our students the best possible education, establish our distinctive institutional identity, and employ a set of measurable standards by which we assess ourselves and hold ourselves accountable for educational excellence.

The Universal Learning Outcomes reflect an institutional commitment to provide a holistic teaching and learning environment that facilitates the development of the whole student: cognitively, aesthetically, socially, emotionally, corporeally, and spiritually. These outcomes will be integrated, broadly and distributively, in all Columbia College Chicago curriculum and student experiences.

Career Readiness

Employ business, technological, and entrepreneurial skills to create a portfolio that demonstrates professional preparedness and adaptability.

Collaboration

Analyze and negotiate diverse viewpoints to realize common action.

Communication

Demonstrate written and other communicative competencies across a range of academic, artistic, professional, and social contexts using appropriate print, oral, aural, digital, visual, kinesthetic, and other relevant modes.

Community Engagement

Generate work that demonstrates considered, reciprocal engagement with communities in and beyond Chicago.

Creativity

Create a body of work informed by critical knowledge of their discipline in its artistic, historical, and/or cultural contexts.

Critical and Analytical Thinking

Examine methods and assumptions, use qualitative and quantitative data, multiple sources and arguments, in order to assess and evaluate their own work and the work of others.

Diversity and Global Fluency

Investigate diverse identities, cultural worldviews, and institutional frameworks, to position their work within historical and global contexts.

Ethics

Explore the roots and relevance of their personal values in order to navigate and negotiate diverse contexts.



Departmental Liaisons

Collection Liaisons work closely with faculty in selecting appropriate resources (physical and digital) for the curriculum. Teaching and Learning Liaisons from the Reference and Instruction Department communicate with academic departments, thus supporting learning outcomes through relevance, currency, and effectiveness of instruction and awareness on the part of faculty. They attend meetings, present to faculty, contact individual faculty to discuss their courses, create online subject research guides and course guides, and take personal inquiries and requests from individual faculty. This year, Teaching and Learning Liaisons had ongoing discussions about the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in relation to the Universal Learning Outcomes for the College. This affirmed and developed the direct interconnectedness of information literacy learning outcomes and learning outcomes at course, department, and College level. This conversation is ongoing, as the work College-wide is ongoing to develop, refine, and articulate learning outcomes.

The Big Read: *The Maltese Falcon* and the Roots of Film Noir

In conjunction with The Big Read, Ron Falzone, faculty member in Columbia's Cinema Arts and Sciences Department, developed a five week class during the spring 2016 semester entitled, *The Maltese Falcon and the Roots of Film Noir*. At the completion of the class, students would be able to:

- Identify multiple roots in the development of film noir
- Apply aesthetic terminology to the analysis of film noir
- Analyze these films from a variety of critical and theoretical perspectives
- Place film noir within the contexts of film theory, history, and culture
- Deploy methods and ideas learned to inform and advance the development of their own projects

Creativity in Marketing

For three semesters, students in the *Creativity in Marketing* class (taught by Sandra Kumorowski, Assistant Professor of Marketing) were given the assignment of creating a marketing campaign for the Library. Students received an introduction to the Library, and four groups of students researched marketing for libraries and created final presentations about promoting our Library.

Example:

Creativity in Marketing class, Fall 2015 presentation: "This Place" by Melanie Gantt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDv_9SIq8Do&t=0s



Copyright Essentials

A regular collaboration between Intellectual Property Librarian and the Center for Innovation in Teaching Excellence (CITE), this six-session course for faculty explores copyright, fair use, open resources, and library databases. "Copyright Essentials" was also developed into an online module about copyright for students.

Topics in History: Beyond Wikipedia: Primary Materials and Archival Research

Created and facilitated by College Archives staff, this course allowed students to learn about archival and special collections primary materials and develop strategies to discover and work with historical materials. Students were taught to hone research skills using varied search strategies, social media, and other tools, essential to all academic disciplines and programs of study. Students were expected to leave with an understanding of how archival material is organized and basic archival concepts, tools, and theory through the use of primary materials, group readings, and discussion.

[Library Fellows]

The Library Fellows program provides an opportunity for faculty and Library staff to work collaboratively in exploring and developing innovative models and methods of incorporating library resources and technologies across the curriculum at Columbia College Chicago. Faculty and Library staff, working together as partners, will create new types of learning objects, instructional strategies, resources and/or technology tools that can be applied not only to specific courses but across the entire curriculum to enhance and promote teaching, learning and scholarship at the college. The focus of the project should be to create rich, authentic library/student interactions that will deepen the student's relationship with the Library and its resources.

2016 Fellows

Online Learning Modules for Introduction to Fashion Studies
(Kate Shaefer and Molly Beestrum)

Library Skills Instructional Module for Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling (Laura Downey and April Levy)

2015 Fellows

Utilizing Data to Predict and Measure Economic Demand in the Arts Industry (Jason Stephens and April Levy)

News Literacy Modules for the News and Information Literacy Class (Norma Green and Arlie Sims)

The Aesthetics of Research and the Social Object (Andrew Causey, Jennifer Sauzer, and Kristy Bowen)

[Other Faculty Collaborations]

Cultural Rhetorics

The Aesthetics of Research was invited by Ames Hawkins, Associate Professor of English, to participate in the opening exhibit of the Cultural Rhetoric conference in Lansing, Michigan in October 2015. AofR networked with faculty members and graduate students, brainstormed collaboration opportunities, and explored ideas about integrating zines and book arts into the classroom.

From Adams to the South Loop: 1890 to 1977

Created by undergraduate students in Dr. Erin McCarthy's *Public History* course, the exhibit takes visitors back in time to the past locations of the college. Through historic and contemporary photos and researched documentation, viewers learn about the history of the buildings Columbia College occupied before the South Loop.

Special Collections Displays

Special Collections Librarian Wendy Hall works closely with faculty to arrange temporary displays of materials pulled from Special Collections and main stacks to meet the specific needs for an assignment or course focus. These materials are arranged in a reading room for the duration of a class or for a few days so students can view and study them.

Codex Express Yourself

In Fall 2016, the display area in the 1st floor lobby featured CODEX EXPRESS YOURSELF, an installation created by faculty-member Jesus Macarena-Avila for his Latin American Art, Literature, and Music course. The display included books, both topical and handmade by students, decorations, artwork, and a Day of the Dead altar, as well as a musical performance celebrating its launch.

Eco-Transformations

Featuring artistic work from Michelle Yates' *Nature and Environmentalism in U.S. Culture* class, Eco-Transformations offers a range of creative pieces by students—dance, film, poetry, sculpture, painting and collage—that consider the (ab)uses of nature and the most pressing environmental issues of the 21st century.



Programs & Engagement

The Library hosts a vast number of programs and initiatives that place it firmly in the center of the creative vibrancy of the Columbia College Chicago campus. Surrounded by a rich sea of Columbia-affiliated galleries and performance spaces, the Library offers its own opportunities for art-making and creative energy, as well as fosters the energetic community both in and around it through various collaborative endeavors, both on a campus and community-wide level. The Library also offers multiple opportunities for resource sharing and information exchange via displays, salons, panels, and professional workshops. Students, in particular, are offered a chance to build and display their body of work, connect with communities of practice, explore new techniques and skill sets, as well as engage in dynamic discussions about the arts and media.

[The Community Engagement Committee]

Engagement activities cross all departmental boundaries within the Columbia College Chicago Library. Many of our staff have backgrounds and interests in the creative arts, and the experience and desire to share within our community is unique. With this level of commitment, a committee was formed to bring everyone together to collaborate in developing a variety of programs, exhibits and displays. All departments of the Library are represented, including nine staff members, the Library Dean and Assistant to the Dean. The departments are: Access Services & Assessment, College Archives & Special Collections, Community Engagement & Special Initiatives, Reference & Instruction and Technical Services & Collection Management. The programs, exhibits and displays produced by this group allow our students and faculty to see the Library in new and surprising ways.



Community Engagement Committee Mission

The Community Engagement Committee supports the mission of Columbia College Chicago and its Library by creating programs, exhibitions and events which support creativity and learning in and outside of the classroom. Committee members represent each department in the Library, and work collaboratively to ensure that activities are developed with the following in mind:

- Co-curricular programming
- Academic relevance
- Student growth, learning and support
- Civic engagement/service learning potential (Big Read type activities)

[The Role of Creative Student Staff]

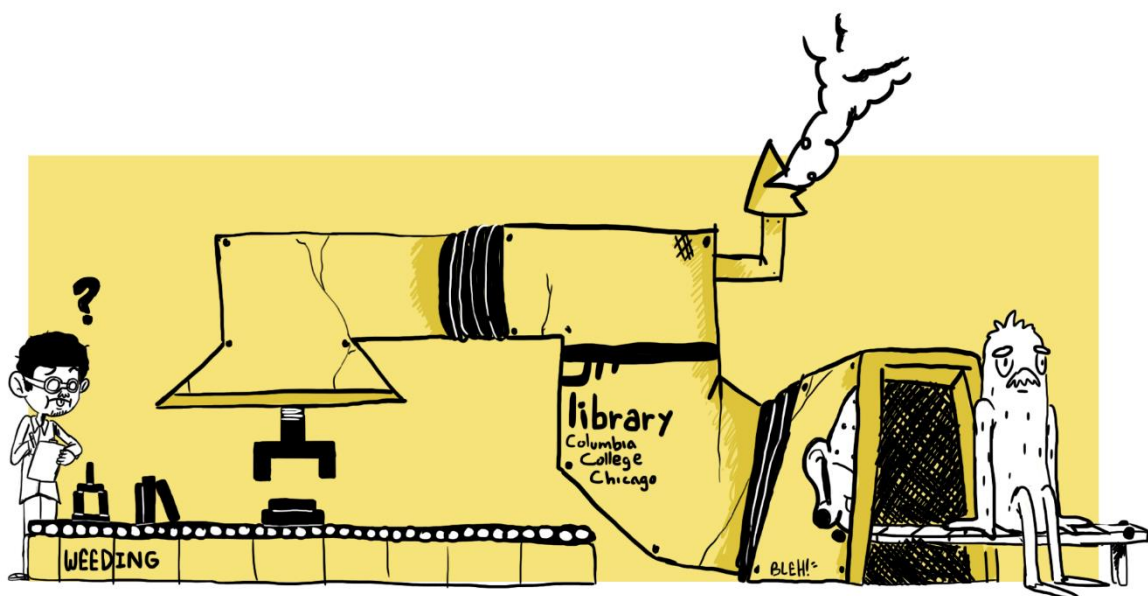
The Library hosts over 30 part-time student staff positions, including work study, work aid, and interns who contribute widely to daily operations—circulating materials, staffing service desks, processing, and preservation. These students, whose majors range from animation to comedy and all things between, possess a wide range of skills and talents that the Library hopes not only to harness, but to develop and nurture, allowing them to leave their work experience with not only library skills, but also material for their creative resumes.

Charles Xzavier, whose illustrations are featured throughout this application, is currently a student staffer in the Library's Access Services & Assessment department. Xzavier's work has been featured in multiple Art in the Library exhibits, The Sketchbook Project, the AofR Vending Machines and this year's Little Indie Press Festival. A. Wong, another Access Services student staffer, whose photos are also included in this year's application, has also been featured in Art in the Library and is our resident event photographer. Other student staff have created library comics and zines, formed and moderated Focus Week Panels on LGBTQ resources, and led mini cake decorating workshops for Edible Books.

The Library also hosts library degree practicum students from a variety of institutions, including Dominican University, U. of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, The College of Dupage, UW-Madison, and the U. of Michigan. The Library offers student workers an opportunity to facilitate and develop programming within the Library through various channels, including promotion, social media, exhibition and curatorial opportunities, publication design, event planning, and workshop facilitation.

[Creative Opportunities in the Library]

The Library offers multiple opportunities for flexing and developing creative talents in a truly interdisciplinary environment where students and other community members deepen their knowledge and appreciation of their discipline. They are also encouraged to venture into new art forms, explore new techniques and skills, and collaborate with artists in other mediums. As such, the Library becomes a fertile and abundant environment conducive to making.



Friends of the Library Artist in Residence Program

Initiated in Fall, 2015, the Library's Artist in Residence Program allows undergraduate and graduate student artists a secured private studio space in the Library to pursue their work. The first student artist was photography and new media undergraduate Laurel Hauge, who was able to complete her BA thesis exhibition work. Our spring 2016 Artist in Residence was Elina Ruka, an international graduate student from Latvia and recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, who was able to use the studio to put the finishing touches on her MFA exhibition.

Exhibits

The Columbia College Chicago Library hosts ample exhibit space for artwork & media. The Art in the Library Program, which has included a regular schedule of exhibits featuring student, alumni, faculty, and staff work for more than a decade, continues to evolve and grow with a new emphasis on student work and departmental / faculty collaborations. The Aesthetics of Research gallery, on the Library's 1st floor, hosts a revolving series of themed exhibits devoted to displaying creative bibliographies alongside finished work. The Library is host to many non-traditional exhibits, including art vending machines, our annual ARTISTREE featuring ornaments designed by students, and our Spring Art Egg Hunt in the stacks.

The Aesthetics of Research

The Aesthetics of Research is an ongoing project dedicated to exploring the role that libraries and their collections play in artistic process, creative community, and resource sharing in the arts.

In residence at the Columbia College Chicago Library, the AofR works through the library's Access Services Department to develop a number of targeted projects (exhibits, displays, programming, etc) with an eye towards showcasing the Library's wealth of materials, engendering discussions about how those materials inform/inspire creative practice, and building a lively interest and enthusiasm toward the collection and its possibilities for artists.

The AofR also seeks to form bridges and connections to related resources on campus and within the greater Chicago arts community, placing the library at the center of a vast multidisciplinary network available to artists and other creative professionals.

www.aestheticsofresearch.com

ARTCACHE:

Part geocache, part hidden exhibit, part library scavenger hunt, the ARTCACHE gives participants the opportunity not only to engage in this interactive exhibit, but also to have fun in locating it, to learn more about Library resources, and to brush up on research and problem solving skills. Our Fall 2015 program was listed as part of the city-wide Chicago Artists Month and profiled in various places, including *Library As Incubator* and *The ALA Programming Blog*.

How-To Tuesdays

Spawned by the Aesthetics of Research weekly blog feature devoted to highlighting specific arts how-to materials within the CCC collection, How-To-Tuesday is a regular series exploring the Library's vast collection of art and craft how-tos. Students and other participants not only engage in our creative interdisciplinary community and collaborate outside of class with their peers, but learn new techniques, share practical knowledge, and add to their body of work and creative skills arsenal. Past workshops have included: *Bookwrecking: Paper Crafts*, *DIY Snow Globes*, *Junk Art*, *Found Art*, & *Upcycling*, *All Things Ink*, *Altered Books and Collage*, *DIY Spirit Photography*, and *Nature Printmaking*.



The Library Sketchbook Project

Scattered throughout the Library, the sketchbooks are an ongoing and evolving creative opportunity/exhibit for the Columbia College community. The sketchbooks offer a chance for students & other community members to informally show off their work, promote themselves as artists, and collaborate with their peers. Completed sketchbooks are exhibited annually in the Library during the college's end-of-year Manifest celebration.

Zine Nights & Zine Exchange

The Zine Exchange is an ongoing and rotating collection of zines, small press publications, and comics located on the Library's 1st floor. The community is welcome to add or take from collection, either with their own work or work that they would like to pass on to others. Offered monthly, Library Zine Nights are an informal opportunity for participants to work alone or collaboratively on zines, comics, artist books, or other paper projects in the Library for a few hours every month. The Library provides materials and equipment to facilitate zine-making, while also allowing possibilities for creative collaboration and dialogue with other zinesters.



Creativity Prize

In spring 2016, the Community Engagement & Special Initiatives department (in collaboration with the Friends of the Library program) created a contest for students to come up with a most creative ad concept to publicize the Library. The ads could be funny, weird or stylized, but were required to reference and explain at least two services offered by the Library. Submissions could be in video, print, or photographic format.

Creativity Prize Winner: Khloe Richardson, Acting BA, '17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4ddVo9JLdk&feature=youtu.be>



[Creative Community Building]

All libraries, public or academic, are the center of any community—a place where people come together, for both enrichment and socialization. The Columbia College Library is no different, offering a central “third space”, away from the classroom or residence that offers an abundance of

opportunities for engagement and collaboration. The Library not only works with other campus offices and departments on special projects in the Library, but extends multiple branches into the greater Chicago arts community, allowing students crucial networking experiences that help inform their education, both during their college years and beyond.

The Big Read

The Big Read has been the cornerstone of our community engagement activities at the Library since 2007. As an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with Arts Midwest, its purpose is to broaden understanding of the world, communities across the nation and individually through the joy of reading. Over the last decade, the National Endowment for the Arts has funded more than 1,330 Big Read programs, providing more than \$17 million in grants to organizations in every Congressional district in the country. In turn, these organizations have leveraged nearly \$42 million in local funding to support their NEA Big Read programs. The Library has participated in five Big Read programming cycles featuring the following books: *The Joy Luck Club* (Amy Tan, 2007), *Fahrenheit 451* (Ray Bradbury, 2009) *The Things They Carried* (Tim O'Brien, 2011), *In the Time of the Butterflies* (Julia Alvarez, 2013) and *The Maltese Falcon* (Dashiell Hammett, 2016). Over the years, we have reached thousands of readers of all ages, and worked within our own institution as well as the Chicago Public schools, bookstores, libraries, and literacy organizations. Programs were developed around the themes contained within each book, and included lectures, book discussion groups, film screenings, displays and interactive social events. A major goal for us was to reach out to underserved communities in the Chicagoland area, including Cicero, East Chicago, Chicago Heights as well as specific Chicago neighborhoods.

Latino-Americans Grant 2015

During spring, 2015, the Library applied for and received a \$3,000.00 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Library Association to host four programs highlighting their programming+ initiative, *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*. The original goals for our *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* grant were to bring scholarship of Latino American histories and cultures to select, and especially underserved communities in the Chicago area who may not otherwise have the opportunity to engage, learn, and discover this body of knowledge, and secondly, to provide programs that will begin conversations about Latino culture among a diverse group of participants. *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.



Little Indie Press Festival

Featuring many manifestations of independent publishing, including indie literature, comics, zines, and book arts, the festival seeks to bring together all manner of publishers under one roof to celebrate the spirit of independent publishing, including a publisher's showcase, readings, zine making and more. The Fest offers participants a chance to share the work they do as artists or publishers, as well as engage their peers and learn about new opportunities and print-focused endeavors in both the Columbia and greater Chicago publishing communities.

Library Gaming Society

Welcoming all Columbia College Chicago community members interested in the intersection of libraries and gaming, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni, the Society sponsors occasional events and activities that explore the CCC Library and its collections / resources as a perfect place for game playing and game-making. Recent events have included Horror Movie Trivia Night, Old School Board Game Night, The Search for the Sorcerer's Stone, Fandom Trivia, and a Scrabble Showdown for Writers.





Edible Books

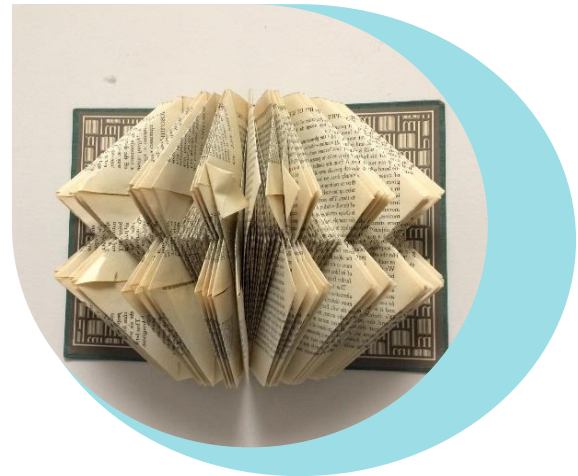
As part of a worldwide celebration of Edible Books, Columbia College Chicago Library regularly hosts its Edible Books event on or around April 1st, inviting entries from students, staff, faculty, alumni, and book & culinary artists from the community. In celebration of this year's Big Read selection, *The Maltese Falcon*, the 2016 event featured judging and eating of the entries, as well as The Bundt Cake Bump-Off, a murder mystery game created by the Columbia College Chicago Library Gaming Society.

IMMERSION: Creative Digital Arts: Copyright and Pathways to Success

Artists and lawyers shared their experience with copyright law on World Intellectual Property Day. Guest panelists shared their stories and explained legal concepts necessary to manage, protect, and promote artistic works.

Flying Books

A collaborative project between Art+Activism, the Friends of the Library, and the Office of Campus Environment, the installation is composed of books previously removed from the collection and repurposed. The installation, hanging above the Library's entrance, recognizes that discarded books can have a second life as art. Images of the creations also climb the Library staircase from the 1st floor to the 3rd floor.



African Legacy in the Americas

Curated by Dr. Ana Vicky Castillo, Afro-Colombian founder and CEO of Afro-Latinos Historical Society, this exhibit is co-sponsored by the Office of International Students Affairs and the Columbia College Chicago Library. The exhibit examines the social status and legal rights of people of African descent in Latin America and the USA, with special focus on the nineteenth century.

24 Hour Night/Wicked Week: Frankentoy

In collaboration with New Student Programs and the Workroom, the Library hosted a 'Franken-toys' workshop, where students destroyed and then repurposed old dolls and toys to create new creatures.

The Giving Tree

An annual collaboration with the Center for Community Arts Partnerships, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate by providing gifts requested by the children through decorated ornaments. Interested participants were invited to join CCAP to deliver gifts and enjoy a holiday party with the students and teachers at a number of Chicago Public Schools.

From Columbia With Love: DIY Love Potions

Hosted in early February, 'DIY Love Potions' was a collaborative effort between the Library and the Dean of Student's Deputy Title IX Coordinator. At the event, students could mix glitter and passages from love poems into small glass bottles to create a decorative 'love potion.' The event also offered free condoms, literature on the importance of enthusiastic consent, and a list of wellness resources available on campus.



Center for Community Arts Partnerships/Columbia Summer Arts Summit (CCAP), Summer 2016

The Center for Community Arts Partnerships hosts an annual summer program called the Columbia Summer Arts Summit hosting students from Chicago partner schools to take classes four days a week during the summer on the Columbia campus. One of the programs offered is "visual arts", involving 12-15 participants who displayed their art work on the 5th floor of the Library. It was an opportunity to showcase the work of students from the Chicago Public Schools in an arts environment, and allowed their families, teachers and high school communities to view the work produced during the classes.

Small Prestivus Festival 2016

In the summer of 2016, The Aesthetics of Research was invited to be part of Griffith, Indiana's Small Prestivus Festival. The festival proved an excellent opportunity to bring our book art and zine workshop supplies on the road as well as promote the Aesthetics of Research mission, the Library, and the College.



[Resource-Sharing in the Arts]

As home to over a million diverse resources, the Library becomes a crucial place of exchange and innovation. Display cases and exhibits highlight portions of the Library's collections, often with ties to other resource-oriented programming. Workshops, salons, panels, and lectures all facilitate important discussions about art and art-making. As such, the Library becomes a place to not only house a wealth of resources, but to begin conversations about those resources and beyond.



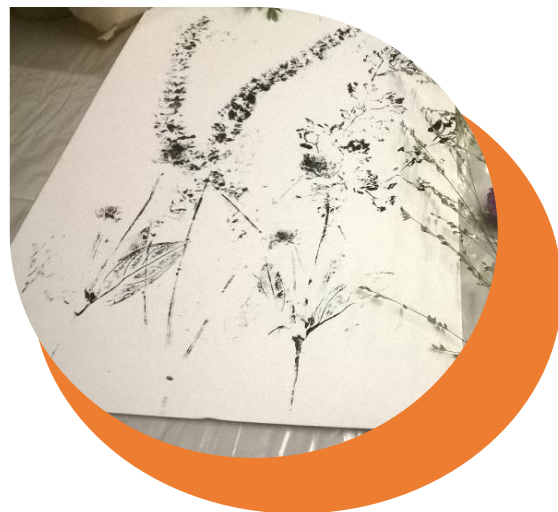
Friends of the Library Signature Showcase

Friends of the Library Signature Showcase is the Library's semi-annual lecture and discussion series. Since its inception in fall 2008, *Signature Showcase* focuses on the research of Columbia's distinguished faculty. Each event features a prominent author, scholar, or artist in conversation with the community about their work. Past presenters include Stephen Asma, Jim DeRogatis, Nami Mun, Audrey Niffenegger, Dominic Pacyga, and Sam Weller.

Photo : Audrey Niffenegger (by Stephen DeSantos)

Focus Week

Focus Week is an annual initiative devoted to a particular genre, art form, movement or special interest topic exploring the role libraries can play as a point of resource-sharing, community connection, and creative genesis. Recent topics have included *Is Anybody Out There?*, devoted to LGBTQ art & resources, and this year's *Uncanny Specimens: Taxidermy, Preservation, and Play*. Each Focus Week hosts a week of panels, workshops, readings, lectures and other events related to the featured topic.



Etsy Workshop with Purple and Lime

Rebecca George led a workshop targeted to students on how to run a successful Etsy store. Her store, Purple and Lime, is a line of super-fun and luxurious womenswear, jewelry, and accessories based in Chicago.



Material Displays & Related Activities

The Library regularly hosts displays of materials relevant to various topics. Our several display cases feature items from the collection, faculty and student work, as well as occasional interactive elements. In spring 2016, the Library's 1st floor featured BRETON's BIRTHDAY, a celebration of Surrealist games and activities as well as relevant materials. Our Blind Date with a Book Initiative sent careful wrapped mystery titles home with patrons who checked them out. Displays typically correlate with upcoming arts events or topics of special interest, including Taxidermy & Nature Related Art, NANOWRIMO, Zines & Independent Publishing, Printmaking, Book Arts, LGBTQ History, Alternative Comics, and Game Design.

Salon Series

The Aesthetics of Research Salon Series is a regular schedule of readings / discussions with Columbia and Chicago community authors about their work and the materials/ inspirations from which that work springs, with a particular eye toward how libraries and research in particular inform and support the creative process. Each installment highlights and brings in writers from an array of presses, organizations, and reading series in the Chicago area, offering students and other audience members an opportunity to network and engage the greater Chicago literary community. Featured publishers/orgs included dancing girl press, Black Lawrence Press, Sundress Publications, and the Chicago Publisher's Resource Center.

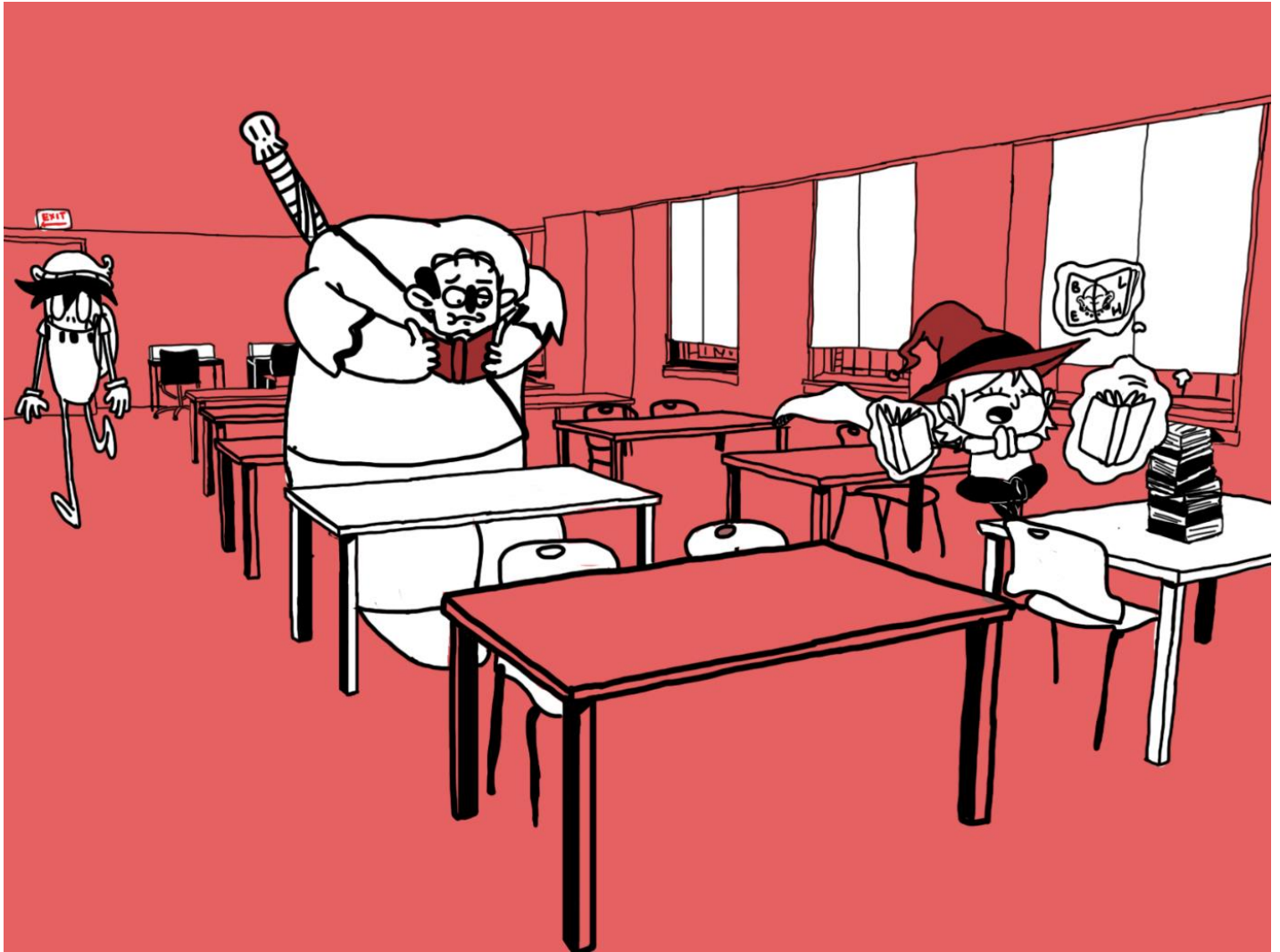
Photogrammetry and 3D Printing Workshop

Photogrammetry is the process of making a 3D model using a series of photographs. In this workshop participants worked with the 123D Catch App to create 3D models of real world objects. User Experience and Emerging Technologies Librarian, led the session, discussing the 3D printing process and demonstrated the printing of an object after capture with the app.



Preludes Listening Sessions

Preludes is a regular series of listening sessions for selected student musical releases, showcasing the talent/artistry in the CCC community, promoting & building the Library music collection, and generating discussion on musical influences. Spring 2016's featured artist was Rylan Freidhoff, who participated in a both a Q&A discussion session and a performance/dance party during Manifest.



Conclusion

The Columbia College Chicago Library continues to excel in meeting the needs of a vibrant, diverse, and innovative CCC community through its spaces, collections, and resources, placing itself at the creative and intellectual center of a thriving community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Harboring a strong commitment to the 21st Century Curriculum, the Library strives to continually embed itself in the educational experience of students both inside and outside the classroom through instruction, pedagogical innovation, and faculty partnerships. Serving a unique campus community of artists and other media professionals, the entire CCC Library staff contributes to forging a vigorous schedule of programming and engagement activities, which make room not only for creative process and collaboration, but for cultural contexts, provocative discussions, and a network of resources that will carry students through their college experience, into the greater arts and media community and beyond.

Letters of Support



Columbia College Chicago

600 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605 1996
colum.edu

To the ARCL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee,

This letter is in support of Columbia College Chicago's Library application for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. At the heart of Columbia's Library are efforts to engage students, faculty and staff in the Colleges' mission to, "provide a comprehensive educational opportunity in the arts, communications, and public information within a context of enlightened liberal education."

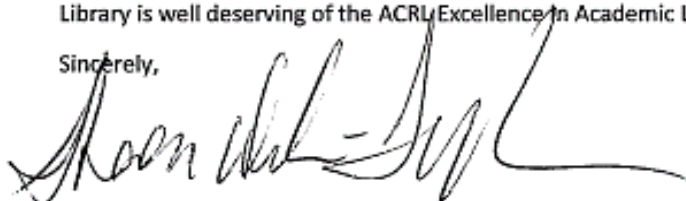
Columbia College Chicago's collection of books, videos, audio, photos etc., is something that the students and faculty are proud of because it enhances the students' education. Of equal importance is how the Library staff engage students and faculty in a vertical campus that is a predominantly commuter college. Several years ago the staff purposefully made the library a home for all of our students by creating a coffee shop in the library that brings students, faculty and staff to the library. This may seem like a small feat, however it is not, because the Library staff created this coffee shop/reading concept as a way to engage and bond students to the college, as well as, the various gathering spaces in the library.

The Library staff is also instrumental in the onboarding of our new students which is evident in their participation at new student orientation. Their commitment to students' academic success can be seen throughout the various class visits conducted by the Library staff that over the years has assisted in brings the library to the classroom.

The Library embodies the college's mission of " providing a college climate that offers students an opportunity to try themselves out, to explore and to discover what they can and want to do" by creating a space in the library that exhibits a variety of students' work. The Library is a vibrant part of the college community, it is not tucked away in a corner of the instruction. Most recently, the Library partnered with another department on campus to create a *meditation room* that is hosted in the library. This is a space where students may go to learn about tolerance of various religions as well as place to spiritually reflect.

Columbia College Library is so much more than a library, it is hub within the College community where students can be found conducting research or just exploring their craft. I believe that Columbia College Library is well deserving of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Sincerely,



Sharon Wilson-Taylor, Ph.D.
Vice President of Student Affairs
Columbia College Chicago

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

December 1, 2016

623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60605 1996
T 312.369.6989
colum.edu

Award Committee
Association of College &
Research Libraries

Dear Members of the Award Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the Columbia College Chicago Library's application for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. While I fully understand that I am biased in my view on the excellence of our Library staff and facilities, I have a tremendous amount of evidence as a testament to our Library's excellence.

Like virtually all libraries in U.S. higher education, our Library serves as a fully-committed partner to our academic enterprise. As Associate Dean in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I am thoroughly aware of the support our Library provides to our departmental offerings.

Chief among these is the instruction provided to our College Writing Program. While they have always supported our two-course college writing sequence with fairly common methods (class visits to the library, staff liaisons to the faculty and staff in our English Department), the relationship extends far beyond this traditional mode. The Writing Program is in the process of revising its curriculum, and the staff in the Library have been highly active and integral participants in the deliberations of these revision. Two staff members serve as consultants to the program's curriculum committee. As the program shifts from a more traditional rhetorical approach to one that embraces multi-modal forms of college communication, our Library staff have proven to be highly insightful partners in support of this shift and has provided English Department faculty with a wealth of materials to develop this new focus.

Another area our Library supports our academic mission is demonstrated through the data reported by them as they contribute to our regular cycle of academic program reviews. The Library provides each department with a count of the number of programs the Library has offered over the preceding five-year period, and, in addition, adds descriptions of the programming provided. Not only does this demonstrate the strong partnership between the Library and each of our academic departments, but it also demonstrates our Library's initiative and self-accountability in tracking its support throughout the institution.

Departments

ASL-English
Interpretation

Creative Writing

Education

English

First-Year Seminar

Humanities, History,
and Social Sciences

Science and
Mathematics

Undergraduate Research
Mentorship Initiative (UMI)

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

I also serve as Director of Columbia's Honors Program. When the Program was established in Fall 2011, the Dean of the Library reached out to us to and invited us to partner with the Library to offer the *Honors Research Writing Award*, where a panel of two Honors Program members and two Library staff award two top cash prizes (\$200 each) to students in Honors classes in each academic year. The quality of these submissions has been tremendous and we appreciate the Library's initiative for the vision to establish this annual award for our students.

One final area I would like to cite our Library's excellence and commitment to partnership is through their support in use of space. Our Library building has one of the more enviable locations on our campus: the 2nd through 5th floors are on Michigan Avenue, and the east part of the building overlooks Grant Park. Because of aesthetics and logistics, we frequently stage events (large and small) in their spaces. I have never heard any office denied a request for space. Not only all space requests honored, but Library staff for these events are always present and help facilitate the events' success.

I find that an accommodating spirit is typically present in library staff throughout the U.S., especially in higher education. But I cannot believe any staff more enthusiastically accommodating than the entire staff in the Library at Columbia College Chicago. They are a critical partner in the success of our students and our faculty, we are all grateful for their collaborative and collegial attitudes.

Sincerely,



Neil Pagano, PhD
Associate Dean and
Director of the Honors Program

STUDENT LIFE

600 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60605 1996
312 663 1600

WWW.COLUM.EDU

December 1, 2016

Dear ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee,

I am writing in support of Columbia College Chicago's Library for the Excellence in Libraries Award. As the Associate Dean of Student Life, I am responsible for out-of-the-classroom student engagement and involvement in support of the college's academic mission.

As a community, we hold fast to the extraordinary text from our mission statement that reads: "Columbia's intent is to educate students who will communicate creatively and shape the public's perceptions of issues and events and who will author the culture of their times." The Columbia Library embodies the mission and provides space and resources for our students to develop their author's voice.

The wise and creative Library staff is always seeking new ways to engage our students, and on our high-rise (vertical) urban campus, this can be especially challenging. The Library designs programming and service through creativity and innovation that include a meditation room, therapy animals to relieve stress, a wealth of resources and support, active and engaging use of social media, maker's spaces, specialty resource collections and the very thing all college students need... coffee.

As one of our primary partners, the Library continues to be our most welcoming and supportive environment for collaborative programs. They are our partners as we welcome new students at Orientation and Convocation through graduating student showcases at a college-wide festival we call Manifest. They work with us to engage new students right from the start, and support the intellectual resources, creative tools, and sense of community that directly benefits all of our students.

In conclusion, I proudly recommend Columbia College Chicago's Library for the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. They are our partners, our friends, our students' lifeline, and a true Columbia gem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most Sincerely,



Kari Sommers
Associate Dean, Student Life

Date: December 1, 2016

To: The Committee on Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Program

From: Pattie Mackenzie, Global Education Office

Dear Committee,

I am almost at a loss to know where to begin to explain my reasons for providing unqualified support for The Library at Columbia College Chicago. My experiences working closely with our amazing librarians began in fall 2009. To date, I have continued to be amazed with the breadth and scope of their reach and the ingenuity in creating and including communities within our many diverse populations at Columbia. Our Library is a team which constantly seeks opportunities to partner and engage faculty, staff and students for our mutual success. In seven and a half years I've never heard, "Sorry we can't do that"; it's always "YES, let's create something to meet those needs".

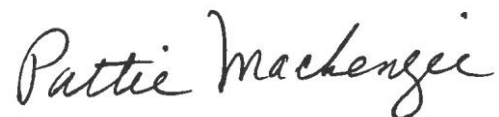
I offer you two tangible examples to clarify the lengths to which they collectively and individually go.

- As I moved from the School of Media Arts to the newly formed Global Education Office recently, the Library reached out to partner with our new unit. I was invited to meet with the entire Library staff at their Town Hall meeting to discuss the needs of international students. Several things resulted within three short months. Various librarians came to regular on-going organizational meetings to help develop programming for international students. Next two librarians organized and presented to both International Student Welcome Programs to help orient the new students. Other librarians created recourse guide for international students crafted to assist this special population, <http://libguides.colum.edu/internationalstudents>. Still other librarians, actually five to date, have become International Mentors for several international students each, in a new program called the International Mentorship Program, which is an ongoing commitment for the students full tenure at Columbia.
- In the fall of 2009 some of created a special scholarship fund as the recession hit. The Dean of the Library as well as other librarians began working on a fundraising campaign which continues today. In fact, we had a fundraiser in October and plan our next one in spring. The scholarship would not still exist without the generous support of Library and two precious people from the Library. Every dollar we've raised goes directly to juniors and seniors are trying to complete their graduation requirements with dwindling resources. They and other librarians are committed to support students creatively, financially and voluntarily.

I have the upmost respect for our Library. Individually and collectively they never cease to amaze me. Do they support Columbia's Strategic Mission? Yes. Our Library and the Librarians continually find ways to Support Student Success for all students. They engage and encourage students who represent our entire Global Community, they create a sense of Community creatively, they embrace Diversity and are dedicated to expanding the Global Fluency of all at Columbia, and they Ethically uphold the highest standards for our students.

We are very lucky to have The Library and Librarians we do. Quite simply and truthfully, I believe our library is the heartbeat of Columbia.

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pattie Mackenzie". The script is cursive and fluid, with a prominent initial 'P'.

Pattie Mackenzie

Assistant Dean

Global Education Office

Columbia College Chicago

600 S. Michigan

Chicago IL 60605

312-369-8839

pmackenzie@colum.edu

November 30, 2016

Andrew Causey, PhD, Anthropology

acausey@colum.edu

Humanities, History, and Social Sciences Department

Columbia College Chicago

To: ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee

It has come to my attention that the Columbia College Chicago (CCC) library is applying for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. I want to support them with a short letter to explain why I think they should be seriously considered.

CCC is an urban college with its classrooms, studios, and offices flung far and wide throughout Chicago's South Loop area. Because students are dispersed, and because the College currently has no student union, the CCC Library is the de facto hub for student activities, whether they are academic or social in nature. My colleagues in the library recognize their unique position at the school and have been incredibly creative in finding ways to bring students together. In the past few years, more rooms have been made available for group study, including rooms with a wide range of technological tools, while other areas have been created for quiet study. Because so many of our students carry a full academic load as well as having multiple jobs, the library rightly realized that there must be a safe space for them to relax and rest, and so developed a large open area with inviting couches, chairs, and tables. I have passed by this room many times and see that it is constantly, and well, used.

In addition, the staff of the library have created numerous programs that engage students in thoughtful collaborations, providing them with activities that encourage interactions and communication with a diverse group they might not meet otherwise. I'm thinking here, for example, of "Zine Night" for those students experimenting with making their own informal publications, and another event where students were invited to experiment with surrealism in both writing and collage. The way I see it, the Library is seminal in creating a sense of community in an urban setting that might otherwise allow students to fall into a sense of anomie.

My own experiences with the Library have been transformative. That's not hyperbole, it's fact. Two semesters ago, I was approached by Library staff interested in exploring their Aesthetics of Research program. Working closely with two staff members, we developed a project that engaged two of my classes in using small objects to create relationships with strangers within the College community and

then use those experiences as the basis for a paper on the anthropological trope “the gift”. The results were amazing, and I think the papers I received from the students were more vibrant and engaged than any I had previously read. The Library facilitated students’ creativity in community engagement, but more than this, gave them the space to explore critical and analytical thinking.

I am a great supporter of libraries in general, but in CCC I see much more: it’s not just about making information available, or about assisting research; it is, rather, about making thinking and exploring compelling and ethical activities, and about creating a sense of community within an often daunting urban context.

Cinema Art + Science

600 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605
www.colum.edu

December 1, 2016

ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795

Dear Committee Members,


As both an alum and faculty member of the Columbia College Chicago community for the past forty years I feel honored to support the application of our library for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Over the years I have seen the library grow from a relatively small depository of books to an undisputed leader in the cultural and academic life of the College. This growth can best be seen in the vast array of student and public programming produced by the library. It has been my good fortune to be involved with several of these.

Of these events, one that I feel particularly exemplifies the library's approach is their annual Big Read. Here, the library coordinates a series of programs throughout the departments, all centered on one book and author. This past year I was asked to coordinate the program in Cinema Art and Science, a film series constructed around the roots of film noir in celebration of Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon." Jan Chinlund and Kim Hale initiated plans for this program months ahead of the celebration. They were thoughtful, organized and a pleasure to work with. More important, they and their committee members were well informed, supportive and always asked the key question first: "How will this help our students?" The result was a very successful program both for our department and for the College overall.

Our library reflects great credit on our institution. I know that they will do the same for you if they are given this award.

Sincerely,



Ron Falzone
Associate Professor, CA+S

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Nov. 30, 2016

Dear ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee,

As an inaugural Library Fellow developing college-wide literacy curriculum in cooperation with the library staff, as a 28-year faculty member bringing classes to various instructional sessions at the library and being introduced to new resources as part of my own continuing education, and as a general lover of libraries helping me with my own research, I write this letter in support of Columbia College Chicago for the Association of College & Research Libraries Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Just last night my *Media Ethics & Law* class met in the library for a class on “Copyright & Fair Use,” taught by Columbia’s Intellectual Property Librarian, Maryam Fakouri. In an open-ended question on their weekly quiz, students remarked on how helpful that session was to their future as journalists—as they gained knowledge and understanding that could keep them from getting sued! Our department faculty have also participated in a hybrid course developed and taught by Ms. Fakouri.

On my way out of the library last night I encountered a group of gleeful students on the main floor making “dry Snow Globes” as part of the many hands-on exploratory art projects encouraged in the space—all part of the college mission “to provide a climate that offers students an opportunity to try themselves out, to explore, and to discover what they can and want to do.”

Some 20 different undergraduate and graduate courses in our newly-merged academic department, Communication & Media Innovation, have availed themselves of library facilities and resources for specific class projects as well as general information literacy instruction.

At Columbia we pride ourselves on our economic, racial, cultural and educational diversity. During Hispanic Heritage Month, for instance, the library hosted two film screenings of “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History” that included our Latino faculty as discussion leaders with students. Because so many of our students must work to pay for their schooling, the library acknowledges the-end-of-semester anxieties by offering a “de-stress fest” including therapy dogs, comedy films, a ladies comedy open mic night as well as cocoa and crafts

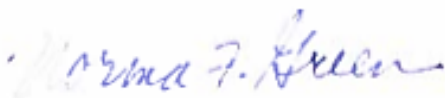
As a media historian, I have relied on the services of various librarians to help me secure books and materials from other libraries for my ongoing research—last year for an NEH summer fellowship project documenting geographical development of periodicals and, more recently, a book chapter on Ida B. Wells.

Archivists in the Library’s Archivists & Special Collections have proved invaluable when researching history for our 10-year department self-study. Also, we are appreciative that our award-winning college newspaper has now been digitalized and is readily searchable through the library catalog.

As part of the college mission, the library is actively engaged in the life and culture of the city of Chicago hosting events that attract not only students and faculty but also the general public. Such activities as the Big Reads (that this year was *The Maltese Falcon* and included a keynote by Dashiell Hammett's granddaughter, a panel discussion with local mystery writers and a Femme Fatale fashion show of student work inspired by film noir) and the tie-in this year with the annual Edible Book Day celebration of consumable creativity. Edible Books has a near-cult (or is it culinary) following with people driving across state lines to participate alongside imaginative student entries.

I have served on college-wide committees with members of the Columbia College Library and find them to be unfailingly helpful in offering their insights and expertise on matters of curriculum combined with Columbia's special brand of creativity. I have never encountered quite such a team at other academic libraries and would like to see this group recognized for their dedication to our institution. Thank you for your consideration of Columbia for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee.

Sincerely,



Norma Fay Green, Ph.D.

Professor of Journalism

Communication & Media Innovation Department

School of Media Arts

Columbia College Chicago

ngreen@colum.edu

33 E. Congress Parkway

Chicago, IL 60605-1996

(312) 369-8920

To: ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee

Date: December 1, 2016

Dear Members of the Committee,

It is my privilege to write a letter of support on behalf of the Columbia College Chicago Library. The librarians and the staff in this library truly embody and advance the mission of the college. Their work supports many functions of the college and their efforts are linked to the college's mission and strategic plan goals.

Thanks to the leadership of the library that has promoted an innovative mindset, all librarians and library staff constantly seek and engage in creative projects around campus to improve the libraries services and operations. As a faculty member in the Business and Entrepreneurship Department, who has collaborated with the Library since 2013, I have seen a commendable growth of intra- and extracurricular activities that strengthen the college's mission and goals. The biggest focus of the college is on student success where the library functions as an informed reservoir of knowledge and innovation-focused milieu that is up to date with the 21st century curriculum needs.

Furthermore, Library's welcoming and supportive leadership and staff creates an environment that enables the desired community engagement on campus and beyond. They understand that in order to create an active engagement with students, they must use technology and media our students use on an everyday basis such as Twitter. Our students also benefit from the Library spaces and classrooms that are designed to support team collaborations and creativity. The Library's events and activities such as How-to-Tuesday Workshops, are produced to enhance student critical and analytical thinking and their ability to create.

I have engaged with the Library as a teacher and as a scholar. In both activities, the Library has proved to be an invaluable partner for me as a faculty and for my students. In one of my courses I teach—Creativity in Marketing—the Library regularly becomes the class client. Students in this course have to develop a marketing strategy on how to improve the Library's services and resources. This is a great opportunity that produces valuable outcomes for both groups. The Library gains new insights and strategic ideas from students and students benefit from a real client project experience. Because the Library leadership implemented many ideas proposed by the students, students feel connected to and proud to be a part of the college's mission. Thanks to all Library strategic endeavors, I have seen a significant increase in students' career readiness and connection to the

college, when fully utilizing their resources and services. The Columbia College Chicago Library represents a solid foundation for the growth and advancement of our college community.

I am proud to endorse such a dedicated group of professionals and I thank you for your consideration to award them with the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Sincerely,

Sandra Kumorowski, MBA

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November 30, 2016

ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee

Dear Committee:

I am writing in support of Columbia College Chicago Library's application for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. I have been a Columbia College faculty member for more than thirty years and have seen the library grow over time into a dynamic part of the institution. Especially under the leadership of Library Dean Jan Chindlund, it has developed into a vibrant research center aiding both faculty and students in their work. The library is a governing member of the Chicago Collections Consortium and has joined the Center for Research Libraries giving the college's community powerful resources for research. It has long been a member of I-Share, an important coalition of research libraries in Illinois.

Furthermore, the library has supported both Columbia College's mission and strategic plan. It has been a leader in supporting student success, creating a 21st Century Curriculum, and aiding the college in community engagement. The head of the College Archives and Special Collections, Heidi Marshall, has begun to teach classes in the Humanities, History, and Social Science Department regarding research. This class has been very successful and should prove to be an important part of the college's curriculum. The library's Center for Black Music Research continues to be a significant resource not only for the college, but for the community. It draws researchers from both across the United States and internationally. Thus through its programs the Columbia College Library has encouraged diversity, equity, and inclusion. These are important concerns for an urban arts college.

Last, but not least, the library has been an important meeting place for students on a college campus that lacks a student center. Students often gather in the library to work on

projects, meet each other, and simply do their work. The Columbia College Library has provided a welcoming place in a very urban campus. It offers a community space, runs programs of interest, and helps students develop points of view that reinforces what they learn in the classroom. Put simply the library is essential for the creation of an atmosphere of creativity and critical thinking. The staff is friendly and extremely supportive.

On a more personal note, I am an historian who focuses on urban history, particularly Chicago's history. When I arrived here there was little chance that the library could help me with my research. Today it plays an essential role in my research agenda. I have found Jan Chindlund and her staff to be most supportive of my work. It is now an indispensable tool for my inquiries into the history of the city. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dominic A. Pacyga, Ph.D.
Professor of History
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November 30

Dear ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee:

I am writing in support of the Columbia College Chicago Library. I cannot think of a more useful and supportive institution in the life of our College.

In addition to using the Library's expanding digital resources for both teaching and my own research, I visit the Columbia College Library almost every day. I go there to find books and DVDs for my classes. I go to the Library to pick up my interlibrary loan requests, often rare nineteenth-century books in English or Spanish. In the last few months, the Library staff has also helped me order microfilms, has contacted the New York Public Library for a hard to find document, and used their connections to colleagues in the Library of Congress to help me complete a citation for an article.

Every semester I take my classes to the well-thought out training sessions the Library staff organizes to help students find resources for their research papers. Before each session, I provide the staff member with the topics my students are writing about, and the information they provide is always tailored to their needs. I am always impressed with the staff competence and sensitivity when addressing our students.

The Library is also where every Spring the school celebrates the Political Cartoon Contest Awards ceremony, not to mention many other interdisciplinary events that bring the College together.

The Columbia College Library staff is warm, professional and imaginative. They understand how important their role is in providing our diverse student body with guidance, and how crucial it is to the mission of the College to create a welcoming and inspiring cultural environment.

Yours truly,



Teresa Prados-Torreira

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