

SCHAFER LIBRARY

UPDATES FOR WINTER 2026



Our beloved Leslee at her retirement party.

A FOND FAREWELL TO LESLEE

Leslee Barkley, Office Manager, retired on November 3, 2025 after 21 years of service to the Schaffer Library and the College. Leslee competently, and always with a smile, handled hiring students, notarizing documents, ordering supplies and equipment, scheduling meetings, overseeing maintenance requests and paying bills. Leslee learned new systems with tenacity and then taught us how to use them. She was a kind and warm presence and will be missed by all. We wish her well in her retirement.

WELCOME JAY

Jason (Jay) Kibby joined us on December 1 as our new Head of Resource Management. Jay's responsibilities include such areas of the library as acquisitions, electronic resource licensing, and budgeting. Prior to working at Union, Jay was the Online Resources and Acquisitions Librarian at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. But he is no stranger to the Capital Region! He received his Master of Science in Information Science from the University at Albany and spent many years as the Serials, Electronic Resources, and Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the College of St. Rose. Jay can be reached at kibbyj@union.edu.

TEACH WITH SCHAFFER LIBRARY

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

If your students are conducting research this winter term, let us help you show 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 librarian-led instruction sessions, [one-on-one research consultations](#) with librarians or research mentors, who are trained students available in the writing center for one on one help, and [subject-focused library guides](#).



Reach out to [Special Collections](#) to schedule your class visit, ask questions about our collections, and explore creative ways to utilize them during the 10 week term.

AEON LAUNCHES

Do you teach with Special Collections? Or perhaps you use Special Collections in your own research? Or maybe you have an advisee working with collection materials for their thesis?

Schaffer Library is happy to announce we now have Aeon, a circulation management system for those rare and unique materials located in Special Collections. Aeon is a system used by many other Special Collections and Archives (Bowdoin College, University of Maryland (Go Terps!), University of Michigan (Go Blue!), and MIT just to name a few) and if you've done historic research at most major research institutions, chances are Aeon will look familiar!

Getting set up is as easy as searching Primo or [archives.union.edu](#) and clicking on the "Request this Item for Special Collections Use" button in Primo or the "Aeon Request" button on [archives.union.edu](#).

Please reach out to specialcollections@union.edu for more information or to set up your class materials!

TEACH WITH SCHAFER LIBRARY

ART WORKS!

Use the Union College Permanent Art Collection in your class instruction. Artworks are available for viewing, research, and independent study. The College's [Permanent Collection page](#) has more details or you can email ucpc@union.edu. [View the Permanent Collection online](#) at the ARCHES website.

This fall, students from the Arts of Japan course taught by Professor Sheri Lullo viewed works of art from [the Everest Collection](#) in the Everest Lounge in Hale House. The lounge was designated in honor of Robert D. (Class of 1937) and Margaret Everest, who bequeathed a group of works from their collection to the College in 2002. Several pieces from the collection are on view in the lounge. Robert was born in 1916 and grew up in Gloversville, NY. While at Union, he was President of his senior class and the Student Council, and won the Bailey Cup in 1937. The collection includes Asian chests and cabinetry, as well as ceramics, scroll paintings, and wood block prints.

Mathematics Professor Kim Plofker and her History of Mathematics class also viewed an object from the Permanent Collection: an ancient, Assyrian mud brick with a cuneiform inscription. View more information about the brick and three other tablets in the Collection [on the ARCHES platform](#).



Professor Sheri Lullo and her class view art from the Everest Collection in the Everest Lounge.

LIBRARY NEWS

AI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEETINGS

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 meetings for Academic Year 2025-2026 to talk about AI in research, resources, and more.

Sessions are open to all members of the Union Community.

DOIS AND ISBNs

Did you know? Schaffer Library can now provide DOIs for your academic research, in addition to providing ISBNs.

DOIs, or Digital Object Identifiers, are persistent URLs to research articles, data sets, and other types of publications.

For more information or questions about this service, email digitalservices@union.edu.

LOCAL INNOVATION, GLOBAL IMPACT: NEW VITA ARCHIVE ACQUIRED

This fall, Special Collections & Archives added the Volunteers for International Technical Assistance (VITA) program materials to our collection.

VITA was established in Schenectady, NY in 1959 by General Electric physicist and Union College alum Robert M. Walker. VITA was a nonprofit organization composed of scientists, engineers, Union College faculty, and additional volunteers to collaborate on solving technical problems that impacted developing nations.

Donated by Dan Johnson, the VITA collection includes publications from the organization and first hand accounts from volunteers.

LIBRARY NEWS

WILEY JOURNALS AND TOKENS

As a reminder, please use the following process to read articles from [Wiley journals](#):

- 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 can run out of Wiley tokens. If this happens, you will need to submit an Interlibrary Loan request for your item.

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

NEW DATABASES

Our new databases and other electronic resources include:

- [AccessNeurology](#): A comprehensive online neurology resource that covers the entire spectrum of neurology from the basics to specialty-specific content – optimized for viewing on any device. Includes texts such as Adam & Victor's Principles of Neurology, Kandel's Principles of Neural Science, multimedia, and more.
- [HeatMap News](#): Features climate news and its impact on economy, politics, and society.
- New primary resources on Middle East history, including Palestine and Israel statehood committee records from the United States and Great Britain, are available on [Archives Unbound](#) and discoverable through Primo.

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

Access to library-licensed articles, ebooks, and streaming media works best when you [sign in to Primo](#) first. When you're off campus, start your search in Primo so you'll be prompted to log in—this helps you avoid paywalls and ensures full access. For details, see our [Off-Campus Access page](#), and remember that our [Databases A-Z list](#) has links that work on campus or off campus.

TELL YOUR STUDENTS...

NOW TAKING SUBMISSIONS FOR RESEARCH PRIZE

The portal for the Schaffer Library Research Prize is now accepting submissions through 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.

RESEARCH MENTORS

Could your students use assistance navigating library databases or refining their research question? Research Mentors can help. Our Research Mentors are trained student researchers who work closely with Union College Librarians to support your students' research process. These students, who are located in the Writing Center, offer personalized, peer-to-peer guidance to help students build stronger research habits and tackle assignments with clarity and confidence. Encourage your students to [Book a Session](#) with a Research Mentor today, or get in touch with piteraj@union.edu if you'd like a Research Mentor to visit your class.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS STUDENT ASSISTANT PROGRAM

This fall, Special Collections student assistants completed eleven processing projects, increasing access to in-demand archival collections. From the medical curiosities of the Albert H. Pepper correspondence and Frank Hastings Hamilton papers to the early debates documented in the Philomathean Society records, these collections span subjects and disciplines.



Schedule your
research visit
to view these
collections and
more!

TELL YOUR STUDENTS...

UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

From 5-7pm on Wednesday, January 21st, join us for pizza, prizes, and information about the **Bloomberg Terminal**, a crucial resource for understanding financial data in real time. Meet our Bloomberg Student Consultants who help students navigate the Terminal. We will gather right outside the Bloomberg Terminal on the first floor of Schaffer Library.

On Wednesday, March 4th from 4:30-6:30pm, we'll host our **Research Party** where students can eat party snacks and ask Librarians on standby questions about their final papers and projects.

ALSO:

- A nostalgic scholastic book fair-inspired event
- A spicy Valentine's Day event
- Zinemaking workshops throughout the term

Stay tuned for more information by visiting our library website (www.union.edu/schaffer-library) and our Instagram account ([@schafferlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/schafferlibrary)).

REIMAGED COMPUTERS IN THE LIBRARY

Schaffer Library has partnered with ITS to refresh our computer image. The desktop background now features our Schaffer owl logo and we added a shortcut for students to easily submit Help Desk tickets. The username and password have also been updated to align with ITS security standards. **Most notably, our Library computers will refresh after 30 minutes of inactivity, wiping any documents saved to the computer and resetting the machine for the next user.** Signs on our computers remind students to save their documents to the cloud or a thumb drive before leaving the work station, and we appreciate your help in reminding students to regularly save their work.

EQUIPMENT TO 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.



STUDENTS @ SCHAFFER LIBRARY

STUDENT TO STUDENT: LIBRARY OUTREACH

One of the experiential learning opportunities at Schaffer Library is the Outreach with Library Students (OwLS) program. Beyond a mere library student ambassador program, the OwLS program gives students real-world experience in creating content for our social media campaigns, promoting library resources and services, and engaging in research (using library resources) to push out information that supports the educational journey of their peers.

Our current group of OwLS represent Union first years through seniors.



The current group of OwLS, students working to promote the library and its resources.

They are from each of the academic divisions, with the following majors: Computer Science, Economics, Sociology, Visual Arts, Physics, English, and Political Science. They are also representative of the diverse communities here at Union College.

These amazing students bring a wealth of energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge to this program. They not only design fun activities, they bring an invaluable understanding of how to connect with and engage their student peers. Due to the entertaining and effective video content directed and created by the Schaffer OwLS, we have seen an incredible increase in traffic and engagement on our Instagram account.

Our OwLS have also been successful in building partnerships with student organizations. We have enjoyed collaborations with BSU, LASO, Japan Club, ASU, UVote, and several Greek organizations. This year, through connections with the Office of Intercultural Affairs, we have created and hosted engaging activities, like Zine-making and poetry workshops. The OwLS look forward to new collaborations in the future, particularly with academic departments to showcase specific classes or collaborate on informative activities in a setting outside of the classroom.

The Schaffer OwLS would like to invite academic departments to reach out if you have an idea for an event that would engage your students or you're looking for a partner/host for an activity. [Contact Robyn Reed](#) to discuss collaborating! Schaffer Library is a prime campus hub, so it's a great way to make your event visible to a wide range of students.

EXHIBITS & ART



This mixed media piece, by the artist Jessica Stockholder, recently returned from conservation treatment.

ART CONSERVATION WORK

Several of the paintings from the Permanent Collection that the Williamstown Art Conservation Center deemed to be the highest priority for treatment will begin treatment soon. Paintings, including the portrait of Urania Nott and paintings by Ridgway Knight and his son, Aston Knight, are among this group, as well as a four-panel lacquered and carved wood folding screen. Conservation of the Collection is an ongoing process, and the art is regularly monitored for condition, so that pieces in need of treatment are preserved for future generations.

A few artworks and objects recently returned from conservation treatment, such as a pair of Chinese ormolu-mounted vases and a mixed media work by the artist Jessica Stockholder.

IT'S WABBIT SEASON: JANUARY - MARCH 2026 IN LALLY READING ROOM

Curated by Cole Sanderson '28

It's Wabbit Season presents a selection of four Audubon prints: two featuring birds caught in the act, or aftermath, of hunting rabbits, and two highlighting the very rabbits who find themselves on the menu. This collection promises a lighthearted yet insightful look at nature's eternal game of hide-and-seek, one where, for once, even Bugs himself must respect the sign.

BEYOND THE ARCHIVE: REDISCOVERING THE ART OF SHUI KONG YUEN JANUARY - MARCH 2026 IN BEUTH ATRIUM

Curated by Jane Mae Schreiner '26

This student-curated exhibit will feature a collection of photographs created by Union College alumni Shui Kong Yuen '42. The goal of the exhibition is to display Yuen's photography as fine-art for the first time since its creation, recontextualizing it for Union faculty, students, and others to experience. The exhibit will feature 18 physical photographs in total and serves as a culmination of the curator's work as a 2025 Ruth Anne Evans Research Fellow.