Fall 2015

The Computer Science Instructional Laboratory (CSIL) at Crerar

Looking for statistical software tools like Stata, R or MATLAB? Want to do some geographical data visualization with ArcGIS? Need to do coding in Java or Python? Edit some photos with Adobe Photoshop or create a soundtrack using Audacity? You can do all that and more in the John Crerar Library. Using either computer workstations provided by the Library or by the Computer Science Instructional Laboratory (CSIL, pronounced “see-sill”) you can access a plethora of software applications.

The Library’s Windows workstations have Microsoft Office products and a variety of web browsers, as well as a desktop shortcut to the IT Services vLab. Click on the icon, and login in using your cNetID and password and you can access a broad range of software utilities, including R, MATLAB, and Stata. For a full list of the software options, visit https://answers.uchicago.edu/page.php?id=19919.

CSIL computers include Mac and Linux machines (Linux machines require a separate computer science account), and offer a broad array of software development and engineering tools, multimedia applications, and image processing applications. CSIL tutors are available to assist with any questions. During the academic year, the facility is open all hours that the Crerar Library is open. There are twelve Mac workstations located outside the CSIL classrooms; workstations inside the classrooms are available for use when not in use for a class. For a full list of software and hardware resources offered by CSIL, as well as more information on hours, contacts, and policies, visit https://csil.cs.uchicago.edu/facilities.shtml.

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The Library Offers Guides for Data Management and Author Identifiers

Data Management
The Library has created a guide to help researchers with Data Management issues such as how to write a Data Management Plan (DMP) and Data Repository and Storage Options available.

Why manage your data?
Many funding agencies such as the NSF now require that researchers write a data management plan in order to receive funding. Preserving your data also ensures it will be available in the long term. In addition documenting and managing your data saves you time because it will be easier to use in the long term in an organized and understandable form. Putting your data in a repository and letting the repository handle any requests about that data saves you time so you can focus on your own research.

Author Identifiers
We also offer a guide to creating and using Author identifiers, including ORCID IDs. Creating an ORCID ID gives you a persistent, unique numeric identifier that links together all of your research work, including any name changes over the course of your career. It distinguishes you from others with the same name and ensures that your work is attributed to you. It also makes it easy for others to locate all of your research, since it is all linked by an identifier.

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Meet New Research Services Librarian Michelle Bass

Michelle Bass joined the University of Chicago Library on July 1 as the new Science Research Services Librarian.

Michelle has a MSI from the University of Michigan School of Information and PhD from the University of Wisconsin – Madison School of Education. Michelle held a University Library Associate, Graduate Student Assistantship position at the Taubman Health Sciences Library, University of Michigan from August 2013-June 2015.

Barbara Kern interviewed Michelle about her experiences and plans for her work at UChicago.

How do you envision working with faculty and students in your new role here?

One of my main goals in this new position is to serve as a welcoming “concierge” between faculty and students and the information professionals working in the library, particularly when it comes to data information literacy and data management services. I want to be knowledgeable about the topics and discussions going on across departments and fields of study as they relate to research services and create opportunities for me to share and suggest new technologies and databases, software options, and trends with faculty and students. I hope to be involved in orientation sessions for new graduate students in all science departments and continue my participation and relationship building with students and faculty throughout the year through my attendance and contributions to monthly seminars and brown-bag lunches across centers and schools. Getting students interested and invested in the importance of data information literacy and research service best practices will be a main goal complemented by building relationships with faculty who are interested in becoming advocates and partners in sharing a passion, and respect, for research services.

Michelle, what originally got you interested in science libraries?

This is one of those times when I can say “I blame my mother” and mean it as a wonderful compliment. My mother has worked at medical libraries for nearly forty years. I knew that there were other kinds of libraries out there in the world beyond my local public library and school’s media center growing up. However, my interest in science librarianship as a professional option was really cultivated over the past two years through my experiences working at the Taubman Health Sciences Library at the University of Michigan and networking with many medical and science librarians at national and regional conferences.

What are some of the highlights of your time as a Graduate Student Assistantship at the Taubman Health Sciences Library, University of Michigan?

Traditional health sciences library-focused highlights included instruction sessions with students in their first through fourth years of medical school and the opportunity to work with the Associate Dean of Medical Student Education to craft many of these sessions. I was the information professional lead on a systematic review on the effects of bullying on LGBTQ students and worked with a Public Health and School of Information professor on creating a data management plan for an extensive scoping review of consumer health informatics literature. I was also encouraged and able to take continuing education and professional development
courses including PubMed for Trainers and Expert Searching. As a member of the social committee, I was a co-organizer of the Donut Madness bracket challenge during the NCAA March Madness tournament and am proud that this delicious event is now an annual tradition at Taubman Health Sciences Library.

What are the key challenges or trends that you see in libraries today?

A key challenge facing academic libraries today is expanding the concept of what defines a library. For me, a library is defined by the people who work in them and the skills and information they make accessible in addition to the materials they hold within their walls. Importantly, they are not confined by the walls of their physical library spaces but rather move and travel with the services and knowledge shared by information professionals representing their library as institutions wherever they go. With respect to the librarianship profession, I think a major opportunity is presenting itself as a generation of librarians prepare for retirement. The curriculum of my mother’s master in library science degree and my own share few, if any, similarities beyond the fact that they are both American Library Association accredited. It is up to both incoming professionals and long-standing pillars of the profession to proactively connect with one another to ensure institutional and professional knowledge is shared and cultivated to help rising leaders respond to the challenges ahead.

What do you like best about Chicago (the city) so far?

While Chicago definitely falls under the “big city” category, I have found that the distinct neighborhoods within the city make it much more manageable and inviting. I decided to live in Hyde Park to be able to walk to work, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know my new neighborhood. I’ve always lived in the suburbs and had to drive to shops and grocery stores; now, Treasure Island is a 7 minute walk and Hyde Park Produce is 15. The Museum of Science and Industry is 2 blocks away and I’m a short(ish) bus or train ride away from the Art Institute of Chicago and the Shedd Aquarium. So, a few weeks in, I have to say that getting to know the Hyde Park neighborhood has been the best part about Chicago, so far.

UChicago faculty and students are encouraged to contact Michelle with questions or requests for assistance with science research, teaching and learning. You can reach Michelle at mbbass@uchicago.edu or 773-702-8774.
Astronomy

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**Thomas Wright (1711-1786). An original theory or new hypothesis of the universe, founded upon the laws of nature, and solving by mathematical principles the general phænomena of the visible creation; and particularly the via lacteal.... London: Printed for the author, 1750.**
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Follow the John Crerar Library on Twitter

The John Crerar Library Twitter account (@CrerarLibrary) has been revitalized and has had a wonderful autumn quarter engaging with new and returning students and PSD departments through virtual conversations and promotion. We use the account to bring national, regional, and local funding opportunities to the attention of researchers who do not have the time to scan every funding agency webpage and we highlight library resources and services that may help you with your research. Even if you don’t have a personal Twitter account, you can follow our Twitter feed at https://twitter.com/crerarlibrary

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New food and drink policy provides Library patrons with more options

As a result of the new Library food policy, hungry patrons are now free to eat snacks in many campus Library spaces and have additional designated space for eating meals in Regenstein. The new policy has been approved by the faculty Board of the Library and the Library Student Advisory Group and permits patrons to eat snacks in most parts of the Library, with the exception of a few designated food-free spaces. Meals and messy or smelly foods are permitted only in designated Meal Zones. The policy applies to the Crerar, Eckhart, Mansueto, Regenstein, and SSA libraries, as well as the D’Angelo Law Library, which has had a similar policy in place since 2008.

Exhibition
In celebration of the 125th anniversary of the University of Chicago’s founding, Crerar Library looks back at the establishment of the natural sciences at the University. The early University built programs in the physical and biological sciences from the ground up. They recruited eminent scientists and designed innovative laboratories and facilities for their groundbreaking work. These achievements in discovery and teaching have had lasting impact on the sciences.

The Physical Sciences Update is edited by Jennifer Hart

I invite your comments about The Physical Sciences Update. Please email me at hartj@uchicago.edu or at 773-702-7569 with any questions about Library resources and services, or with any comments about the content and design of this newsletter.