

Urbana Bahá'í Archives and Bahá'í Center Library

ANNUAL REPORT

Ridvan 2021

This has been an important year for both the Archives and the Library because of the completion of a space reclamation project that began in 2017. That year the Urbana LSA approved a recommendation for this project which proposed a major clearing of duplicate and damaged books and other items from the Bahá'í Center in order to make more space for the archives and the library.

BAHÁ'Í CENTER LIBRARY

Over the years, a large number of books had been donated to the library by the friends. The disposition of these volumes took a great deal of time sorting and finding homes for them. The closing of the Center this past year made it possible for us to use the space in the large meeting room to facilitate this work.

Duplicate books were distributed first to the Bahá'ís and interested non-Bahá'ís, then to Books for Prisoners and the local public libraries. A box of Bahá'í World magazines was shipped to Germany to be digitized for the NSA in that country.

Another task involved reviewing our out-of-print and foreign language collections. It was clear that most of the English and non-English Bahá'í books and pamphlets are of little value for current teaching purposes but do have historic and research value; they should be preserved as non-circulating collections. They are currently sorted and stored in two of the new 2-drawer wood file cabinets.

It should be pointed out that our library books have not been cataloged or classified; they are simply arranged by general category. This task will take a great deal of work, but hopefully we will one day find someone with the training to do this.

ARCHIVES

A decision was made this year to dedicate the back hallway inside the south west corner of the building as a permanent home for the archives office and collections. This move ensured that this space would no longer be used as a general storage destination for miscellaneous items not related to the archives; this greatly improved the work space for this collection. This past summer new industrial shelving and an additional steel cabinet were purchased and installed in the Archives room to accommodate the numerous archival record boxes that had been stacked on the floor for many years. A desk, chair, and work table were added as well.

In His service,

Dorothy Frye
Archivist and Librarian