

# Libraryinsider

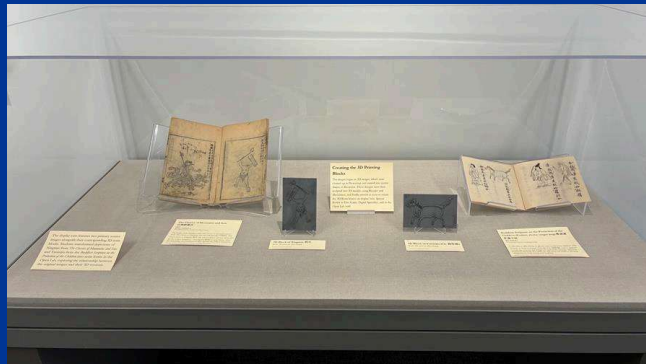
Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh Library System's *Library Insider*. Here, we share brief updates on library spaces, services, programs, and people, and extend invitations to library-hosted events we hope you will find interesting. Thanks for reading!

## In this Issue:

The ULS Enhances Learning through 3D Printmaking of Digital Archives  
What's Happening Next at the ULS

## The ULS Enhances Learning through 3D Printmaking of Digital Archives

Library creative making spaces the Open Lab and Text & conText Lab, enriched learning in Professor Cuilan Liu's fall 2025 religion courses. The ULS's Digital Creation Specialist digitized two paper prints from the [East Asian Library](#) and created three-dimensional digital models. These models were 3D-printed in the Open Lab and converted into printmaking blocks for students to use in the Text & conText Lab.



A collaboration between the ULS and the [University Center for Teaching and Learning](#), the [Open Lab](#) is a space where students can engage in hands-on making, such as 3D scanning and printing, digital manipulation, vinyl and laser cutting, and virtual reality exploration. The [Text & conText Lab](#) is a partnership between the ULS and the [Center for Creativity](#), a place where students can learn bookbinding, papermaking, and printmaking.

Prof. Liu credits the expertise of the people working in these spaces with elevating her classroom experience, "They help make teaching adventurous, fun, and rewarding."

The library's immersive learning spaces provide unique opportunities for students to engage in learning beyond the lecture. In this instance, Liu's students connected with the text by creating tangible artwork in response to it. The prints they made depict a defiant deity from the Chinese mythological text and a demoness in the form of a horse.



Lauren Neville, Biology, 2028 stands with Prof. Cuilan Liu at the exhibit in Hillman Library.

"If it weren't for the Head of the East Asian Library, the Digital Creation Specialist in Open Lab, and the Text &

conText Lab staff, I wouldn't have been able to offer almost 80 students from my courses hands-on experiences with Chinese and Buddhist cultural artifacts," explained Liu. "I am grateful that our library has these amazing colleagues who are so generous, creative, flexible, and willing to help me experiment with pedagogical ideas."

"Prints from the Past: Buddhist Mythology Through a Contemporary Lens" is now on display on the second floor of Hillman Library. Come view the exhibit and the printmaking blocks created for the religion classes! Be sure to visit the Open Lab and Text & conText Lab to see students' latest creations using innovative technology from the present and the past.

## What's Happening Next at the ULS

---

### Opening Reception for Nationality Rooms Exhibits for the Intercultural Exchange Programs Centennial in A&SC



**Thurs. Feb. 26**

Come see two new exhibits, "Read the Room! Uncovering the Italian Room's Transnational Traces" and "The Women Behind the Walls," in Archives & Special Collections' Hyland Gallery, celebrating 100 years of Pitt's Nationality Rooms and its support organization, the Intercultural Exchange Program. This milestone event honors a century of global

understanding and cultural exchange fostered by the Nationality Rooms and International Exchange Programs. Light refreshments will be provided.

Both exhibits will feature a gallery talk in March, listed below.

5-7 p.m.

The Hyland Gallery, Hillman Library, third floor

[Register here](#)

---

## Hyland Gallery Talk: Read the Room! Uncovering the Italian Room's Transnational Traces



### Wed. March 18

This exhibit showcases University Archives that document transnational networks and economic class dynamics during the Italian Room's development in the 1930s and 1940s and was co-curated by students in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences. Join lead curator Dr. Lina Insana, Professor in the Department of French and Italian, for a gallery talk.

[Learn more](#)

---

## Hyland Gallery Talk: The Women Behind the Walls



**Thurs. March 19**

Evidenced with materials from the University Archives, this exhibit invites you to reconsider how personal agency and affective diplomacy shape and are shaped by our shared architectural legacies. "The Women Behind the Walls" is dedicated to uncovering the hidden labor through which women made the French Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh a reality. Join curator Joanna Conings, PhD candidate in the Department of French and Italian, for a gallery talk.

[Learn more](#)

---

## The Archive I'm In: Celebrating Award-Winning Author Sharon G. Flake

**Tues. March 31**

Celebrate with us as we mark the opening of the Sharon G. Flake Papers at the ULS! Donated in 2024, the materials in the collection document Flake's literary career and professional activities.

**The Archive I'm In:**  
CELEBRATING AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR  
**SHARON G. FLAKE**

Don't miss this special opportunity to celebrate a renowned literary voice, Sharon G. Flake, with the opening of her archive!

- Panel exploration of Flake's cultural and scholarly influence
- Spotlight on student research
- Hear from the author herself
- View selected materials from the archive

HILLMAN LIBRARY, THIRD FLOOR  
ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS INSTRUCTION ROOM, ROOM 340  
**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**  
**4-5:30 p.m.**

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER  
Scan the QR code or visit  
[pi.tt/Flake26](https://pi.tt/Flake26)

Hailing from North Philadelphia, Flake is a Pitt alum (English, 1978) and long-time Pittsburgher whose writing largely centers on the Black experience. Her 1998 debut, "The Skin I'm In," explores colorism and self-worth, issues that continue to resonate with contemporary audiences. More than two decades later, Flake expanded that first book into a trilogy with the powerful "The Life I'm In" (2021) and "The Family I'm In" (2025).

The [Sharon G. Flake Papers](#) are the latest addition to the University of Pittsburgh's expanding archives dedicated to African American history and culture. This collection joins a robust research ecosystem that includes the literary papers of [Bebe Moore Campbell](#) and [Albert French](#), offering the Pitt community unparalleled resources for study and engagement.

**Learn more and register here**

See our [events and workshops calendar](#) to find upcoming programs of interest.

**Subscribe to this newsletter**

**Forward this newsletter**

[Unsubscribe](#)