

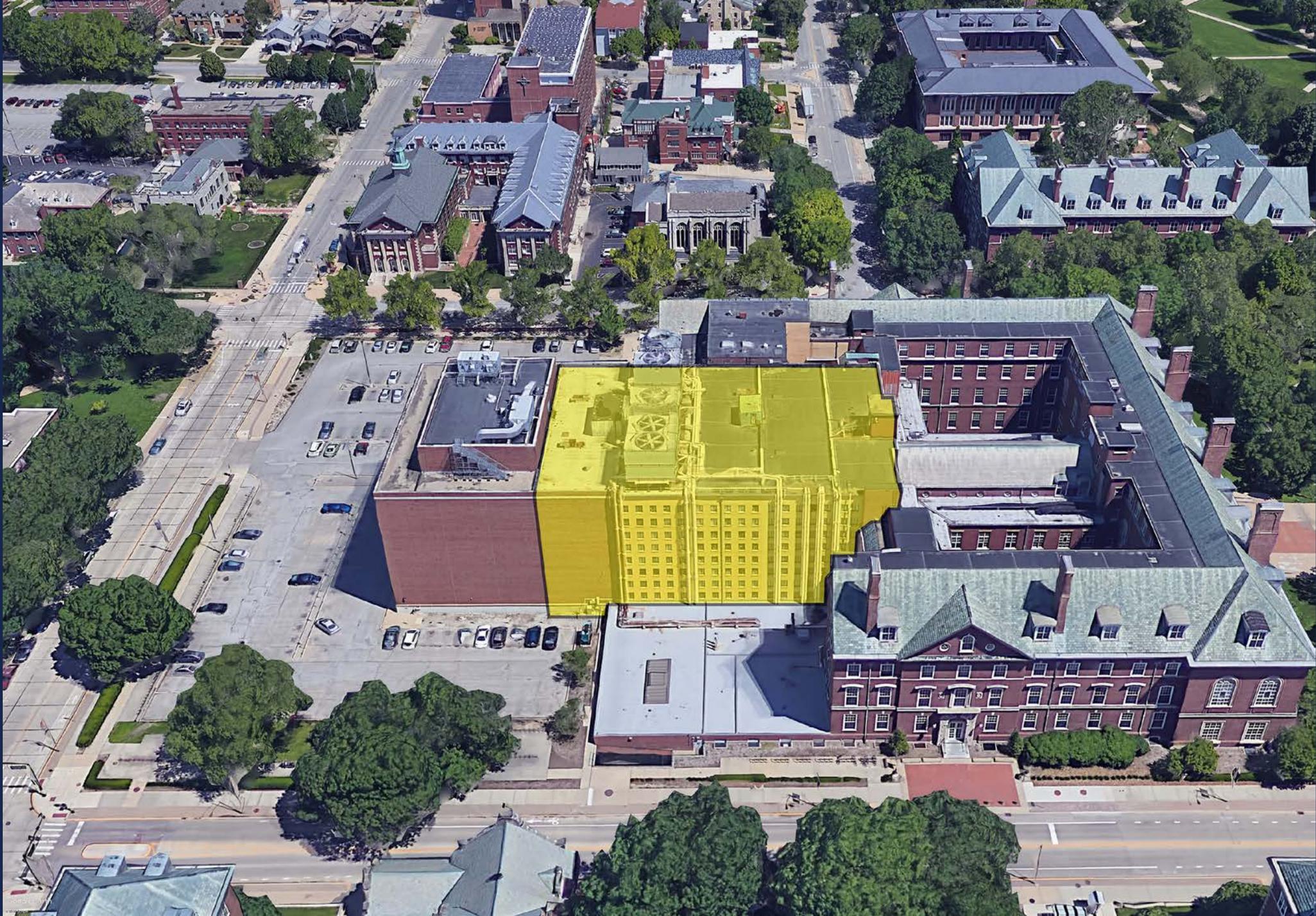
The Research Library as Catalyst

A collection-focused reconceptualization of Main Library and Special Collections



Since the founding of our great university, the Library has been a catalyst for University of Illinois scholarship and innovation. Now Illinois has a unique opportunity to create a new model of the research library, one that actively fosters engagement with grand challenges that transcend disciplinary boundaries and leverages access to enduring historical collections. A re-designed Main Library will provide a home for scholarly pursuits, some of them based in formally-defined centers. In addition to serving as the heart of our book collection, this Main Library building will also house many of the services and activities now found in the Undergraduate Library, including the Media Commons and large-scale library instructional activities. We will use the Undergraduate Library building as a dedicated home for rare and archival collections, easily accessible to the Main Library through the pedestrian tunnel; the special collections will strengthen many of these scholarly enterprises in the Main Library and will also inspire future generations of Illinois students to find their own voices in the ideas of their forebears.

—*The Library as Catalyst: A Plan for the Future*





When and How?

- **Timetable**

- Planning beginning this fall
- Fund-raising started; several private gifts secured
- Architects engaged in 2019
- Aim for 2024 completion

- **Process**

- Intra-library operational working groups (facilities and collections)
- Active engagement with faculty to shape spaces that can foster collaboration
- Town halls and feedback solicited throughout



Relevance to the iSchool?

- **Your library as a laboratory**
- **The re-envisioned library as a center for iSchool research (collaboration with other disciplines)**
- **Design thinking in action**
- **... other?**