During summer and fall of 2014, the former circulation desk was renovated with the vision to create a space that was open, inviting, and professional, where staff from different library units come together to serve users in a holistic way. The new design enables staff to incorporate the ThinkYes customer service initiative and brings the ASKus help service to life. Staff now work alongside patrons to assist in reference questions, circulation needs, and technical problems. This shared service point model is also available in the Link and will be centrally located in the Learning Commons.
SCI POP TALKS

The popular series, “Sci Pop Talks,” continues in 2015. The weekly series explores the intersection of science and pop culture and is free and open to the public.

So far…
2/4/15: Art & Science of Fermented Foods, 23 people attended
2/11/15: Innovation in Textiles, 25 people attended
2/18/15: The Radioactive Origins of Marvel Comics, 28 people attended

There are four more talks scheduled and the series will conclude on March 18, 2015.

CDRH HOSTS EVENT FOR UNL STUDENTS

More than 45 UNL students attended an event in January 2015 to learn about opportunities in digital humanities at UNL and meet faculty and students doing cutting-edge work.

Attendees learned about the Nebraska Literary Lab, the Digital Scholarship Incubator, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, the Graduate Certificate Program in Digital Humanities, the undergraduate minor in Digital Humanities, the Digital Humanities Bootcamp, and more. They also learned about the variety of hardware, software, and expertise available at the Libraries’ Media Services Office.
MOVES IN PREPARATION FOR THE LEARNING COMMONS

In July and August 2014, Libraries staff and vonRentzell moving company moved approximately 600,000 books and more than 200,000 government documents out of Love North first floor. In doing so, we created a new Visual Arts Collection in the Link and acquired a facility to house government docs and act as swing space for other collections.

CELEBRATING THE TRANSITION OF LOVE NORTH FIRST FLOOR, BEFORE LEARNING COMMONS CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

On September 9 and 10, 2014, Love North 1st floor was open to the public to celebrate the transition of the space. On the 9th, pictures of the Learning Commons were on display and Libraries staff were on hand to explain the plans and answer questions.

On the 10th, 140 visitors were able to take a virtual tour of an ancient Mayan temple, as part of the MayaArch 3D Project www.mayaarch3d.org.

At both events, free popcorn and stress balls were given out, and the Libraries’ Peer Guides welcomed visitors and answered questions about the Learning Commons.
LEARNING COMMONS UNDERWAY

Demolition of Love North first floor began in January 2015. Sampson Construction is the lead contractor on the project and it is on schedule to be completed in late 2015. We will host an opening reception for the university community in early 2016.

LOVE NORTH COLLECTION SWING SPACE

With the closing of Love North first floor, we renovated the lower level hallway that connects the north and south buildings. This space was originally a staff only area, but is now light and bright and also allows for a "collection swing space" for us to continually access, weed, and shift collections. Patrons can now access the collections in Love North lower level via this hallway. This area will remain permanently open, even after the commons is complete and will continually receive renovations to make it a more inviting area for patrons.
NEW DOCUMENTS FACILITY

To accommodate the collections that moved out of the Love Complex, the Libraries acquired a 10,000 square foot building, located at 1331 Military Road. The facility became operational in July of 2014 and holds all US, UN, Nebraska and OAS Documents formerly housed in Love South. It also temporarily contains the low-usage QP-Z LC monographs and serials.

Libraries staff rotate out to the facility regularly to attend to the collections and materials are fully accessible via the Libraries delivery service and patrons may visit the facility by appointment.

C.Y. THOMPSON PROJECT PLANNING & FUNDRAISING

The visioning phase of this project is well underway with architects DLR Group and Stantec. The cost is $22.5 million and will be largely privately funded. Architects are working to create a vision and schematics for additional fundraising, and then produce more detailed plans for the Board of Regents review and approval later this spring. The Board of Regents has approved a 400-student residence hall to the north of CYT to open in the fall of 2017; CYT is on a similar timeline. The Legacy Plaza to the west of CYT is a separately funded project.
COLLECTIONS ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT, & MOVING: C.Y. THOMPSON & ELSEWHERE

After the major renovation of C.Y. Thompson Library is completed, a small, interdisciplinary, high-interest, high-profile collection will return to CYT. Librarians have established weeding standards for the collection that address duplication, condition, usage statistics, and currency. Staff have collaborated to design a system that will move materials quickly through the review process and have created protocols that can apply to future collection management projects.

LDRF 2 - SECOND STORAGE MODULE

Work has begun with Clark Enersen and Campus Facilities on design of a second module for the Libraries Depository and Retrieval Facility located on East Campus.
MEZZANINE STUDY ROOM OPEN

The new Mezzanine Study Room, designed by Heather Keele from Clark Enersen Partners, opened in fall 2014. The room was inspired by the colors of the Nebraska prairie and the wall shown in this picture is adorned with quotes by Nebraska related authors, chosen by library staff. The room is always packed with students and we’ve heard it’s the favorite study spot on campus.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOVE LIBRARY LINK

The Love Library Link was reconfigured and updated in summer 2014 to welcome new collections. In addition to cosmetic updates, two new collections moved into the Link in fall 2014; the Graphic Novels Collection (shown here) and The Visual Arts Collection, which combined materials in the Fine Arts and Photography collections. Two existing collections, Current Periodicals and DVDs, also moved into the area. Mobile, flexible furniture replaced two stationary desks at the ASKus shared service point, and tables and chairs were added to the Visual Arts Collection to encourage students to pull out materials, study, and collaborate in the space.
OTHER LOVE SOUTH UPDATES

Love South has seen numerous updates this year, to transform the library into a more modern, inviting, and functional space for students. In addition to renovations in the Mezzanine room and the Link, new sofas, benches, chairs, and tables were installed in the first and second floor lobbies, and the 2nd floor stacks study carrels are being updated with new tables and chairs. Because of these additions, foot traffic and Wi-Fi demands have increased dramatically, so Wi-Fi was also boosted.

LIBRARY TRANSFORMS INTO CULTURAL CENTER

Nearly 60 guests gathered on February 5, 2015, for the unveiling of 34 unique artifacts from the Lentz Center for Asian Art. The exhibit re-introduced the Lentz collection and brought together a variety of people from the community. Additional pieces and books from the collection are on display in the Link. The second floor of Love South has also welcomed new rotating exhibits of 2D materials, including paintings, prints, and sketches. On February 6, Love Library hosted its inaugural First Friday reception and nearly 80 “art walkers” came by to see the exhibits.
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS IDENTIFY PRIORITIES

In December 2014 and January 2015, Libraries staff gathered to discuss the future of the organization, areas of priority, and the resources needed to support these areas. The process allowed us to identify drivers of change that influence the libraries, examine our current operations, and anticipate areas of future growth and focus.

UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING LIBRARY SYSTEMS

In Summer 2014, a project team charged with understanding and improving users’ experience with library discovery systems began work. These are the systems that provide access to a wealth of print materials, ejournals, ebooks, and databases. The team began by developing a shared understanding how each system works, the role of each department, how systems interconnect, and ongoing issues. This is an open-ended process, to continually examine and improve services, resources and discovery.
DELIVERY TO CAMPUS DEPARTMENTS

“In spring 2014, the Libraries expanded building delivery to include 9 buildings on City and East Campus. By January 2015, it had grown to 16 locations and the Peter Kiewit Institute in Omaha, serving faculty and staff in 38 departments. 185 faculty and staff have signed up for the service, and approximately 1,000 items have been delivered to departmental buildings. The 3 most popular locations are Oldfather Hall, Andrews Hall and the Sheldon Art Gallery, accounting for approximately 80% of items delivered.”

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

In October 2014, the Foundation produced a mass solicitation that was mailed to 5,665 UNL alumni and Friends of the Libraries. The mailing raised nearly $19,000, and combined with online giving for the campaign, over $28,000 was raised in support of the Libraries general development fund and the Learning Commons fund. This will be an annual mailing for the Libraries.

More than $6.6 million in private funding has been raised for the Learning Commons through efforts of Chancellor Perlman and the NU Foundation.

Vice Chancellor Ronnie Green and the NU Foundation are raising funds for the $22.5 million C.Y.T Commons project.