

**From:** [John Wilkin](#)  
**To:** [libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu](mailto:libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu)  
**Subject:** July 11th update  
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All,

I want to start by acknowledging that things have been a bit quieter recently, with fewer updates and less frequent open sessions. I remain committed to keeping the level of information sharing high, and you can expect to find more and broader library-wide engagement in the future. As one of you noted to me recently, it's reassuring to get updates, "even if there are a lot of unknowns."

Our teams planning the return to work are hard at work, drafting plans for their areas of responsibility. Chris Prom will continue to distill information for updates, even as those separate plans are fleshed out and coordinated with the other groups. Expect to hear more from Chris soon. Within the BTAA, we are sharing information among the libraries and looking for ways to coordinate our efforts. Our work at Illinois has been pioneering (and appreciated) and will probably lead to more collaborative work around a digital-first strategy (see the [Library's COVID-19 resource page](#)). I discussed our efforts again this week with the Provost, who continues to express his appreciation for our thoughtfully-crafted strategy.

This last week we had a rich agenda in the Council of Deans (COD), covering a broad range of topics. Despite the full agenda, most of the meeting was spent discussing the recently announced ICE restrictions on international students. I would like to convey to you the strong and broad commitment by the entire campus leadership to respond to this most recent threat to our community. The Chancellor and Provost were especially vocal and discussed their ongoing efforts to respond to the new rules (also see their [public statement](#)). Only time will tell how the rules affect the University, but know that this announcement has the full attention of the University of Illinois.

During the COD meeting, we also found time to discuss anti-racism, and Sean Garrick, our Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, reported on several campus efforts to improve the campus climate. As Sean noted, we need to weave these efforts throughout the fabric of all we do and to ensure there are meaningful outcomes, not simply words. You've seen some of the recent programming, HR and our Diversity Committee have begun discussions about Library DEI initiatives, and we'll endeavor to share information about upcoming efforts and to support activities and investments by the Library.

Finally, I want to note that your Executive Committee has devoted significant time to discussing ways that we can build a more inclusive library and culture. We will be sharing details of these discussions soon, but I am pleased by the commitment to finding ways to broaden representation and to foster more of the free-flowing and inclusive conversations we have had in the hangouts.

Look for more information on the next hangout soon. In the meantime, I hope you're all taking care and finding time to enjoy the summer weather.

Yours,  
John

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John P. Wilkin  
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
230 Library, MC-522  
1408 W. Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801

[jpwilkin@illinois.edu](mailto:jpwilkin@illinois.edu)

217-333-0790

Assistant: Lucretia Williams | [lawillia@illinois.edu](mailto:lawillia@illinois.edu)