Map your data
By Lynn Tangorra

By looking at a map, you can tell where Illinois restaurant patrons order steak most often, as well as the most popular time for the meaty order. And why do we need to know this?

Maybe a student is interested in opening a restaurant someday. With Milner Library's new database, Simply Map, you can look up everything from U.S. Census data to information on cars, shopping, and politics, by zip code.

Simply Map is changing the way students analyze data. The step-by-step tool has been created by a commercial company to make it easier to find and manipulate information. Students select a type of map, a region of the country, and the type of data they're looking for and Simply Map creates it.

Milner has been making a lot of updates this year, including hiring additional staff. David Stern started at the University eight months ago and was looking at the handling of data sets. Simply Map was selected based on staff recommendations.

"We have a new business librarian and he's looking more and more at data sets to do practical work in the classrooms that actually mimic real-world situations," he said. "That's what Simply Map is. It takes real world data and allows you to do a project that can actually be entrepreneurial and practical in the real world."

Milner also hired a new media music librarian and a data librarian to manage the data and determine what types of data the library should offer.

The College of Business intends to use Simply Map in the classroom. Stern said that while the program is a great tool for libraries, you also have to have a strong business school to justify the investment.

"It's on the bleeding edge because you need to have a fairly powerful business school to make that investment worthwhile, but we do have a strong business school so it is well worth it for us." Faculty also use Simply Map to support their research.

The program is available to anyone on campus. Unlike Milner's ESRI database, students do not have to take classes to learn the software. It requires no training or prior knowledge of the program. "The beauty of Simply Map is that it allows you to, with just a couple of clicks, do a lot of basic analysis so that light users want to have," said Stern. "And it is going to allow people to do some moderately sophisticated data work without a high learning curve."

"When the new business librarian came in we discovered that there was an overlap between what the business college was buying and what the library was buying. So we got together and reduced their duplication and repurposed some of the money for Simply Map," said Stern.

He feels this software is important to Milner because it introduces you to the idea of non-text information, which is where the future is. "If you want to be working with current data, if you want to be doing critical analysis, if you want to be mashing material, you need to have the raw data, not just processed data. This allows you to do more sophisticated types of analyses," he said. "It also allows us to learn how to handle data that our own people are creating. So it's an educational aspect for the user and a learning experience for the library at the same time."

Stern said the goal was to provide a product that allows users to do research in ways that were impossible before because of the cost and high learning curve. "This really brings sophisticated capabilities through a very easy-to-learn tool."

A table-size projection system for Simply Map is on the third floor of Milner. Students can find Simply Map by going through business databases or searching alphabetically through the alpha list under Simply Map.

For more information, contact David Stern at hstern2@IllinoisState.edu, or call (309) 438-5891.
Capturing speakers and events for posterity

Toni Tucker, our long-time coordinator of events, has recently moved to University Advancement. For the past few years, Tucker was responsible for capturing many of our events as podcasts—videos that can be viewed at any time from the library site Library.IllinoisState.edu/Podcasts.

View the site to see the following recent events:

Benjamin Mee, author of the book upon which the movie We Bought a Zoo was based. Mee was a former bricklayer and decorator, who returned to education in his early twenties in order to investigate animal intelligence. While he lived in France and was writing a book on evolution of humour in man and animals, the Dartmoor Zoological Park came up for sale. Mee divides his time between running the busy zoo and raising his two children, Ella and Milo.

Aaron Elster, a Holocaust survivor who escaped the liquidation in Poland and hid for two years until the war’s end. He was educated in Chicago and served in the armed forces in Korea. His presentations touch adults and children alike, and his open and loving style creates extensive discussions and interactive exploration of the Holocaust and its issues.

Roberta Trites, a professor in the Department of English presented “Behind Louisa’s Mask.” Louisa May Alcott despised the way most of her contemporaries thought of her only as an author who wrote “moral pap for the young.” This presentation focused on the less frequently discussed aspects of her life, including her agenda as a radical reformer, her medical condition, and the more scandalous aspects of her personal life.

Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Pride and Passion traveling panel exhibit events about the Negro Baseball League:

(1) An interview with Ernie L. Westfield, who played for the Cubs organization in 1958, was a former Negro League baseball pitcher for the Birmingham Black Barons, and was the starting pitcher the last East-West All-Star game August 20, 1960, at Comiskey Park in Chicago. After baseball, Westfield received a bachelor’s degree from Chicago State University, and worked with the Illinois Department of Corrections.

(2) Adrian Burgos Jr., an associate professor of history at the University of Illinois, specializing in U.S. Latino history, urban history, and sport history who discussed his first book, Playing America’s Game(3): Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line, which received the inaugural Latino/A Book Award from the Latin American Studies Association and was also a Seymour Medalist Finalist.

(3) Jeremy Krock who discussed his Negro Leagues Baseball Grave Marker Project that began in 2003 as an effort to provide proper grave markers to the unmarked graves of former Negro League baseball players and associates. This project has been featured by The Chicago Tribune, ESPN, National Public Radio, The New York Times, NBC, and Sports Illustrated.

Be sure to browse the collection of podcasts for the many other exciting recorded events.
Sharon Naylor retired on May 31 after 25 years of service, most recently as the liaison and reference services librarian for Education, Kinesiology, and Recreation and Park Administration.

Peggy Myers retired on December 31 after 32 years of service, most recently as a senior library specialist in the cataloging and metadata unit of the content management and scholarly resources department.

Scholarly activity and accomplishments

Presentations


Tom Peters and David Stern presented "Space as Service" at CARLI Public Service Working Group, Chicago State University, Chicago; April 27, 2012.


Publications

Tidbits

The Pride & Passion Exhibit
Pride & Passion: The African American Baseball Experience exhibit was a success! More than 1,000 people visited the exhibit, took tours, and attended the lecture series or events at our community partners, including an Illinois State baseball game, Normal CornBelters’ Education Day exhibition game, and programs at Bloomington Public Library, the Children’s Discovery Museum, and Normal Public Library. Miss the lectures? Don’t worry, podcasts are available at the exhibit website, Library.IllinoisState.edu/Pride-Passion. Photos of events can be found on Milner’s Flickr site, flickr.com/photos/isumilnerlibrary/sets/72157629528357404.

Friends of the Library
Reggie Scan—Thanks to a generous gift by the Friends of the Library, students now have the ability to freely scan and email materials rather than pay for photocopies. Due to the immediacy of this service, the library has purchased a second Reggie Scan machine.

Kathe Conley is the new president of the Friends of the Library Board. Conley was a librarian at Milner for many years, including her last nine years as head of General Reference and Documents until 2007.

Future and past exhibits
A list of our upcoming exhibits is found by following the View all Events and Exhibits link on the library’s homepage.

Don’t forget to browse the Previous Exhibit section, for fascinating materials such as the World War II Posters, the recent Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience, and more! Past events and exhibits can be found by following the View all Events and Exhibits link on Milner’s homepage and then selecting the past events link.

Events
Many events, such as the sixth annual observance of the International Edible Book Festival and the 10-minute Library Finals Dance Party, are captured on our Flickr site: flickr.com/photos/isumilnerlibrary.

New services and tools
The library has completed the migration of all our subject guides to the LibGuides platform. See the complete list of research guides at ilstu.libguides.com/index.php.

It is now possible to monitor new ISU journal publications and review a snapshot of our journal publication history at ilstu.libguides.com/content.php?pid=250627&tid=2142843.

ProQuest’s Digital Microfilm database provides full-page images for The Chicago Tribune, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post from 2008–2012 (with a few months lag time for the most recent material). The material is not searchable; however, you can select a specific date/page and then browse. To search by topic, you will want to search our regular newspaper indexes (Newspaper Source, LexisNexis Academic, Campus Research, The Chicago Tribune online, or The NY Times online). Validated patrons can print, save, or email the PDF images. This database can be found in our databases list under “Digital Microfilm.”
Are you ready to “Get Your Groove On” and participate in this year’s Homecoming celebration at Illinois State?

Plan now for your visit back to campus this fall by going online to IllinoisStateHomecoming.com, where you will find the latest information on activities planned for all ages.

Saturday highlights include:

7:30 a.m. Town and Gown 5K Run
9:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade
10 a.m. Tailgating
1 p.m. Illinois State football vs. Southern Illinois University


Chad Kahl and Jan Paterson (Dean of Students). Book chapter: “Posters, Programs, and Perspectives on Democracy.”


DEGREES OBTAINED

Heather Kosur, Access Service, received her M.S. in English studies with an emphasis in linguistics.

Stephanie Osuna, Access Services, received her master’s in library and information science from the Graduate School of Library and Information Services at the University of Illinois.
Have you been recently hired or promoted? Help us maintain our records and continue building networking opportunities for our past and current students with Redbird Connections. Visit IllinoisStateAlumni.org today!

You can also send your updated information or accomplishments to Jan Johnson (jnjohnso@IllinoisState.edu) or fill out this form and return it to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900.

Name (maiden name if applicable)  Class year

Phone  Email

Mailing address

Present occupation/employer

News/Comments

Every gift matters to our students at Illinois State University. And your support of Milner Library is no exception. Annual unrestricted gifts to Milner allow us to purchase items that the annual budget cannot support. Last fiscal year unrestricted gifts to Milner provided speakers on campus, technology and facility upgrades, materials for the Lincoln Collection, scholarships for the Library Science Program, and equipment for the Digital Imaging Center. Private support is critical to keeping Milner on the leading edge of electronic information accessible to our students. To make a gift, please complete the gift form and return it to: Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

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FURTHER GIVING INFORMATION

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☐ I would like more information on including Illinois State University in my estate plans or have already included the University in my estate plans.

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Fall calendar of events

Join us for events sponsored by Milner Library. For additional information visit Library.IllinoisState.edu or contact Jan Johnson at jjohnso@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-3897.

EVENTS

September 15–October 31, "Re-living the Celebration: A look back at the themes of ISU's Homecoming exhibit"
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 18, 3 p.m.
"An Evening with Charles C. Mann"
Charles C. Mann
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 26, 3 p.m.
"Q&A with Bill Grace"
Bill Grace
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 27, 3 p.m.
"Building a No-Kill Community"
Stephen Abram
Main Floor, Milner Library

September 27, 3 p.m.
"Milner's Honored Alumnus"
Ronalder’74
Main Floor, Milner Library

October 5, 10 a.m.
"Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and How it Came to be Written."
Guy Fraker
Main Floor, Milner Library

October 16, 7 p.m.
"Abraham Lincoln Travelled This Way: The America Lincoln Knew"
Robert Shaw
Main Floor, Milner Library

November 1, 7 p.m.
"The Making of the Book Abraham Lincoln Travelled"
Guy Fraker
Main Floor, Milner Library

November 13, 7 p.m.
"Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and How it Came to be Written."
Guy Fraker
Main Floor, Milner Library

Alumni update

Are you wondering where a faculty member or classmate is? Tell us who you are wondering about and we will try to see where they are and what they are up to.