



Library Newsletter: Word from the Stacks... Spring 2023

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Volume 19, Issue 1

Sacred Heart University Library

- Welcoming the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society (CTIAHS) Archives to the SHU campus
- SHU Reads for Free - New Textbook Reserve program
- Help with incorporating ChatGPT into your academic work

- **Rare Book and Manuscript donation**
- **Coming Soon: A Simpler Search on the library website**
- **Time for thinking about Summer Reading!**

Connecticut Irish American Historical Society (CTIAHS) Archives



By John Roney and Beverly Lysobey

The Ryan Matura Library is proud to announce that the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society (CTIAHS) Archives and Library has been gifted to Sacred Heart University and is now located in the newly renovated lower level of the library. The CTIAHS (see <https://www.ctirishhistory.org/>) was funded in 1988 and since then it has consistently collected materials, and in some cases accepted already existing archival donations from other sources. The archives are a unique collection that tells the story of the history and life of Irish American immigrants to New England and especially Connecticut. There are many primary and secondary materials referring to significant historical events in Ireland. These include the 'Great Hunger' (An Gorta Mór)—the result of a fungus that killed the potato crop in 1845-1852, as well as poor management by the British government—and the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland that divided Catholic and Protestant communities in violent protest and conflict from late 1960s until the establishment of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. This is still a relevant topic with the fears that Brexit might make the agreement redundant.

Many students, faculty, and scholars will be able to use the archives and library when researching Irish American, American, and Irish history. The CTIAHS Archives and Library will also be a great resource for some topics outside the focus of Irish history. The controversies and debates over the Great Hunger and the Troubles will be very useful when studying conflict resolution and peace studies, as well as seeing how archives are arranged and cared for, and used in scholarly work. Individual students, faculty, or entire classrooms will benefit from time spent looking through the professional archives. The walls of this special room are decorated with photographs, posters, and maps that enhance its visual impact as an Irish Studies center. This unique CTIAHS archive and library is one more very generous gift to SHU for its every-expanding Irish Studies program on the main Fairfield, CT, campus as well as its growing Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland campus. The goal is to digitize much of the collection. Materials already openly available in The Irish American Community Collections¹ in the Digital Commons @Sacred Heart

¹<https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish/>

University² include The American Irish Newsletter, The Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War letters, and The Shanachie newsletter.



1 - The Library welcomed members of the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society³, College of Arts and Sciences faculty and students to a grand opening celebration on April 18.

SHU Reads for Free – Library Textbook Reserve program

Student donations of used textbooks are being added to a new **Library Textbook Reserve** collection through the new Student Government Association (SGA) “**SHU Reads for Free**” program. Please consider making a difference for future PIOS by dropping off your course materials in boxes across campus or at the library before you leave for the summer. Thank you to the SGA and to all students who have supported and will support this program!

And please return your library books before you leave campus! Contact us⁴ with questions or concerns.

THE SPECTRUM SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

News Features Sports Arts & Entertainment Editorials Audrey's Corner Spotlight

Spend Less and Study More at the Library

by Angus Hendricks and Madison Beckman | Posted on April 19, 2023

Beginning in the fall 2023 semester, the Ryan Malara Library at Sacred Heart University will be offering a service known as "SHU Reads for Free" that allows students to reserve library-provided textbooks for three hours at a time.

The program's inception came from Alejandro Ramos, the university's Student Government Association (SGA) president and The Spectrum's Spotlight editor, this past fall.

"This program originated when I first became student government president and I wanted to really put to use the textbooks that were collected and were left in my office at the beginning of my term. We had thought about donating them outside or maybe even throwing them away but I said what better way to serve the students than making textbooks more affordable and accessible to them," said Ramos.

²<https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/>

³<https://www.ctirishhistory.org/>

⁴<https://library.sacredheart.edu/hours>

2 - To learn more, see this excellent article *Spend Less and Study More at the Library*⁵ recently published in the Spectrum



3 - And the segment *SHU Reads for Free*⁶ (at 32 minutes) created by talented members of *The Pulse*.

New ChatGPT Library Guide

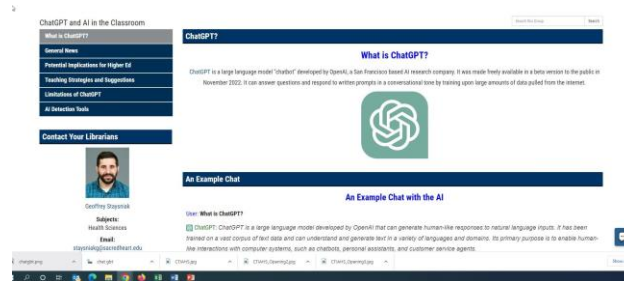


With the rapid rise of ChatGPT and other AI chatbots, it's now a brave new world full of new opportunities and uncertainties, especially for those in higher education. To help staff navigate these

⁵<https://www.shuspectrum.com/archives/news/spend-less-and-study-more-at-the-library/>

⁶https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vl9qMpzx_Q

changes, the library has created a new ChatGPT and AI in the Classroom⁷ guide. In this resource, faculty and staff will find links to select articles on the potential impacts of AI in education, strategies for how to incorporate it into one's teaching, plus AI general news and also information on AI detector tools. Be sure to keep an eye out for the guide's regular updates and new content!



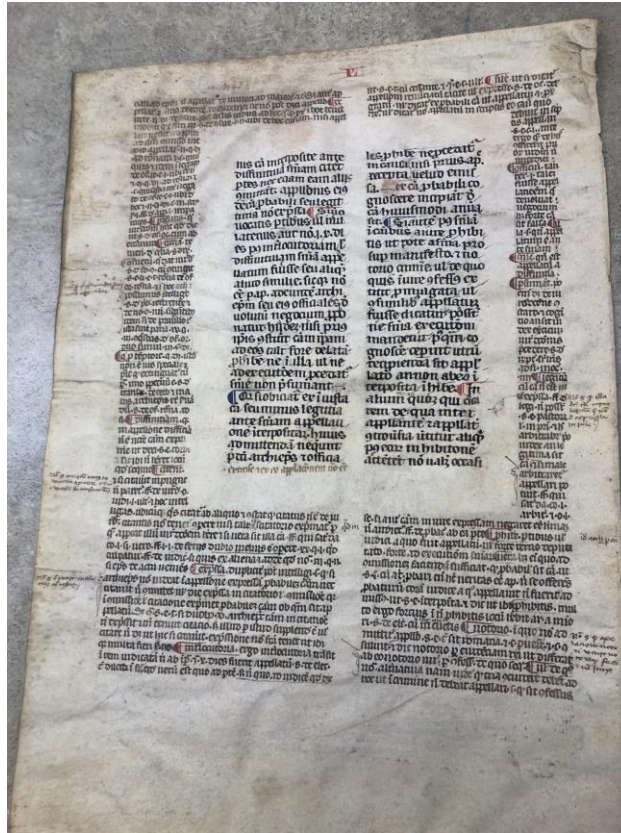
4 - Links and tips for learning about ChatGPT

⁷https://library.sacredheart.edu/chatgpt_and_ai

Library Receives Rare Book and Manuscript donation

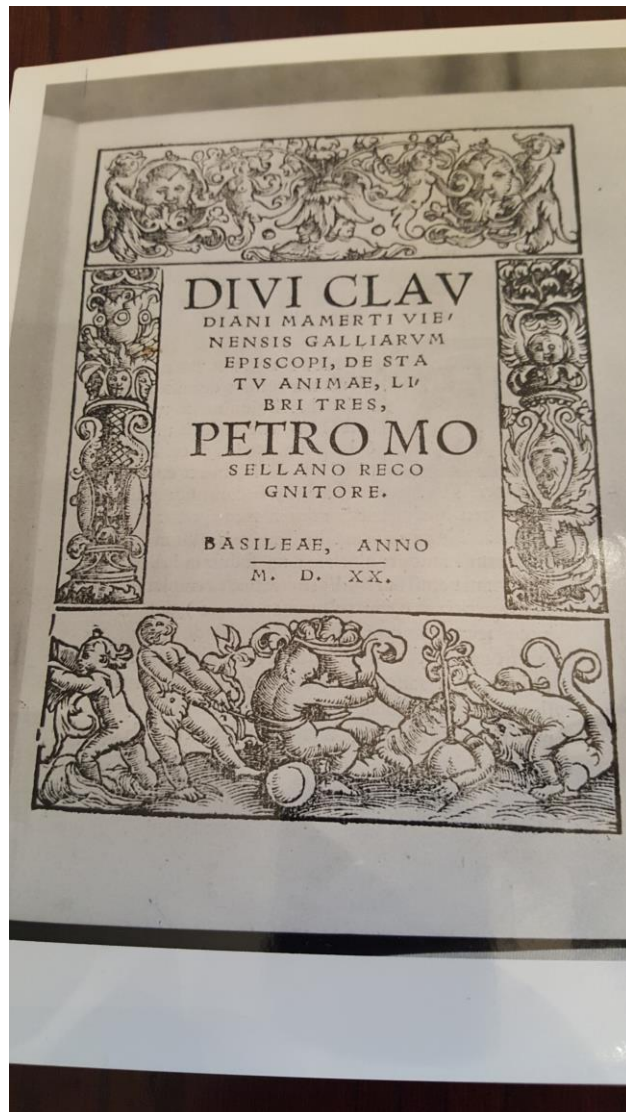


This wonderful news article, WSU's classical music programming leads longtime fan to gift collection to SHU,⁸ published on the Sacred Heart University website, captures the spirit and excitement around this **fantastic gift of medieval rare books and manuscripts** to the Ryan Matura Library. Not only did this gift to the library elevate the university archival holdings, our donors -- **Mrs. Margaret Poppell, age 106, and her daughter Beverly** became new friends with whom we have enjoyed visits and conversations, including a special zoom chat with Margaret on February 6.



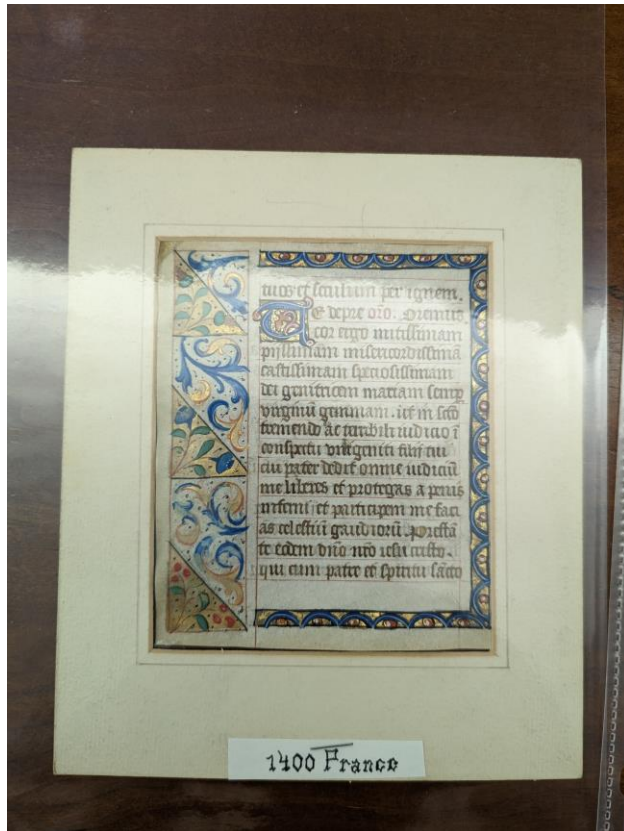
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⁸<https://www.sacredheart.edu/news-room/news-listing/library-receives-rare-book-and-manuscript-donation/>



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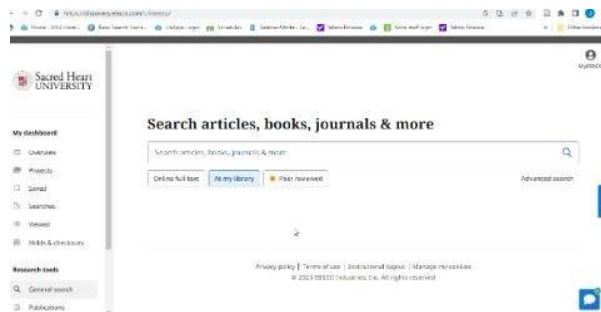
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Coming Soon: New library search interface

QuickSearch, the primary search box on the library homepage, will get a **brand-new look and improved user interface** this summer. Behind the curtains, it will be the same powerful search tool which allows you to search most of SHU Library's resources from one search box, only much more user friendly.

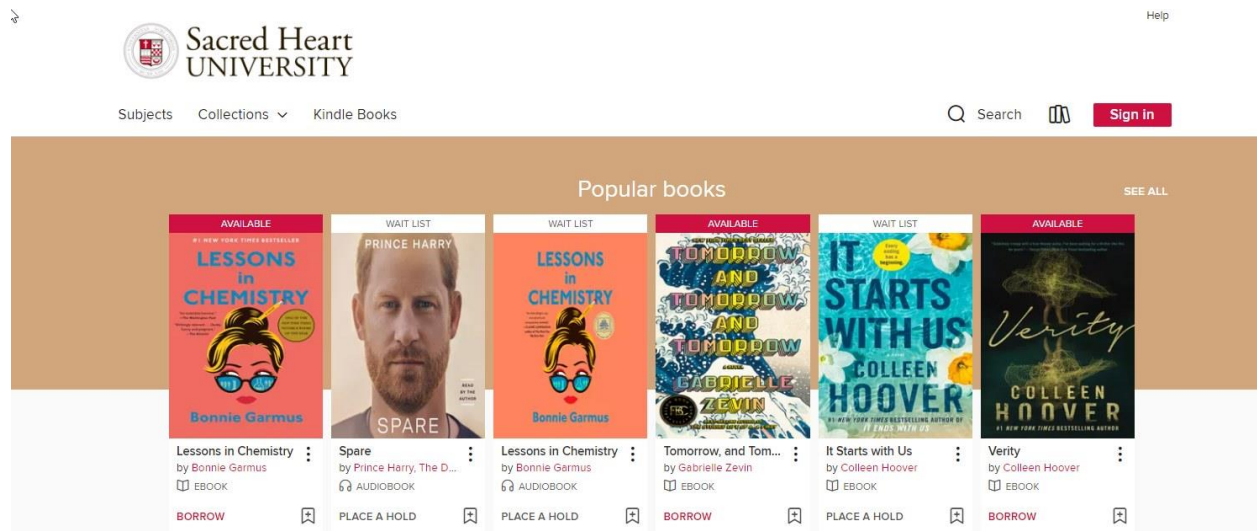
Interested in trying it before next semester? If you're on campus, you can explore the New QuickSearch⁹ now. Unfortunately, off-campus users will have to wait until June when the library officially switches over to the new interface.

Explore New QuickSearch Now¹⁰



7 - So So simple!

Time for Summer Reading! Please visit us this summer!



With summer fast-approaching, don't forget all the recreational reading material that we have readily available! Please feel free to browse our **Popular Reads** on the main floor if you're in need of a beach

⁹<https://discovery.ebsco.com/c/kseezp/>

¹⁰<https://discovery.ebsco.com/c/kseezp/>

read or take your kids downstairs to peruse our new **Juvenile and YA sections**. If you're in need of more convenient reading material for traveling or if you're off campus, then you'll want to look through our collection of eBooks and audiobooks available through our subscription to Overdrive¹¹.

Many many thanks, congratulations, and happy trails to our graduating Student Library Assistants (SLAs)! Jamie Bopp, Ashley Czermak, Bridget Jordan, Emily Rentz, Julianna Rezza, and Kayla Tremblay We will miss you!!!

¹¹<https://sacredheart.overdrive.com/>