A Message from Provost Steven E. Hyman

The report of the Task Force on University Libraries is a very thoughtful document about an extraordinary system. But it is also a stark rendering of a structure in need of reform. Our collections are superlative, and our knowledgeable library staff are central to the success of the University’s mission. The way the system operates, however, is placing terrible strain on the libraries and the people who work within them.

Over time, a lack of coordination has led to a fragmented collection of collections that is not optimally positioned to respond to the 21st-century information needs of faculty and students. The libraries’ organizational chart is truly labyrinthine in its complexity, and in practice this complexity impedes effective collective decision-making.

Widely varying information technology systems present barriers to communication among librarians and stymie collaboration with institutions beyond our campus gates. Our funding mechanisms have created incentives to collect or subscribe in ways that diminish the vitality of the overall collection.

Libraries the world over are undergoing a challenging transition into the digital age, and Harvard’s libraries are no exception. The Task Force report points us toward a future in which our libraries must be able to work together far more effectively than is the case today, as well as to collaborate with other great libraries to maximize access to the materials needed by our scholars.

The Task Force report marks an important first step in our efforts to align Harvard’s library structure with the University’s evolving academic priorities. The next step will be taken by the work group that I have named to carry forward the recommendations of the Task Force. The members of the Implementation Work Group will closely consult with existing library committees, faculty, students, and administrators. They are:

- David Lamberth, chair, Professor of Philosophy and Theology, Harvard Divinity School
- Nancy Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library
- John Haigh, Executive Dean, Harvard Kennedy School
- Mary Lee Kennedy, Executive Director, Knowledge and Library Services, Harvard Business School
- Leslie Kirwan, Dean of Administration and Finance, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- Richard Mills, Dean for Operations and Business Affairs, Harvard Medical School
- John Palfrey, Vice Dean of Library and Information Resources and Henry N. Ess III Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

I am grateful to the members of the Task Force and the many people who advised them during the course of their work on this project. The Task Force has begun an important conversation that will be continued by the Implementation Work Group through many different venues, such as town hall meetings and focused conversations with faculty, students, and library staff.

I invite readers of this publication to share their thoughts with the Task Force by e-mail: library_taskforce@harvard.edu.

And, of course, I look forward to a continuing conversation with many of you about strengthening our libraries for the 21st century.

Access the Task Force report: http://www.provost.harvard.edu/reports
Weiss to Guide Library Implementation Work Group

Deborah Jackson Weiss has been named senior project director for the Library Implementation Work Group. In that role, she will guide the panel putting in place the recommendations made in November by the Provost's Task Force on University Libraries. Weiss will work closely with the group's chair, David Lamberth, professor of philosophy and theology at Harvard Divinity School, on financial planning and administrative structures at the libraries.

Before coming to Harvard, Weiss was a partner at Choate, Hall & Stewart and Ropes & Gray, where she concentrated on tax and employee-benefit matters. She is Romance languages cataloger at Harvard Law School. Weiss holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Bryn Mawr College, an MA in history from Case Western Reserve University, a JD from the Boston University School of Law, and an MSLIS from Simmons.

Digital Daguerreotypes

The Weismann Preservation Center has launched Daguerreotypes at Harvard, which provides digital access to over 3,500 daguerreotypes housed in libraries, museums, and archives across the University. The first publicly announced photographic process, the daguerreotype was introduced by Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre in 1839.

Visit the collection at http://preserve.harvard.edu/daguerreotypes.

Daguerreotypes at Harvard offers catalog searching; browsing by Harvard repository, daguerreotypist, and portrait sitter; short and full record displays; and links to digital content. The site also provides guidelines for creating daguerreotype records in OLIVIA. Additional links include a bibliography and a series of collection highlights that feature detailed descriptions of selected images from Harvard's holdings.

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 Monday, February 15, 2010.

Guidelines are available on the Harvard University Library web site at http://hul.harvard.edu/resources/bryant.html. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé and two letters of recommendation along with their application. 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.

For more information, contact the Bryant Fellowship Committee co-chairs, Doug Campbell, rdcampb@fas.harvard.edu, or Te-Yi Lee, leete@gse.harvard.edu.

Radcliffe’s Marilyn Morgan Receives EPDOP Support

Marilyn Morgan, manuscript cataloger in Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library, has received support from the University Library’s Extended Professional Development Program (EPDOP) to prepare her PhD dissertation for publication.

Morgan completed her dissertation—entitled Brawn and Beauty at the Beach: Marathon Swimmers, the Media, and Gender Roles in American Culture, 1900–1936—in 2007 with partial support from HUL's Bryant Fellowship Program.

EPDOP provides professional development leaves of one to three months’ duration—with full pay and benefits—for independent projects that increase professional competencies while providing direct benefit to Harvard’s libraries. Recipients are required to complete a written report and encouraged to schedule a talk or brief workshop on their subject.

For more information, visit the HUL web site at http://hul.harvard.edu/resources/epdop.html or contact Bette Viano, HUL Human Resources director, 5-3650 or bette_viano@harvard.edu.
British Library’s Helen Shenton Is HUL’s New Deputy Director

Helen Shenton and Robert Darnton: “This is a vital appointment made at a crucial time in the history of the Harvard Libraries,” Darnton says.

Shenton may be uniquely suited to her new role.

Today, the convergence of economics, technology, and multidisciplinarity have sharpened the focus on Harvard’s library system as a single entity.

“This is a vital appointment made at a crucial time in the history of the Harvard Libraries,” Darnton says. “As the chief steward charged with the care of the vast historical collections in the British Library, Helen Shenton is at the forefront of renewed thinking about libraries, their holdings, and their services. She is a skilled practitioner and an innovative manager. I am counting on her wise counsel and her decisive nature as we act collectively to make our great library even greater.”

Shenton will arrive at Harvard early in 2010.

British Library’s Helen Shenton Is HUL’s New Deputy Director

T
he first snow of the year lingers on the steps of Widener Library as Helen Shenton and Robert Darnton make their way back to the University Library Office in Wadsworth House. It’s a short three days since Shenton, the head of collection care for the British Library, was named the deputy director of the Harvard University Library. Already, she and Darnton are immersed in issues of library finance, space, organization, consolidation.

Harvard’s libraries are buffeted by the winds of change just as Darnton and Shenton are on this turbulent December morning. Taken as a single entity, Harvard’s library system is, by any measure, one of the world’s greatest. Viewed as the sum total of 73 library units, its traditional strengths have derived from extraordinary levels of response to individual faculties, departments, and programs.

“This is a great opportunity to work with the many excellent professionals both at Harvard and externally, and to be at the heart of strengthening this great library system,” Shenton says.

Today, the convergence of economics, technology, and multidisciplinarity have sharpened the focus on Harvard’s library system as a single entity. That focus is articulated in unsparing language in a November report from the Provost’s Task Force on University Libraries:

“In the course of the group’s deliberations, it found that a major obstacle for the libraries to overcome would be to move away from their fragmented and outdated administrative and financial model. Though it was clear from discussions that intellectual matters and collections expertise should be closely tied to the activity of the faculties, it also became clear that the resources of the libraries and the University could be better spent in ways other than preserving a dispersed and overly complex infrastructure.

In appointing Helen Shenton as his deputy director, Darnton identified not only a chief administrator to oversee all of HUL’s programs, systems, and planning. Shenton is poised to play a pivotal role on the Implementation Work Group, which Provost Steven E. Hyman charged with acting on the recommendations of the Task Force on University Libraries.

Shenton studied English literature at University College London, and trained at the London College of Printing and with the arts and crafts book conservator Roger Powell. She joined the British Library in 1998 after 14 years in the conservation department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, where she was responsible for the textiles, paper, paintings, photography, and book disciplines.

She also honed her management skills at the Harvard Business School’s Executive Strategy Program this past summer.

“I do not underestimate the enormity of the challenges ahead,” she says, “but I am very excited at the prospect of joining Harvard University Library at such a key moment to help make the library and information provision even better for students and faculty now and in the future.”

With eleven years of experience on the BL’s senior leadership team, Shenton is steeped in collection management, information technology, human resources, and new building projects. She masterminded the BL’s new world-class Centre for Conservation and is heavily involved with the BL’s new high-density, low-oxygen robotic depository 190 miles from London, into which a half-mile of stock is currently being transferred per day.

In 2002, she became the first overall head of collection care for the British Library (BL), where her purview encompasses conservation, preservation, training and research, collection storage, and security for 150 million items, ranging from the Magna Carta to 300 terabytes of digital material. She co-founded the BL’s first comprehensive digital preservation team, and she led an innovative collection-management strategic “strand” known as the “Life Cycle” program.

“I am looking forward to helping Harvard’s libraries and collections be even better for students and faculty, and to work with the many talented professionals at the University Library Office and beyond.”

As she arrived at Widener Library on January 1, Shenton’s first day at Harvard, she reflected on the role of the libraries and also prophesied about the role of the future. She said:

“With the many changes we can anticipate in the years ahead, it is important that we all focus on the strategic objectives articulately laid out for us in the November Task Force report. I am excited about the work that lies ahead and the opportunities that we will have in this capacity.”
Staff Activities

George Clark, environmental research librarian at Lamont Library, Harvard College Library, recently published an article, “Environmental Twitter,” about the information-gathering use of the social-networking tool Twitter for environmental and sustainability policy efforts in the journal Environment.

In October, Andrea Goethals, manager of digital preservation and repository services in the Harvard University Library’s Office for Information Systems (OIS), presented a poster on the Unified Digital Formats Registry (UDFR) at the iPRES conference in San Francisco. The UDFR is an initiative to build a formats knowledge base for use in digital preservation infrastructures worldwide.

At the same conference, Randy Stern, manager of systems development in OIS, gave a lightning talk on the File Information Tool Set (FITS), an open-source tool recently developed at OIS for file-format identification and metadata extraction.

More recently, Goethals and Stern collectively gave a presentation entitled “Harvard’s Digital Repository Service Architecture” at the Sun Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group (PASIG) New England Regional Event in December.

For the second time, Harvard College Library Human Resource Services has been recognized for its use of technology to aid in the recruitment process. The department was recently recognized as the third-largest user of technology to aid in recruiting, increasing internal mobility, minority hiring, the timely closing out of jobs, and the use of diversity recruitment resources as part of the Office of Human Resources’ (OHR) “Biggest User Initiative.” The initiative was created by OHR to recognize human resource offices University-wide that showed the largest increase in technology use on a quarterly basis. The department previously was named a “Biggest User” in February 2009.

The Boston Society of Film Critics recently commended Haden Guest, David Pendleton, and the staff of the Harvard Film Archive (HFA) for an extraordinary year of programming film series and events. The commendation lauded the HFA for a 2009 schedule that was “varied, imaginative, compelling and that greatly enriched film culture in the Boston area.” In addition, all five of the society’s annual awards for best film series of 2009 and four of the five awards for best individual film revival went to the HFA. An awards ceremony is planned for February.

Kathryn Allamong Jacob, curator of manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, has just published her third book, King of the Lobby: The Life and Times of Sam Ward, Man-About-Washington in the Gilded Age (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). King of the Lobby is about delicious food, fine wines, and good conversation and how one suave New Yorker, Sam Ward, harnessed all three to create a new type of lobbying—social lobbying—and reign as its king for a decade.

Jacob singles out the staff at the Houghton, Widener, Lamont, and Schlesinger libraries for special thanks and credits a Bryant Fellowship in 2003 and an Extended Professional Development Opportunity Program (EPDOP) grant in 2007–08 for giving her the gifts of travel and time for research and writing.

András Riedlmayer, bibliographer in Islamic art and architecture at HCL’s Fine Arts Library, recently gave a presentation entitled “Killing Memory: Cultural Heritage Under Fire in the Balkan Wars of the 1990s,” on October 15 at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, as part of the museum’s “Monuments in Peril” series. He also took part in a joint meeting, held at The Clark, of the New England and upstate New York chapters of the Art Libraries Society (ARLIS) and the Visual Resources Association (VRA).

Riedlmayer was also invited to speak at the 2009 Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum organized by the Aspen Institute and the Centro Cultural Niemeyer in Avilés, Spain, as a member of a panel of international experts on “The Protection of Cultural Property: War, Loying, and Criminal Acts.”


Robert Sennett, bibliographer and research liaison for film at the Fine Arts Library, recently gave a presentation entitled “Boston, Black & Blue: The Image of the Nineteenth-Century Irish-American Boxer” at the Destined for Men: Visual Materials for Male Audiences 1750–1880 conference. The event took place in Worcester, Massachusetts, and was sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society and the Center for Historic American Visual Culture.

Harvard University Library Notes, in print and online at http://hul.harvard.edu/publications.html, is published by the Office of the Director of the Harvard University Library. Beginning in FY 2010, Library Notes will be published quarterly, with nominal publication dates falling on the third Thursdays of January, May, July, and September. Inquiries and submissions are welcome at least four weeks in advance. URLs cited are accurate at press time.

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Harvard Acquires the John Updike Archive

John Updike’s papers will be at Harvard as a lasting and living tribute to one of the College’s most creative and accomplished graduates,” Faust said in a statement. “This collection will be an exciting new addition to Houghton Library’s holdings, and will provide researchers and students with a unique insight into the life and work of one of the major figures in modern American literature,” Cline said. When the cataloging of it is completed, the Updike Archive will offer students and scholars unparalleled insight not only into the working life of the man hailed as America’s last true man of letters, but into the cultural transformations reflected in his works.

One of the major shifts that can be traced through Updike’s work concerns sex in mainstream literature. Though it may be difficult for today’s students to imagine, attitudes about sex in fiction have changed radically in the past generation, due in no small part to Updike. Close examination of manuscripts and correspondence in the Archive shows that editors often pushed the author to remove passages considered (at the time) too sexually explicit. As cultural attitudes changed, however, later editions would restore those same passages.

“You can see, in the physical medium of Updike’s edited manuscripts, how the cultural perception of sex in fiction was changing,” Morris said. “For students accustomed to reading the published text without thinking of what went on behind the scenes to create that finished product, these manuscripts can have a tremendous impact.”

“John Updike left a huge footprint on American letters,” said Louis Menand, the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English. “For more than 50 years, he was the fictional chronicler of the American middle class, but he was also a prolific critic of literature and art. His papers will be important for scholars and historians working in any number of areas.”

Harvard University President Drew Faust hailed the library’s acquisition of the Archive. “I am delighted that John Updike’s papers will be at Harvard as a lasting and living tribute to one of the College’s most creative and accomplished graduates,” Faust said in a statement. “This collection will enable teaching and research that will not just enrich our understanding of a distinguished writer and his work, but will also provide insights into the literary craft and its place in late-20th-century America.”

Although portions of the Archive were given to the library during Updike’s lifetime, and have been available for research at Houghton since 1970, they represented only a small fraction of the full collection. For decades, Updike had been depositing his papers, including manuscripts, correspondence, research files, and even golf score cards, in the library, but the material—since it was only on deposit at Houghton—was available only with the author’s permission, and was not integrated with the material the library owned.

Cataloging the newly acquired material so it can be used by scholars is now one of the library’s “highest priorities,” since the Archive will not be available for research until that process is completed, Morris said. However, scholars will still be able to access materials given to the library by Updike before 1970, including early short-story manuscripts written for The New Yorker; Telephone Poles, Updike’s early poetry collection; and nearly complete documentation on the creation of the novel that brought him his first taste of fame, Rabbit, Run (1960).

Considering Updike’s close association with Harvard, it seems fitting that the Archive find a permanent home in the Harvard College Library’s collections, said Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College. “This collection will be an exciting new addition to Houghton Library’s holdings, and will provide researchers and students with a unique insight into the life and work of one of the major figures in modern American literature,” Cline said. When the cataloging of it is completed, the Updike Archive will offer students and scholars unparalleled insight not only into the working life of the man hailed as America’s last true man of letters, but into the cultural transformations reflected in his works.

One of the many photos included in the John Updike Archive, which was recently acquired by Houghton Library.
New Digitization Agreement Links Harvard College Library and the National Library of China

Among the staff who will take part in the digitization project, from left: Sharon Li-Shuiyan Yang, head Harvard-Yenching access services; James Cheng, head of Harvard-Yenching Library; Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College; Dr. Furui Zhan, director of the National Library of China; Dr. Zhi-geng Wang; and Bill Comstock, head of HCL Imaging Services.

One of the most extensive collections of rare Chinese books outside of China will be digitized and made freely available to scholars worldwide as part of a six-year cooperative project between Harvard College Library (HCL) and the National Library of China (NLC). Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, and Dr. Furui Zhan, director of the National Library, signed an agreement detailing the project on Friday, October 9, in the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Rooms in Widener Library.

Among the largest cooperative projects of its kind ever undertaken between China and US libraries, the project will digitize Harvard–Yenching Library’s entire 51,500-volume Chinese rare book collection. One of the libraries that make up the Harvard College Library system, Harvard–Yenching is the largest university library for East Asian research in the Western world. When completed, the project will have a transformative effect on scholarship involving rare Chinese texts, Harvard–Yenching Librarian James Cheng predicted.

“Scholars come from all over the world to use our rare book collection because many of these titles are not available anywhere else,” he said. “I think this project will be a huge contribution to scholarship by making these materials available to a much broader audience. We need to change the mindset that rare materials must be kept behind closed doors. A library is not a museum. We need to begin making these materials available to scholars, and the best way to do that is through digitization.”

The six-year project will be done in two phases. The first phase, beginning in January 2010, will digitize books from the Song, Yuan, and Ming dynasties that date from about 960 to 1644 CE. The second phase, starting in January 2013, will digitize books from the Qing Dynasty that date from 1644 until 1795 CE. The collection includes materials that cover an extensive range of subjects, including history, philosophy, drama, belles lettres, and classics.

While the notion of digitizing the collection has been discussed for years, the concept of the two libraries working together was first proposed last November by Cheng and Zhan, who began discussing the idea while attending a library conference in Macau. A series of meetings in Beijing followed, and the project soon became a reality.

“They are just beginning to build their digital library collections, and this material will be a great addition to that effort,” Cheng said of the National Library. “I think they will be an excellent partner for us because they are a national library, and they can make the material available to the citizens of China.”

“We are pleased to engage in this important collaboration with our colleagues from the National Library of China,” Cline said. “Dr. Zhan’s commitment to ensuring that these rare materials become an important part of the digital future will have a significant impact on scholarship.”

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

Bruno was nominated in recognition of his oversight of an interlibrary loan system that saw dramatic growth in the past year, for leading an effort to implement and train staff in the use of ILLiad software across Harvard libraries, and for his work to roll out Harvard’s new Scan and Deliver service.

Hierl’s skills as a manager, planner, and leader have led to significant improvements in the library’s collecting efforts. He led the development of a half-dozen new approval plans, bringing efficiency and predictability to very difficult areas of collecting, and managed the ongoing review of several long-standing plans. Hierl also instituted direct-ordering through the library’s primary German book vendor, resulting in the elimination of a significant backlog of orders and receipts, and worked closely with HCL colleagues to eliminate unnecessary duplication of serials and periodicals.

“Congratulations to the winners of the 19th annual Ishimoto Award,” said Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College. “It is inspiring to see the nominations that are put forward every year—HCL has many staff whose contributions deserve recognition. This year’s recipients, however, truly stand out for their leadership, dedication to improving service across all Harvard libraries, and enthusiasm for building a community among staff and library patrons. Tom and Sebastian are among the best ambassadors for Harvard College Library.”
New Appointments

Leslie Burmeister
Library Assistant (October)
Baker Library Operations
Knowledge and Library Services
Harvard Business School

Leslie Burmeister has been at Knowledge and Library Services for three years, most recently working on the binding program in Baker Library Collections.

Jason Clarke
Library Assistant (November)
Access Services
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Jason Clarke comes to HCL from the New England Institute of Art, where he worked as a library assistant since 2006. He previously worked as a circulation assistant in Widener Library while he was an undergraduate student at Harvard. He also holds an MFA in writing and publishing from Emerson College.

Ann-Marie Costa
Assistant Head of Library Billing and Privileges (October)
Access Services
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Ann-Marie Costa previously worked in Access Services as a billing and privileges assistant from 1993 to 1997. Prior to returning to HCL in September 2008, she spent 12 years working as an archivist and a web content manager for a stock photography agency in Kennebunk, Maine. She attended the University of Southern Maine, where she studied art history.

Michael Currier
Accounting Assistant (October)
Financial Services
Harvard College Library

Michael Currier first joined HCL in 1985 as a staff assistant in Library Billing and Privileges. His new responsibilities include the auditing and approval of invoices processed through the Aleph system, the update and maintenance of the Aleph vendor file for the Aleph user community, and the backup of biweekly payroll and cash processing. He will also research and resolve payment issues and act as a liaison to Central Accounts Payable on payment issues.

Anthony de la Puente
Library Assistant (November)
Billing and Privileges
Access Services
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Anthony de la Puente worked as a library assistant at Harvard Business School’s Knowledge and Library Services. He holds a BS in psychology from Boston University.

Brendan Durkin
Senior Financial Analyst (October)
Financial Services
Harvard College Library

Brendan Durkin comes to HCL from the Department of Harvard Athletics, where he managed team travel and several financial operations. He has a BS in manufacturing engineering from Boston University and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Jennifer Goldstein
Human Resource Consultant (December)
Human Resource Services
Harvard College Library

Since March 2007, Jen Goldstein has worked as a human resources officer for Harvard University Library. She holds a BA in sociology from Boston University, and received a Professional in Human Resource (PHR) certificate in June. She is currently completing an MS in human resource management at Emmanuel College.

Bill Hanscom
Project Conservation Technician (October)
Weissman Preservation Center
Harvard University Library

Before taking his current position at Weissman, Bill Hanscom worked there for three months as a project paper conservation technician, and prior to that he was a book conservation technician for Conservation Services in the Harvard College Library. His work has been displayed in exhibitions at Cornell University, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and Louisiana State University. He has a BFA in graphic design from Montserrat College of Art, and an MFA in book arts/printmaking from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Jill Hiller
Accounting Assistant (October)
Financial Services
Harvard College Library

Jill Hiller came to HCL in November of 2007, previously working in the Serials Services Division of HCL Access Services as a payment specialist. Her new responsibilities will include the auditing and approval of invoices processed through the Aleph system, maintenance of the Aleph vendor file, and the backup of biweekly payroll and cash processing. She will also research and resolve payment issues and act as a liaison to Central Accounts Payable on payment issues.

Nikki Hughes
Accounting Assistant (September)
Business Operations
Knowledge and Library Services
Harvard Business School

Nikki Hughes formerly worked as an accounting assistant for Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she also held staff assistant and finance assistant positions. She has a BA in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Sue Kriegsman
Program Manager (October)
Office for Scholarly Communication
Harvard University Library

Sue Kriegsman has been at Harvard for eight years, most recently as Aeon Project manager in the Harvard College Library, and for several years before that at HUL’s Office for Information Systems, as digital library projects manager and Harvard–Google Project manager. She has a BA in English from Alfred University in New York, and an MSLIS from Simmons.

David Leyenson
Bibliographic Specialist for Western Europe (November)
Collection Development
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

David Leyenson has worked in Collection Development as a bibliographic specialist since June 2008. Prior to that, he was the vice president and general manager of Schoenhof’s Foreign Book. He holds a BA in English from SUNY Buffalo and an MPhil in English from Rutgers University. He is currently pursuing an MSLIS at Simmons.

Anton Lipar
Project Conservation Technician
Weissman Preservation Center
Harvard University Library

Anton Lipar previously worked as a library assistant in the Slavic Division in Widener Library. He holds an MA in museum studies from the University of Constantin Philosopher in Slovakia.

Misty McGowan
Library Doorchecker (November)
Harvard College Library

Misty McGowan has worked as a security officer in HCL through Allied Barton/Securitas, and she also works part-time as an intern in the Office of the Assistant to the President at Harvard.

Michael Mellor
Library Doorchecker (November)
Harvard College Library

Michael Mellor has previously worked in HCL as a staff assistant in Preservation and Imaging and as a reference assistant in Houghton.

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Bubbles, Panics, and Crashes: A Century of Financial Crises, 1830s–1930s

Financial crises have happened before, and, if history is any guide, they will happen again. With a new exhibit and companion web site, Baker Library Historical Collections, Harvard Business School, is revisiting four financial crises—1837, 1873, 1907, and 1929—when asset price bubbles burst, shattered public confidence, and devastated financial markets around the world.

Bubbles, Panics, and Crashes provides an introduction to these four historical crises, as well as highlighting avenues and materials for further research. Historical materials, such as those held at Baker Library, allow historians and economists to better understand these interconnected and multi-causal phenomena. On a human level, letters, diaries, memoirs, and images reveal the voices, actions, and experiences of those who played a role in instigating a crisis, those who suffered its ill effects, and those who seized an opportunity to profit from the sudden and dramatic change in circumstances.

On a macroeconomic level, historical material, like that found in decades-long series of trade publications, can also yield extensive data that illuminate underlying conditions of which contemporaries may have been unaware.

Visit http://www.library.hbs.edu/bc/crises to learn more about the history of financial crises, to find materials in Baker Library Historical Collections that could support further research, and to view some of the featured items. The exhibit will run through May 2010 in the North Lobby, Baker Library/Bloomberg Center, Harvard Business School.

Countway Celebrates the Oliver Wendell Holmes Bicentennial

Physician, lecturer, poet, novelist, inventor, historian, anatomist, teacher, and humorist, Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894) has been called “the most successful combination which the world has ever seen of the physician and man of letters.”

From November 2009 through October 2010, the Countway Library’s Center for the History of Medicine is celebrating the bicentennial of Holmes’s birth with a new exhibit, The Scalpel and the Pen: The Life and Work of Oliver Wendell Holmes, MD, touching on all the different sides of the personal and professional career of this Boston original.

Holmes’s long association with Harvard Medical School—as alumnus, professor, and dean—along with his significance to the Boston Medical Library as president and benefactor have left an extraordinary treasure trove of items now in the Countway Library’s collections and the Warren Anatomical Museum.

The Scalpel and the Pen brings to light rare early medical works from Holmes’s personal library; books and pamphlets, such as a first edition of the bestselling The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table and the first publication of his groundbreaking study on the contagiousness of puerperal fever; broadsides; manuscripts of his poems and lectures; letters; anatomical specimens and microscopes used in his teaching; original artwork; photographs; and several unusual artifacts—many of which Holmes himself describes in his correspondence and publications, including one of his famous chambered nautilus shells.

A companion book, Oliver Wendell Holmes: Physician and Man of Letters, will also be published by the Boston Medical Library in the fall.

Contact Jack Eckert, public services librarian, at 2-6207 or jack.eckert@hms.harvard.edu for more information.
Harvard's Islamic Heritage Project Is Now Online

Through a new collaboration among Islamic-studies scholars, librarians, and curators, Harvard University has cataloged, conserved, and digitized Islamic manuscripts, maps, and published texts from its renowned library and museum collections. The result is a new online collection comprising more than 145,000 digital pages available to Internet users everywhere. Entitled the Islamic Heritage Project, or IHP, the collection is made possible with generous support from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal. Visit IHP online at http://ihp.lib.harvard.edu.

The Islamic Heritage Project is an integral part of the University’s Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program (ISP). Founded in 2006, ISP builds on Harvard’s strong commitment to the study of the religious traditions of the world, and it augments the University’s existing strength by increasing the number of faculty focused on Islamic studies. ISP created the Islamic Heritage Project in collaboration with the Harvard University Library Open Collections Program (OCP) to share important aspects of the University’s intellectual wealth—specifically by developing a dynamic digital collection that supports teaching and research.

The IHP collaboration is a unique initiative that identifies, preserves, and digitizes historically significant Islamic materials and makes the resulting images available on the Internet. IHP includes over 260 manuscripts, 270 printed texts, and 50 maps selected by Harvard’s distinguished faculty in consultation with bibliographers, librarians, and museum curators. On a case-by-case basis, every item was reviewed and cataloged—and, in many cases given careful conservation treatment—by conservators in the University Library’s Weissman Preservation Center.

To create the online collection itself, the OCP project team produced digital copies of more than 145,000 pages that are now web-accessible.

“Through the generosity of Prince Alwaleed,” noted William A. Graham, Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, “Harvard is actively sharing parts of its rich library holdings for the benefit of the worldwide community of scholars of Islam. With the Islamic Heritage Project now launched, any Internet user can locate often unique primary and secondary resources in Harvard collections, access them on the web, and incorporate them into teaching and research.”

Today, IHP users can search or browse complete reproductions of Islamic manuscripts and published texts that date from the 13th to the 20th centuries CE and represent many regions, including Saudi Arabia, North Africa, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and South, Southeast, and Central Asia; languages, primarily Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish; also Urdu, Chagatai, Malay, Gujarati, Indic languages, and several Western languages; and subjects, including religious texts and commentaries, Sufism, history, geography, law, and the sciences (astronomy, astrology, mathematics, medicine); poetry and literature; rhetoric, logic, and philosophy; calligraphy, dictionaries and grammar, as well as biographies and autobiographical works.

Users can browse three basic genres—published materials, manuscripts, and maps—or search catalog records that detail the full IHP collection. A virtual keyboard allows users to enter queries and search terms in Arabic.

Harvard’s holdings of Islamic materials are distributed among several libraries and in the Harvard Art Museum. Houghton Library alone holds over 1,200 volumes of Islamic manuscripts representing 2,000 works, while Widener Library’s Middle Eastern Collection includes hundreds of thousands of published works. Representative materials included in the IHP are:

18th-Century Persian Manuscript
(Houghton Library—MS Persian 78)
Firdawsi, the Persian poet, completed an epic history of the ancient Persian kings in 1010 CE. A devout Muslim, he wanted to revive the memory of the Persian kings before Islam. His history became a favorite subject for book illustration and has remained so in lands stretching from Turkey to India. This book illustration, from an Indian manuscript of the early 18th century, shows the meeting of three princes and three princesses in the time of the Persian King Feridun.

“This manuscript shows the continuing importance in literary culture of this epic in areas beyond Persian-speaking lands.”—Prof. Roy Mottahedeh

17th-Century Map
(Harvard Map Collection—MAP-LC G7430 1696) (J)
Published in Paris in 1696 by Alexis Hubert Jaillot, the map details the empire of the “Grand Seigneur” of the Turks (Etsats de l’Empire du Grand Seigneur des Turcs en Europe, en Asie, et en Afrique…).

“This map, which shows us the empire of the ‘Grand Seigneur’, as the Ottoman Sultan was called by contemporary Europeans, explains why the Ottomans loom so large in the mind of Europeans. This empire, though Muslim in its identity, had very many Christian subjects, including the majority of the peoples in the Balkans and Greece. In the 17th century, it had provided a place of refuge for the Jews who were forced out of Spain.”—Prof. Roy Mottahedeh

13th-Century Poems
(Widener Library—HOLLIS 008554235)
Written by Mahmud Afandi al-Jaza’iri in 1278 CE as Hadha majmu’ muzawwiyat badi’ah mustaghribat wa-qasa’id ghazalyyat tarawwih wala al-usbahaq wa-yahimmu ilayha taraban kullu musttagh. Alexandria 1278 [1862]. The title translates as: “This is a collection of extraordinary poems in rhymed couplets and elegant cherished odes on love which refresh the hearts of lovers and for which every longing man pines in joy.”

“Anthologies like this one open the door to inquiries into the public taste of the period. Noteworthy is the inclusion of poems in rhymed couplets, which were traditionally used for lengthy narrative (or didactic) poems.”—Prof. Wolfhart Heinrichs, James Richard jewett Professor of Arabic, Department of Near Eastern Languages and civilizations

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University enhances Harvard’s ability to keep pace with increasing demands for knowledge and understanding of the Islamic tradition. By bringing together faculty, students, and researchers from across the University and coordinating their activities through one program housed within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences—and in close cooperation with the Divinity School and other faculties—the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program demonstrates Harvard’s strong commitment to the study of the religious traditions of the world.

Committed to making the world a better place, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia is known for a wide range of philanthropic activities around the globe. He seeks to promote change through mutual cultural understanding. In the words of the Prince, “Bringing the understanding between East and West is important for peace and tolerance.”

The Harvard University Library Open Collections Program shares the University’s intellectual wealth by developing and freely sharing digital collections on topics of contemporary concern that support teaching and learning. OCP’s unique online collections do not duplicate individual collections of books or manuscripts. Instead, OCP offers new, virtual collections of thematically linked material selected from numerous Harvard repositories. Each collection is easily searchable on the web. Established in 2002 with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Open Collections Program has since received generous support from Arcadia and from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal.
Harvard Joins in ARTstor’s Shared Shelf

In the spring of 2009, the University Library Council (ULC) approved Harvard’s participation as one of two lead partners in a project with ARTstor to collaborate in the development of new systems infrastructure for the management and discovery of images. The new initiative is known as “Shared Shelf.”

About ARTstor
ARTstor is a digital library of over one million images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities, and social sciences with a set of tools to view, present, and manage images for research and pedagogical purposes.

The ARTstor Digital Library is used by educators, scholars, and students at a variety of institutions, including universities, colleges, museums, public libraries, and K–12 schools.

ARTstor was founded to contribute to the work of the arts and educational community. ARTstor’s primary goals as an organization are:

- to assemble image collections from across many time periods and cultures that will, in the aggregate, have sufficient depth, breadth, and coherence to support a wide range of educational and scholarly activities;

- to create an organized, central, and reliable digital resource that supports noncommercial use of images for research, teaching, and learning; and

- to work with the arts and educational communities to develop collective solutions to the complex challenges that are an inescapable part of working in a changing digital environment.

Background: Shared Shelf
Shared Shelf will enable participating institutions to build, manage, access, and share visual content across their own campuses, with other campuses or participating organizations, or across a geographically distributed community of scholars.

Shared Shelf will also lower the costs incurred by individual institutions in supporting the management of image collections by developing a common infrastructure for storage and access.

The institutional partners include Colby College, Cornell University, Harvard University, Middlebury College, New York University, the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, the University of Miami, and Yale University. Harvard and Yale are serving as lead partners. The Society of Architectural Historians is an additional Shared Shelf partner.

Benefits to Harvard
For Harvard, Shared Shelf will provide a web-based cataloging tool to support efficient, effective, and flexible cataloging of images; ingest of images; and collection management.

Specifically, Shared Shelf will provide support for the description, retrieval, and display of a significant majority of the materials now supported by OLIVIA and VIA, including a mutually agreeable method for handling complex objects in both staff and patron environments; controlled vocabularies that can be efficiently created, maintained, and used; functions that can be adapted easily at the departmental level to support changing workflows; and ease in adding images from DRS to Shared Shelf and/or pushing images and metadata from Shared Shelf to DRS.

The ULC believes that Shared Shelf will prove to be a reliable system that scales to support visual collections of the magnitude of Harvard’s. The project will include the migration of legacy metadata and images from preexisting platforms, such as OLIVIA and VIA.

Benefits to Users
For end users, ARTstor’s overall discovery environment provides rich search options, including the ability to limit searches, and to access, gather, save, and send usable digital images.

Metadata, thumbnails, and usable image links will be easily harvested for use in other discovery environments.

Finally, users will have the option to submit content from personal collections to institutional collections on Shared Shelf.

Organizing the Partnership
Last fall, the University signed a contract for a three-year Shared Shelf development project, with the timeline beginning retroactively in July 2009. The contract with ARTstor is structured to provide evaluation periods occurring in the spring of each year, with new releases of software targeted for July 2010, July 2011, and July 2012.

Harvard has established an oversight team to monitor the developments of Shared Shelf over the next three years. The team includes:

- Marilyn Dunn, executive director of the Schlesinger Library and librarian of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

- Tracey Robinson, head, Office for Information Systems, Harvard University Library

- Robin Wendler, metadata analyst, Office for Information Systems, Harvard University Library

- Hugh Wilburn, librarian and assistant dean for information services, Harvard Graduate School of Design

- Marilyn Wood, associate librarian of Harvard College for collection management

More Information
Information about Harvard’s plans for migrating to Shared Shelf will be shared as the project progresses.

To explore ARTstor resources, visit http://www.artstor.org.