

# SCHAFFER LIBRARY

UPDATES FOR SPRING 2026



*Zines created by students in Professor Elena McGrath's course, Radical Change in Latin America.  
Photo by Elena McGrath.*

## WHAT LIBRARIANS ARE DOING IN THE CLASSROOM...

Librarians developed and offered several unique one-shot course offerings in Winter term, applying our skills as teachers of information literacy to a range of topics including:

- **Data Literacy** - Partnering with Professor Georgia Doing's Intro to Data Analytics Course to help students [find data resources](#) in Schaffer Library's collections and on the web, and then to evaluate the quality of a dataset.
- **AI Literacy** - Hosting a session for the Chemistry Seminar on types of AI tools, how GenAI tools derive outputs and where they source information, tips for how to evaluate AI outputs, and ethical use of AI in the research process.
- **Visual Literacy** - Collaborating with Professor Elena McGrath's course on Radical Change in Latin America to develop a zine-making workshop.

Have an idea for how we can support your students? Reach out — we may be able to collaborate in ways neither of us anticipated.

# TEACH WITH SCHAFFER LIBRARY

## LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Don't forget to [book your research instruction sessions!](#)

If your students are conducting research this Spring Term, let us help you show them how to use the wide variety of resources and tools we have through the library. See the types of sessions we offer [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 (trained students available in the writing center), and [subject-focused library guides](#).

## ART WORKS

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](mailto:ucpc@union.edu). View the [Permanent Collection online at the ARCHES website](#).

## *FOR YOUR RESEARCH...*

## TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS

Union College scholars and researchers now can publish open access without article processing charges (APCs) in Cambridge University Press journals.

We signed a transformative agreement (TA) with Cambridge at the start of the year, adding humanities and social sciences journals to our existing TA agreements with STEM publishers.

To learn more about this and other open access (OA) agreements we have, visit our page on [OA and transformative agreements](#). Contact us with any questions! We are happy to support your OA publishing journey.

# SPRING TERM EVENTS

## EXHIBIT

Opening on **March 30th** in Beuth Atrium is “**On Motion Made, Resolved:**” **Revolutionary Schenectady in Three Items**. This exhibit will feature three historic items outlining Union’s close ties to Schenectady and the American Revolution.

## AI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Please keep your eye out for an announcement about the next AI Community of Practice forum! We’re looking forward to another wonderful, community wide discussion.

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

**April** is National Poetry Month and Schaffer Library will be celebrating with takeaway poems to bring with you and hold on to throughout the day (“poems in your pocket!”), a poetry book display, and more! Stay tuned for special activity announcements as we spend the month celebrating the beauty of language.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

We hope you will join us for a variety of activities as we celebrate National Library Week (NLW), which spans **April 19–25**. This year's theme is "Find Your Joy." We'd love to hear how you find joy at Schaffer Library and in your work with our faculty and staff!



*Jenna Pitera, our Instruction Librarian, is ready to celebrate National Library Week!*

# LIBRARY NEWS

## CONNECTING FROM OFF CAMPUS

Did you know that you can access all library resources from off campus? When you're off campus, you just need to sign in so that publishers know you are part of the College.

There are two ways you can sign in:

1. **Start at the library's website (recommended)** - This is your best option! Whether you are starting a broad search or looking for a specific item, start your search on the library's website. As soon as you find the resource you need, choose "Available Online" to find the vendors that provide access, and then log in with your Union credentials.
2. **Sign in directly on a publisher's website** - Some publishers let you sign in directly from their site by clicking "Sign in" or "Log in with your institution." How? They either support personal accounts affiliated with Union (like the *New York Times* or *Wall Street Journal*) or they have a special setup that will connect you through Union (like *Nature*). This is helpful if you have a favorite site already and you know this "institutional login" option is active there. However, not all resources support this option.

If you hit a paywall, don't despair! Go back and access the resource through the library's website, or look for a "log in with your institution" option on the publisher's website. There is also a chance that we don't have access to your resource; should that happen, you can submit an [Interlibrary Loan request](#).

For more information, see our [Off-Campus Access page](#). And don't forget that you can find [all of our journal subscriptions](#) through one list in Primo.

Please help us spread the word about how resources are available to you wherever you are!

## FEATURED DATABASE

Did you know that FEMA is cancelling disaster emergency training for first responders—except in World Cup host cities?

Find out about this story and get ready for Earth Day by visiting our newly added resource [Heatmap](#). This climate news site tells the stories of environment, alternative energy, sustainability - and the politics of these issues - in ways that mainstream news doesn't cover.

Access [Heatmap](#) by visiting our [A to Z Databases webpage](#).

# TELL YOUR STUDENTS...

## REMINDER: SENIOR THESIS SUBMISSION & PERMISSIONS

Seniors have started to submit their honors theses to the Library!

Please help us ensure that the process is as seamless as possible for everyone by reviewing the information below.

For information about the senior honors thesis submission process, as well as links to submission forms, visit the library's website and click "[Senior Thesis Info](#)" under Quick Links. Email [digitalservices@union.edu](mailto:digitalservices@union.edu) with questions.

### NEW THIS YEAR:

- **Changes to Internet Access Options:** Starting this year there are four internet access options instead of three. Opt Out has changed to Metadata Only and Archive Only has been added. Archive Only should be chosen by students who don't want a public record of their work while still fulfilling the archival responsibilities of the college to keep a copy of the thesis.
- **DOI creation:** Every thesis that is published Open Access or Union Only will receive a DOI.

## 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.



UChat

# STUDENTS @ SCHAFFER LIBRARY

## STUDENT RESEARCH IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

Special Collections and Archives now has 7 student assistants trained in archival description, collection searching, care and handling, and reading room monitoring. This winter, we encouraged students to pursue independent projects—with impressive results.

Two students, Tracy Chen '26 and Addison Rosenko '29, share reflections on their Winter Term projects. Tracy co-curated a Valentine's Day pop-up exhibit in Lally Reading Room, and Addison researched two of our Latin manuscripts to solve a mystery: a card that had been tucked into the wrong manuscript. Addison's findings will be shared with our catalog librarian to update records in Primo. Both projects show students making meaningful connections between classroom learning and real-world outcomes.

**Tracy Chen:** *"...I realized that I had nonetheless limited my scope by failing to consider the broader archival landscape. In their research, the curator examined numerous ReUnion booklets that noted alumni lives after graduation, and their partners who they have met during their time at Union. I felt like a miner who stopped far before I could reach the diamonds. I dug into the Alumni files to excavate for alumni's significant others to no avail (and no pictures), but completely overlooked the Reunion booklets. Regardless, I think the pop-up exhibit turned out very well. The core themes I wanted to showcase were effectively portrayed."*

**Addison Rosenko:** *[Upon finding a card mentioning Scranton, PA tucked into a rare manuscript] "...Doing some research so close in relation to both my hometown and Union College, along with helping to catalog a small amount of the numerous and infinitely interesting things housed in the SCA department in Schaffer Library, has been such a fun experience. I hope that during my time working with SCA I can assist the amazing staff more with researching the endless curiosities in its stacks, and maybe solve a few more historical mysteries before I graduate."*



*Addison sharing her findings.*

Addison's initial curiosity came when her Latin 2 class (taught by Professor Mueller) visited Special Collections and she interacted with the manuscript.

# STUDENTS @ SCHAFFER LIBRARY

## SUNYLA PRESENTATION

### **Data-Driven Space Planning: Using Python to Analyze Collection Growth Through LC Classification by Corinne Chatnik and Mukundan Thanigaivelan**

Mukundan Thanigaivelan, a Schaffer Library work-study student, co-presented with Librarian Corinne Chatnik at the SUNYLA midwinter conference on how Schaffer Library at Union College is using open-source tools to get ahead of a challenge facing libraries everywhere: running out of shelf space. Working alongside the library, Mukundan helped develop a Python-based workflow that analyzes Library of Congress classification data to map where collections are growing. By pulling acquisition records from the library's management system and crunching the numbers, the tool gives librarians and staff a clear picture of which subject areas are expanding fastest and where space pressures are likely to emerge. Mukundan's involvement in both building and presenting the project reflects a growing model of hands-on, problem-solving collaboration between Union College students and Schaffer library.

## WORKING WITH THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

This winter, the Permanent Collection work study students have been diligently cataloguing a unique collection of artifacts: a group of forty-four betel lime containers from Indonesia and Timor Leste that was gifted to the UCPC in 2010 by the late Professor Emeritus Carl George. The containers are made of bamboo, wood, and bone, and include finely incised geometric and reptilian motifs, as well as figurative, carved wooden stoppers. These containers were designed to hold "betel nut quid," a substance used in ceremonial gatherings to provide a euphoric effect, consisting of areca nuts, betel pepper leaves, and lime powder. The students have done extensive research on the cultural and artistic significance of these containers, and will be creating label text to accompany a display of the containers on the 3rd floor of the Library.



*UCPC work study students Oumou Diambou, Alexis Lawton-Lewis, and Kira Streichert fabricating housing for the Betel Lime Collection.*

# CONSERVING OUR COLLECTIONS



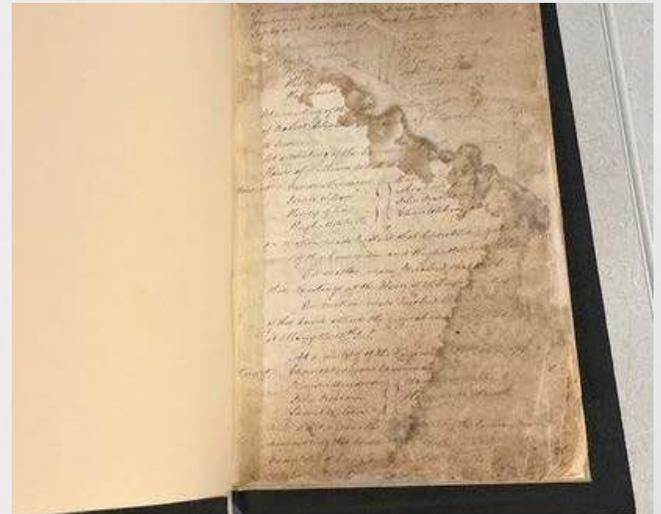
*The stone lion in treatment.*

## CHINESE STONE LION

Conservation work on the Chinese Stone Lion has completed, and we are preparing for the Lion's return to campus this spring! The statue has been at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center since 2022, undergoing cleaning, treatment, and stabilization. The lion underwent six phases of treatment in an effort to preserve the statue for future generations. There will be an accompanying exhibit detailing the history of lions in Chinese culture, as well as the history of Union's own stone lion, with text by Professor of Art History, Sheri Lullo. Stay tuned for more information!

## REVOLUTIONARY ITEM

It's back! The Revolutionary Committee of Safety Minute Book (1775–1781) has returned to Special Collections & Archives after conservation at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). The Minute Book had experienced extensive water damage over its 250-year lifetime resulting in stained pages, torn edges, and sections detached from the spine. NEDCC conservators removed and washed the pages, mended tears, rebound the manuscript, and created custom housing for long-term storage. The Minute Book was also digitized and is available in [ARCHES](#). Don't miss the exhibit announcement on page 3 of this newsletter!



*First page of volume post conservation.*

Also sent for conservation: **the 1792 Schenectady Academy Charter**. This document reflects early efforts by Schenectady citizens to establish a college in the region—efforts that culminated three years later when the resubmitted charter for Union College was approved by the Board of Regents on February 25, 1795. We look forward to learning more about its condition and preserving this founding document for years to come.