

# Libbra

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## No Researcher Is an Island

*Opening Knowledge, Transforming Lives*

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

**N**O RESEARCHER IS AN ISLAND. Scientists and scholars come together digitally and in person to combine their efforts and sharpen their arguments. They build on the data and the ideas of their predecessors as they make new discoveries and redefine the future of their fields.

No student is an island. College, graduate, and professional school students learn from faculty and their classmates as they pore over original sources, scholarly research, and data of every type. They come together in campus libraries to work out problem sets on white boards. They build research and information literacy skills through

instruction by librarians and faculty.

No campus is an island. By becoming a trusted partner for South Side communities, we can create lasting impact and opportunity in Chicago and beyond, learning from one another and building a brighter future for all who live, work, and study in our historic Chicago neighborhoods.

And no library is an island. We work with libraries and archives across the U.S. and around the world to provide access to comprehensive connected collections. We collaborate with UChicago faculty, students, and staff to create a better world and a culture of innovation, respect and partnership. And we offer events that stimulate debate on issues of information in academia and society, including

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## No Researcher Is an Island

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banned books and artificial intelligence.

The Library has updated its mission, vision, and principles to recognize and embrace the interconnectedness of our communities, our systems, and our resources. We are positioning ourselves as a leader in an inclusive and sustainable global knowledge environment, supporting free inquiry and expression, and enabling the University of Chicago and our greater community to create a better world. Today and in the future, we are enabling field-defining faculty research and working to solve the world's most pressing issues while enhancing our global knowledge environment. We cannot do one without the others.

Our Library Strategic Plan, "Opening Knowledge, Transforming Lives" (see page 3), outlines the ways we will pursue this mission over the next four years. We will amplify UChicago research and make comprehensive connected collections more discoverable and accessible. We will engage UChicago faculty, students, and staff, the South Side community, and the world in learning and debate about information in academia and society. We will nurture a resilient, innovative organizational culture that develops our staff, construct a master plan for our spaces, grow and diversify Library income, and build a long-term vision for carbon-neutral library operations.

These priorities assume collaboration and dialogue with you—our faculty, students, colleagues, donors, community members, and friends. I look forward to working with you in the years to come on creating a global knowledge environment that can make life better for everyone.

## MISSION

In support of free inquiry and expression, the University of Chicago Library is transforming the global knowledge environment to be open, accessible, and equitable. We enable the University of Chicago and our greater community to create a better world through effective information services, a comprehensive connected collection, and a culture of innovation, respect, and partnership.

## VISION

The University of Chicago Library is a leader in an inclusive and sustainable global knowledge environment.



## PRINCIPLES

We meet the **information needs** of the University of Chicago—both as stewards of an outstanding research collection and as leaders in open scholarship.

We achieve our vision through **partnership**, within the University as well as externally.

**Open** is the default for everything we do: opening scholarship for use and impact, facilitating the widest access to collections and spaces, and practicing transparency as an organization.

We recognize **information literacy** is critical in an age of rapid technological change—for students, researchers, and staff as well as for our local community.

We serve our users through a **culture of excellence**, by being **agile and innovative**, and by **embracing change**.

We are a **learning organization** that develops our greatest resource, our staff.

We foster **diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility** across our work, spaces, and collections.

We achieve **environmental and operational sustainability** through continual review and upgrade of our processes, service portfolio, and spaces.



# Opening Knowledge, Transforming Lives

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Over the coming four academic years, we will work towards this vision through four themes:

### Research Amplified

- Delivering *UChicagoNode*, a service for preservation of and access to Library collections and UChicago research outputs.
- Driving the creation of the UChicago data service, a cross-campus service that offers full lifecycle support for research data management and sharing.
- Developing workflows that facilitate research information management and open access publishing and reduce administrative burden for faculty.
- Increasing UChicago's impact in digital scholarship through services for computational research and open science, including open source software.

### Connected Collections

- Developing a content strategy that emphasizes access, strengthens distinctive collections locally and achieves comprehensiveness through building connected collections with trusted partners.
- Strengthening our processes and workflows to make more of our collections discoverable and accessible.
- Addressing the storage needs for physical collections at UChicago.
- Expanding collections and services in support of the University's curriculum on games, including coordinating the campus-wide Year of Games program.

### Engaged Library

- Growing the scope and reach of the Library's instructional programming for information literacy, digital skills, artificial intelligence (AI), and undergraduate research.
- Developing a program of events that stimulate debate on wider issues of information in academia and society, including banned books and AI.
- Enabling the Library and University to benefit from AI, for example by leading the cross-campus program on generative AI and integrating AI into services in a responsible way.
- Supporting the University's civic engagement through a community engagement program, establishing the Library as a trusted partner for South Side communities.

### Sustainable Library

- Nurturing a resilient, innovative organizational culture of belonging that develops staff, embraces risk-taking and delegates decision-making to the right level.
- Developing and implementing a master plan that grows the footprint and versatility of our spaces to expand student services, events programming, research support, and staff facilities.
- Developing a long-term vision for carbon-neutral library operations alongside a sustainability plan to advance the University goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.
- Growing and diversifying Library income through grants, philanthropy, and tuition.



# BMRC Receives Mellon Grant to Support Community Archives Documenting Black Chicago

**F**ACULTY ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY ARCHIVES SUPPORT (FOCAS), a collaborative of faculty from nine universities in the U.S. and Canada, has been awarded \$6,150,000 USD to support paid internships at community archives. The three-year program, funded by the Mellon Foundation's Public Knowledge program, will see archival studies students placed in over 40 archives. The project will also support curricular development, directly fund community archives for their services and expertise, and fund student participation in conferences and professional associations.

As part of this grant, the **Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC)** at the University of Chicago will receive \$590,000 to support internships at four community archives that are important for Black Chicago history: Shorefront Legacy Center, Rebuild Foundation, The National Public Housing Museum, and Movin' Legacy. **Sumayya Ahmed**, co-principal investigator for the BMRC, explained, "This funding allows us the unique opportunity to further the work of the BMRC by enabling us to support Black centered community archives, emerging archivists from marginalized backgrounds, and the processing of and increasing access to Black archival collections, all at the same time. We are very grateful."

In 2022, FOCAS was formed of faculty from University of California,



*Courtesy of the Shorefront Legacy Center*

Los Angeles (Michelle Caswell, Thuy Vo Dang, Tonia Sutherland), the University of Washington (Marika Cifor), the University of Arizona (Jamie A. Lee, Berlin Loa), City University of New York (James Lowry), McGill University (Gracen Brilmyer), the University of British Columbia (Jennifer Douglas), Dominican University (Cecilia Salvatore), East Carolina University (Vanessa Reyes, Lindsay Mattock, Vanessa Irvin) and the Black Metropolis Research Consortium at the University of Chicago (Sumayya Ahmed), which will be working with students from Chicago State University and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The FOCAS project builds on the success of the UCLA Community Archives Lab's paid internship program, which has placed 42 second-year MLIS students at community archives across Southern

California over the last six years for paid internships that have transformed both the participating students and sites. There is now a pipeline of former interns who have been hired as professional archivists at several participating sites, revealing both the value organizations place on the expertise of their interns and the increasing fiscal capacity of independent community archives.

The project responds to several key needs: (1) the need for MLIS students from historically underrepresented communities to get professional experience that reflects their own communities' values and practices; (2) the need for students to get paid for their labor; (3) the need for MLIS programs to diversify and pluralize their curriculum; and (4) the need for community archives to have labor to support their vital work.

# NEW CENTER FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Helps Faculty Leverage Data, Showcase Their Publications, and Use the Latest AI**

THE LIBRARY'S NEW CENTER FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP on Regenstein's first floor engages faculty and students conducting research with evolving technology. The Center offers expertise, software, and facilities that help researchers and instructors to leverage data, technology, and tools to create and share innovative academic work.

Already a popular gathering space for students and faculty collaborating on digital projects since opening in April, the Center welcomed over 500 patrons this summer alone. The Center is open 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## Research Data Support

Managing research data effectively is critical to producing high-quality, reproducible results.

Librarians such as Lisa Chinn, the new Head of Research Data Services at the Center, provide robust research data support, including assistance with developing **Data Management Plans (DMPs)** that comply with funding agency requirements. Faculty can receive guidance on best practices for organizing, storing, and sharing research data using tools like the Open Science Framework (OSF), ensuring that their work remains accessible and sustainable for future use.

## Scholarly Communications

For faculty looking to disseminate their research, the Center offers services that streamline the publication and sharing process. Through **Knowledge@UChicago**, faculty can deposit and showcase their scholarly outputs, ensuring long-term preservation and broad visibility within and beyond the academic community. This online repository delivered 1,439,956 downloads of UChicago scholarship in FY2024.

The Library's partnership with DataCite facilitates the creation of **Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)** for datasets, making them easier to find, cite, and share. To prevent broken links in academic citations, scholars can create unique, permanent copies of online articles and other sources using **Perma.cc**, provided by the Center.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

As AI continues to transform research across disciplines, the Center supports faculty with both instruction and consultation on integrating AI into their research. Whether through natural language processing or machine learning, faculty can explore new ways of analyzing and interpreting data with expert guidance from Library staff.

## Flexible Studio and Digital Project Labs

The Center invites instructors to request training sessions in the **Trial & Train Studio** for their classes on a range of topics, such as AI literacy, creating digital collections and exhibits, introduction to geographic information systems (GIS), copyright, and data cleaning and management. From hosting seminars to conducting hands-on workshops, faculty can make use of this flexible space for both training and research activities. Instructors can also introduce their students to GIS tools and concepts through the **GIS Hub**. The Center also houses two **Digital Project Labs**, which are equipped with large monitors and Zoom devices to facilitate working on digital projects.



**Adrian Ho, Head of Scholarly Communications (left), Lisa Chinn, Head of Research Data Services (center), and Cecilia Smith, Director of Digital Scholarship.**

## Co-working Space with Specialized Software & Equipment

The Center offers co-working space where faculty can work alongside colleagues, use specialized software provided by the Library, and request help from Library experts. These workspaces are designed to support a wide range of digital scholarship activities, from data analysis to digital publishing, helping faculty take their projects from concept to completion in a collaborative setting. Examples of software include ABBY FineReader for making scanned documents machine readable and QGIS for spatial data analysis. Researchers looking to digitize materials for text mining, digital exhibits, or personal archiving with guidance from Center staff can use the Center's **DIY Digitization Lab**.

Faculty are encouraged to explore all the resources the Center for Digital Scholarship has to offer. For more information or to schedule a consultation, visit <https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/cds>.



# Why I Give

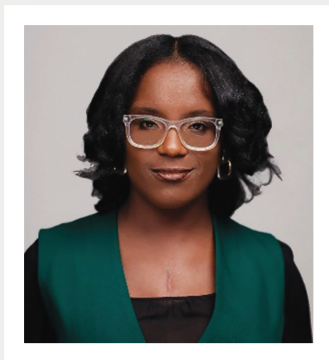
WHY I GIVE turns the spotlight on our supporters and explores why they made the University of Chicago Library part of their philanthropic giving. We are grateful to **Brittany T. McGhee, AM'13**, for agreeing to sit down for an interview with Amber Cullen, Associate Dean of Development and Strategic Initiatives.

McGhee is Senior Director of Mission Engagement at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. She has over a decade of experience leading highly successful cross-sector collaborative efforts to affect change across Chicago and globally. Prior to joining Catholic Charities, McGhee worked as Director of Community and Strategic Engagement Initiatives at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She also serves as President of the University of Chicago Alumni Club Board, as a Founding Director of Chicago Artists for Action, and as a regional leader of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In May 2023, the University's Board of Trustees invited McGhee to join the Library Council and serve as a volunteer advisor to the Dean.

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

Spending countless hours each day in the Library is still such a cherished memory that captures



*Brittany T. McGhee, AM'13*

my time at UChicago. As a graduate student living farther south from campus and a faculty research assistant, the Library was everything—a space for study, discovery and research, dining, respite, and even socialization. I preferred the tranquil space of the D'Angelo Law Library when I needed to write extensively, Mansueto for early morning reading, and the Reg for research resourcing. Each Library space had its own unique atmosphere and specific utility.

## **Why do you believe it's important for UChicago alumni to give to the Library?**

All alumni have some experience of the Library that shaped them. Perhaps the Library staff supported them with wayfinding in their first days on campus. Maybe their research was fed by its inimitable collections. Alumni share the benefit of one of the world's most impressive libraries. The Library is the heartbeat of scholarship at the University and on the forefront of innovation in learning, information

sharing, and free expression on campus and amongst its peers nationally. All who believe that the proliferation of knowledge will enrich human life today and tomorrow should give to the Library.

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

I am inspired by the refreshed vision for the Library. I believe its role in the culture of the University and that of the broader South Side community can be transformative. As a donor, I want to ensure my investments can impact people and elevate communities. The Library's endeavors to thoughtfully engage the communities of Hyde Park and Woodlawn will pay dividends in the future and deepen access to knowledge in alignment with UChicago's founding mission.

## **What makes being involved at the Library exciting for you?**

Years from now, we will look back at this time in the University's history and identify this moment as a vital inflection point for the Library and its ascendant role as the campus nucleus. It is exhilarating to be a part of this portion of the Library's journey. I encourage my fellow alumni to support the Library in whatever way they can.

# Freely Access Banned Books Nationwide

**D**URING BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2024, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) announced that it would make more than 1,300 digital banned books freely available nationwide with the support of the University of Chicago Library.

This nationwide access expands on the UChicago Library's initial work to build a comprehensive Banned Book Collection, now underway. UChicago began supporting access to banned books for everyone in Illinois in September 2023 through DPLA's Banned Book Club.

The Library appreciates the support of its donors, who have made possible these commitments to freedom of inquiry and expression. Learn how to access banned books online through the Palace Project app or in print at the UChicago Library by visiting <https://bit.ly/BannedBooksGuide>



## UChicago Library Community Day

**M**ORE THAN 200 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED THE INAUGURAL UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY COMMUNITY DAY on August 17. The South Side and campus communities came together for a rich array of educational experiences, as they toured the Joseph Regenstein and Joe and Rika Mansueto libraries. Visitors were guided through a Scavenger Hunt exhibition in Special Collections and a display of East Asian resources, saw maps documenting the history of Chicago, learned about the Library's high-tech Preservation Laboratory, and received assistance digitizing their treasured family photos and letters. They also attended presentations by the Black Metropolis Research Consortium. Family friendly activities included face painting, picnic treats, inflatables on Regenstein's A Level, a DJ, and storytime.

Attendees learned that the Library is open to all and that they can return to Regenstein and Mansueto to consult print and digital resources in the Library's extraordinary collections. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

A visitor survey revealed that 100% of respondents were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the overall event.

**Danielle McConnell**, Director of Community Engagement, joined the Library in 2023 and was delighted to organize and host this event. "The success of our inaugural UChicago Library Community Day is just the beginning," McConnell said. "We are thrilled by the overwhelming enthusiasm and engagement, and we look forward to deepening these connections. This event marks the start of many more opportunities for learning, exploration, and collaboration as we continue to open our doors and resources to the broader community."



**Librarian Kaitlyn Van Kampen shared banned books in print and online at the inaugural UChicago Library Community Day in August.**

## FOREST OF LEADERS

Talents and Impacts of UChicago's Korean International Students

인재의 숲: 시카고대 출신 한국 유학생들의 발자취

Through December 13, 2024  
At the Joseph Regenstein Library

Associated web exhibit:  
[bit.ly/ForestofLeaders](http://bit.ly/ForestofLeaders)

*Image from the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies*

# Forest of Leaders

## Talents and Impacts of UChicago's Korean International Students

**C**ELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREA FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCED STUDIES, this exhibition follows the footprints left by talented Korean students at the University of Chicago and highlights some of the lasting impacts they have made in professional and academic fields. The commercial and philanthropic contributions made by founder Chey Jong-hyon (MA '61 Economics) and his son and business successor Chey Tae-won (EX, Economics) are featured.

*Sponsored by the University of Chicago Library and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies.*



# UChicago Library

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Get the latest Library news at [lib.uchicago.edu/about/news](http://lib.uchicago.edu/about/news)

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