

# So you see that we are pioneers.

Jeanette Drake (class of 1907) to Dean Frances Simpson

In 1944, during the middle of the Second World War, the Library School Library officially opened, serving the 29 on-campus students enrolled in the School of Library Science. Today, 65 years later, the Library and Information Science Library continues to support the needs of more than 800 students and faculty at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the wider University of Illinois community, and GSLIS alumni and LIS professionals from around the world.

Within the walls of its physical space, generations of library students have studied, collaborated on group projects, written papers, cried over cataloging assignments, and mined the unparalleled resources of the LIS library.

A collection like this is not the result of serendipity. Rather, it represents the tireless and brilliant efforts of several generations of LIS librarians at the University of Illinois. They have produced one of the most significant LIS collections in the world by collecting from the past and the present to make the future more intelligible.

There is nothing like this collection.

Today, under the indefatigable leadership of Susan Searing, and the generous stewardship of Sandra Wolf, the LIS Library leaves its physical space in the University library for cyberspace. The works, words, and histories of librarianship will remain available in-print and online. Read them.

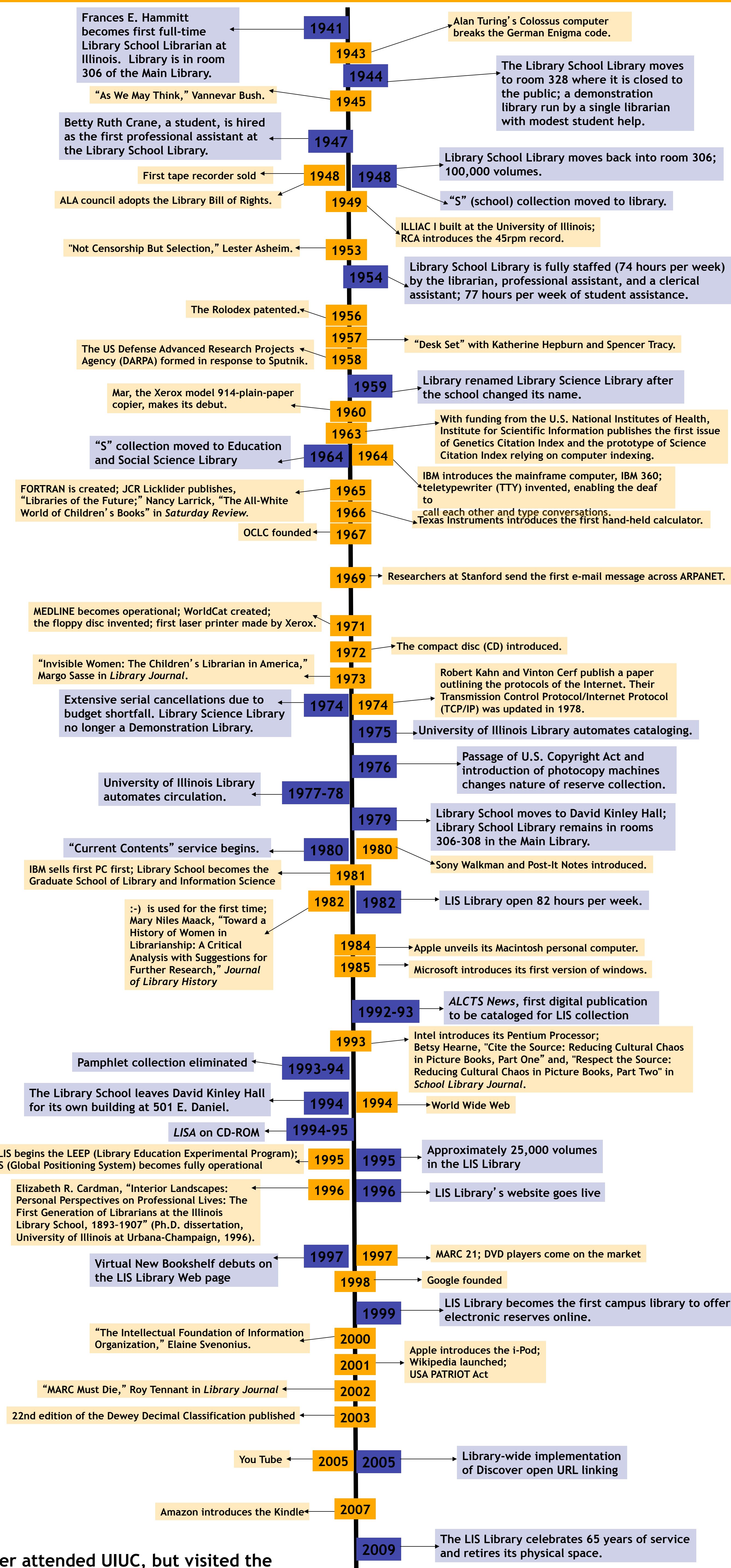
Whatever else we may be, we have always been at our best when we have understood ourselves as "pioneers."



ca. 1954 University Archives, UIUC

I never attended UIUC, but visited the library dozens of times in conjunction with research at the ALA Archives. One of the library's strengths was its world class collection of rare, if not unique, grey materials and international newsletters and journals. The LIS library at UIUC was a magnificent special collection that served the research interests of students, faculty, as well as researchers from all over the world.

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Susan Searing



Sandra Wolf