Harvard Sound Directions Toolkit Now Available for Download

HCL Audio Engineer David Ackerman

Harvard College Library

The Harvard Sound Directions Toolkit, a suite of nearly 50 software tools with the potential to revolutionize the work of audio preservationists by automating their most time-consuming and repetitive tasks, is now available for download. Created by Audio Preservation Services at HCL's Loeb Music Library, the Toolkit was developed as part of Sound Directions, a joint project undertaken by Harvard and Indiana University with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The new Toolkit follows the publication of "Sound Directions: Best Practices for Audio Preservation," an internationally acclaimed report on audio preservation techniques.

Most of the work automated by the Toolkit "would normally be done by hand," HCL Audio Engineer David Ackerman said. "You can spend 15 to 20 minutes manually interleaving two channels of a large sound file into a new file. With the Toolkit, the function is performed in the background, and you can continue to work on other things, which is great for productivity."

Ackerman developed the Toolkit with programmer Robert La Ferla. The program they produced works through a command-line interface in which users enter specific commands. The Toolkit also allows users to write scripts that string several commands together, freeing up engineers to perform other tasks.

"While the idea of automating repetitive tasks is not new, the ability to have some concise, targeted command-line applications that can easily be scripted was something that seemed pretty fresh," Ackerman said. The ability to write programs that mix and match the various tools, he added, gives users the ability to configure the software in thousands of possible ways.

Ackerman uses the tools himself, and said they've had a dramatic impact on his group's work.

"I'd say it's probably doubled our throughput," he said. As an example, he pulled up an audio file, which had earlier been transferred from audio tape into digital format. In total, 86 processes had been run on the tape, but just four were carried out manually. The rest were completely automated by the Toolkit.

While Harvard engineers created the Toolkit, Indiana staff produced the Field Audio Collection and Evaluation Tool, or FACET, a software package, which ranks audio field collections based on preservation condition and level of deterioration.

For further information on Sound Directions or to download the Sound Directions Toolkit, visit http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/ loebmusic/aps/sound_directions.html.

Deadline Alert: Bryant Fellowships

The Harvard University Library (HUL) is seeking applications for the Douglas W. Bryant Fellowships. Applications will be reviewed by the Bryant Fellowships Committee of the Librarians' Assembly Professional Development Committee, on behalf of the Harvard University Library. The application deadline is Friday, February 20, 2009.

A gift from Charles and Mary Tanenbaum established the Douglas W. Bryant Fellowships, which are awarded to individual Harvard librarians in support of the direct costs of their independent scholarly research. The gift reflects the donors' "high regard for the able and dedicated men and women who constitute the professional staff of the Harvard University Library."

The fellowships support research by Harvard's professional library staff in bibliography, in historical aspects of librarianship, in production of reference and bibliographic works, and in other scholarly investigations, which may be outside the field of librarianship.

Application Guidelines
Each applicant is required to submit a current résumé and two letters of recommendation along with a short application narrative in letter form.

Applications are considered on the basis of scholarly merit and/or creativity, documented ability to complete the project as submitted, and appropriateness of budget and timetable.

Budgets must be itemized.

The fellowship program does not support projects that the applicant's library undertakes as part of its standard operations, nor can Bryant funds be used to supplement library operations.

Guidelines are available on the Harvard University Library web site at *http://hul.harvard.edu/resources/bryant.html*, or by contacting HUL Human Resources Director Bette Viano, *bette_viano@harvard.edu* or 5-3650.

Questions may be addressed to the Bryant Fellowship Committee in care of its co-chairs Annie Jo Cain, *annie_jo_cain@harvard.edu,* or Marilyn Morgan, *marilyn_morgan@harvard.edu.*

Submit Listings to the HUL Calendar
Harvard library staff are reminded to submit listings to the Harvard University Library (HUL) Calendar located at *http://hul.harvard.edu/calendar.html*. The calendar includes meetings, events, exhibitions, and deadlines of interest and/or concern to Harvard's library community. A primary purpose of the HUL Calendar is to serve as a planning and reference tool that can help in avoiding schedule conflicts.

Library staff can submit listings through the HUL web site by using the forms at *http://hul.harvard.edu/calendar/calendar-addev.html* (for events) or *http://hul.harvard.edu/calendar/calendar-addex.html* (for exhibitions).

During the academic year, the calendar is updated weekly—usually on Mondays—by the HUL Office of the Director.

What's (New at) the Office for Scholarly Communication?

The Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC), the most recent addition to the Harvard University Library (HUL) portfolio, is off to a running start.

Who
Staffed by **Stuart Shieber** as faculty director, **Amy Brand** as program manager, and **Tom Dodson** as staff assistant, the OSC also works closely with OIS staff Randy Stern and Flemion Shafeeq on the systems development front.

What
The OSC's current focus is implementation of the open-access policies passed last year by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Law School, calling for the routine deposit of faculty article manuscripts into an open-access repository. That repository, called DASH for Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard, is now being populated, and dozens of student Open-Access Fellows have been engaged to support faculty in these efforts.

Where
OSC's home is 210 and 211 Wadsworth House (stop by and visit!), and staff are often out and about on campus at department faculty meetings, library committee meetings, and discussions with others at the University who are invested in the success of the new policies and the development of alternative models for scholarly communication.

Why
The DASH repository, which will be unveiled to the public later this year, will greatly expand public access to the scholarship of Harvard faculty. It will also help to track and preserve Harvard's research output, and engage publishers to work together toward unfettered institutional and public access to the peer-reviewed literature. As Program Manager Amy Brand is quick to note, "We are eager to collaborate with the broader Harvard library community in these efforts."

Harvard Art Museum Archives Receives Alfonso Ossorio Papers

The Ossorio Foundation of Southampton, New York, has donated the papers of Alfonso Ossorio (1916–1990) and Ted Dragon (1921–) to the Harvard Art Museum. The collection, which documents the lives and careers of Ossorio and his partner, dancer and artist Ted Dragon, includes correspondence, photographs, notebooks, financial records, and ephemera.

A leading member of the Abstract Impressionist movement, Alfonso Ossorio was born on the island of Luzon in Manila, the Philippines. A member of the Harvard Class of 1938, he studied with Edward Waldo Forbes, Langdon Warner, and others. During World War II he served as an Army medical illustrator, while continuing to develop his own artistic style. In the late 1940s he met Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, and Jean Dubuffet, as well as Dragon, who would remain his partner until his death in 1990. Ossorio and Dragon's circle of friends included Pollock, Krasner, Dubuffet, Willem de Kooning, Louise Nevelson, and Clyfford Still—artists who both influenced and were influenced by Ossorio's work.

The Ossorio Foundation was created in 1995 to ensure that Alfonso Ossorio's life's work will be interpreted, organized, and maintained in a manner commensurate with its achievement. Today the Foundation identifies museums and educational institutions nationwide that wish to include Ossorio's work in their collections, arranges acquisitions, and is in the planning stages for the establishment of a scholarship program.

"Ossorio was a proud graduate of Harvard," said Ted Dragon, president of the Ossorio Foundation. "He would have been very pleased to know his papers are in the capable hands of the Harvard Art Museum Archives."

The Harvard Art Museum Archives is the official repository for the administrative records of the institution from 1895 to the present. The archives also holds artists' papers, many of which are related to works in the Art Museum's collection. For more information, contact Archivist Susan von Salis at 4-7903 or *susan_vonsalis@harvard.edu*.

Alison Scott Receives HCL's 18th Annual Ishimoto Award

Left to right: HCL Associate Librarian for Collection Development Dan Hazen, Alison Scott, and Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College Nancy Cline.

Alison Scott, senior collection development librarian in Widener Library and Charles Warren Bibliographer for American History, has been named the 2008 winner of the Carol Ishimoto Award for Distinguished Service in the Harvard College Library.

An endowment established in 1991 by Carol Ishimoto, former associate librarian of Harvard College for cataloging and processing, annually provides a cash award and citation for creative professional achievement of a high order. The award recognizes a member or group of the professional staff who has advanced the mission of the College Library through exceptional contributions and leadership.

Since her appointment in 2000, colleagues credit Scott with leading a substantial expansion and revitalization of the Library's Americana collections and collecting program, with a particular focus on primary resources and popular culture. To that end, she has collected thousands of film and TV DVDs in support of a number of courses, and has provided resources essential to original research—including the new doctoral program in Film Studies.

Scott has also nurtured complementary donations, including a complete, mint-condition run of *TV Guide*. Other recent acquisitions include a major private collection of science fiction and fantasy comic books, an array of materials on HIV/AIDS, and significant purchases in previously underrepresented genres, such as 'zines and graphic novels.

It is not only Widener that has benefitted from Scott's collecting work. She is credited with organizing cooperative acquisitions with other units, including the Harvard Film Archive and Houghton and Loeb Music libraries. She has also promoted selection and ordering efficiencies in conjunction with other English-language bibliographers at the English Division at HCL Technical Services.

"Alison's dedication, wit, intelligence, leadership skills, and range of activities are exemplary," said Dan Hazen, associate librarian of Harvard College for collection development. "She models the generosity of spirit, breadth of perspective, personal integrity, and deep-seated knowledge and competence that exemplify our collection-development enterprise."

Harvard Goes to DLF

The Harvard Libraries were strongly represented at the recent Digital Library Federation Fall Forum, held in Providence, Rhode Island, November 12–14. While numerous members of the Harvard library community were in attendance, staff from Harvard University Library's Office for Information Systems (OIS), as well as from the Harvard Map Collection in the Harvard College Library, gave three significant presentations.

A Busy Hive Creates Better WAX: Archiving the Web from Many Perspectives

Andrea Goethals and Wendy Gogel, both of OIS, described the two-year process of designing and implementing the pilot for Harvard's Web Archive Collection Service (WAX). Many diverse viewpoints on what web archiving means needed to be taken into account: To collection managers (librarians, archivists, and faculty) it means collecting, preserving, and providing access to web content in the same way that they have always done for analog material. To lawyers it means entering a world of risk to be mitigated. To technologists (architects, programmers, graphic designers, and preservationists) it means working with systems and content that is much more complicated than usual.

Challenges included defining collections with amorphous boundaries, managing a multitude of complex IP and other legal issues, addressing QC for material too vast to review comprehensively, navigating crawler traps, dealing with an explosion of formats, and handling duplicate content. Goethals and Gogel also provided a demonstration of the WAX system.

Deep Web Content and Internet Discovery: Exposing Harvard University Library's Digital Resources to Search Engines

In a presentation representing work by Roberta Fox, Michael Vandermillen, and Spencer McEwen, also all from OIS, Fox discussed OIS's efforts to expose database-driven applications that were developed under Harvard University's Library Digital Initiative (LDI) so that the data is crawlable by search engines, such as Google, Yahoo, etc. The applications originally relied heavily on cookies, sessions, and forms processing, all of which create barriers to search engine crawlers. As students, faculty, and other users increasingly turn to search engines—rather than library catalogs—to meet their research needs, the team reassessed its assumptions.

Inadvertently created barriers to crawling were keeping users from knowing about the wealth of digital resources that the applications could provide. Not only did the content of the pages need to be modified to allow the deep web content to be crawled, additional modifications were needed both to make the presentation of the search engine results meaningful, and to place the pages reached by such a search within the context of record groupings.

Fox described the reengineering efforts that took place to make 400,000-plus page-turned objects, high-quality images, and other digital objects more accessible both to search engine crawlers and to users, including analysis of the trouble spots, general technical approach, and specific solutions implemented.

Usability and the Harvard Geospatial Library

In a presentation representing work by David Siegel and Janet Taylor, OIS staff members, and Bonnie Burns, of the Harvard Map Collection, Randy Stern of OIS spoke about the 2007 usability study and subsequent redesign of the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL).

HGL, first released in 2001, is a web-based discovery system and repository for geospatial data sets for use in research and teaching, including vector data, raster images of historic maps, satellite imagery, and more. Upon its release it was initially aimed at an audience of GIS (geographic information systems) experts, and the user interface for searching and mapping data was modeled on expert-oriented GIS applications. With the explosion in general knowledge of mapping tools (such as Google Maps) and the value of including geospatial analysis in research, a wider range of users now looks to HGL to locate relevant data sets.

The presentation reviewed the objectives, methodology, and outcomes of the usability study, demonstrated the new HGL user interface with its innovative categorical and geographic browsing capabilities, and briefly touched on the technologies used to implement the new HGL.

Staff Activities

Marylène Altieri, curator of books and printed materials at Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library, gave a talk entitled "Designs for Cooking: A Visual Banquet from the Schlesinger Library" on January 7 to the Society of Printers, at Boston's Club of Odd Volumes. Her presentation was a visual survey of Schlesinger's outstanding culinary collection, featuring examples of printing and design from its holdings of books, periodicals, pamphlets, menus, 'zines, and ephemera issued over the last four centuries in America and Europe.

❧

Sarah Bertino, seasonal temporary staff member since 2003 at the Harvard Depository, Harvard University Library, and a senior in biochemistry at Hamilton College, recently traveled to Washington, DC, to present her research at Neuroscience 2008, the 38th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. Bertino's research compared DNA from rats and several insects to determine evolutionary relatedness and also focused on determining where and when the gene-encoding TBhR protein is expressed in *Apis mellifera* (the honeybee). For more information, visit *http://www.hamilton.edu/news/more_news/display.cfm?id=14852*.

❧

Ann Cullen, curriculum services specialist in Knowledge and Library Services at Harvard Business School, is co-author of a new book on conducting research in the area of private equity finance. *Researching Private Equity*, by Sylvia James and Ann Cullen, published by Alert Publications, is a collection of definitive articles on all aspects of finding information on private equity financing. It also contains an extensive source guide to a wide range of materials, from books that tell the stories of deals to a detailed list of information sources and services used to support the private equity sector. For more information, see *http://www.alertpub.com/publications/businesstitles.html*.

❧

Susan Fliss, associate librarian for research, teaching, and learning in the Harvard College Library, recently gave a presentation entitled "Pensionnaires dans deux patries: Franco-American Girls in New England and Quebec Boarding Schools." The presentation was given in Quebec City in mid-November at a joint conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States and the American Council for Quebec Studies.

❧

Carrie Kent, research librarian in Research Services, Widener Library, HCL, gave a paper entitled "The SL Academic Library as a Question" in Second Life at the American Library Association Virtual Communities and Libraries Membership Interest Group's first ALA SLymposium, held in the virtual world of Second Life on ALA Island on November 8. The SLymposium offered a look at what all types of library-related organizations are doing in Second Life. The day-long symposium was simulcast at *http://www.rielradio.org*.

College Library Offers Workshops for English Grad Students

Nikki Skillman '10, a teaching fellow at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, left, and Christine Barrett '11, fold paper to make pamphlets during a workshop recently offered for graduate students in English.

HCL librarians have developed a new series designed to introduce interested graduate students to literary reference sources and strategies for the study of texts, as well as to additional forms of research, from analytical bibliography to studying the book itself as an object.

The new series was developed by Laura Farwell Blake, interim head of Widener Research Services. The library liaison to the Department of English, Blake created the program at the request of faculty.

"I lead course-related sessions and offer workshops on literary sources and strategies for grad students, but the faculty came to the library and said they really would appreciate it if we could help give their students a foothold on skills like descriptive bibliography and more understanding of the history of the book," Blake said. "This program is a prototype—the idea is to pull together the pieces of what I hope will become a richer, year-long series of talks and workshops by librarians."

The series began in October with an in-depth look at HOLLIS led by Blake and Daryl Boone, English bibliographer for the humanities.

The second session was led by Heather Caldwell, head of HCL's Conservation Services. Caldwell introduced students to pamphlet-making techniques through a hands-on approach. As part of the workshop, students folded paper and gathered it into bundles called signatures, which formed the pages of their pamphlets. They then used awls to create holes for the thread used to bind the pamphlets. Each student constructed two pamphlets, one using a three-hole stitch and a sewn-on wrapper, and a second using a five-hole stitch and a loose cover.

While the signature-forming technique is often used in book construction, pamphlets and books must be viewed very differently. As a rule, pamphlets tended to be cheaper and quicker to produce, suggesting they were more ephemeral and less formal than a published book. By comparison, book binding had, until comparatively recently, been something of a privilege for the wealthy.

"The experience was a fascinating introduction to the artistic dimensions of pamphlet- and book-making," said Nikki Skillman '10, a teaching fellow at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. "Heather was wonderfully knowledgeable, and the hands-on pamphlet-making was tremendous fun. I found the experience particularly illuminating with respect to my own research in American avant-garde poetry; the workshop sparked my interest in the pamphlet as an independent and even subversive medium of distribution."

The final two workshops, on analytical bibliography, led by Alison Scott, the Charles Warren Bibliographer for American History and senior collection development librarian, and citation management tools for dissertation writers, led by Blake, will be held in February and March.

Following the last workshop, Blake said, the program will be evaluated and could be expanded to include more workshops and more students.

"We will ask the students who participated to tell us what gaps they see, and if there's anything else they want offered," she said. "These workshops have a very unpressured, but intellectually stimulating, environment, it's just a delightful other kind of learning that goes on. So it's not about maximizing the number of attendees, it's about finding really deep learning opportunities for the students who are there."

HCL Recognizes Excellence in Service Award Winners for 2008

Left to right: James Perlman, Susan Berstler, Monique Duhaime, Sebastian Hierl, Nancy Cline, and Albert Genna. Not pictured: Julia Featheringill.

Dedication. Goodwill ambassador. A willingness to rise to new challenges. Each of these is used to describe the recipients of the 2008 Excellence in Service Award, a merit-based honor established to recognize employees who make exceptional contributions to their units in support of the mission and values of the Harvard College Library (HCL).

"Congratulations to the recipients of the Excellence in Service Award," said Anna Anctil, senior human resource consultant. "These individuals consistently rise above challenges to contribute to HCL's success every day."

The awards are given each year to three support staff members and three administrative professional staff members who are nominated by co-workers for their exceptional contributions to HCL.

Winners are selected from the nominees by a committee made up of the previous year's winners.

Nancy M. Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, recognized the honorees for 2008: **Susan Berstler**, computer support associate, Tozzer Library; **Sebastian Hierl**, librarian for Western Europe, Germanic emphasis, and interim librarian for France, Italy and Scandinavia; **Monique Duhaime**, staff assistant, Houghton Library; **Julia Featheringill**, assistant manager, HCL Digital Imaging and Photography Services; **James Perlman**, computer support specialist, HCL IT Services; and **Albert Genna**, library assistant, Widener Library. Each honoree receives a $500 award.

HCL supervisors and colleagues who nominated the award winners find them commendable for a multitude of reasons.

Monique Duhaime was recognized for the helpful, professional, and efficient service she provides to patrons, visitors, and colleagues throughout the Library and University community. Peers described her as indispensable to the smooth running of the library and called her the welcoming face of Houghton and one of the finest people to represent the library.

Sebastian Hierl was nominated for the award to recognize his consistently superior performance as Widener's Germanic bibliographer and interim librarian for France, Italy, and Scandinavia. Those who nominated him credit his creative, thoughtful, and strategic work in improving the collections and adding to user satisfaction.

As a new supervisor, Julia Featheringill was quick to accept demanding new management responsibilities with thoughtfulness and patience, nominators said. She also played a key role in assembling a top-notch team that is capable and motivated to meet the demands of multiple competing projects. Featheringill also showed dedication and creativity while working on the LDI Project "The Artemas Ward House and Its Collections," ultimately producing images of exceptional beauty and quality.

Susan Berstler was commended for routinely going above and beyond the call of duty and going the extra distance in her myriad of complex job responsibilities. She was described as "very much an exemplar for the values that the HCL organization strives for."

Nominators cited the way in which James Perlman's efficient, dedicated service results in the highest-quality performance, while his technical and customer-service skills exceed all expectations. He was also commended for his willingness to take on new challenges for the betterment of the HCL community, and his continued research to solve every problem with which he is presented.

Described as a goodwill ambassador for the library, Albert Genna was praised for his courteous, prompt, and efficient service, as well as his efforts to fulfill the goal of providing the best-quality service while protecting the integrity and security of the collection.

Candidates for the Excellence in Service Award can be nominated by any member of the HCL community and can hold either a full-time or part-time position. Recipients were selected by a seven-member committee. The current year's recipients are invited to serve on the next year's selection committee.

The 2008 committee consisted of Linda Carter, library assistant, Cabot Science Library; William Connor, senior image cataloger, Fine Arts Library; Michael Currier, staff assistant, Widener Library Access Services; Eiji Kuge, library assistant, Harvard–Yenching Library; Albert Quartararo, computer support specialist, HCL Information Technology Services; and Lynn White, manager of patron services, Widener Library Imaging Services.

New
Appointments

Danielle Adams
Technology Strategist and Reporting
Librarian (August)
HCL Technical Services
Harvard College Library

Danielle Adams has been an employee
of HCL since 2005, most recently as
technical services librarian for the
Lamont Unit of Cataloging Support
Services. She holds a BA in English
Literature from the University of
Wisconsin—Oshkosh, and an MSLIS
from Simmons.

Julia Ashmun
Manager of Systems Analysis,
Software Development and Projects
(September)
Information Technology Services
Harvard College Library

In addition to managing the Systems
Analysis and Software Development
Group within ITS, Julia Ashmun's
responsibilities include portfolio
and project management, vendor
relationship management, and
technical and business analysis/
advising. Her background before
coming to Harvard includes eleven
years of commercial software
engineering, as well as eleven years
of MIS and consulting for banking,
insurance, finance, advertising, retail,
and government.

Abigail Bordeaux
Systems Librarian (December)
Office for Information Systems
Harvard University Library

Abigail Bordeaux has worked since
2007 for Ex Libris Group in Newton,
as an implementation librarian,
product specialist, and Verde/SFX
implementation team leader. She has
also held positions at the libraries of
Binghamton University and Bryn
Mawr. She has a BA in Russian from
Bryn Mawr, and an MSLIS from
Drexel University.

Lily Brooks
Imaging Technician (November)
Preservation and Imaging Department
Harvard College Library

Lily Brooks has previously worked
with several photographers, as a
studio manager, and as a studio and
shooting assistant. She earned a BFA
in photography from Massachusetts
College of Art.

Elizabeth Copenhagen
Records Manager (November)
University Archives
Harvard University Library

Since 2006, Liz Copenhagen has
worked at Harvard Business School's
Knowledge and Library Services as
the head of the Information Life
Cycle Management Program. Prior
to that she served for five years as
assistant records manager at the
Countway Library of Medicine,
Harvard Medical School. She
has also worked at the Boston
Architectural Center as an archives
consultant and copy cataloger, as the
records manager/assistant archivist
at Simmons, and as a publications
processor and reference assistant at
the Institute Archives and Special
Collections at MIT. She has a BA
in religious studies from Rhodes
College in Memphis, a master of
theological studies from Harvard,
and an MSLIS from Simmons, as
well as a CRM (certified records
manager) designation.

John (Vito) D'Agosta
Library Assistant (November)
Access Services
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Vito D'Agosta worked in the Stacks
Division on the Harvard–Google
Project starting July 2006 and as a
LHT since October 2006. He earned a
BS in computer science from Suffolk
University and is currently working
towards his MSLIS at Simmons.

Xiaolin Dai
Library Assistant (November)
Harvard–Yenching Library
Harvard College Library

Xiaolin Dai has worked as a language
specialist on the Harvard–Google
Project at Harvard–Yenching Library
since May 2008. She holds a BA in
politics and law from Beihua
University and a master's degree in
management of higher education
from Jilin University in China.

Thomas Dodson
Staff Assistant (November)
Office for Scholarly Communication
Harvard University Library

Thomas Dodson brings several years
of strong and varied administrative
and project management experience
to this position. In addition, he holds
an MLIS from Kent State University
and a master of arts in comparative
studies from The Ohio State
University. He plans to continue
his part-time weekend position as
a reference librarian at Tufts
University's Tisch Library while
working at the OSC.

Allyson Donahoe
Preservation Review Librarian
(December)
Preservation and Imaging Services
Harvard College Library

Allyson Donahoe previously worked as
an archives assistant at MIT's Lincoln
Laboratory. She holds a BS in chemical
engineering from Clarkson University,
and an MSLIS from Simmons.

Chris Jeris
Senior Software Engineer (September)
Information Technology Services
Harvard College Library

Prior to coming to HCL in 2005,
Chris Jeris worked for almost two
years as a web services technician at
the Harvard School of Public Health,
where he designed, implemented,
and supported new and existing
database-backed web applications, as
well as developing and maintaining the
School of Public Health's web site and
evaluating and recommending new
technologies for its web services. He
also worked as a software engineer for
SPSS, Inc. He has a BA in mathematics
from the University of Chicago.

Ramsey Khemraj
Senior Network and Systems
Administrator (November)
Information Technology Services
Harvard College Library

A former computer support specialist
for Harvard College Library ITS,
Ramsey Khemraj joined Harvard
College Library as a student casual
in 1990. He became a staff assistant
in 1996 and he joined the Harvard
College Library ITS group as a
computer support specialist in July
1997. He is now responsible for
high-level technical support, problem
solving, and project management, and
will provide guidance for the network
and computing infrastructure at HCL.

Amy Lang
Library Assistant (November)
Houghton Library
Harvard College Library

Prior to coming to Harvard, Amy
Lang worked as a membership
specialist for the Girl Scouts of Eastern
Massachusetts. She earned a BA in
theater from UC Berkeley and is
currently working towards her MSLIS
at Simmons.

Nicola Mantzaris
Staff Assistant (September)
Access Services
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Nicola Mantzaris has worked in the
Stacks Division of Access Services
since 2006. She also works as a digital
project intern at the John F. Kennedy
Library and Museum in the Archives
Processing Unit. She has a BA in
English from Stonehill College and an
MA in cinema studies from New York
University, and is working towards her
MSLIS at Simmons.

Abigail McGuire
Human Resource Coordinator
(September)
Human Resource Services
Harvard College Library

Abigail McGuire has been working
in Human Resource Services as a
staff assistant. She received a BA in
English and American studies from
Colby College.

Mary Oey

Lake Conservator (November)
Houghton Library
Harvard College Library

Mary Oey previously was the conservator of music manuscripts at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York. She holds an AB in history and science from Harvard, an MA in the history of art and archaeology, and an advanced certificate in the conservation of historic and artistic works from New York University.

Elke Piontek

Contemporary Collections Manager (November)
Knowledge and Information Assets
Knowledge and Library Services
Harvard Business School

Elke Piontek came to HBS from the MIT Libraries, where she held dual appointments as the Chinese language and literature librarian in the Humanities Library and the processing supervisor in the Dewey Library for Management and the Social Sciences and Humanities Library. She has also worked as a senior library assistant at the Dewey Library and as a lecturer and library assistant at the Institute of Sinology at the University of Wurzberg in Germany. A native German speaker, she is multilingual, fluent in English, highly proficient in Chinese, and proficient in French. She also has some Japanese. She has an MSLIS from Simmons and both a PhD and MA in Sinology (with a minor in economics) from the University of Wurzberg.

Valerie Sacchetti

Staff Assistant (December)
Human Resource Services
Harvard College Library

Since 2004, Valerie Sacchetti has worked as a staff assistant for the Committee on Degrees in Social Studies at Harvard. She earned a BA in sociology from Smith College.

Anaïs Salamon

Project Cataloger/Selection Assistant,
Islamic Heritage Project (January)
Open Collections Program
Harvard University Library

Anaïs Salamon worked for four years at the Library of the Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies in Cairo, Egypt, serving as public services manager and managing the cataloging of the Arab-Islamic collection. She has also held cataloging positions at the Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC) in Paris, at the Library of the French Biblical and Archaeological School in East Jerusalem, Palestinian Territories; and at the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme in Aix-en-Provence, France. She holds licence and maîtrise degrees in modern Arabic from the Université d'Aix-en-Provence and a maîtrise degree in documentation from Université Paris 8, Saint-Denis, and has studied at the French Institute of Arabic Studies in Damascus, Syria.

Emily Tordo

Holdings Management Assistant (December)
University Archives
Harvard University Library

Emily Tordo's most recent position was with the Museum of Science in Boston, where she was an assistant librarian at Lyman Library. Prior to that she held an internship at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis. She attended St. John's College in Annapolis, where she received a BA in liberal arts.

Interview: Ceilyn Boyd

LN

Our readers are somewhat familiar with the web-archiving pilot—WAX, we call it—but less so with the e-mail project. Will it roll out as WAX did, with a few pilot projects?

CB

Yes, the pilot will include the Countway Center for the History of Medicine, as well as the University Archives, and the Schlesinger Library. Each has identified a set or collection of e-mails that will meet the criteria for a meaningful pilot.

LN

Your Weissman project is quite different from the other two—your work on it has begun at a much more formative stage.

CB

Right. For the survey tool, one of my colleagues had already performed a substantial literature search pertaining to preservation and restoration of audiovisual materials, however the software requirements had not yet been defined. That's where I came in—helping to define what that project looked like from a software standpoint and identifying the sort of information science, such as a taxonomy, that would be most effective.

Audiovisual materials are at significant preservation risk. They are decaying as we speak. And audiovisual preservation is a good example of how interdisciplinary library and information science has become. These sorts of projects need to involve people from a variety of backgrounds, from preservation to librarianship to sound engineering.

Harvard has incredibly rich collections of audiovisual materials that can't be found anywhere else. To be good stewards, one of the first things you have to do is identify what we have and assess physical conditions of each item. The software we're developing for the survey will support those assessments so that we can understand what we have, what condition it's in, and what items are in most urgent need of preservation either because formats are becoming obsolete or because playback equipment is endangered.

Our pilot project is at the Harvard University Archives. We're going to start there and move on.

I've always worked on projects as a member of a team where very different skill sets come together to help solve a problem. Certainly at Weissman on the survey tool, you'll see that in action. You have somebody who knows technology, you have Elizabeth Walters who knows the audiovisual realm, Jane Hedberg and Jan Merrill-Oldham, who understand preservation management issues, and, of course, the content experts—Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, Skip Kendall, Robin McElheny—from the University Archives.

LN

You're emphasizing the lateral, as opposed to the hierarchical.

CB

Yes. I think that in many respects, the space where the best work gets done is lateral.

LN

Librarians are great collaborators. At Harvard, librarians probably have more experience than anyone else in working laterally—across disciplines and across organizational boundaries. And yet we're always challenged to do more, to collaborate in new ways, to re-imagine our work.

CB

As a profession and as individual librarians, we have to embrace ambiguity and change in our field, as well as the new vocabulary of knowledge organization and management. In doing so, we are not selling out our profession. We're in fact embracing the change that is already upon us.

Interview: Ceilyn Boyd

Office of the Assistant to the President/Harvard University

Ceilyn Boyd has been an applications development programmer and project manager in scientific visualization and computer graphics at several research and commercial organizations, including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Mitsubishi Electric, and BBN Corporation. She also spent seven years as the sole proprietor of an art glass studio, and she has taught art technique to adults and teens in the Boston area. Her current interests include digital asset management and preservation, facilitating access to and analysis of preserved assets using visualization technologies, and ethics in Internet research. She has a BA in linguistics (Stanford University), an MA in anthropology and women's studies (Brandeis University), and an MSLIS (Simmons).

Ceilin Boyd's year-long appointment in the Harvard University Library (HUL) is made possible through Harvard University's Administrative Fellowship Program (AFP). Through AFP (http://www.oap.harvard.edu/afp), Harvard seeks to attract talented professionals, especially more ethnic minorities. In addition, the University encourages applications from individuals from all backgrounds who are committed to addressing the underrepresentation of ethnic minorities in academic administration to administrative professional careers in higher education.

To this end, the Administrative Fellowship Program offers a twelve-month management experience complemented by a professional development program.The program provides participants with opportunities to broaden their experience through working in an academic environment as mid-level administrators. The program, which is in its 20th year of operation, seeks to enrich and diversify the Harvard community by bringing talented professionals to Cambridge. Ceilyn Boyd was interviewed for Library Notes *on January 5.*

LN

You came to Harvard with wide-ranging experience in industry. You're also an active professional artist and the owner of a studio in art glass. How does library science fit into the world of your interests?

CB

I enjoy making interdisciplinary ideas and complex relationships manifest in the real world through visual and textual means. To accomplish these goals, I use abstract tools such as research, analysis, and computer programming, and more tangible tools such as glass and enamels. As a field, library and information science provides a rich, historically expansive source of intellectual tools and strategies for organizing information, making it a natural fit for me.

LN

Your Stanford degree is in linguistics. How did you choose that field?

CB

I was very interested in artificial intelligence [AI], and at the time Stanford didn't have an undergraduate degree in computer science; linguistics was one of the common pathways into AI.

LN

Did you study art?

CB

Although I do not have a degree in the field, I have attended art classes at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Extension School of the University of California, Los Angeles.

LN

How quickly did you go on to graduate school?

CB

Quite a number of years later. I first worked at SRI International performing research in natural language processing and text understanding. Later, I was involved in the business side of AI—industry analysis, trend analysis, and market analysis.

To get back into the development side of things, I left SRI for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where I became involved in scientific visualization. It was satisfying to me to be involved with scientists—gamma ray physicists and oceanographers, for instance—who needed the support of technologists to help them do their work, to help them gain insight into the structure of their data sets. From there I went into the entertainment industry, to Pacific Title and Art Studio, a company that had been in existence since 1919. They were creating a facility to do digital film processing, and I joined them to help them build their software infrastructure and to do special-effects work.

LN

Did you just say to yourself, "I'm going into the entertainment world today"? What was the transition?

CB

I like frontiers. I like to go into a new realm, identify its open questions and challenges, and start participating. I'm not very fond of suburbs, if you will; I'm much more of a "What's over that hill?" kind of person, an innovator. I am not driven by a search for novelty. It's a search for a particular type of problem-solving space. I was intrigued by the sorts of software development issues confronting the post-production entertainment industry.

LN

What did Harvard offer that convinced you to sign on to the AFP?

CB

The fellowship has two components. One is the participatory component in which you are embedded within a Harvard organization where you do some quantum of work.

LN

In your case it's HUL: in the Office for Information Systems and in the Weissman Preservation Center.

CB

Exactly. Through the fellowship, I have a set of highly interesting tasks to accomplish in OIS and Weissman. But the other portion of the fellowship is training in, and exposure to, management and leadership development.

I initially thought that you had to pick up these skills by chance, over the course of your career. But Harvard has created a coherent pedagogy for acquiring this knowledge and developing these skills. The fellowship includes seminars and discussions with a vast number of professionals from education, from law, from business, all over the map. People who have reached a level of achievement and leadership in their careers and who really understand what it means to be a leader, and what it means to be a leader in an academic organization in particular. It's an amazing opportunity to attend lectures, seminars, and so forth, to walk through case studies given by people who are at the top of their fields, and who have high-level positions at Harvard and other institutions. Their insights are invaluable.

It was this last component of the fellowship that really convinced me to apply.

LN

Let's talk about your specific assignments in OIS and Weissman.

CB

HUL created a work portfolio of three projects for me: the e-mail archiving project that's part of LDI . . .

LN

. . . which is hugely significant . . .

CB

. . . and the web-archiving project—both of which are in OIS—and a new audiovisual survey in Weissman. My participation in them varies from administration to implementation. Tracey Robinson, Randy Stern, and Wendy Gogel are the three people that I'm working most closely with in OIS. I am working with Jan Merrill-Oldham and Jane Hedberg in the Weissman Center.