



LibraryNotes

For Harvard Library staff

Creating a Biodiversity Commons— The Biodiversity Heritage Library

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Sample pages from the *Zoologische Jahrbücher*, one of the natural history titles held in the Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology that are now available through the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

The BHL is supported by funds from the MacArthur Foundation, the Sloan Foundation, the Moore Foundation, and individual BHL member institutions, including the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. The Internet Archive (IA) serves as the BHL's primary digitization partner at scanning centers in Boston, New York, Washington, San Francisco, and London.

In recent months, the project has expanded to include BHL-Europe, a consortium of 28 European museums and research institutes supported by the Europeana project (<http://www.europeana.eu>). BHL-Europe will coordinate digital initiatives already under way, become a mirror site, enhance the BHL user interface, and create multiple language access points (http://www.ait.co.at/images/BHL-kickoff_090510.pdf). The Chinese Academy of Sciences is poised to launch EOL-China and provide several million pages of content to the BHL.

In the spring of 2005, Harvard joined a group of ten major natural history museum libraries, botanical libraries, and research institutions to form the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). These libraries collectively hold a substantial part of the world's published knowledge on biological diversity, and, historically, this wealth of knowledge has been largely limited to researchers with direct access to these institutions. BHL participants agreed to digitize the published biodiversity literature held in their respective collections and to make it available through a global "biodiversity commons." Both the Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the Harvard University Botany Libraries

are founding members of the BHL, contributing content, expertise, and administrative support to the initiative.

Today, the Biodiversity Heritage Library (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>) delivers nearly 15 million pages of content. Much of this material is rare, fragile, or has limited distribution. With its discipline-specific focus—which simply falls outside of the realm of mass digitization programs—the BHL has proved to be a key component of the Encyclopedia of Life (<http://www.eol.org>) as conceived by Edward O. Wilson, Harvard's Pellegrino University Research Professor Emeritus.

"As a scientific discipline," observed Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library, "systematic biology may be more dependent than any other on historical literature. That being the case, these materials will prove to be of exceptional value for scholars for the long term."

The BHL is a transformative research environment for scientific inquiry that has accelerated research in the life sciences. Users reach the BHL through a free, service-based portal formed by coupling existing databases with digitized, searchable images and OCR text. Users have access to an ever-expanding array of tools designed to overcome the problems of common name versus scientific name for species, the changing of names over time, and direct access to literature about an organism. This scientific reference system for investigating literature offers a model that reflects scientists' use of the natural history literature. In 2008, name-finding statistics showed that 30 million name string occurrences were extracted from the BHL, with 4.4 million of these being unique. Of these, 23.7 million have been verified by NameBank.

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Frank Monkiewicz/Harvard University Library

Congratulations Are in Order

The following members of Harvard's library community have reported earning academic degrees or completing academic programs this spring.

Harvard College Library

Kathryn Hargrave
Conservation Technician
MA, Program in Cultural Production,
Brandeis

Neiel Israel
Circulation Assistant, Widener Library
BA in English, University of
Massachusetts, Boston

Sarah Kasten
CONSER Assistant
MSLIS, Simmons

Sue Leavitt
Evening Supervisor, Cabot Science
Library
MSLIS, Simmons

Harvard University Library

Sharon Boland Bayer
Senior Systems Administrator/
Programmer, Office for Information
Systems
MSLIS, Drexel University

Virginia Hunt
Associate University Archivist for
Collection Development
ALM in Museum Studies, Harvard
Extension

Sharyn Nolan
Records and Operations Administrator,
Harvard University Archives
ALM in Museum Studies, Harvard
Extension

Elizabeth Walters
Preservation Assistant, Weissman
Preservation Center
MSLIS, Simmons

HUL Celebration on June 29

More than 200 members of the Harvard library community gathered at the Faculty Club on Monday, June 29, in honor of seven members of the University Library staff who chose to exercise the early retirement option known as VERIP. The event offered an opportunity for old friends and new to gather in honor of Kathleen Anderson, Patrice Donoghue, Dale Flecker, Helene Fox, Barbara Graham, Ruth Haas, and Tom Schneiter. HUL's seven VERIP participants are among more than 60 individuals in the library job family who elected the VERIP option.

In the photograph: Seated: Oscar Handlin, director of the University Library from 1979 to 1984. Standing, left to right: Barbara Graham, HUL's associate director for administration and programs; Sidney Verba, director of the University Library from 1984 to 2006; Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library since 2006; and Dale Flecker, HUL's associate director for systems and planning.

Now Relocated— HCL's Fine Arts Library

HCL's Fine Arts Library (FAL) has temporarily relocated to two sites, where it will remain during the renovation of the Harvard Art Museum building. The printed collections, photographs, and graphic images are now located in the Littauer building in the North Yard, while the Digital Images and Slides Collection can be found on the lower level of the Sackler Museum at 485 Broadway.

Please contact FAL Public Services (falibcir@fas.harvard.edu) with questions about printed collections or photographs and graphic images and Visual Resources Public Services (faviscol@fas.harvard.edu) with questions about digital images and slides.

HCL Celebrates Anagnostopoulos Gift

In the midst of June's pre-Commencement bustle, an intimate ceremony took place to celebrate the renewal of the George Edward Woodberry Poetry Room, and to acknowledge the generosity of Photeine Anagnostopoulos '81, MBA 1985, who made it possible.

Anagnostopoulos made the gift in honor of her parents, Dr. Michael and Theresa Anagnostopoulos, who attended the ceremony, which included the unveiling of a plaque outside the Poetry Room by their grandson, Michael Stynes '09, and a dedication by Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College.

Cline said the room's renewal will allow future generations of students to explore written and recorded poetry in a tranquil setting. Founded in 1931, the Poetry Room offers students, faculty, scholars, and members of the public a comprehensive experience of the art form: from written text to audio and visual recordings to live readings and events.

Photeine Anagnostopoulos read Emily Dickinson's "Poem #657," and her son, Michael Stynes, read "Photeine," an original composition dedicated to his mother, as part of the ceremony, which closed with toasts from Houghton Library's Associate Librarian for Collections Tom Horrocks and Photeine and Theresa Anagnostopoulos.

New Quarterly Schedule for Library Notes

Harvard University Library Notes is now a quarterly publication. *Library Notes* will appear on the third Thursdays of July, October, January, and May. News items, photographs, staff activities, new appointments, and other materials intended for each issue should be submitted four weeks in advance to administration@hulmail.harvard.edu.

Houghton Adds to Samuel Johnson Collection



John Overholt, assistant curator at Houghton Library, examines newly-acquired letters, including one written by Samuel Johnson to Hester Thrale Piozzi. The letters are among the items recently acquired by the library that are related to Johnson and his circle.

Samuel Johnson scholars have new reasons—dozens, in fact—to visit Harvard’s Houghton Library. The library recently added more than 30 letters and several manuscripts, including several extremely rare items, to the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson and Early Modern Books and Manuscripts, its notable collection of materials relating to the English poet, critic, and lexicographer.

The materials were acquired from the sale of the Paula Peyraud collection earlier this month at Bloomsbury Auctions in New York. Notable acquisitions from the sale include:

- A letter from Samuel Johnson to Hester Thrale Piozzi, which will join the more than 200 such letters already in the Hyde Collection, as well as a book Johnson gave to her.

- Nineteen letters written by Mrs. Piozzi, most importantly a letter to the novelist Fanny Burney in which she discusses her impending marriage to Gabriel Piozzi, and the reactions of her friends to the news.
- Several books with manuscript annotations by Mrs. Piozzi, including a copy of her own *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson*, in which she fills in a story about Johnson considered too scandalous to include in the published version.
- A rare surviving letter to Samuel Johnson from Hester “Queeney” Thrale, to complement the Hyde Collection’s holdings of more than 30 of Johnson’s “Letters to Queeney.”
- Eleven letters from the poet and Johnson associate Anna Seward, complementing the library’s collection of “bluestocking” women of the Age of Johnson.

While the library’s existing collection is already recognized as the most extensive, Houghton Assistant Curator John Overholt said the new additions add to the research possibilities for Johnson scholars.

“We recently had a research fellow here who was specifically doing research on Hester Thrale’s annotated books, and in this sale we just acquired five additional volumes,” he said. “We have already been contacted by several people who are interested in these new acquisitions,

and I’m very excited to explore the ways this material fits in with our existing holdings.”

Bequeathed to Harvard in 2003, key items in the Hyde collection will go on display this summer as part of an exhibition and symposium to mark the 300th anniversary of Johnson’s birth. Opening August 26 and running through November 14, the exhibition, “A Monument More Durable Than Brass: The Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson,” will be accompanied by a three-day symposium, held August 27–29, entitled “Johnson at 300.”

Though the newly acquired items won’t be part of the formal exhibition, Overholt, the exhibition’s curator, said he plans to put some of the items on display in other areas of the library during the symposium to help illustrate their relationship to materials already in the collection.

For example, Overholt said, several of the newly acquired letters help shed light on the relationship between Johnson and close friend Piozzi, and their falling out due to her decision to remarry following the death of her husband, Henry.

“The Hyde Collection included a very large number of letters between Johnson and Piozzi, including several on the subject of her marriage. Two of those letters will be included in the exhibition,” Overholt said. “At this sale, however, we were able to acquire a letter from Piozzi to the novelist Fanny Burney that was written at the time Piozzi remarried. In that letter, Piozzi writes about the reactions of various people, including Johnson, to the news that she had gotten married. It’s a perfect complement to the correspondence between Piozzi and Johnson we already had.”

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The Biodiversity Heritage Library

The link between the BHL and the recognized naming services is supported by the global taxonomic community, including the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), the International Plant Name Index (IPNI), the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy, and the Atlas of Living Australia. Their participation ensures the development of the data for the target audience. Additionally, commercial and small-society publishers and aggregators such as BIOONE have provided content, encouragement, and advice.

Developing cost-effective, safe, and efficient techniques for the digitization of rare, unusual, fragile, and oversized material is a priority of BHL. In the spring of 2008, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded a planning grant, “Retooling Special Collections in the Ages of Mass Digitization,” submitted by the Ernst Mayr Library and Botany Libraries, with James Hanken, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, as the principal investigator, on behalf of six BHL partners. The group is examining the issues associated with scanning materials that fall outside the scope of current technologies or workflows, and considering how to present and describe unique or interesting “duplicate” copies of early literature. To that end, social tagging is being developed using Library Thing, Open Library, and Wikipedia. The BHL partners continue to seek improved OCR for non-Roman and non-standard scripts.

“For the first time in Harvard history,” Robert Darnton stated, “the core of the Library’s natural history and herbaria collections will be available to a truly global audience. And because of the BHL mandate to serve as a ‘biodiversity commons,’ users are invited to reuse, repurpose, even reformat these vital materials.”

For more information, contact Connie Rinaldo, 5-4576 or crinaldo@oeb.harvard.edu, or Judy Warnement, 6-1025 or warnemen@oeb.harvard.edu, or download the paper by Rinaldo and Nancy Gwinn at <http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/2793856>.

Houghton Launches 2,000th Finding Aid

In June, HCL’s Houghton Library added its 2,000th finding aid to the OASIS (Online Archival Search Information System) catalog. Houghton is one of the largest contributors to OASIS, and the 2,000 finding aids produced by the library are nearly one-half of the total aids available through the online catalog.

The library’s effort to catalog hidden collections and to make finding aids available electronically has been vital for scholars, said Houghton Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts Leslie Morris, who spearheaded an earlier

effort to convert Houghton’s older typescript and handwritten finding aids to electronic form. “Making finding aids available online makes it easier for scholars to plan their research trips in advance.”

“This 2,000th finding aid represents a major effort by Houghton Library staff to make accessible material that has not been available for far too long; after 90 years this collection is no longer hidden,” said William Stoneman, the Florence Farrington Librarian of Houghton Library. “Cataloger Bonnie Salt and [Associate Librarian] Susan

Pyzynski are exploring ways to fast-track cataloging more of our hidden collections going forward.”

For Pyzynski, the milestone serves to highlight the dedication of the library’s catalogers, who work diligently to produce exceptional sources, which are relied on by scholars all over the world. “In some cases, months or even years go into producing these finding aids,” she said. “This 2,000th finding aid is a tribute to all the catalogers, past and present, who have worked at Houghton.”

Staff Activities

Paul Bain, reference and education services librarian, and **David Osterbur**, access and public services librarian, both of Harvard Medical School's Countway Library of Medicine, co-authored a poster with Courtney Crummett of MIT, which was entitled "Assessing the Impact of Bioinformatics Video Tutorials." Crummett presented the poster at the Medical Library Association annual meeting in Honolulu in May.

At the same meeting, **Lucretia McClure**, special assistant to the director of the Countway Library of Medicine, chaired the Open Forum on Ethics, presented the welcome talk to MLA new members, and presented the document "Advocating for the History of Medicine Libraries and Librarians" at the History of the Health Sciences Section meeting.

George Clark, environmental research librarian in the Harvard College Library, recently published an article entitled "Academic Geography for Sustainability" in the "Bytes of Note" column in *Environment* magazine's May-June 2009 issue. Clark is a contributing editor for *Environment*, and a frequent author of the column, which appears in each issue.

Haden Guest, director of the Harvard Film Archive in HCL, contributed an article, "Experimentation and Innovation in Three American Film Journals of the 1950s," in the Duke University Press anthology *Inventing Film Studies*, published in September 2008.

Kathryn Allamong Jacob, curator of manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, gave a paper entitled "'Dear Diary, No One Will Ever See These Words But You': Issues of Privacy in Women's Materials and Their Impact on Collecting, Access, and Scholarship" at the Women in the Archives Symposium at the University of New England in June.

At the same conference, University Archivist **Megan Sniffin-Marinoff** presented a paper entitled "Observed in Another Context: Some Issues in Digitizing Women's Collections."

Theresa Kelliher, imaging technician for HCL's Preservation and Imaging Services, has been awarded the Dean's Prize for Outstanding ALM Thesis in Museum Studies for her thesis entitled "Knowledge Is the New Power: The Evolution of the Public Trust and Cultural Antiquities Acquisitions in American Museums." Her thesis was selected from a field of 29 graduates in the 2009 Museum Studies program, which she completed while working full-time in Imaging Services.

In March, Countway's **David Osterbur** participated in a panel entitled "Translational Research Support and Education: A Library-Based Approach" at the American Medical Informatics Summit on Translation Bioinformatics in Seattle. In April, he gave a talk at the University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian E-Science Symposium entitled "Bioinformatics: Alive and Kicking." Most recently, he presented a bioinformatics workshop at the Science Boot Camp offered by the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

Amy Sloper, assistant film conservator at the Harvard Film Archive, recently gave a presentation entitled "Sex Mis-Education: The Sex Ed Film in the Moving Image Archive." The presentation was given at the Silent Movie Theater in Los Angeles as part of the Orphans West Symposium, a conference centered around "orphan" works, or films that are outside of the mainstream and often have no known origin or copyright, or were at one point considered "lost" and without a formal repository to preserve them. These include home movies, amateur and educational films, industrial and sponsored films, experimental films, and newsreels.

Deb Wallace, managing director for Baker Library Services at Harvard Business School's Knowledge and Library Services (KLS), participated in two sessions at the Special Libraries Association annual conference in Washington, DC, in June. One session entitled "So You Want to Be a Doctor?" was a panel discussion with library managers who pursued a

doctorate mid-career. The panelists received doctorates from diverse disciplines, including business, education, and information management, and provided their perspectives on the decision to pursue the degree, what it takes to complete it, and how they have benefited from the experience.

Wallace also co-presented at a session with Rebecca Jones (Dysart & Jones) entitled "Critical Thinking" that focused on how improving and engaging critical thinking skills can enhance planning, negotiating, and managing within your organization. She provided examples of how KLS strives to build critical thinking skills and how these skills are applied in delivering the group's products and services.

Elsewhere at the conference, **Meghan Dolan**, KLS information research specialist, co-presented a continuing education course entitled "Where's the Data: A Survey of Business and Economic Data Analysis Resources and Tools." Dolan and her co-presenter, Bobray Bordelon of Princeton University, focused the course on statistical literacy, the social science data environment, and social science data resources that would be of interest to economists and business analysts working in corporate, governmental, and academic environments.

Julia Whelan, reference and education services librarian at Countway, presented two posters at the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Northeast Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA) Regional Conference in May:

- "Making Health Literacy Real: Bringing Adult Literacy Students to Medical School" (co-authored with Jean Hess MS), and
- "Evidence-Based Medicine Instruction in Integrative Medical School Curricula: The Tale of Two Libraries" (co-authored with Len Levin MS, LIS, MA, AHIP).

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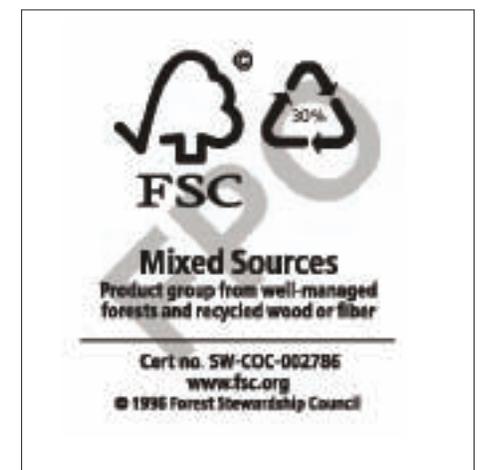
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HCL's Longfellow Exhibition Recognized by ACRL



Harvard College Library

Visit "Public Poet, Private Man," HCL's award-winning exhibition, at <http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/exhibits/longfellow>.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) has selected HCL's online exhibition "Public Poet, Private Man: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at 200" as one of five winners in the Association of the 2009 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab "American Book Prices Current" Exhibition Award for online exhibitions. These annual awards honor outstanding exhibition catalogs issued by American or Canadian institutions in conjunction

with library exhibitions as well as electronic exhibition catalogs of outstanding merit issued within the digital/web environment.

A collaborative effort between HCL Communications and Houghton's Modern Books and Manuscripts Department, the Longfellow exhibition was cited for its ease of navigation and organization of information, said Richard Noble, chair of the RBMS Exhibition Awards committee and a rare book cataloger at Brown.

"The exhibition, which draws on Longfellow holdings of Houghton Library with highlights from the collections of the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, is a pleasure to navigate," said Noble. "Its 'rooms' are clearly defined. The objects in them can be quickly glimpsed and examined more minutely in excellent digital rendition. Each item is precisely identified, and there are links to Houghton's online catalog descriptions, as well as a general link to the finding aid for the collection. Initial presentations are compact, with clear provision for expansion. The exhibition is an excellent model for ways in which large bodies of digitally reproduced materials, with good metadata, can be selected and articulated within a meaningful virtual gallery space."

The Longfellow exhibition was intentionally designed as a template that can be adapted for a variety of other exhibitions, said Enrique Diaz, designer/multimedia specialist. A second online exhibition, featuring the Harry Elkins Widener Collection, is already in the works, while other Houghton exhibitions, highlighting the library's printed endpapers collection and the four major exhibitions and symposia held this year, are also being discussed.

New Appointments

Mary Hecht

E-Resources Support Specialist (May)
Office for Information Systems
Harvard University Library

Prior to coming to OIS, Mary Hecht worked for six years at Harvard as a library assistant in FAS's Chemistry and Chemical Biology Library, and was a music librarian for the New Philharmonia Orchestra in Newton. She has also held positions with NSTAR/Boston Edison (team manager for voice operations and principal systems programmer), with Bradford Services in Boston (technical consultant), and with Time, Inc. (project leader/programmer). She holds a bachelor of music education from Syracuse.

Johnny Weyand

Acting Head of Circulation, Billing, and Privileges (May)
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Johnny Weyand has been appointed acting head of circulation, billing, and privileges in HCL's Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library. He will also continue in his role as head of Widener's Stacks Division.

The Howard E. Burr Film Collection Comes to Harvard Film Archive

It began as a childhood hobby, but, for the late Howard Burr, collecting films became a lifelong passion. A dentist by trade, Burr amassed a collection of nearly 3,000 films, including many rare prints, B-films, and vintage Technicolor prints. These include feature films and shorts—mostly Hollywood productions, mostly 16mm prints. The collection also includes over a hundred 35mm prints; reduction features on 16mm, Super 8, 8mm, and 9.5mm; trailers; television programs; cartoons; newsreels; westerns; travel films; Kodascopes; and classic comedies from the likes of Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello, Chaplin, Our Gang, and Charlie Chase. In addition, the collection includes posters and other promotional materials, nearly complete runs of film-collecting and fan magazines, and even vintage projectors.

To guarantee that the collection can be of use to future generations of film students, scholars, historians, and

cinephiles, Burr's family recently agreed to give the collection to HCL's Harvard Film Archive.

"This collection is a treasure trove of American cinema, popular culture, and the lost art of film collecting," said Haden Guest, director of the Harvard Film Archive. "The posters alone would represent a significant collection, but to have the film prints and, in addition to them, the lobby cards, Dr. Burr's correspondence regarding his collecting activities, and even several projectors—it's a wonderful collection."

While the films themselves are the heart of the collection, promotional materials like the lobby cards and posters can provide scholars with crucial insight into the workings of the studio system, Guest said. "From a research standpoint, material like this tells us a lot not just about the films themselves, but about the whole studio apparatus, and the way in which films



Harvard College Library

Harvard Film Archive Director Haden Guest examines several of the hundreds of lobby cards included in the Howard E. Burr Collection, which was recently given to the HFA.

were promoted and exhibited at the time. This collection informs the whole cinematic experience."

Now being processed and cataloged, the Howard E. Burr Collection will be gradually incorporated into the Film

Archive's holdings. Though the paper materials may be available sooner, it will likely take several months to process all the films, said Liz Coffey, film conservator at the Harvard Film Archive. A finding aid for the material will be available in OASIS.

Interview: Barbara Graham



Powell Graham

Barbara Graham, associate director of the University Library for administration and programs, will retire later in the year following 29 years of distinguished service to the University Library and to Harvard in general. Sidney Verba named her his “special assistant” in 1984, assistant director of HUL for financial planning and special projects in 1986, and associate director for administration and programs in 1992. She has overseen the Harvard Depository, the University Archives, the Open Collections Program, and the Weissman Preservation Center, as well as HUL finance, human resources, communications and publications, institutional research, sponsored and capital projects, and development. She has also served Harvard College as co-master of Currier House (1991–2003). She holds a doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in administration, planning, and social policy, and master’s degrees in human development and in library and information science from Harvard and Simmons respectively. She was interviewed for Library Notes on July 9.

LN When you became Sidney Verba’s special assistant in 1984, how long did you think you’d stay?

BG I was then director of media at GSE working on the design of a new academic program to study new technologies and learning. A portion of my responsibility was curating several nascent technology-based collections, which raised issues that we would encounter again. I thought that this new post in HUL was to be a two- or three-year commitment while working on my dissertation. By the end of the first year, I was enmeshed in studying and planning for new directions in HUL.

LN What were the Library’s major issues in 1984?

BG Not surprisingly, the strategic issues included library and collection space, collection development, preservation, and technology. The first task was a study of space in the Harvard College Library and selected

libraries of the FAS at the behest of Sidney Verba, FAS Dean Michael Spence, and Y. T. Feng, librarian of Harvard College. The project afforded me an incredible opportunity to learn about the vast print and visual collections of FAS and the faculty libraries. I developed projections for functional and collections space in FAS, along with near-term and long-term options that included the Harvard Depository. My report also discussed the status of now-forgotten technology such as the optical digital video disk for storage and dissemination of journals and books.

LN What was the most singular aspect of the study?

BG It attempted to integrate the multitude of issues facing the libraries—the integration of future information technology, selection of materials for differential housing, preservation, security, evolving user and staff space, redesign of existing space, reformatting, reducing (paper) acquisitions, on-site new construction, and the possible extension of existing facilities, including, for example, reutilizing the Widener light courts. We knew that we needed to look at new models of all sorts.

LN When HD opened in 1986, it was operated for Harvard by Iron Mountain, which was—and is—a commercial, long-term storage entity. Was that collaboration an innovation in itself?

BG Yes. The arrangement continued for several years, but eventually the operation was brought within the University.

LN Initially, how were plans for HD received?

BG It was not welcome at the outset for all of the obvious reasons. But the operation’s consistent performance, its efficiency and reliability, eventually made the idea of a physically unbrowsable remote-storage facility at least viable. Of course, the facility was intended to house low-use items, but given the paucity of space on campus, the challenge of identifying the materials that might be least used was and still is difficult. One legacy of HD is that it facilitated the University’s implementation of contemporary practice for records management through the RMO of the Archives. HD is now referred to as the “Harvard” model for storage: its design and operations are replicated internationally. But operations must be subject to change if they are to continue to serve their constituents well. Early on, HD was run by the VPA, but it became apparent that the library application did not fit well into a more

generic model of storage. Nevertheless, the University is to be credited for making the initial investment and supporting it over a number of years. From the beginning, HUL played a significant role in its operations. HD increasingly fell onto our shoulders until it was ultimately moved entirely under HUL.

LN What were the other big topics in 1984?

BG Technology, preservation, collection development, and the provision of effective service in support of teaching and research at the University.

LN Which remain major topics in 2009.

BG They do. I would say that all of the issues that existed then continue today largely in more complex iterations. For example, curating born-digital information among the libraries’ collections and within the University Archives and the importance of a robust technical infrastructure such as that developed through LDI are major concerns today.

LN What are some of our newer challenges?

BG We are in a transitional period in terms of the shift from the analog to the digital. Research libraries must acquire or license an array of information resources that require ongoing stewardship if they are to persist over time. Publishing models are in flux and academic institutions recognize the importance of providing the scholarly output of their communities through such efforts as the Office for Scholarly Communication. Increasingly librarians must be partners with faculty in the research and teaching enterprise. Their domain extends beyond those collections held locally to the universe of licensed resources and content expertise that may be located elsewhere. Although the University’s collections have always reflected its international reach, Harvard continues to expand its holdings and information resources in order to reflect the research interests of its scholars and students. However, no single institution can do it all.

LN Service is a constant challenge as well. We’re charged with building larger, richer, deeper collections than ever before, and we’re charged with adding the services that support those collections and our users.

BG Models for collection development have changed and are changing to one of not necessarily owning everything that is needed but of licensing some resources. Along with the growing complexity of information and

increasingly interdisciplinary work, librarians are essential to both research and teaching.

Collections and services now are ineluctably linked in a way that we might not have imagined 20 years ago. Libraries must provide access to resources globally and a set of robust services for scholars and students in all disciplines. Similarly, systems must be made intuitive, responsive, timely, and accurate.

LN It’s a truism to say that we’re always facing new challenges. But what do you think our forthcoming challenges will be?

BG Archiving and making accessible the vast quantities of born-digital information while maintaining their integrity, creating access to scholarly output, developing new publishing models, and, again, responsive systems are all important. But the conservation of the University’s special collections and archives must also figure into our priorities. The efforts of the Weissman Preservation Center with its special collections conservation laboratory had its roots in the late-1980s NEH Brittle Books program. It has played an enormous role in preparing our rarest materials for digitization while also conserving thousands of original materials for generations of scholars to come. This function remains at the core of the Library’s mission—even though there are difficult decisions to make.

LN You’ve spoken in the past of the growing significance of special collections. How does this relate to digitization?

BG Through the generosity of the Hewlett Foundation and the Arcadia Fund and Prince Alwaleed, and others, Harvard’s libraries have made thousands of rare digital objects accessible to people everywhere via the HUL Open Collections Program. The value of these rare and unique materials will only increase over time. And the more of these we digitize, and the more they become visible and accessible, the more likely they are to make a difference to research, to teaching, and to understanding the past and the future.

LN What else will gain in significance?

BG The need to leverage resources in order to optimize collections—owned and licensed—and services will be key. Well-chosen collaborative efforts are particularly important, and the need for innovation is ongoing.

LN Thank you.