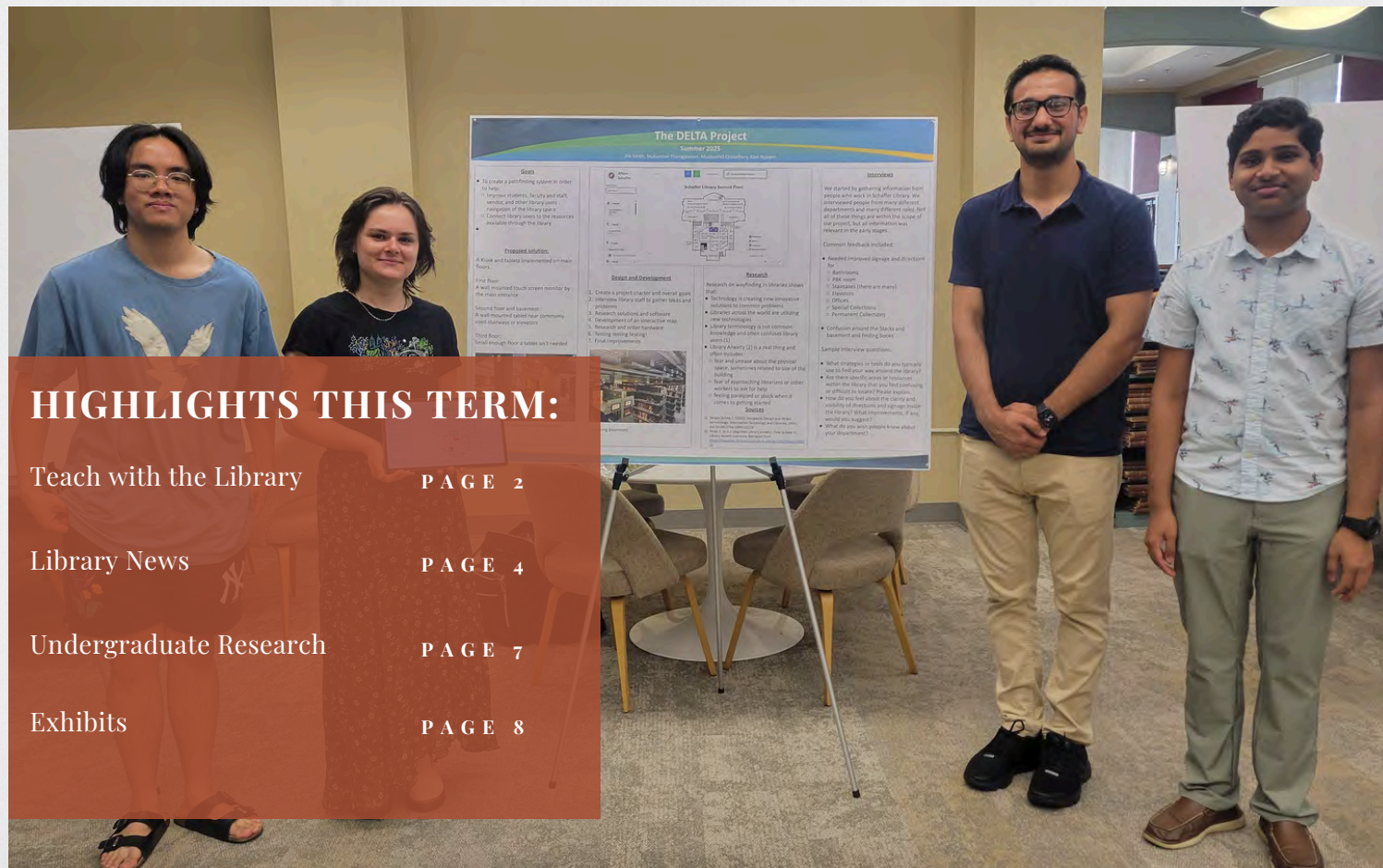


SCHAFFER LIBRARY

UPDATES FOR FALL 2025



*The DELTA students presented their research at the Summer Undergraduate Research Poster session.
See more about their research on page 7.*

SCHAFFER LIBRARY RESEARCH PRIZE

The Schaffer Library Research Prize is back! This year the submission portal will open October 27th and the last day to submit an entry is March 18, 2026. In addition to completing the submission form, students are required to submit 3 components: 1) a reflective essay (500-1000 words) explaining the student's search process, providing insight into how the project contributed to the student's growth as a researcher, and evaluation of the sources utilized, 2) the research project, and 3) a bibliography of the sources utilized for the project. The winner will be announced on Prize Day 2026.

[Find more information](#) on eligibility and evaluation criteria for applicants. Email researchprize@union.edu with questions.

TEACH WITH SCHAFFER LIBRARY

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Don't forget to [book your research instruction sessions](#)! If your students are conducting research this Fall term, let us help you teach them how to use the wide variety of resources and tools we have through the library by booking a research instruction session. See the types of sessions we offer [here on our Instruction Menu](#). The library provides many ways to engage with research including instruction sessions, [one-on-one research consultations](#) with librarians or peer mentors, & [subject-focused library guides](#).

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Beginning Fall 2025, Schaffer Library's interlibrary loan (ILL) service will be primarily offered through the Primo discovery system. The ILLiad system will continue to be offered to Union College members, but as a secondary system and only as needed. All users are encouraged to place their ILL requests in Primo using the "Request from another library" option.

For questions about interlibrary loan, please contact unionill@union.edu.

Did you know? Artworks from the Union College Permanent Collection are available for viewing, instruction, and independent study. The [College's Permanent Collection page](#) has more details or you can contact Sarah Mottalini (mottalis@union.edu). [View the Permanent Collection online](#) at the ARCHES website.

WEBPAGE UPDATES

Looking for information about how to place an item on reserve? Want to know the length of time you can check out a DVD? Take a look at our [recently updated webpages](#) that provide all the details about some of our core library services: Circulation, Course Reserves, and Interlibrary Loan.

SUBJECT GUIDES

Need a starting point for your students to begin their research? Check out our [subject guides](#) which provide a curated list of helpful library resources.

EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN

Schaffer Library has a variety of equipment available to faculty, staff, and students for short-term loan: laptops, iPads, device chargers, projectors, and more. Please visit the Library Service Desk to find out more about what's available for your academic and scholarly needs.

ASK A LIBRARIAN

Need help with your research? Did you know that you can contact a librarian in real time through UChat? Look for the green UChat button on the library website. Chat will be staffed from 1pm to 4pm, Monday-Thursday. Don't worry, we're also still available for more in-depth help through email and in-person meetings. See our [Ask a Librarian page](#) for more information.



TEACH WITH SCHAFER LIBRARY

RESEARCH MENTORS @ THE WRITING CENTER

Want to help your students feel more confident navigating library databases or refining their research questions? Research Mentors are here to help. Our Research Mentors are trained student researchers who work closely with Union College librarians to support the research process, no matter what stage students are in.

Whether students are brainstorming ideas, exploring topics, locating scholarly sources, or learning to cite sources properly, Research Mentors offer personalized, peer-to-peer guidance to help them build stronger research habits and tackle assignments with clarity and confidence.



For more information on the program see our [Research Mentor Page](#).

Our research mentors can help students throughout the research process.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Teach with Special Collections this Fall term! Reach out to specialcollections@union.edu to schedule your class visit, ask questions about our collections, and explore creative ways to utilize them during the 10 week term.

SUGGEST A PURCHASE

Is there an item that you wish the library owned or is there a subscription we should have? Over the summer, our popular Suggest a Purchase program website was upgraded to make requests for items even easier. From our [Suggest a Purchase page](#) on the library's website, you can perform a search right away, or use our blank form to start your request. Requests can be tracked through Primo's "My Account" feature. When the item arrives, you will be notified via email.

TIP: Searching for your item before requesting has its benefits! If we have the item, Primo will show links for Hold and Course Reserves. If we do not have the item, the link to Suggest a Purchase will be available and the form will be pre-populated with the item information.

For more information, contact librarycollections@union.edu.

LIBRARY NEWS

WILEY JOURNALS AND TOKENS

The Schaffer Library provides access to [Wiley journals](#) online via a “token” service: when you download an article you expend one token costing \$15.67. The library purchases a block of tokens for a year, based on previous usage and demand. This system has served the Union community very well, providing “just in time” access to articles while also saving the college money.

We track the use of tokens carefully and noticed that last term many articles were downloaded multiple times.

How can faculty help?

- If you use Wiley articles in your classroom, please download the article you wish your students to read, and add the downloaded file to Nexus.
- We ask that you download an article and save it, rather than keeping open a tab or continuing to click the token popup.
- Use the library’s discovery tool, Primo, to find materials. (Some Wiley journals are also available in other databases that don’t have our token-per-use licensing.)

There is a chance that we will run out of Wiley tokens this Fall. If this happens, you will need to submit an Interlibrary Loan request for your item.

Thank you for your help! Please email us at librarycollections@union.edu with any questions.

NEW DATABASES

Our new databases and other electronic resources include:

- [New England Journal of Medicine \(NEJM\)](#) – we now subscribe to NEJM, NEJM Evidence, NEJM AI, NEJM Catalyst, and NEJM Journal Watch online. NEJM is among the most trusted and authoritative journals in clinical medicine.
- [Nikkei Asia](#) – based in Tokyo, this English-language weekly news magazine covers business and finance in Asia and international financial markets.
- [Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum Online \(SEG\)](#) – the SEG collects newly published Greek inscriptions and studies on previously known documents, as well as summaries of new readings, interpretations, and inscriptions.
- [Annual Reviews](#) – covering publications on numerous topics across the scientific world, both current publications and archives of Annual Reviews is now available online.
- [Daily Gazette with Historical Archive](#) – the local Daily Gazette is now available online from 1921-current.

All resources are available on campus or off campus. Please contact us at librarycollections@union.edu for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

KEY DATES: UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Keep an eye out for upcoming programs throughout the term!

- **September 17th is Constitution Day**, and the Library will be having a constitution read-in to commemorate this day.
- We will also host an event during **Banned Books Week, October 5-11**.
- **October 29th is our Research Party** where students can eat party snacks and ask librarians on standby questions about their final papers and projects.

The explosion of artificial intelligence (AI) features, chatbots, research assistants, language models, and more has changed many aspects of our work and study already, and the pace of change doesn't seem to be slowing. The library is convening a series of **AI community interest meetings** for Academic Year 2025-2026 to talk about AI in research, resources, and more. Sessions will be open to all members of the Union Community. Look for our forthcoming announcement!

Stay tuned for more by [visiting our library website](#) and our [Instagram account \(@schafferlibrary\)](#).

NEW HIRES

We welcomed three new colleagues at Schaffer Library in 2025!

Kelly Pride joined the Resource Management department permanently in February 2025. In her role as Resource Management Specialist - Continuations, Kelly ensures that our e-resources, periodicals, and continuing orders are available in a timely manner. She also helps compile reports on our collection to help guide new licenses.

Ethan Snowball became our new Resource Management Specialist - Monographs in May 2025. Ethan processes book and film orders in physical and electronic formats. He also works closely with our Cataloging & Metadata Librarian to ensure that library records are as descriptive as possible so that users can find what they need right away.

John Ruquet is our new Resource Management Specialist - Metadata & Digitization as of June 2025. In this role, John helps to digitize and describe materials for collections in [ARCHES](#), from letters and diaries in our Special Collections & Archives department to honors theses and other scholarship produced at Union College.

LIBRARY NEWS

HONORS THESES NOW IN ARCHES

Our student honors theses are [now available in ARCHES](#), our digital repository. ARCHES features full-text searching as well as the ability to narrow your search by author, subject, and department. For more information, email digitalservices@union.edu.

PRESIDENT HARRIS' PORTRAIT

As the College welcomes a new president this fall, a portrait commemorating the previous president, David Harris, will be installed in Memorial Chapel. Following the College's tradition of commissioning a portrait at the completion of a president's tenure, the artist Joseph Q. Daily was chosen by the President's Office to create a portrait of Harris. The portrait will become part of the Permanent Collection, and will be installed with the group of presidential portraits hanging in Memorial Chapel.

ART CONSERVATION

The Permanent Collection recently engaged a team of art conservators from the Williamstown Art Conservation Center to review the artworks hanging in Memorial Chapel and the President's House. Several of the portraits and other paintings were recommended for treatment. This treatment will take place at intervals over the next several years.



Conservators examine Ezra Ames' portrait of Alexander Hamilton.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH @ SCHAFFER LIBRARY

SUMMER RESEARCH

EVANS FELLOWS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This summer Special Collections and Archives hosted 3 Evans Research Fellows:

Amelia Keese UC '26 spent 6 weeks studying Jonathan Pearson with her research culminating in a StoryMap tracking Pearson's life, career and his impact on Union College, New York State, and the world. [View Amelia's StoryMap](#) about Jonathan Pearson's life and impact.

Jane Mae Schreiner UC '26 spent 8 weeks immersing herself in the Shui Kong Yuen Collection and will curate an exhibit in Beuth Atrium for Winter Term 2026.

Ben Stern UC '26 spent 8 weeks researching the past and present Jewish student experience at Union College. Ben plans to submit an article to the New York State Archives Magazine and is continuing his work this Fall with an Independent Study directed by Professor Peter Bedford.

DELTA STUDENTS AND NEW WAYFINDING KIOSKS

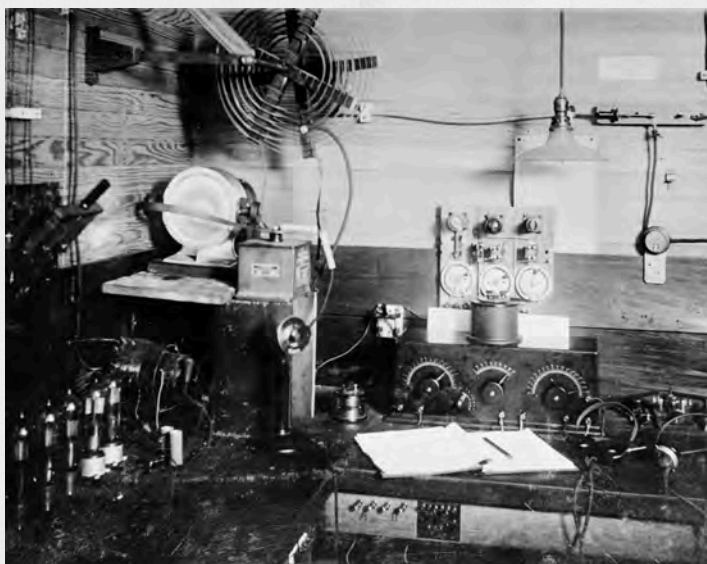
This summer, we began the first DELTA project, a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity for students across disciplines to work directly on a project or problem that the library seeks to solve. This new fellowship is consistent with Union's summer undergraduate research program approach and the overall pedagogical philosophy of the college.

A team of students from each division, Alli Smith, Mukundan Thanigavelan, Mustarshid Choudhary, and Kien Nguyen Hieu, worked together to develop a low-cost, useful digital wayfinding kiosk for the library.

Through research and stakeholder interviews, they investigated the biggest challenges in building wayfinding and understood the "big picture" of what the library is and what it does, as well as what data sources are available. They developed a prototype for the library to use in the Learning Commons and other areas and assessed the prototype to turn into a final product. They also had to consider and develop a succession plan for the sustainability of the product (upgrades, issues).

Come to the library and see and test out their final product, Xplore Schaffer! There are three displays located on the 1st floor, basement, and second floor.

EXHIBITS



First radio set at WRUC.

OPEN FOR RESEARCH: THE UNION OF LIBERAL ARTS & ENGINEERING

As a welcome to President Kiss, Special Collections and Archives offers a peek into just a few of our collections that may be of public interest and speak to Union's innovative history.

Open for Research celebrates Union's past and present approach to integrating STEM and Liberal Arts education. From the College's first surveying courses and literary societies to today's creative writers and engineering student groups, materials on display illustrate how Union has consistently fostered a culture of unique interdisciplinary exploration and discovery.

BIRDS OF AUDUBON: BIRDS I HAVE EATEN CURATED BY PETR MELNIKOV UC '28

This exhibit highlights a lesser-known story around John J. Audubon's Birds of America wildlife stills: Audubon consumed most of the birds he portrayed in his prints. On view are four prints of Audubon's work, with Audubon's notes. Come visit in the Lally Reading Room from September 11–November 18th.

AUTOGRAPHED SPINDLE CHAIR

An unusual object from the Permanent Collection will be on view this fall in the **Lally Reading Room** for the **Kappa Alpha Society 200th Anniversary** exhibition, alongside items from Special Collections. The UCPC holds a Hitchcock-type spindle chair used by the society throughout the mid to late 1800s and "signed" by many members.

Last Spring term, Permanent Collection work study students began cataloguing the names found on the chair.

Some of the names transcribed include:

- **Peter Seabury Schuyler (Class of 1848)** who took part in the Civil War;
- **John Livingston Little (Class of 1886)** who was a civil engineer who worked on the Manchurian Railway in Asia;
- **Everett Smith (Class of 1878)** who was the mayor of Schenectady in 1891; and
- **Fitz Hugh Ludlow (Class of 1856)** who was an author and traveler best known for his autobiographical work, *The Hasheesh Eater*.

UCPC artworks are also on view in various public buildings on campus, including in the Visual Arts building and the Castrucci Gallery at Wold Center, as well as on all three floors of the library.