

# SCHAFFER LIBRARY

UPDATES FOR SPRING 2025



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*Schaffer Library in spring.*

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IS IN APRIL

Join Schaffer Library as we kick off our National Library Week (NLW) events spanning April 7th through April 11th!

We'll start with our Right to Read "Read Out." On Monday, April 7th from 1-4pm. Listen to excerpts of banned and challenged books or, better yet, volunteer to read selections from your favorite banned or challenged book. Volunteer readers will receive a tote bag.

Stay tuned to [our website](#) and social media ([follow us on Instagram @schafferlibrary](#)) to learn about other fun NLW activities we will offer.



# LIBRARY NEWS

## PEER RESEARCH MENTORS

The library is offering one-on-one consultation with Peer Research Mentors in the Writing Center in Spring term. Our student mentors are trained in our Applied Research Practicum to help students with developing research questions, fleshing out topic ideas, finding resources, and perfecting citations. Please encourage your students to book a session if they would like to workshop their research ideas! From our [booking link](#), choose "Peer Research Consultation."

## REMINDER: STUDENT HONORS THESES

Seniors have started to submit their honors theses, or thesis materials, to the library! Please help us ensure that the process is as seamless as possible for everyone. For information about the senior honors thesis submission process, as well as links to submission forms, visit [the library's website and click "Senior Thesis Info" under Quick Links](#). Questions? Email Becky Fried at [friedr2@union.edu](mailto:friedr2@union.edu).

## LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Don't forget to [book your research instruction sessions](#)! If your students are conducting research this Spring term, let us help you teach them how to use the wide variety of resources and tools we have through the library by booking a research instruction session. See the types of sessions we offer [here on our Instruction Menu](#). The library provides many ways to engage with research including instruction sessions, [one-on-one research consultations](#) with librarians or peer mentors, & [subject-focused library guides](#).

## LIBRARY EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN

Schaffer Library has a variety of equipment available to faculty, staff, and students for short-term loan: laptops, iPads, device chargers, projectors, and more. Please visit the Library Service Desk to find out more about what's available for your academic and scholarly needs.

## REQUEST PHYSICAL JOURNAL ARTICLES IN PRIMO

You can now request a digitized version of a journal article if Schaffer Library has a print copy. The article you request will be emailed directly to you. Simply locate the article or journal in Primo, then log in and select the "Digitization" option in the record.

## EVENT: LIFE AFTER UNION

**Wednesday April 16, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**First Floor of the Library**

Do you know any graduating seniors? Representatives from the library and campus will be hosting Life After Union to help seniors learn about how to organize their digital life before they graduate. Topics include files and email planning, how to contribute to their Union College legacy, and any last minute questions about thesis submission.

## ASK A LIBRARIAN

Need help with your research? Did you know that you can contact a librarian in real time through UChat? Look for the green UChat button on the library website. Chat will be staffed from 1pm to 4pm, Monday-Thursday. Don't worry, we're also still available for more in-depth help through email and in-person meetings. See our [Ask a Librarian page](#) for more information.





# LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to the Library's student employees who will be graduating in June! Thank you for your work in Schaffer Library and best wishes to you in your future endeavors.

Gabi Acosta, Sam Appleton, Gabby Baratier, Emma Garabedien, James Gaskell, Simon Gray, Gisselle Hernandez, Sadie Hill, Ali Hoffman, Ledia Hoxhaj, C'lannye James, Haba Kiiza, Mayra Morales, Devin Ramos, Zainab Ropri, Alex Rosenberg, Abby Wilder

## NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

We have expanded our full-text access to The Daily Gazette with the acquisition of its [historical archive](#), covering the years 1921 to 1997. The archive is browsable by date and keyword searchable. Content consists of scanned copies of the original newspaper, allowing users to explore visuals such as photographs and advertisements. Have fun poking around.

We also recently acquired [Feature Films for Education](#), which provides access to hundreds of feature films ranging across decades of cinema. Many films come with various subtitle and Closed Captioning options.

Online access to the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) is now available! Our subscription also includes [NEJM Evidence](#), [Catalyst](#), [NEJM Journal Watch](#), and [NEJM AI](#).

Schaffer currently provides access to the following commercial streaming services via a Roku stick: Netflix, AMC+, The Criterion Channel, Amazon Prime, Flix Latino, Max and BritBox. Roku sticks may be checked out at the User Services Desk for a period of 4 hours.

## NEW DIGITAL CONTENT AVAILABLE

The abstract volume for the 2025 Mohawk Watershed Symposium is now online. The symposium brings together scientists that research the physical aspects of the Mohawk Watershed in New York State and highlights recent and on-going work in the watershed. In addition, 15 years and 458 abstracts of past Mohawk Watershed Symposium abstracts are available digitally in ARCHES at <https://arches.union.edu/MWS>.

## LIBRARIAN/STUDENT PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Digital Collections & Preservation Librarian Corinne Chatnik, along with Computer Science student James Gaskell (UC 2025), had an article accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed Code4Lib Journal. The article, "Quality Control Automation for Student-Driven Digitization Workflows," discusses the purpose and theory behind the quality control application they created for evaluating images created during the digitization process, and how hands-on experience with digitization workflows helps to inform automation, methodology, and user interface decisions. James is a work-study student in Schaffer Library's digital program. The article will be published in the forthcoming April issue at [journal.code4lib.org](http://journal.code4lib.org).



# UPDATES FROM THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

## HOURS

Special Collections is available for research appointments Monday-Friday. Check [our website](#) for our Spring Term walk-in hours.

## TEACH WITH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Teach with Special Collections this Spring Term! Reach out to [specialcollections@union.edu](mailto:specialcollections@union.edu) to schedule your class visit, ask questions about our collections, and explore creative ways to utilize them during the 10 week term.

## EXHIBITS

### Lally Reading Room

First Birds of Spring celebrates the arrival of warm weather and features the flying fauna that the Union College Community engages with every day. The exhibits will feature four of the first migratory birds to arrive in Schenectady at the seasons' change.

1. Fox-Colored Sparrow
2. Wood Duck
3. Eastern Meadowlark
4. Red-Shouldered Hawk

[Check out Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club \(HMBC\) and Reist Sanctuary's Bird-Finding Calendar.](#)

### Beuth Atrium

The 2024-2025 academic year marks the 50th anniversary of women's athletics programs at Union College. In collaboration with the athletic department and the athletics liaison committee, Schaffer Library will design a physical and digital exhibit for Spring Term 2025 exploring the stories and amplifying the voices of women across this 50 year history.



*The Union College women's basketball team of 1988-89 playing against Hamilton.*

## NEXT YEAR

Keep an eye out for our celebratory exhibit highlighting the women of Union as we welcome Union's first woman president.



# UPDATES FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION & EXHIBITIONS

## TEACHING ARTWORKS 2024-25 IN THE MANDEVILLE GALLERY, SCHAFFER LIBRARY, AND FEIGENBAUM CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS

*On View: Fall 2024 – June 2025*

This academic year, the Mandeville Gallery, and locations in Schaffer Library and Feigenbaum Center for Visual Arts will display artworks requested by Union College professors for use in teaching. These artworks are part of the College's Permanent Collection, a term used to describe the collection of art that the College has amassed over its more than 200-year history. The works chosen for teaching this year include photos from the Andy Warhol Foundation; a recently gifted collection of Chinese ceramics; works by Native American artist, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and Greek artist, Chryssa Vardea, as well as by former Union professor of visual arts, Arnold Bittleman. The entire portfolio of twenty-seven prints entitled *Sultana's Dream*, by artist Chitra Ganesh, and prints by artists Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Graham, and Frank Stella round out the selections.



*Arnold Bittleman (American, 1933-85), Thicket, 1981, etching on paper, ed. A/P, 23 ½ x 30 ¼ inches (plate), Union College Permanent Collection, 2006.1 UCPC © BittlemanWorks, LLC*

Artworks acquired throughout the College's past two centuries, feature historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, and political concepts that can be used in the classroom to mirror learning methodologies, theories, histories, and philosophies. Engaging students with thought-provoking works of art broadens knowledge of other cultures, increases critical thinking and historical empathy, and sparks creativity. In recent years, the Permanent Collection has focused on acquiring modern and contemporary works of art to enrich academic curricula, and give students and faculty opportunities to engage in object-based learning and make connections across disciplines.

For more information, please visit the [Teaching Artworks page](#).

View the entire Union College Permanent Collection using [ARCHES](#).



# UPDATES FROM RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT

## ESCAPING THE WINTER DOLDRUMS

If you've been in Schaffer Library during the fall and winter terms, you might have seen small groups of excited students running around the library asking about the “wireless wizard.” They were participating in Escape Rooms which are embedded in First Year Inquiry (FYI) courses and designed to teach basic library skills in a fun and engaging way.

Many first year students are overwhelmed by the array of library services and resources, and the library as a space. Our goal with the Escape Room is to allow students to explore the physical library and learn how to do basic library searches, physically locate materials, and learn about some of our services (including asking librarians for help) in a fun, low stress, interactive way.

We don't expect students to walk away knowing everything; we see the Escape Room as a teaser to what the library can provide. One student summed up the activity by saying, “I still don't fully comprehend every part of the library, but today was definitely a start.”

The statistics speak volumes. This fall and winter, we've hosted 25 Escape Room sessions for 312 students. From post-participation surveys:

- 36% of students reported being encouraged to ask questions and learning where to go to ask librarians questions,
- 42% reported learning how to search Primo,
- 34% reported learning how to locate a physical book in the stacks, and
- 12% of students indicated they learned how to check out a book from Schaffer Library.

As you look ahead to next academic year, consider incorporating this engaging introduction to library and research services into your FYI course! We introduce a new narrative each year, and next year our theme will be The Lady in White - a spooky library mystery. Contact Lindsay Bush ([bushl@union.edu](mailto:bushl@union.edu)) for more information about Escape Rooms & to request one for your FYI course.



*This team is busy at work, using Library resources to solve the clues to the Escape Room!*



*The winning group, having turned the radio back on, serenaded us with “We Are the Champions.”*