

Fall 12-2020

Library Connection, v8n1, Fall 2020

University of Northern Iowa. Rod Library.

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STUDENT SUCCESS: IN THE MIDDLE OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Expanding Services:

Throughout the chaos of living and working during a pandemic, Rod Library faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to accommodate daily challenges. During the early stages of the pandemic in March, Rod Library expanded its services for all students, graduate students, and instructors. First, Rod Library created a list of resources already offered, improved access to existing services, and implemented new resources. "No contact" curbside delivery proved to be a popular new service. Students could drive up to the library and pick up their requested materials or have the items mailed

to them. Rod Library improved and publicized established services and resources. These included holding research consultations over Zoom, renewing/returning library materials off-campus, online databases, and many others. Taking these actions greatly benefited students by ensuring they have all the necessary resources to succeed wherever they are. Rod Library librarians supported graduate students by providing graduate writing help. They provided UNI faculty across campus with subject research guides to connect their classes with library resources. Rod Library faculty and staff created new websites to offer helpful links conveniently. Among these quick links were those to Information

Technology Remote Services and Support, Interlibrary Loan, Syllabi and Assignment Design, and more.



Madison Neece, a Social Work Graduate Assistant, praises Rod Library for all the great work they do. "The Rod Library has been so flexible and accommodating for all my graduate student needs. Our library liaison does a phenomenal job at welcoming students into the research process, providing access to resources of all kinds, and supporting us along the way. I appreciate being able to check out private study rooms and materials like laptops and charging cables. The Rod Library has always been a welcoming environment for me as a graduate student."



Aweke Tadesse, a Social Work Graduate Assistant, said, "The librarians are always there and ready to respond. As a graduate student, I acquired very helpful research skills that are not addressed in depth in class but only through the librarians' help. Still, meeting with the research assistant is an opportunity of enriching my understanding and skill that I really need for my future career."

Transitioning Back:

In the 2020 fall semester, the university transitioned back to an in-person campus experience. Rod Library mapped out a plan to reopen the library, providing a safe environment for students to work, study, and spend downtime. Rod Library carefully took many precautions including distancing study tables, providing cleaning supplies and hand sanitizing stations, installing distanced floor markers and transaction barriers, and supporting the university's mask requirement.

Beyond resources, the library hosts many popular events. One of the earliest and most popular events Rod Library hosts each fall is Career Readiness Day. Every semester, the library offers students the opportunity to take a professional headshot for free, get help with résumé

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building, and talk with Academic Advising and Career Services staff. Continuing to hold events is beneficial to students and their well-being. It creates something normal to look forward to and supports students' career preparation.

Filling the need:

InterLibrary Loan (ILL) allows students, faculty, and staff to request materials from other libraries or institutions when items are not available from Rod Library. While many libraries across the state and most of the country suspended borrowing and physical lending items, Rod Library continued to make ILL available until April 2020. During this time, the ILL staff completed roughly 1,600 loans, digitization, library borrowing, holds, and curbside delivery requests. Thanks to the dedicated Interlibrary Loan staff, Rod Library was one of the few libraries in the country to fulfill requests for scanned articles/book chapters to other libraries worldwide. Regular Interlibrary Loan borrowing and lending of physical items resumed on May 14th.

Addressing the Gaps:

The significant changes COVID-19 brings causes all the UNI students, faculty, and staff to embrace this year together. Working collectively to discover new technologies and re-invent processes helped UNI continue its tradition of student success. AS COVID changed our everyday lives, it also created a gap between Rod Library and UNI students. One gap was providing the same quality research services offered previously in person. Rod Library staff dedicated themselves to finding innovative ways to fill these gaps, including using Zoom break-out rooms to host one-on-one and group research consultations wherever students might be. Library staff also filled a gap by providing necessary technology use information to students in an accessible format. They found COVID-safe ways to host events, present exhibits, and provide resources, giving students a sense of normalcy. Lastly, they went beyond helping students find resources and found ways to reach out to students struggling with this particularly challenging semester. Creating a virtual care package that featured things to listen to, watch, or read to help brighten students' days. Again filling a needed gap of human connection, many of us have lacked this semester; however, UNI together found success.



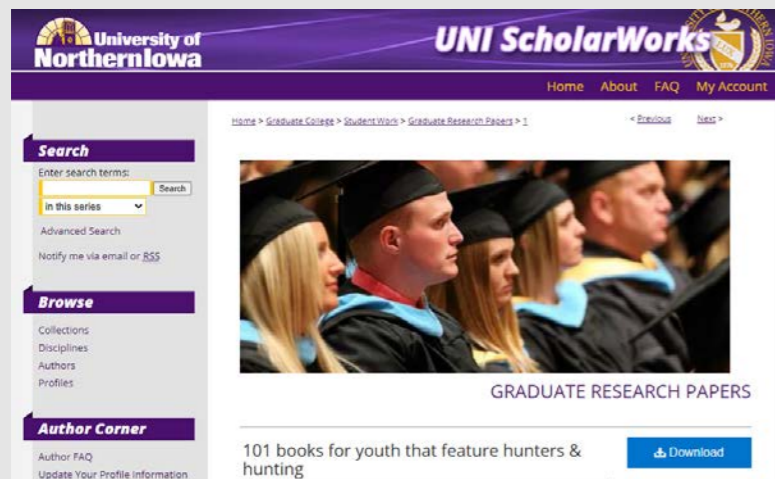
Eboni Springfield, an Undergraduate student majoring in Public Relations: Special Events, explains, "The Rod Library has made a ton of fantastic accommodations to its space to ensure students have access to the many resources the library provides, and in the safest way possible. Some of my favorite resources that are offered have been altered in some way to work for students both online and in-person. The library, for years, has been my go-to for any academic help I may need, and now even through Coronavirus, the library seems more accessible than ever."

EXPANSIVE REACH OF UNI SCHOLARWORKS

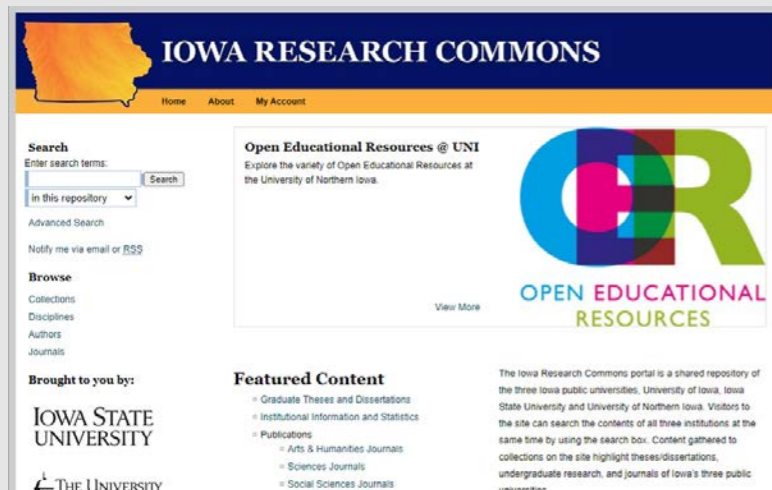
Rod Library's UNI ScholarWorks was excited to hear feedback from a faculty member in North Carolina. Kate Behrenshausen, Faculty at Hill Learning Center, expressed how teaching has changed, ". . . being virtual has affected my teaching. The short answer is that it has impacted

everything from forming a rapport with students to grading work." Moving to an online format, she struggled to find accessible materials for her students. Using the online repository, she could find the most relevant content for her students and stay connected with them through their interests. One of the works utilized is titled "101 Books for Youth that feature hunters & hunting" by Leann Seddon. In addition to the praise UNI Scholarworks has received, the number of downloads has skyrocketed. Ellen Neuhaus, Rod Library's Digital Scholarship Librarian, was happy to announce that the number of global downloads in the repository is up 83% from March to August of this year. Last year, through the same period, there were 197,337 downloads, compared to this year of 361,510 downloads. Also, UNI Scholarworks reached a milestone of 1.5 million downloads. Such an accomplishment was unanticipated as the online repository had just hit one million downloads just before March when the shift in education went to a virtual format. All of this success would not have been possible without the Iowa Research Commons, a portal of shared repositories between the three Iowa public universities. Creating an easy way to search for content from all three online repositories creates an even more robust resource of information for people worldwide. Having a source such as UNI Scholarworks during this period of life is crucial because it is accessible to many people in various professions across the world for free. UNI

Scholarworks consistently proves the importance and usefulness of online repositories. It provides reliable information, creates digital access of many print publications, and showcases UNI student research for all to see.

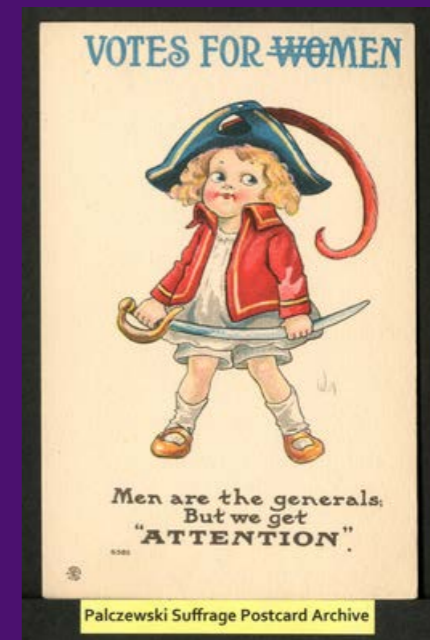


UNI ScholarWorks Website



Iowa Research Commons Website

Take a look at the [Palczewski Suffrage Postcard Archive](#)



on UNI ScholarWorks for a great collection of suffrage postcard images.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: FORTEPAN IOWA

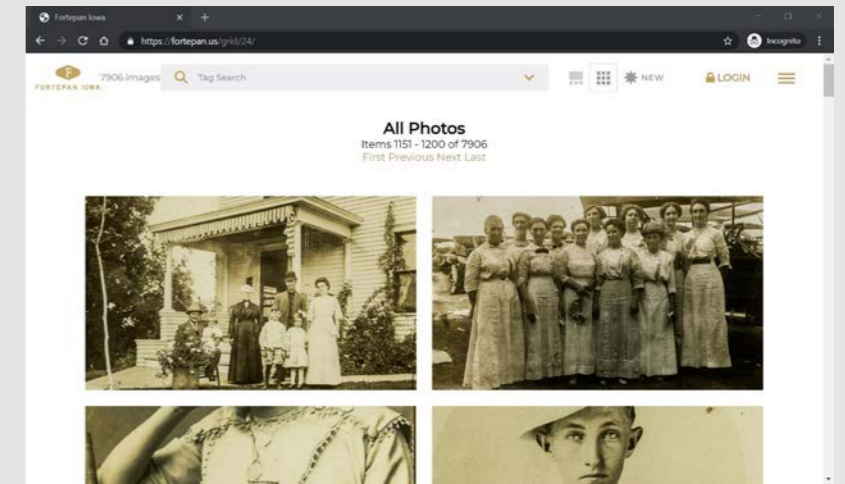
Rod Library is home to the Fortepan Iowa project, a photo archive of curated Iowa family snapshots (fortepan.us). What immediately makes the photo archive unique is that its first level of organization is place and time, rather than separate collections. The images in Fortepan Iowa have to do with Iowa and Iowans. It consists of almost 8,000 photos that come from more than 500 individual families from across Iowa. Through the unique and liberating interface, images from multiple collections take their place along a timeline and mesh together to tell Iowa's visual story, 1860 to 2000. Visitors become immediately engaged because the pictures have context beyond their collection. One can see common themes develop over time--young people picnicking in the 1910s, the emergence of car culture throughout the 1930s and 1940s, and new harvesting techniques every decade.



Jerry Plowman with Dianna Hootman. Jerry and his wife, Martha, put on a Corn Feed event each year.

"FI0003894" donated by Susan Love, Scanned by Anna Love, Susan Love / Fortepan Iowa @ Douds, IA 1993

Fortepan Iowa also invites the public to tag images and participate in making this shared history. The Fortepan Iowa interface--all built by faculty, staff, and students at the University of Northern Iowa--is a tremendous departure from the methods archivists, librarians, historical societies, and museums use. Nearly 20 UNI faculty and staff members have affiliation with the archive--expanding the collection, using it in their teaching, and disseminating its value throughout the state. Rod Library is always excited to celebrate UNI students, faculty, and staff's unique initiatives to preserve local history. As we currently experience history in the making, it's instructive to look back at how our Iowa culture and society have handled change through the years. Take a walk down memory lane with us!



Fortepan Iowa Website



John, Mark, Trish, and Dan Sovers on a ride on their family vacation to Adventureland.

"FI0007781" donated by Trish Lokmer, Photographed by Wes Sovers 1982, Scanned by Michael Sovers, Trish Lokmer / Fortepan Iowa @ Altoona, IA

CAPTURING THE COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

COVID-19 has changed how every one of us relates to each other and experiences the world. The Special Collections & University Archives at Rod Library is currently collecting content for their COVID-19 Community Archiving Project, allowing students to share their personal stories from the COVID-19 pandemic. Sharing stories, photos, videos, and reflections from UNI and the Cedar Valley Community will aid in recording history. Each experience and personal account of this time is unique. That is why collecting items and feelings from the time we are currently living in are essential to future students and their research.

Special Collections & University Archives staff have already documented many important stories and photos preserving this time in history. Some of these photos include altered 'COVID' hours, masks, video conferencing, and digital classrooms.

Students have recalled their thoughts and actions during the first couple of weeks in March. They spoke about the grief they felt as we all left campus, leaving the rest of their semester, friends, and graduation behind. They shared how the typical day-to-day activities were taken for granted, wishing they could have them back. A spring 2020 graduate left future students with a message, "Living during a pandemic like this was unexpected and heartbreaking. Whoever reads this in the future will hopefully realize the significance of COVID-19. Not only how many lives were lost, but more importantly, how communities like UNI and Cedar Falls came together to help everyone succeed and stay safe at the same time. I am still unsure of what the future holds. I am fortunate to be safe and healthy, but I truly hope that this pandemic ends soon. We can all begin to get back to normal life and appreciate what we had before and have a new insight for the future." The archiving project aims to have a diverse and robust sampling of pandemic-era stories and artifacts for future researchers.

Please continue to help us build this community archive by sharing stories and experiences with Special Collections & University Archives. Submitting experiences is fast and straightforward, and items can upload right on the form. Please submit stories, photos, blogs, or other content about the COVID-19 experience to the COVID-19 Community Archiving Project Google form.



UNI Museum statue demonstrating how to properly maskup!