



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
University Libraries

Founder's TYPE

News from NIU Libraries
Spring 2023



Founder's TYPE

In this Issue:

DeKalb County/NIU Black Oral History Project	3
Science on a Sphere	4
NIU Libraries Awarded 2022 NEH Grant	5
Digital POWRR Project	6
Women in STEM Speaker Series	7
Southeast Asia Digital Library	8
Digital Media Studio	9
IMLS National Leadership Grant	9
History of the Book Seminar Series	10-11
Learning Commons Model	12

The DeKalb County/NIU Black Oral History Project Expands the Historical Record

The DeKalb County/Northern Illinois University Black Oral History Project has recorded interviews with over 20 individuals whose remarks describe and discuss important events and themes in the history of the Black community in the area and at the university in the period since approximately 1970. Established in 2020, this project exists as a partnership benefiting from the support and direction of the Department of History, Center for Black Studies and DeKalb County History Center. It seeks to address the fact that the university's archival collections, as well as those of local historical organizations, contain very little material documenting the experiences of African Americans in the area. The project's oral history materials will complement local history work documenting the Black community in the county performed by the DeKalb County History Center and presented [online](#).

Project work largely took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the fact that project staff members were in many cases able to use the university's Microsoft Teams and Zoom software to conduct and record interviews in conjunction with individuals at remote locations.

In many instances, NIU students studying oral history under Professor Stanley Arnold of the Department of

History conducted and recorded interviews. A graduate assistant and a student intern provided by the department also conducted and recorded interviews in the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. A volunteer working with the DeKalb County History Center conducted and recorded the remaining interviews.



Oral History Project participant the Rev. G. Joseph Mitchell of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, DeKalb.

University Libraries faculty and staff members will post video or sound files containing the individual interviews, accompanied by transcripts, to a web site integrated into the [Northern Illinois University Digital Library](#).

Science on a Sphere creates worlds of possibilities

On the first floor of the Founders Memorial Library hangs what may be the world's largest disco ball.

It also may be the most detailed representation ever of Huskie hometowns around the world. Or a high-resolution view of the surface of Mars, Jupiter or any of the other planets. In fact, it can be all those things and much, much more, says Dean of NIU Libraries Fred Barnhart.

Known as Science on a Sphere, this six-foot sphere — located inside the main doors to the library on the first floor, just behind the escalators — is a blank canvas for images created by four laser projectors. The library has unlimited access to a collection of more than 700 data presentations created by NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and dozens of other agencies, museums and planetariums around the world. This technology was originally developed by NOAA as a means to educate with 3D representations of weather events, especially climate change.

Barnhart would like to see NIU students and faculty add to that collection.

“Seeing things presented on the sphere helps your mind process the information in a different way,” says Barnhart. “And when you do that, it provides a completely new perspective. It is another way for students to learn and to engage with data, which is such an important skill today.”

Barnhart believes the sphere can be of particular benefit to the university's Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment department. Victor Gensini, an associate professor in that discipline, could not agree more. “Science on a Sphere provides an invaluable means for visualizing complex weather and climate model data. There's nothing else like it,” he said.

But the uses of the sphere go well beyond weather patterns. Among the projects others have already done are representations of human empires over thousands of years, an analysis of bird migration patterns and a look at urbanization around the globe. Last spring, the library hosted an event billed as “Beer on the Sphere,” which drew nearly 75 people — including local brewers and wine

makers — who gathered to discuss global climate change and how it has already impacted their work, and what the future may hold.

“Anything that can be plotted on a 2D map can be projected on the sphere, and I would love to see interdisciplinary teams of students from across the university devising and collaborating on projects that utilize the sphere to help them understand and explain data,” said Barnhart, who envisions teams comprised of students from areas as diverse as time arts, history, political science, business and the sciences — each bringing different perspectives to a project.

The possibilities of this technology were recently featured on the WGN Morning News.

Barnhart and his team are working to formalize a process to cultivate such projects and share them with other institutions. Recruiting faculty and students from a variety of disciplines is key.

Bringing the unique learning tool into Founders Memorial Library is part of the evolution of the library, according to Barnhart. “Libraries are more than just warehouses of knowledge. We want to make this a place where students come together to use and add to knowledge by collaborating and being creative.”

As such, it is no coincidence that the sphere is located adjacent to the new Learning Commons on the library's first floor, where students can find tutoring, assistance with writing and other academic support services, which, Barnhart says, has helped increase traffic in the library significantly this semester.

As part of those efforts, the library has created a flexible seating area around the sphere where students can study or just sit and enjoy whatever is being projected at that moment, but the space can also be configured to handle a class, which Barnhart hopes will become a regular occurrence. “We really want this to be a hub of creativity,” he says.

To learn more about the Science on a Sphere, reserve it for use or explore the many available presentations, contact the libraries at ulibsyssoff@niu.edu or visit the [Science on a Sphere webpage](#).



NIU Libraries awarded 2022 NEH Grant to digitize and preserve dime novels

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced that NIU Libraries has been awarded \$348,920 under their Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program for the Tousey Project. This effort seeks to digitize and preserve the dime novels published by Frank Tousey, the most prolific publisher of the format, and is being undertaken in collaboration with Villanova University, Stanford University, Bowling Green State University, and Oberlin College and Conservatory. Partners will digitize a total of 4,218 dime novels and story papers, containing 93,632 pages, between 2022 and 2024.

Although his output is tame by modern standards, Tousey was one of the most controversial publishers of the 19th century, earning a reputation for stories that were more lurid and more sensational than anything put out by his competitors. While these rivals were exaggerating the high moral tone of their “family” publications, he abandoned all pretext and was the first to pitch almost exclusively to the lowest common denominator: young boys. The stories he published featured teenage inventors, detectives, plucky entrepreneurs and bandits, including the first science fiction hero, Frank Reade, and the outlaw Jesse James.

Long dismissed by scholars as the lowest class of working class fiction,

because they were written for children, there has recently been an effort to engage more critically with these novels in an attempt to understand what they might be able to tell us about evolving cultural and social mores, as well as the development of popular fiction and children's culture.

This project builds directly on the recently completed Albert Johannsen Project, funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources, and the ongoing Street & Smith Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which have already digitized over 10,000 dime novels. In addition to making thousands of these publications freely and widely available for the first time anywhere in over a century, this project will also add index entries for every story, series and author to the online dime novel bibliography at dimenovels.org, which will be used to aggregate digital dime novel holdings across each institution.

The Tousey Project is partially funded through the NEH's special initiative, A More Perfect Union, which will help Americans commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026 by exploring, reflecting on, or telling the stories of our quest for a more just, inclusive and sustainable society throughout our history.



Digital POWRR Project: NEH grant to NIU will help preserve history at institutions nationwide

For centuries, important cultural materials — such as books, historical documents and letters, as well as photographs, carvings and paintings — could be stored away, only to be rediscovered at some point in the future.



However, as NIU Libraries' Jaime Schumacher points out, many contemporary materials that might be used by future generations to understand us are now only digital in nature, including videos, photos, social media communications, blogs, artwork, news reports, music, articles and emails.

"Preserving these materials for future access is a complex challenge," said Schumacher, who serves as NIU Libraries' director of scholarly communications and is known internationally for her expertise in the preservation of digital materials. She and NIU colleague Drew VandeCreek have been working for the past decade to help NIU and other institutions nationwide preserve digital materials of cultural value.

Now the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is providing a major boost to their efforts.

NEH has awarded the pair with a \$349,000 grant to provide training to archivists through NIU Libraries' Digital POWRR Project, short for Preserving Digital Objects with Restricted Resources. This project, which has already trained hundreds of professionals at medium and smaller institutions, is focused on preservation of digital materials that increasingly make up large parts of the collections of libraries, archives and museums.

"This new grant will focus on helping organizations that serve cultural heritage institutions in underrepresented communities including the Native American, Latinx and Black communities," Schumacher said.

"Those materials that are created and held by people and organizations from underrepresented communities are at particular risk of loss due to long-term, systemic inequities in the distribution of resources and opportunities," she added. "Larger and well-funded organizations have long-standing funding sources and access to technical skill sets that allow their digital materials to be safely curated and preserved. Folks working at many historical societies, tribal archives, local museums and other smaller-scale cultural heritage organizations lack the funding and particular skills necessary to curate and preserve their unique digital materials."

In all, the Digital POWRR Project has now attracted a total of about \$1.4 million in federal funding support, with earlier grants coming from NEH and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This project has trained

520 professionals from 367 institutions, 35 states and the District of Columbia, and 10 Native American tribes and cultural heritage institutions.

"Digital materials are very subject to loss for a number of reasons," said VandeCreek, director of digital scholarship for NIU Libraries. "The media on which they are stored can fail or be damaged by a natural disaster or accident," he said. "The software format in which they were created and stored can also become obsolete. In some instances, data stored on intact storage devices can be compromised by seemingly random failures known as bit rot."

Digital materials, like their physical counterparts, can be priceless. Schumacher recalls a training event held within the lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in the Pacific Northwest. A member of a Tribal Nation approached the training seeking assistance with a box of tapes that held recordings of tribal elders speaking in their native language.

"Only a couple of elders were still living, and their language was at risk of being lost with their passing," Schumacher said. "At the POWRR event, we were able to provide critical digital preservation training and assist them in formulating a plan to rescue the recordings from the legacy media, perform initial curation actions on the recordings, and create a workflow to preserve the recordings of their elders into the future."

The new NEH funding will support the development, planning and presentation of five professional development events discussing how to introduce measures to enhance levels of digital preservation into existing library, archive and museum workflows. These three-day events each serve 30 practitioners. Two will be held at NIU Naperville, two at Arizona State University, Tempe, and one at Oklahoma State University.

Institution professionals will be trained to programmatically transfer materials to a central and backed-up storage system, establish workflows for their ongoing curation and monitor their integrity using open source software to aid their efforts. Each professional receives individualized consultations to identify gaps in their current processes and create longer-term preservation plans. The project also provides a peer group of fellow practitioners who are facing similar challenges, resulting in a community of practice with a built-in support system.

Frederick Barnhart, NIU Libraries dean, said he's proud of NIU's leadership role in the Digital POWRR Project. "By helping other libraries and museums to use open source software and tools to curate and share their unique collections, we all benefit and gain greater access to culture and history that otherwise might remain hidden," Barnhart said.

Library of Congress chief of Maps and Geography delivers inaugural talk for Women in STEM Speaker Series



NIU alumna Paulette Hasier, chief of the Maps and Geography Division at the Library of Congress, discussed the importance of geographical information at Founders Memorial Library on Nov. 9 in the first-floor gallery.

The talk kicked off our Women in STEM Speaker Series, co-sponsored by the University Libraries and the

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Library of Congress Geography and Map Division has among the world's largest map collections, holding some 6 million cartographic items in various languages dating from the 14th century to the present. Hasier is the first woman to serve as chief of the Geography and Map Division since it was founded late in the 19th century. A reception preceding her remarks began at 4:30 p.m.

Hasier holds a bachelor's degree in history from NIU, a master's degree in library science from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Texas at Arlington. NIU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) honored her in 2020 with a distinguished alumni award.

Hasier started her career at the Dallas Public Library and later at the Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business. She then entered federal government service

working as a contractor before landing with the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA), where she initially served as a lead geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) analyst and then chief of the GEOINT Research Center and map libraries. She was responsible for managing an estimated one million maps both at NGA and at the Pentagon Map Library, with about 90% of the maps digitized to ensure access.

In 2017, she was appointed chief of the Geography and Map Division at the Library of Congress. She is the ninth person to be named chief of the division since its creation in 1897.

Hasier's work in digital humanities is opening up the library's collections to the public. Hasier, a team of GIS specialists, software developers and curators are employing GIS tools to use data to map the attributes and history behind some of the books, manuscripts and other collections within the library.

She has supported NIU CLAS students through contributions to scholarship funds in honor of Professor Marvin Rosen. In addition, she has shared online resources with history students and strongly supports engagement opportunities for CLAS students at the Library of Congress.

The Women in STEM Lecture Series will next host Professor Leslie Kay, Department of Psychology, University of Chicago, at noon April 3 in the Founders Memorial Library. The Women in STEM Lecture Series is supported by a generous gift from Warren Montgomery, in memory of Professor Carla Montgomery.

The Southeast Asia Digital Library: Conserving fragile history through digital preservation

The [Southeast Asia Digital Library](#) (SEADL), a project of the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia (CORMOSEA) that began with a federal grant in 2005, is a virtual Southeast Asia treasure trove hosted by NIU Libraries. A digital archive of textual, still image, sound and video resources, SEADL is a free resource for anyone studying or just interested in the region.

For the past eight years, Hao Phan, curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection, has been laser-focused on finding and digitally preserving rare manuscripts of the Cham people in Vietnam. Phan received an initial grant from the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme in 2013 to survey Cham materials in Vietnam and set up logistics for eventually digitizing them. After that, Phan received two grants in 2014 and 2017 to digitize the materials.

Phan has made several trips to Vietnam to shepherd the project from initial fieldwork to librarian training. The 2014 grant (about \$66,000) and the 2017 grant (about \$65,000) allowed Phan to set up a partnership with University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City. In all, the project has digitized 977 manuscripts for an archive totaling 57,826 pages/folios.

The Cham people, who currently number about 179,000 in Vietnam, are a historically important minority group from central Vietnam and the Mekong Delta region. The materials collected are fragile manuscripts, including some palm-leaf pages, still used as religious materials in many Cham villages. The digitization teams included scholars and students from the University of Social Sciences and

Humanities who went to villages located in Central Vietnam to photograph the manuscripts held by their original owners and communities. Besides digitizing the materials, the project team also assisted manuscript owners in preserving the materials by providing archival boxes and basic preservation knowledge to prevent future damage.

Work to digitize the images began after the teams returned to Ho Chi Minh City. "Before the digitization started in 2014, I went to Vietnam with an archivist from NIU Libraries to run a three-day workshop for about 50 local librarians on the subject of manuscripts preservation, and also to train the team that would work on the manuscripts," Phan said.

A mobile team from the University of Humanities and Social Sciences in Ho Chi Minh City sets up to photograph Cham materials at a village in Central Vietnam in 2014.

The resulting images are now fully accessible on the SEADL site. "These documents contain valuable evidence of the Cham writing system, customs, linguistics and history," Phan said. "By digitizing the manuscripts, the project provides scholars worldwide online access to primary research materials for Cham studies, and helps preserve an important cultural heritage of Cham people."

Meanwhile, work on expanding SEADL's digital holdings continues. NIU Libraries recently received a \$610,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for the Southeast Asia Digital Library for four years, 2019 to 2023. The grant is

part of a \$1.2 million Luce grant awarded to CORMOSEA. Funds were used to hire a web developer and to add new content to the digital library, which was established in 2005.



Digital Media Studio in Founders Memorial Library

University Libraries have partnered with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) to develop the Founders Memorial Library Digital Media Studio. As a part of our broader Learning Commons model, the studios are available for use by NIU students, faculty, academic employees and staff for developing a variety of digital instructional media for teaching and presenting.

One Button Video Studio

The One Button Video Studio is a simplified, automated video recording solution for recording short studio-style lectures, practicing or prerecording conference presentations or speeches, recording in front of a green screen, or recording an in-person interview. The studio is designed to run with minimal staff support and minimal configuration and requires no prior experience with lighting, sound or video production. With the One Button Video Studio, you can also integrate PowerPoint slides and a variety of custom or predefined graphic materials.

More information and details about scheduling and using the studios can be found on the libraries' [website](#).

Lightboard Video Studio

The Lightboard Studio is an automated video recording solution that uses a pane of glass between the presenter and the camera, special markers, lighting and software to allow you to write or draw content on the glass while facing the camera. The studio is designed for unattended, self-service recording. The Lightboard Control Center also allows you to share and interact with overlaid images and/or videos. The Lightboard Studio can be used to create recorded videos to share in courses, online or in live meetings via Teams, Collaborate or Zoom.

NIU Libraries to Participate in IMLS National Leadership Grant Exploring Student Success and Library Use

NIU Libraries and University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Library will conduct a two-year investigation to answer questions relating to student success, academic engagement and library use under a \$250,141 grant



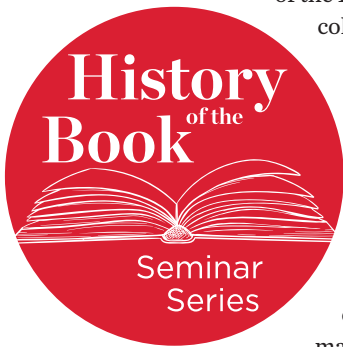
awarded to the research team by the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (ILMS) National Leadership Grant.

NIU Librarians Professor Nestor Osorio and Assistant Professor Kimberly Shotick are co-investigators on the grant, along with the principal investigators Professor Jung Mi Scoulas and Professor Sandra De Groote from UIC, and will lead the research activities at NIU Libraries in order to validate assessment tools to measure the impact of library use on student success and to further support students' academic needs.

History of the Book Seminar Series

The History of the Book is an interdisciplinary realm of study that includes printing and publishing, materials and technologies of the book, the book trade, reading and readers, and collectors and collections, as well as library and information history. This field is focused on human behavior, as well as material culture, and draws on the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. In short, it is an interdisciplinary field which interrogates and celebrates the materials that created our universities and that our universities create.

In fall 2022, NIU's Rare Book Room inaugurated its History of the Book Seminar — a multidisciplinary colloquy in which NIU faculty and students can explore this rich and growing field together. From time to time, we hope the seminar will highlight Rare Book and Special Collections materials. However, that consideration is less important than creating a vigorous interdisciplinary site of exploration of the book and the material foundations of the intellectual world the university rests upon.



On Nov. 3, 2022, Melissa Adams-Campbell, associate professor in the Department of English, presented “Representing Native American Women in Popular Literature: Tiger Lilly and other Women Warriors.” Professor Adams-Campbell discussed her recent research on NIU's dime novel collections and considers how and why we should attend to popular literature, book history and Native American writers. She examined how popular 19th-century American literature represented Native American women and what influence such representations had on later popular media. She asked how book history might relate to other media and forms of production.

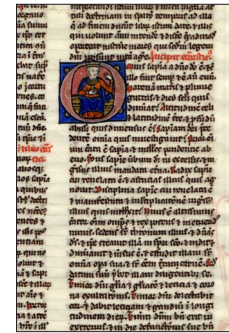
Melissa Adams-Campbell conducts research on Early American, Native American, Black Atlantic and women writers. She is the author of “New World Courtships: Transatlantic Alternatives to Companionate Marriage” (Dartmouth, 2015), which was part of the “Re-Mapping the Transnational” series in American Studies at Dartmouth. Adams-Campbell has published work in book collections and journals such as: Transatlantic Literature and Transitivity, Migration and Modernities, Settler Colonial Studies, Studies in American Fiction, Teaching American Literature and others. Her research has been supported by the National Endowment of the Humanities, NIU's Schriber Fellowship for the Study of Women's Literature and Language, the Horatio Alger Society, and a summer research grant from NIU.

Upcoming events are as follows:

A Page from Paris

Feb. 2, noon to 1 p.m.

Speaker: John Hosta, Graduate Student



Northern Illinois University's Rare Books and Special Collections contains medieval manuscript leaves that allow students to engage with medieval scribal traditions. Within the collection, one 13th-century French bible leaf contains a historiated initial of an uncertain identity; perhaps the figure is Solomon, perhaps Ecclesia. The flourishing book trade of medieval Paris allowed this researcher to

interpret the possible identity of the figure portrayed in the decorative initial by studying other Parisian bibles as well contemporary iconography used to represent Solomon and Ecclesia. While the identity of the NIU medieval leaf's figure is still not definitively determined, these sources offer us possible explanations of who may be represented.

John Hosta is a student in the M.A. program in art history, with special interests in medieval art and the history of printmaking. Currently an intern at the NIU Museum, he has also participated in an internship at the Elmhurst History Museum and assisted Professor Catherine Raymond, both as a volunteer and as a graduate assistant, with work on NIU's Burma Art Collection. After he graduates, he hopes to pursue a career in the museum field.

Location: Rare Books and Special Collections Reading Room, Founders Memorial Library Room 403. Brown-bag.

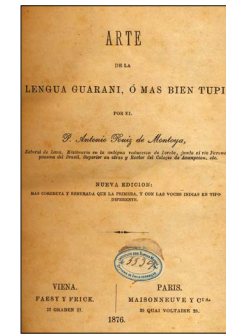
Fashioning the Soul in Colonial Río de la Plata: Jesuit Spiritual Instruction, Guaraní Prophecy, and the Interminable Problem of Seventeenth-century Translation

March 2, noon to 1 p.m.

Speaker: Kristin Huffine, associate professor

The Gramatica y diccionarios de la lengua tupi ó Guaraní is a single-volume, partial reprint of a Spanish-Guaraní grammar, dictionary and catechism originally published by Antonio Ruíz de Montoya in Madrid in 1639. As a 17th-century Jesuit missionary working with Guaraní mission Indians, Ruíz de Montoya's linguistic study spanned the region of colonial Río de la Plata, a territory that is now divided between the nation states of Argentina, Paraguay,

Uruguay, and western Brazil. The imprint is important not only for its elucidation of classical Guaraní, but also because it reveals a great deal about the native population and Jesuit project of Christianization during the colonial period. Unlike other conversion efforts in Spanish America, Jesuits established a rigorously individualizing process designed to produce Christian thinking and subject formation among Guaraní neophytes. Linguistic evidence from the dictionary documents how Jesuits engaged mission residents in Christian modes of thinking by providing



colloquies, contemplations and other spiritual exercises that urged Guaraní neophytes to reproduce Christian tenets in their own idiom, thoughts and words. Although archival documents and 17th-century publications reveal how Jesuits were successful, the Ruíz de Montoya vocabulary also provides linguistic evidence of how Jesuit efforts were complicated by a long-standing Guaraní oral-prophetic tradition that reframed knowledge of the soul

and other religious principles in ways that were uniquely indigenous and Guaraní. This presentation examines this Guaraní prophetic tradition as it emerged in the practical context of Christian instruction and was later documented in the Jesuit catechism and dictionary.

Kristin Huffine is associate professor of history at Northern Illinois University. Her book, “Producing Christians from Half-Men and Beasts: Jesuit Ethnography and Guaraní Response in Colonial Río de la Plata” is in production with the University of Pittsburgh Press. She is co-editor of “Science in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires: 1500-1800” (Stanford University Press, 2009) and has published several articles on Jesuit and Guaraní scientific and religious knowledge in colonial Río de la Plata.

Location: Rare Books and Special Collections Reading Room, Founders Memorial Library Room 403. Brown-bag

Society is the Work-shop: Thomas Jefferson and the Early American Republic of Letters

April 6, noon to 1 p.m.

Speaker: Jeff Einboden – “Indigenous Letters, Islamic Lineages: The Legacy of Jefferson's Archives”

Jeff Einboden is Presidential Research, Scholarship and Artistry Professor at Northern Illinois University, and prior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies. A specialist in the literatures and languages of early America and the Middle East, Einboden is author of several monographs, including, most recently, “Jefferson's Muslim Fugitives: The Lost Story of Enslaved Africans, their Arabic Letters, and an American President” (Oxford University Press 2020).

Speaker: Kerry Burch – “How Should Educators Interpret Jefferson's Morally Ambiguous Legacies?”

Kerry Burch is a DeKalb native who attended the NIU Laboratory School in its final years. Burch received a his B.A. degree in sociology from the University of San Francisco and his M.A. degree in history from Columbia University Teachers College (NYC). He taught high school history for seven years before receiving his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. He has taught at NIU since 2000.

His major research interests are located at the intersections of democracy and education. He teaches courses in the philosophy of education, history of United States education, education for social justice, and American educational thought. The major intellectual influences on his teaching and research endeavors are traced to Socrates and Plato, Paulo Freire and John Dewey.

Location: Rare Books and Special Collections Reading Room, Founders Memorial Library Room 403. Brown-bag.

Founders Memorial Library Implements Learning Commons Model

A new model of collaborative student support services and resources debuted in fall 2023 in Founders Memorial Library: The Learning Commons. The Learning Commons is an opportunity to enhance student learning, retention and success by co-locating student learning services such as the University Writing Center, Supplemental Instruction, TRIO Student Support Services and Library Reference Service along with technology and resources. By offering a suite of coordinated student services at the Learning Commons the university will provide “one-stop” learning to students. By locating these critical student learning services and spaces in the library where there are existing evening and weekend hours, the services have an opportunity to extend their hours during times of increased student need. Additionally, co-location will improve the referral process from one service unit to another, increase opportunities for collaborative programming, create greater efficiency in assisting students in meeting their educational goals, and recruit students in a competitive higher education market.

Part of the Learning Commons, the University Writing Center can help students with their academic writing for courses such as essays and presentations, and career-related documents such as résumés and cover letters. Supplemental Instruction (SI) consists of interactive out-of-class group study sessions and individual tutoring for certain courses and academic skills. TRIO Student Support Services include workshops, tutoring and other support and are available for qualifying students.

The University Libraries provides access to academic resources like books, journals and databases in addition to providing research support. Subject specialist librarians assist students, faculty, staff and the community via the virtual reference chat on the library’s home page and can set up one-on-one research consultations. At the circulation desk users can check out books and technology such as laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots, pick up holds and check out items on reserve for courses.

Patrons will also find the Technology Support Desk where students, faculty and staff can get help with NIU technology and personal devices such as battery issues and virus removal. We also have technology enhanced spaces including assistive technology in the Accessibility Resource Study Room.

The University Libraries have partnered with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning to provide students with The Founders Memorial Library Digital Media Studio to record presentations in the One Button Video Recording Studio or Lightboard Studio (see below). Additionally, for group work students can use our Collaboration Stations, which are equipped with large tables, six chairs and 40” monitors. If they need a little nourishment between study sessions, students can visit Einstein Bros. in the basement for food and drinks.

These teams of experts work collaboratively with each other and with students to complete course assignments and achieve success. For more information, visit the [Learning Commons](#).



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