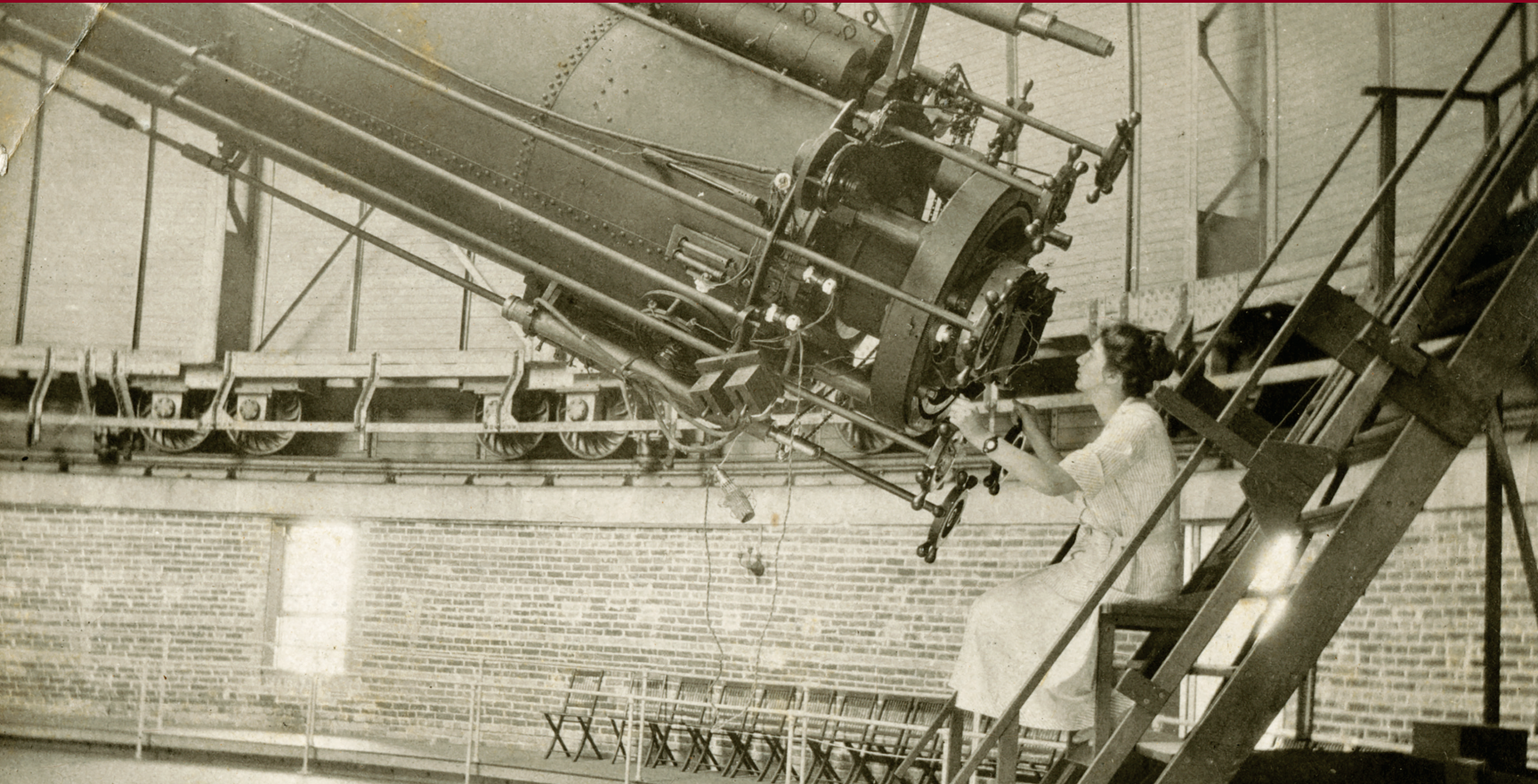


Libbra

Volume 28 Fall 2023

*A newsletter
published by the
University of
Chicago Library
with support from
the Library Society*



Capturing the Stars

The Untold History of Women at Yerkes Observatory

Women contributed to the advancement of astronomy and astrophysics at Yerkes Observatory in the early twentieth century. They were not only calculators or assistants. They earned degrees, conducted their own research, collaborated on projects with peers of both sexes, worked on publications, and went on to have a variety of careers both within and beyond the sciences. Yet their stories have remained untold—until now.

Free and open to the public at the Joseph Regenstein Library through December 15, the exhibition *Capturing the Stars: The Untold History of Women at Yerkes Observatory*, explores the astronomical work and lived experiences of the women who contributed to research at the Yerkes Observatory. Curators **Andrea Twiss-Brooks**, Director of Humanities and Area Studies at the University of Chicago Library, and **Kristine Palmieri**,

PhD'22, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, tell this story using letters, books, journals, photographs, astronomical glass plates, and scientific tools from the University of Chicago Library's Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, as well as materials borrowed from Yerkes Observatory, Lowell Observatory, and the Adler Planetarium. In so doing, they also foreground the ways in which Yerkes Observatory was a uniquely welcoming place for women and the role communities play in the advancement of both science and individual careers.

This exhibition is presented by the University of Chicago Library with additional generous support from the University of Chicago Women's Board, the John Crerar Foundation, and the Kathleen and Howard Zar Science Library Fund.

ABOVE: Astronomer at the 40-inch refractor telescope of Yerkes Observatory under the 90-foot dome. The Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, The University of Chicago Library.



FROM THE DEAN

TAKING A STAND AGAINST BOOK BANS

BY TORSTEN REIMER, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN AND DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WAS FOUNDED over 130 years ago based on the belief that knowledge creates a better world and enhances our lives. This is what our Latin motto states. We also believe that learning and creating knowledge require the freedom to explore, to discuss and to share views and ideas, even if it makes us uncomfortable at times. A discourse that allows for disagreement and where divergent perspectives are heard makes us all stronger, whether it is in academia or in society more broadly.

The enduring success of the University of Chicago gives us confidence that these values hold true today as much as they did when this University was founded.

Today we see these values under attack. Across the United States, books are being banned and libraries and librarians are being threatened. The American Library

Association recently released statistics that show that, for the third year in a row, attempts to censor books have hit a record number. In the first eight months of this year alone, ALA tracked attempts to get almost 2,000 banned. The vast majority of challenges were to books written by or about a person of color or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

FROM LEFT: Gov. J.B. Pritzker, University Librarian and Dean of the University Library Torsten Reimer, and UChicago President Paul Alivisatos at the banned books press conference at the Joseph Regenstein Library.



Attempts to ban books have often focused on school libraries, but in the last few years public libraries have come more into focus, and we are now seeing more attempts to censor academic libraries too. This is not a surprise. After all, book bans are usually not just aimed at an individual book. They are aimed at what a book stands for and what libraries stand for.

Books are more than containers of knowledge or sources of inspiration or enjoyment. They are a symbol for knowledge and its impact on society.

In a similar way, libraries are more than containers of books. They are a symbol for progress and a promise. A promise of a space where we can get lost in thought, get inspired, engage with the world's knowledge. A promise that a free society accepts and cherishes a multitude of views, even if we personally may not agree with all of them. And a promise that we stand by those who cannot afford access to knowledge, and that marginalized communities can still use their voices.

The University of Chicago stands firmly behind the promise of the book and the promise of the library. We also stand with librarians across the country and all those who seek to inquire or express themselves.

In that spirit, at a press conference with Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, and UChicago President Paul Alivisatos during Banned Books Week on October 3, I announced that we are taking five steps relating to banned books.

First, the University of Chicago Library has started work to build the Banned Books Collection, an attempt to bring together all books banned in the United States, whether digital or print. We have already a quarter of the more than 1,500 banned books here in our libraries, and we will grow this collection and keep it up to date. We are building this as a research collection, to increase our understanding of book bans, but also to create a historic record. Importantly, this will also be a collection for access, available to everyone who visits our libraries, whether they come from an Ivy League institution or live a few dozen blocks south of us. We will



Dean Tosten Reimer (left) and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton discuss banned books in the University of Chicago Library's collection.

also make this collection available to users of other libraries, through interlibrary loan.

Second, to support those who live in areas where books are banned, we are partnering with the Digital Public Library of America. For more than a decade, the DPLA has worked to widen access to books for everyone in the U.S., through the internet. Through its Palace app, the DPLA already makes two thirds of books banned available in those locations where they are banned. We will work with DPLA to increase that percentage,

with the hope to eventually make all banned books available online—in partnership with authors and publishers.

Third, as another part of our partnership, DPLA and UChicago Library will provide all Illinois residents with access to the banned books in the DPLA app, initially for a year. This will support those who cannot come to visit us in Hyde Park or another library that does have a banned book they want to read.

Fourth, in the UChicago spirit, we want to encourage research and debate on books bans, through a program of events with partners such as the DPLA and the UChicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression.

Finally, we launched the Freedom to Read fund to allow those who want to support these and future activities of the University of Chicago Library. To make a contribution, please go to the University's Giving Page and select "Library" and then "Freedom to Read Fund."

I would be remiss not to acknowledge that some of our patrons may not agree with everything we add to the collection. In fact, it is possible our librarians and even I may be uncomfortable with what is in some of these books or in books that may be banned in the future. But that is what libraries are here for, to create an environment for freedom of discussion and exploration. In this context, libraries are the promise of freedom, of a free and democratic society built on knowledge, of the freedom to dream of a better world for everyone. We stand with everyone who feels this shouldn't be a dream but reality.

New Library Leaders

Three new staff members are joining the University of Chicago Library and the Library's Strategic Leadership Board: **Rachael Kotarski, Danielle McConnell, and Rhonda Owens.**

RACHAEL KOTARSKI has accepted the Library's offer for the position of **Associate University Librarian for Digital Strategy and Services**. In this role, she will provide vision, leadership, and coordination for the digital services of the University of Chicago Library. Her arrival is anticipated early in the new year.

Most recently, Kotarski served as Head of Library Research Services at the University of Bath in England. There, she was responsible for teams and services for open access, research data, repositories, research analytics, and the University archive.

Kotarski started her career working on biomedical data services at Biomed Central, a scientific open access publisher. She subsequently joined the British Library for fifteen years holding progressively more senior positions,

culminating in the position of Head of Research Infrastructure Services. There, she was responsible for the British Library's repository services and institutional repository; its discovery services; its activities and services around open access, scholarly communications, and persistent identifiers; research data services including the national DataCite consortium; and digital collections and innovation projects with researchers and research organizations internationally.

A member of the Chinese-British community, she played a key role in enabling the British Library's ambition



Rachael Kotarski

to be an anti-racist organization by facilitating the data and insight services underpinning the cross-organizational anti-racism program.

DANIELLE MCCONNELL joined the UChicago Library as **Director of Community Engagement** on September 18. In this role, she will lead the development of the Library's community engagement strategy and work across the Library to implement it in partnership with Library teams.

Over the past nine years, McConnell has held a series of progressively responsible positions, culminating in the role of Senior Director of Program, at One Million Degrees (OMD)—a nonprofit with a mission to help launch community college students on career pathways to economic mobility. At OMD, McConnell oversaw and executed the organization's \$3 million signature program budget, partnered with all seven of the City Colleges of Chicago, created a college readiness and career planning curriculum, and oversaw the



Danielle McConnell

One Million Degrees Medical Assistant Pathway Program in partnership with Malcolm X College, local hospitals, and other community-based organizations. McConnell is experienced with advocacy for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, including people with LGBTQ+, Black, and Brown identities and neurodivergent learners.

RHONDA OWENS joined the Library as **Associate Dean of Administration and Operations** beginning on July 17. An established leader with a record of driving operational excellence and bringing cultural transformation across organizations, Owens oversees assessment, facilities, finance, and human resources departments and works across



Rhonda Owens

the Library to strengthen strategic planning and operations. Owens comes to the Library from Rush University Medical Center, where she served as Assistant Dean of Strategic Operations, overseeing budget management, strategic planning and operations, regulatory compliance, and academic activities. She delivered streamlined operations and financial management at the Medical Center through a collaborative approach to developing and improving policies and procedures. Before taking on this role, she held a series of progressively senior roles at Rush until she became Director of Operations in 2014.

Owens has extensive experience in strategic planning and administrative operations. In addition to budget management, one of her areas of expertise is HR operations, including talent acquisition, employee relations, and compensation. Owens has a track record in process improvement, coaching, and diversity and inclusion initiatives in support of organizational mission.

Grants Support **OPEN ACCESS** to Knowledge

NEH grant to transform UChicago's creation and delivery of digital collections and research data

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES has awarded the University of Chicago nearly \$1 million to transform UChicago's creation, stewardship, and delivery of digital collections and research data. Working together, the University of Chicago Library and Division of the Humanities will use the grant to build a new digital structure, UChicagoNode—the core of what will eventually be a network extending and enhancing the practice of digital research at UChicago and around the world. The University is committed to raising an additional \$4 million to fulfill the vision for this project.

Treasure troves of more than 200 digital collections exist across the University, but they are found in a wide range of unconnected systems, including several hundred terabytes of digital content held at the Library. UChicagoNode will give researchers a single place to go to discover available digital collections through a unified, open access platform. It will provide a long-term home for content created as part of research and teaching at UChicago, contributed by partners from outside the University, and digitized by the Library. Future scholars will also benefit from UChicagoNode because it will provide an established infrastructure for a diverse range of digital collections and will break down barriers between traditionally siloed datasets. The collections will exist as datasets that can be used with machine analysis, natural language processing, spatial mapping, and other AI-based explorations.

Non-specialists often find it difficult to discover and locate such widely distributed information, and UChicagoNode will provide more intuitive ways to find and engage across these different digital collections. The easier access it will offer to UChicago resources will also strengthen the University's community

engagement and partnerships. The wealth of legacy collections at UChicago will be available in modern sustainable and accessible interfaces. Researchers new to the digital humanities will have guides and tools to help them begin.

Once this integrated infrastructure is in place, scholars researching the history of housing on the South Side of Chicago, for instance, could easily discover videos from the Guerrilla TV project on the demolition of Cabrini Green, digitized documents from the Ida B. Wells archival collection on the Chicago Housing Authority's Ida B. Wells Homes, and historically relevant georeferenced maps from the NEH-funded Mapping Chicagoland project, which they could use to build data layers from their research in order to visualize urban change.

Learn more at bit.ly/UChicagoNodeNews

Advancing GIS Librarianship with a National Leadership Grant

GIS (GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS) librarians support a growing range of researchers across disciplines who use geospatial information science, including digital mapping and spatial analysis. For example, Robert Vargas, Associate Professor of Sociology and Deputy Dean of the Social Sciences, approached the University of Chicago Library to develop training for his research team on making historical maps machine readable. This training allowed Vargas and his team to investigate the social outcomes of changing ward and congressional boundaries in U.S. cities over time. In the humanities the Library is training undergraduate research assistants to create tabular data from literary works for interactive web maps. The Contemporary Migrations project, led by Professor Josephine McDonagh of English Language and Literature and PhD student Bellamy Mitchell, visually explored migration stories found in works of poetry.

UChicago Library was awarded a \$133,992 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to advance GIS librarianship. This grant was used to host national forums that are helping librarians to address increasingly diverse research questions as part of an initiative known as "GIS Librarians for Open Workflows" (GLOW).

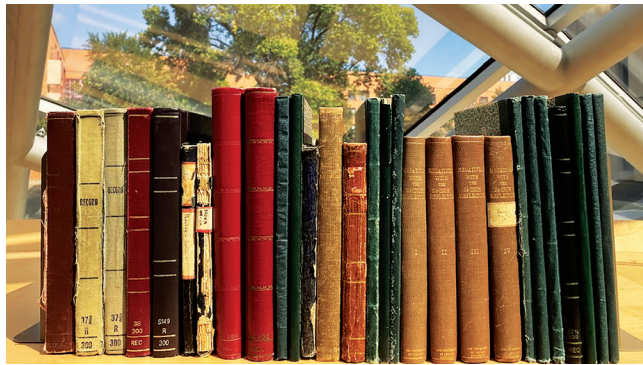
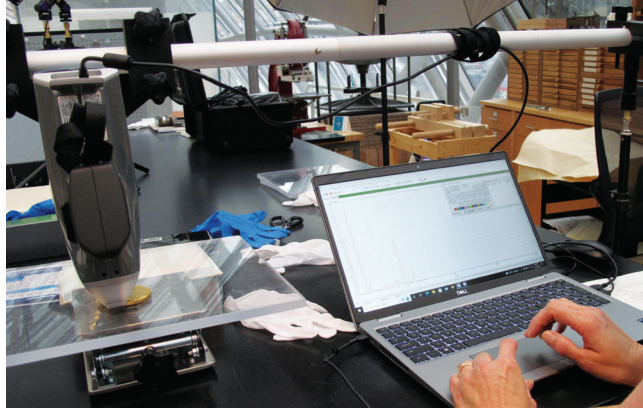
Learn more at bit.ly/GISGLOW

LEFT: Digital versions of materials in the Ida B. Wells Papers will be made more discoverable by UChicagoNode, including this 1909 photo of Ida B. Wells-Barnett with her children. (The Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, The University of Chicago Library)



All three of our new colleagues were selected from competitive fields of candidates, all bring a proven track record of success in their fields, and all have played key roles in diversity and inclusion initiatives at their respective institutions.

— **Torsten Reimer**, University Librarian and Dean of the University Library



GIVING DAY BENEFACTORS SUPPORT THE SCIENCE OF CONSERVATION AND DIGITIZATION

BY AMBER CULLEN, ANN LINDSEY, AND CHRISTINA MIRANDA-IZGUERRA

To celebrate the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library's 10th anniversary, the Library participated in the University's 2022 Giving Day with a fundraising appeal supporting the conservation and digitization activities in the Preservation Labs under Mansueto's dome. Both conservation and digitization are critical components in sustaining world-class collections, fostering new opportunities for research by staying at the forefront of digital technology, and sharing our resources with our local and global partners and communities.

With the contributions made on Giving Day, the Library was able to purchase equipment it is using to advance the science behind the art of conservation and digitization.

● An **X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer** is an innovative, non-destructive handheld device used to analyze the inorganic materials in objects. Because the device will not damage art and cultural artifacts, we can now undertake testing that we could not have considered previously and better understand pieces in our collections.

● A **polarizing light microscope (PLM)** enables strategic decisions for conservation treatments on objects. Complementing the XRF spectrometer, we are now able to identify organic materials from pigments to paper fibers, textiles, and even things that get left behind in books. Importantly, the PLM facilitates understanding of the materials and how they might be impacted by corrosion and other forms of deterioration.

● An **endoscope** provides access to places within objects that are too small to open without causing significant damage. The endoscope enables the team to see under the covers of books and into the hollow part of spines to read manuscript material used in its construction.

● **FormaSpace tables** enhance scanning workflow in the Digitization Unit. The new tables have height adjustability, feature castors for mobility, and provide ample space to accommodate collection materials. Importantly, they increase the flexible use space supplementing the advanced Copibook tabletop scanners.

With these new tools in hand, conservators have been able to do new kinds of work. For example, Conservation and Special Collections staff have tested the Nobel Prize medals in the Library's collection to determine the makeup of the metal alloys using the new XRF spectrometer. The medals of Nobel Laureates James Franck (1925), Enrico Fermi (1938), James Cronin (1980), Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (1983), and Ronald Coase (1991) were studied, and findings show that the alloy used changed over time and that the makeup of presentation copies that were handed to recipients during their ceremonies is similar to gold-plated, copper pennies, in contrast to the prize medals sent later, which are made primarily of gold with some silver and a small amount of copper.

The Library is tremendously grateful to our benefactors, particularly those participating in the University's Giving Day 2022. Your philanthropy made all the difference in the Library's ability to purchase equipment critical to the work in the Preservation Labs. Thank you.

To learn more about the work of the Preservation Labs, watch a short documentary film that has garnered national attention by winning a Silver Telly Award and two ARLies from the Association of Research Libraries Film Festival in 2023. Visit bit.ly/PreservationUChiLib

ABOVE, clockwise from top left: Mansueto Library; a conservator uses the Library's new X-ray fluorescence spectrometer to evaluate the metal alloy in a Nobel Prize medal; Yerkes logbooks digitized in the Mansueto Library.

Why I Give

In *Why I Give*, we turn the spotlight on the University of Chicago Library's supporters, exploring why they make the Library part of their philanthropic giving. We are grateful to **Jenna E. Anderson, AB'07, MBA'14**, for sitting down for an interview with Amber Cullen, Director of Development and Associate Dean of the Library.

Anderson is Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Analytics at W. W. Grainger, Inc. A finance leader and strategist, she has expertise in strategic financial planning, sales and pricing, and organizational design. She joined Grainger in June 2022 to lead the newly combined Treasury & Financial Services group and oversee the company's end-to-end cash management and capital allocation. In May 2023, the University's Board of Trustees invited Anderson to join the Library Council and serve as a volunteer advisor to Dean Torsten Reimer.

What impact did the Library have on your academic studies at UChicago?

During my third year as an undergraduate there was a survey about how we used University facilities and one question was: "How many times a week do you use the Library?" We all scoffed at the question because it was fundamentally flawed. We went to the Library every day—the differentiator was how many times per day. Regenstein was a nexus of student life on campus where you went for study groups, to scour the stacks for the source you needed, to socialize and sometimes (believe it or not) on a date. The Library was not just a source of knowledge and a place to build connections. It was a foundational part of my academic experience and my personal experience of the University.

Why do you believe it's important for UChicago alumni to give to the University?

Philanthropic giving to the University is an investment in the future. A UChicago education is all about learning how to think, challenge, and question the world around us. By giving time,



Jenna Anderson, AB'07, MBA'14, with her family in Scotland

expertise, and funding, I am helping to ensure that the next generation of scholars have the same opportunities for learning those skills that I did.

What motivated you to make the Library part of your philanthropy?

The Library was a core part of my experience at UChicago and it was, honestly, a no brainer to give back to a place that gave me so much. Also, as a donor, you get to see behind the scenes and delve into collections with librarians and curators.

What makes being involved at the Library exciting for you?

Humanity has never had access to information like we do today. It's also never been easier to twist facts and create false narratives. Dean Reimer is making information literacy a

core part of his agenda. It is essential for students and wider society to think critically about what is published online and generated through artificial intelligence platforms. The Library has an opportunity to play a role as both a trusted source of knowledge as well as a space to learn evidence-based approaches to analyzing information. I am excited that this is also linked to Dean Reimer's emphasis on community engagement and interest in launching new partnerships with local schools and public libraries. Increasing accessibility to scholarship in new ways and being at the forefront of transforming lives on UChicago's campus and around the South Side is one example of how visionary leadership and philanthropy together make an impact.

Get the latest Library news at lib.uchicago.edu/about/news

Libra can be found online at lib.uchicago.edu/about/news-events/libra

Torsten Reimer University Librarian and Dean of the University Library

Rachel Rosenberg Director of Communications

Contributors

Jenna Anderson
Brenda Castaneda
Amber Cullen
Chelsea Kaufman
Ann Lindsey
Christina Miranda-Izguerra
Colleen Mullarkey
Kristine Palmieri
Cecilia Smith
Andrea Twiss-Brooks

Photographers

Office of Governor
JB Pritzker
Beth Rooney
Tom Rossiter
Tarji Stewart

Design

Boyle Design Associates

AI, the Library, and the Future

THE LIBRARY IS PARTNERING with colleagues across campus to discuss and research the rapid transformation of artificial intelligence (AI) and its anticipated impact on higher education and society.

This fall, the University of Chicago has joined a group of universities convened by Ithaka S+R as part of a two-year research project on **Making AI Generative for Higher Education**. The group will assess the immediate and emerging AI applications most likely to impact teaching, learning, and research and explore the long-term needs of institutions, instructors, and scholars as they navigate this environment. Torsten Reimer, University Librarian and Dean of the University Library, is coordinating UChicago's engagement, working with Chief Information Officer Kevin Boyd, Dean of the College Melina Hale, Dean of Students in the University Michele Rasmussen, and Vice Provost for Research Erin Adams to consider how these tools can contribute to field-changing research and a transformative education.

In Spring 2023, the Library co-hosted four events at the Joseph Regenstein Library that explored the future of AI. What happens to human rights when machines developed to enhance our powers seem ready to assert power over us? This question was explored on March 31 at **Democracy and AI—The Encroaching Machine: Reframing Rights in the Age of AI**. Keynote speaker Sheila Jasanoff from Harvard University discussed this question with Dean Reimer and professors Aziz Huq and David Gunkel. Co-sponsored with Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, and

the University of Chicago Law School, the program ended with lightning presentations by UChicago students.

How should AI tools such as ChatGPT affect the teaching and learning experience? The Library co-sponsored two events with the Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning. The first, on **Teaching in the Age of AI**, on April 28, was designed for an audience of faculty, instructors, postdocs, and graduate students. The second, **ChatGPT: Friend or Foe? A Discussion for Students**, held on May 2, attracted a standing-room only audience of College students and others.

As a matter of policy, what should be done to ensure that AI can evolve without compromising privacy and security, unraveling human relations, and collapsing the workforce across myriad industries? The Institute of Politics raised this question at **Technology, Culture, Politics & Policy Collide** on May 16, with Joan Donovan, one of the country's most widely cited experts on digital culture, technology integrator Elizabeth Adams, Professor Chenhao Tan, and game designer Ian Bogost.



Students and faculty discuss AI and the future.

Dean Torsten Reimer (left) speaks with Aziz Huq, David Gunkel, and Shelia Jasanoff about the potential impact of AI on human rights.

