

SCHAFFER LIBRARY

UPDATES FOR FALL 2026



The faculty and library staff responsible for coordinating the return of the Chinese Stone Lion: Joy Wang, Professor of Mathematics; Sheri Lullo, Associate Professor of Art History, Director of Asian Studies; Frances Maloy, College Librarian; Sarah Mottalini, Collections Manager/Registrar of the Permanent Collection; Sarah Schmidt, Director of Special Collections.

CHINESE STONE LION COMES HOME

After nearly four years at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center, the Chinese Stone Lion—part of the College's Permanent Collection—is back on campus.

The Lion, a late-Ming-to-early-Qing dynasty statue in gray marble of a stylized, seated female lion who once held a cub, underwent six phases of cleaning, treatment, and stabilization in an effort to preserve the sculpture for future generations.

The Chinese Stone Lion and an accompanying exhibition, with text by Associate Professor of Art History and Director of Asian Studies Sheri Lullo, are currently on view in the Wold Center Atrium. With help from the Content and Digital Library Systems team at the library, there is also [a new website dedicated to the history and ongoing story](#) of the Lion.

TELL YOUR STUDENTS...

CHANGE IN RESEARCH CONSULTATION BOOKING

We have transitioned from our former research consultation booking system to a new booking system. **Please update your syllabi by adding this link:**

<https://union.libcal.com/appointments/library?g=15736>

Like our former system, students are able to choose a specific librarian or find an appointment available the day/time they need by looking at all librarian availability (the “no preference” option). We love meeting with your students (and you!) and hope that you will help us connect students with this new research consultation booking system!

PERIODICALS WITH FREE PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

Did you know that Schaffer Library provides personal accounts for the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, The Atlantic, Albany Business Review, Times Union, and Daily Gazette—all with your Union email address?

Visit our [Newspapers and Magazines: Personal Accounts page](#) for details and step-by-step instructions to set up your access.

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 teaching 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

TEACH WITH SCHAFFER LIBRARY

INCLUDE US IN YOUR CLASS

Don't forget to **book your research instruction** sessions!

If your students are conducting research in the Fall 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, research mentors—who are trained students available in the Writing Center for one-on-one help—and **subject-focused library guides**.



TEACH WITH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Teach with Special Collections & Archives this Fall term! Reach out to **specialcollections@union.edu** to schedule your class visit, learn about our collections, and explore creative ways to utilize them to meet your learning outcomes.

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**. View the **Permanent Collection online at the ARCHES website**.

FOR YOUR RESEARCH

LOWER YOUR STUDENTS' COSTS WITH COURSE RESERVES

Placing required or recommended readings and visual materials on [course reserve](#) helps to lower costs for students in your classes and it also ensures centralized and equitable access to relevant materials.

Consider placing existing items in our library on reserve by completing our [Course Reserves form](#) or, if we do not yet own an item, by submitting to our [Suggest a Purchase form](#).

If you plan to use film in your class(es), please visit our [Film at Schaffer Library](#) guide to review the most up-to-date information on how Schaffer can help provide access to streaming and DVD films. Viewing stations are available in Schaffer Library for students to view films from our DVD & Blu-ray collection and using library-provided Roku sticks. Roku sticks can also be used in [electronic classrooms](#) across campus for class-time viewing.

Please send us your requests as early as possible so that we can process these and make materials available to students as quickly as we can!

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.

FOR YOUR RESEARCH

PUBLISH OPEN ACCESS WITHOUT AUTHOR FEES

Are you interested in publishing your article or book open access to increase exposure and impact? Afraid of those hefty processing fees? The library can help!

We have transformative agreements with a variety of publishers which will cover the cost of publication for you. Consider publishing with Cambridge University Press, IOP, or The American Chemical Society, among others. Visit our [Open Access Publishing Agreements](#) guide for the full list of publishers and more information. We are happy to help with your open access publication questions. Email librarycollections@union.edu for more information.

GET MATERIALS FASTER: ARTICLE GALAXY SCHOLAR

Need an article now? When Primo shows Schaffer Library doesn't have access to an article published by Brill, Elsevier, Oxford University Press, Wiley, or AIAA, you can request it through Article Galaxy Scholar and receive it within seconds. Interlibrary Loan is still an option—Article Galaxy Scholar is simply a faster route when you need materials right away.

NEW DATABASES

Our new databases and other electronic resources include:

- [Inside Higher Ed](#) - If you've noticed you can no longer access Inside Higher Ed for free, don't despair! The library has started an institutional subscription with unlimited access to their full content for all Union users.
- [myfilmfriend](#) - Europe's leading library streaming platform is now available to the Union community. The platform offers a rich catalog of European and world cinema including films, series, and documentaries from over 70 countries and in more than 50 languages.
- [The Business Journals](#) - Our subscription to the Albany Business Review now covers all Business Journals markets. Select from the list at the upper left corner of the page. Individual registration required.
- [Cambridge Ebooks](#) - Full text access to 50,000+ titles from this premier publisher.
- [Daily Gazette](#) - We now have digital access to Spotlight News, Adirondack Daily Enterprise, and Lake Placid News.

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

STUDENTS @ SCHAFFER LIBRARY

WORKING WITH THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

This summer, Permanent Collection Summer Student Assistants worked on various collections management tasks to support the department.

One very important practice is “condition reporting.” This involves carefully documenting and photographing the current state of an art object in order to track any damage or deterioration. Recommendations for conservation can also be compiled during this process, and preventive measures put in place, if needed. Inscriptions and measurements can also be verified or recorded at this time.

The students performed condition reports for the art on view in several buildings, including the Gail Wood George Balinese Mask Collection, which is on view in Taylor Music Building.



Image: Permanent Collection Summer Student Assistants, Alexis Lawton-Lewis and Oumou Diambou, checking the condition of the Gail Wood George Balinese Mask Collection.

SUMMER RESEARCH IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This summer, the 2026 Evans Research Fellows explored Black Placemaking at Union College as part of a larger cohort directed by Professor Hill Butler in Sociology. Keep your eyes open for "Black Placemaking at Union" pop-up exhibits at Schaffer Library this year!

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 Jenna at piteraj@union.edu if you'd like a Research Mentor to visit your class.

LIBRARY NEWS

SELF CHECKOUT MACHINE

Be on the lookout for a new way to check out library materials this Fall! We will be installing a new self-checkout machine—to the left as you enter the Library—for those times you don't need to speak to a colleague staffing the Library Service Desk. This self-checkout machine is a nice addition to our library services and our Library Service Desk will remain staffed with student employees and library employees who can help you as needed!

RETIRING? TELL YOUR STORY

There are just under 100 days until December 2026. If your retirement is approaching, consider partnering with Schaffer Library before you clean out your office. Special Collections & Archives documents the history of Union College, and faculty and staff are a vital part of that history.

We accept a wide range of materials, digital and analog—from meeting minutes to curling brooms!

Contact specialcollections@union.edu to discuss transferring your records.

EXHIBITS

This Fall, Beuth Atrium features rare materials that have recently undergone conservation treatment. Acidic paper, deteriorating leather and cloth bindings, environmental fluctuations, and repeated handling all contribute to structural instability of our rare books and archival collections.

On display are three items recently returned from the Northeast Document Conservation Center ([NEDCC](#)). One item on display is the original charter from 1793 for the Schenectady Academy. The Schenectady Academy was a precursor to Union College and shared a building for the first few years of Union's existence. Stop by and see the connection between the humanities and STEM fields in action!

Be sure to also check out the Audubon cases in Lally Reading Room. This Fall we are embracing the eerie and bizarre items from our collection of prints.



Continuing this year, keep an eye out for announcements about **AI Community of Practice forums**. The planning committee has some exciting ideas for topics and formats and we're looking forward to sharing with the campus.