



LibraryNotes

For Harvard Library staff

Harvard's Provost Charges HUL to Create Office for Scholarly Communication

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Steven E. Hyman, Provost of Harvard University

Steven E. Hyman, Provost of Harvard University, has charged the Harvard University Library (HUL) with creating an Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC). The goal of the new Office for Scholarly Communication is to enable individual faculty members to distribute their scholarly writings in keeping with the University's long-standing policy that "when entering into agreements for the publication and distribution of copyrighted materials individuals will make arrangements that best serve the public interest."

In making his charge to the University Library, Provost Hyman noted that "the goal of university research is the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge. At Harvard, where so much of our research is of global significance, we have an essential responsibility to distribute the fruits of our scholarship as widely as possible."

The new Office for Scholarly Communication will be under the aegis of the distinguished historian Robert Darnton, who serves as Harvard's Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library.



Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library

In responding to Provost Hyman's charge, Professor Darnton stated, "The Harvard University Library has long been engaged by the many questions of open access that face the University, and we have worked closely with the Provost's Committee on Scholarly Communication on the formulation of a policy that ensures Harvard's leadership role in open-access endeavors. Rather than inviting faculty members to 'opt in,' as is the case with other open-access repositories, FAS has voted to give the University a worldwide license to each faculty member's scholarly articles for open-access purposes, with an 'opt out' provision available."

Working in close collaboration with HUL's Office for Information Systems, the new OSC will oversee an open-access repository for current research. The goal of the repository is to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the work of the Harvard faculty and to move toward a more sustainable publishing system.

Provost Hyman's announcement follows on the February 12, 2008, vote in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) that grants an automatic license to Harvard for scholarly articles authored by FAS faculty members. This license is nonexclusive and enables open-access distribution, so long as the articles are not sold for a profit.



Stuart M. Shieber, James O. Welch, Jr., and Virginia B. Welch Professor of Computer Science in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Copyright remains with the author (until such time as the author may assign all or part to another entity). Harvard will use this license to enable it to distribute articles in an open-access repository whose contents will be searchable and available to other services including, but not limited to, web harvesters and Google Scholar.

Provost Hyman and HUL Director Darnton anticipate that the new Office for Scholarly Communication will be operating before the end of the fiscal year, and that its first concern will be to collaborate with Harvard's faculties of Business, Design, Divinity, Education, Government, Law, Medicine, and Public Health on an open-access archive for current scholarly articles.

"The new Office for Scholarly Communication will be instrumental in making good on the promise of the FAS open-access policy. It has the potential for worldwide impact through exemplary initiatives to maximize communication of scholarly research," stated Stuart M. Shieber, the James O. Welch, Jr., and Virginia B. Welch Professor of Computer Science and the author of the motion accepted by FAS on February 12.



Online Now— Google Book Search for Harvard

Following an extended collaboration between the Harvard University Library (HUL) and Google, a Harvard-customized version of Google Book Search (GBS) is now online. This new version of GBS offers users the option to search the full text of all books available in Google Book Search—whether contributed by Harvard, another library, or the publisher.

Users of GBS for Harvard will see “Find at Harvard University” links displayed with every item in a search-result set. By clicking these links, library users reach individual catalog records when exact matches are found in HOLLIS—together with information on location and availability within the Harvard library system. If an exact match in HOLLIS is not found, a pre-populated HOLLIS search screen opens, making it easy for the patron to launch a new HOLLIS search session.

Internet users can access GBS for Harvard from the “Harvard Libraries” portal (<http://lib.harvard.edu>) or by a direct link to <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:googlebkk>.

Google Book Search for Harvard is also incorporated in “E-Research @ Harvard Libraries” (<http://e-research.lib.harvard.edu>) as a new entry on the “Quick Jump” e-resource list. Users with current Harvard IDs and PINs can access the full text of e-books licensed by Harvard. Users will be taken directly to the full text of the e-books selected.

“For libraries,” stated Tracey Robinson, head of HUL’s Office for Information Systems, “one of the great promises of Google Book Search is the ability to find books by searching the full text of the works—and not just using the metadata on which library users have traditionally relied. This enhanced access to books in the Harvard collections was among the benefits sought by the University when it began to collaborate with Google in 2004. It is gratifying to have achieved this important goal.”

Please send comments and suggestions to gbscomments@hulmail.harvard.edu.

HARVARD
LIBRARIES
lib.harvard.edu



Discover the power!
Check out the new Harvard-based version of Google Book Search. Harvard’s GBS is a powerful tool for you to discover library books as well as electronic content.

Search full text.
Search the full text of millions of books from participating publishers and libraries, including public-domain books scanned from the Harvard Libraries.

Find it @ Harvard.
Use the links in GBS to locate books online or on Harvard’s library shelves.

Try it.
Find Google Book Search on the Harvard Libraries portal at lib.harvard.edu.

Questions?
Ask your librarian.

For additional copies, send e-mail to administration@hulmail.harvard.edu.

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HUL’s Office for Information Systems is making Harvard-GBS bookmarks available free of charge to any of the Harvard libraries. To request a supply, please e-mail administration@hulmail.harvard.edu.

Extended Professional Development Opportunity Program

The Extended Professional Development Opportunity Program (EPDOP) provides professional-development leaves of one to three months’ duration—with full pay and benefits—to professional librarians 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. Applicants must have completed a minimum of three consecutive years of service to the University and must demonstrate the approval of appropriate supervisors, librarians, department chairs, and/or other designees. Arrangements must be possible to cover necessary assignments in the applicant’s absence.

Eligible projects may include: scholarly research in areas served by the applicant’s position at Harvard; initiatives to improve technical or library-oriented activities, such as internships and exchanges; internships at other institutions; writing in areas served by the applicant’s position; or intensive reading and study in areas new to one’s profession of a scope that extends significantly beyond normal professional expectations.

Proposals must include descriptions of any “deliverables” to be presented afterwards and the amount of time needed. EPDOP may be used in conjunction with awards from other fellowships or research grants if permitted by the supervising librarian of the faculty.

Spring Deadlines

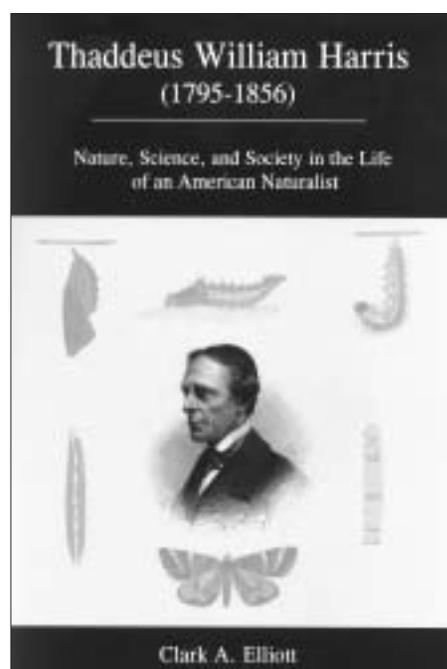
May 1—discuss preliminary proposals with local supervisors and library administration

June 2—submit final, locally approved proposals to HUL Associate Director Barbara Graham

July 1—EPDOP awards announced

For full details, visit <http://hul.harvard.edu/resources/epdop.html> or contact Bette Viano, director of human resources in the Harvard University Library, at 5-3650 or bette_viano@harvard.edu.

Elliott’s Volume on Thaddeus William Harris Dedicated to Harvard Librarians



Clark Elliott, a retired associate curator of the Harvard University Archives, has dedicated his new book to Harvard’s librarians. Elliott’s *Thaddeus William Harris (1795–1856): Nature, Science, and Society in the Life of an American Naturalist* was published early in 2008 by the Lehigh University Press.

According to Elliott, “Harris was the head of the Harvard University Library for many years (1831–1856)—as I recall, he was recently mentioned as the only person to serve longer than Sid Verba as head of the library. The book deals especially with Harris’s work as an entomologist, though his library service is discussed and much of this entomological effort was carried out while serving as librarian.”

The dedication reads as follows: “To the Generations of Harvard Librarians Who Followed Harris in the Enrichment of Learning and Advancement of Knowledge, One Volume, One Bibliographic Record, One Research Response, alas, One Committee, at a Time.”

Jacket illustration for *Thaddeus William Harris (1795–1856)*. Images are from *Entomological Correspondence of Thaddeus William Harris, MD*, edited by Samuel H. Scudde (1869), and are courtesy of Harvard’s Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

HCL's Susan Lee Retires



Jennifer Tomase/Harvard College Library

HCL's Susan Lee will retire at the end of March.

Harvard College Library was a very different place in 1989 when Susan Lee arrived to take the position of associate librarian for personnel. A snapshot of that year would reveal that HCL had just reached a goal of one PC in every library and initiated a fax service in the Photographic Services Division. Both the Widener Public and the University Union Card Catalogs were still in use, and preservation standards emphasized replacing serial titles with microforms. HUL's Office for Information Systems (OIS) was housed in Room 88—now HCL's ITS (Information Technology Services)—on the ground floor of Widener; D-Level remained an unfinished storage space.

As Lee prepares to retire at the end of March after 19 years of service as an associate librarian and, most recently, as special advisor to the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, she recently reflected on her tenure.

“My career choice to become an academic librarian has proven absolutely right for me. At Harvard much of my work has been behind the scenes. My goal has always been to push hard for the good of the College Library and, hopefully, I will be remembered for my energy and integrity. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to execute a smooth succession transition [with Rebecca Graham] and feel fortunate to be able to now devote more of myself to critical family needs.”

Although pleased with her job in retrospect, Lee, who was then associate librarian for administrative services at the University of Connecticut, initially thought long and hard about taking the job at Harvard. In his annual report, Alan Erikson, then librarian of Cabot Science Library, wrote, “It was a great pleasure to have participated in the search committee’s decision to invite our initial first-choice candidate, Susan Lee, to reconsider her decision not to come to Harvard.” He went on to say, “[We] have been most pleased

with her ability to run with the ball.”

During her tenure, Lee played a key role in instituting a senior managers group, integrating the HUCTW into the Library, forming a Joint Council, and implementing formal staff training and professional development programs. She also served as HCL’s representative on the library job classification initiative undertaken by Harvard’s central administration.

In 1991 she became associate librarian of administrative services, responsible for operational functions in support of the libraries. As such, she instituted an administrative services program for HCL that included creating information technology services; developing more robust human resource services, financial, and operations/security units; and laying the groundwork for what would become a world-class conservation program.

By 1997, her position had evolved into associate librarian for administration and planning, and she added long-range strategic planning to her portfolio. Under Lee’s oversight, HCL built increased flexibility into its budget and opened up the process to include participation from the individual libraries.

Since 1996, the Library has undergone significant physical change, both in terms of construction and the opening and closing of service points. Lee has had a hand in all of it, from the five-year Widener renovation to projects at 625 Mass. Ave., the Collections Conservation Lab, and Lamont, Hilles, Kummel, Littauer, Cabot, and Harvard–Yenching libraries. She leaves with plans in place for major projects involving Fine Arts and Loeb Music libraries and additional work at 625 Mass. Ave.

“From the day that I arrived at Harvard in the fall of 1996, Susan has been an invaluable asset to my administrative team. She has an excellent knowledge of the history of all our libraries and has worked closely with so many units on budgets, buildings, and the development of staff. Over the years she has taken on challenging roles within HCL, all of which have moved us toward a more coherent organization with a shared administrative infrastructure,” said

Nancy Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College.

“If there is one single achievement of her Harvard career that rises above all others, it was her leadership on the massive Widener renovation (1999–2004). Working in the intersections among contractors, architects, FAS facilities staff, and our own HCL Operations group, Susan always knew the details of budgets and logistics amidst a sharply focused objective to bring in the project on time and on budget. Her tenacity, her knowledge of Harvard and FAS, and her desire to improve HCL were exceptionally valuable in the Widener project and have carried forward in the planning roles she has held for many other endeavors. I am personally grateful for Susan’s unstinting service, her wise counsel, and the strong organization that she forged,” Cline added.

Originally Lee planned to depart HCL in the spring of 2009, but moved up the date in order to assist with family-related health issues.

At her request, no formal reception will be held, but colleagues are invited to say their goodbyes between now and the end of the month.

Maps Designed by HCL Map Collection Grace Freedom Trail



Harvard College Library

Several of the stone maps based on items from the Harvard Map Collection show Boston's shoreline and its many wharves in detail.

Three years ago, Big Dig officials approached David Cobb and his staff in the Harvard Map Collection with a special request: help them design a map for the North End Parks that would illustrate how Boston had changed in the centuries since its founding. When the parks officially opened in November, not one but seven maps from the Map Collection came to occupy the new parks.

While researching the project, Cobb, curator of maps and head of the Harvard Map Collection, dug deep into the collection and came back with various maps tracing Boston's topography from Colonial-era 1630 to present-day Boston. "The idea," he said, "was to show the varying shape of Boston over a period of time."

Of the seven maps, one stands out for being slightly larger and carved into a piece of granite embedded at the feet

of passersby on the Freedom Trail. This map, comparing the city in 1775 with Boston in 2005, perhaps captures the historical imagination best because it refers to Boston at the time of the Revolutionary War, making it a map that Bostonians and tourists alike can relate to. Nearby, another six maps, carved on top of raised stone blocks mixed in among stone benches—encouraging viewers to stop and examine their history—portray the city in the 17th, 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.

The maps highlight in particular the city's shoreline—including its many wharves—which is substantially different from its original shape, since much of coastal Boston is famously built on made land.

"Much of the filled-in land that Boston is known for was created in the middle of the 19th century because railroads could be employed to transport the fill," said Cobb.

"Much of it came from Beacon Hill, Dorchester Heights, Quincy, and as far away as Waltham and Watertown. That's when Boston really began to expand, and in the maps of Boston you can see lots of individual fillings around the shoreline. As early as the 1600s work began to extend the docks and to fill in areas around them."

To put the maps into historical perspective, the Map Collection first had to scan and georeference them. Georeferencing allows maps to be accurately oriented so that they line up with other maps. "It brings them into the real world," said Cobb, "and puts them in the right context geographically. By correctly orienting the maps, you create a meaningful relationship. In the case of the Boston maps, for instance, Long Wharf lines up with Long Wharf and the old Boston Neck lines up with Tremont Street. Once the geospatial relationships are correct, you can then start talking about how things have changed."

The Map Collection staff ultimately removed a substantial amount of information from the maps, taking out individual streets, for instance, because there was so much information that it made the map too busy to reproduce, especially on stone. They also consulted with urban archaeologist Nancy Seasholes, a research fellow at Boston University who is an expert on the development of Boston's shorelines.

The maps are located near the Haymarket (Green/Orange lines) and Aquarium (Blue Line) T stops. The larger 1775 map lies near where the Freedom Trail crosses Hanover Street. The others are located near where visitors cross from the Faneuil Hall/Haymarket Square area to the North End.

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John W. Collins III Honored by ACRL/EBSS

John W. Collins III, librarian of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is the recipient of the 2008 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS) Distinguished Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award. This award honors a distinguished academic librarian who has made an outstanding contribution as an education and/or behavioral sciences librarian through accomplishments and service to the profession. A prize of \$1,000 and a plaque, donated by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., will be presented to Collins during the 2008

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, on June 28. “Dr. John William Collins III has devoted over 30 years to librarianship and for over 20 years has been an active and contributing member of ACRL and EBSS,” said award committee chair Paula McMillen, social science reference librarian and associate professor at Oregon State University. “He has directly and indirectly influenced the direction of librarianship by co-founding the ACRL–Harvard Leadership Institute. He has mentored and created professional development opportunities, promoted the exploration of issues through editorial boards and his own scholarship, and advocated for a more

engaged and inclusive profession.

“Beyond his years of service directly to the profession, he has kept the perspective of libraries and their users vital through key advisory roles in the development of the National Library of Education and the new ERIC database,” said McMillen. “He truly epitomizes a professional lifetime of service and achievement.”

Prior to Harvard, Collins was head of the Educational Resources Library at Boston University from 1982 to 1985 and assistant head of bibliographic services at BU’s Mugar Memorial Library from 1979 to 1982. Collins received his BA in English from the University of Massachusetts in 1974, his MLS from the University



John W. Collins III is the librarian of the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Brian Smith/Harvard University Library

Art of Lionel Reiss Subject of New Catalog from HCL’s Judaica Division



Harvard College Library

Lionel Reiss: Road builders, 1952 (untitled), HCL, Reiss Inventory no. I:39B.117

Through his artwork, Lionel S. Reiss (1894–1988) created a remarkable record of 20th-century Jewish life. Within a career that spanned decades and countries, Reiss produced an extensive oeuvre of primarily documentary artwork exploring Jewish identity. Although prolific, Reiss never attained widespread fame as an artist.

Now, a new catalog produced by the Judaica Division of Harvard College Library—the primary repository for Reiss’s work—may very well bring Reiss’s collection to the further attention of scholars.

“Lionel Reiss sought to show that there was not a Jewish racial type,” writes Kenneth E. Carpenter, the catalog’s editor. “His portraits demonstrate that, but Reiss succeeded in his goal in another way. At the same time that he sketched the lives and surroundings of Jews, his desire to capture the emotional life of a people

has given his art a universality.” A Polish immigrant to New York’s Lower East Side, Reiss left high school early to take a job in commercial art. In 1922, he left a comfortable and well-paying position to travel to Europe, visiting and documenting Jewish communities and ghettos that would later be destroyed. His work—drawings, paintings, watercolors, etchings—captures daily life in these communities, exploring social and class distinctions and the transformative power of oppression. Reiss himself saw his art as divided into three general series: his documentation of European and Middle Eastern communities between the World Wars, plus additional paintings done in Israel in the 1950s; paintings of 59th Street in Manhattan in the 1940s; and his later Genesis paintings that explore biblical themes.

Harvard initially came to hold a large collection of Reiss’s work in 1971 when a committee of donors organized by Harry Starr, Class of 1921 and president of the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, donated a series of Reiss’s portrait studies. The wide-ranging series—which documented Reiss’s travels in the 1920s and 1930s to Europe and the Near East—fit well with the Judaica Division’s mission to document comprehensively Jewish life and culture in every place and period.

The collection grew again in December 1995 and again in December 1997 when Reiss’s son, David Reiss, Class of 1958, and his wife Jo Ann, chose the Judaica Division for a gift of a significant portion of the artist’s work, thereby making Harvard the major repository for Reiss’s art.

The recently published catalog, which contains the inventory of items held by Harvard, also reproduces a representative selection of 59 pieces. It is enriched further by a piece penned by David Reiss about his father’s history, influences, and accomplishments; an introduction on Reiss written by Cheryl Slutzky, which is a revised version of her master’s thesis in art history; and a revised version of a lecture given by art historian and retired museum director Tom Freudenheim, Class of 1959, when the collection was exhibited in 1997.

Many items from the Reiss collection have been digitized and will be available through the VIA (Visual Information Access) Catalog later in 2008.

New Appointments

Katherine Beaty

Book Conservator (HCL) (January)
Weissman Preservation Center
Harvard University Library

Katherine Beaty has interned at the Library of Congress in the book conservation department, and also worked as a fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library. She earned a BFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and an MA, with a certificate in conservation, from Buffalo State College.

Jing Zhu Chiang

Microfilm Camera Operator (January)
Preservation and Imaging Services
Harvard College Library

Jing Zhu Chiang formerly worked as a patient service coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital. She has an associate's degree from China's Shanghai College of Accounting.

Claire Cramer

Library Assistant (January)
Access Services
Widener Library
Harvard College Library

Claire Cramer recently worked as a library intern at the Center on Media and Child Health at Children's Hospital, Boston. She has a BA in anthropology from Vassar and is working on an MSLIS at Simmons.

Qing Gao

Preservation Cataloger (January)
Preservation and Imaging Services
Harvard College Library

Since 1991, Qing Gao has worked as an acquisitions assistant in HCL's Harvard-Yenching Library. She holds a bachelor's degree from Wuhan University in China and an MSLIS from Simmons.

Samuel E. Hong

Weekend Supervisor (January)
Gutman Library
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Samuel E. Hong has an MA and an MTS from Boston University, and a ThM and a BA from Yonsei University in South Korea. He is a PhD candidate at Northeastern University's Bouve College of Health Sciences, and he recently completed service as a lieutenant in the US Army Reserve.

Stephen Jennings

Copy Stand Photographer (January)
Fine Arts Library
Harvard College Library

Stephen Jennings has over 20 years of experience as a professional photographer. His past library projects include production of government records inventories, surveys of academic library gifts, and cataloging and digital conversion of family and corporate archives. He earned a BA in English from Bridgewater State College.

Sabrena Johnson

Conservation Technician (February)
Collections Conservation Laboratory
Preservation and Imaging Services
Harvard College Library

Sabrena Johnson is a former special collections assistant at Harvard Law School Library, where she performed preservation and conservation procedures on a variety of materials. She has a BA and an MA in English from Tulane University and an MSLIS from Simmons.

Mikel Kearns

Administrative Coordinator (January)
Social Sciences Program
Harvard College Library

Since 2005, Mikel Kearns has worked in the Office of the Librarian of Harvard College as a staff assistant. She received her BA in English from Stonehill College, and is currently working towards her MSLIS at Simmons.

Wai Fan Leung

Library Assistant (January)
Chinese Acquisitions and Reference
Harvard-Yenching Library
Harvard College Library

Wai Fan Leung has worked at the Harvard-Yenching Library since 2006. She has worked previously as a registered nurse in Hong Kong.

Jaime McAllister-Grande

Materials Management Project
Manager (February)
HCL Technical Services
Harvard College Library

Jaime McAllister-Grande has worked in Technical Services as a library assistant in the English Division and as a Materials Management assistant. She holds a BA in music and Spanish from Holy Cross and an EdM from Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

Abigail McGuire

Staff Assistant (January)
Human Resource Services
Harvard College Library

Abbey McGuire has been working in Human Resource Services on a temporary basis since September. She has a BA in English and American studies from Colby College.

Steven Ng

Network and Systems Administrator
(January)
Information Technology Services
Harvard College Library

Prior to joining HCL, Steven Ng worked as a senior consultant and systems administrator for Capgemini; he has also worked as a systems applications administrator for the Harvard Risk Management Foundation. He holds a BA in management information systems and marketing from Northeastern University.

Chiu In O

Library Assistant (January)
Chinese Acquisitions and Reference
Harvard-Yenching Library
Harvard College Library

In this position, Chiu In O will prepare the Chinese Collection for the replacement of the library's compact shelving. She has worked in Harvard-Yenching Library on a part-time basis since 2003.

Robert Seaback

Library Assistant (January)
Binding and Shelf Preparation
Harvard College Library

Robert Seaback is working toward a BS in music technology at Northeastern University.

Hugh Truslow

Librarian for the Davis Center
Collection (January)
Social Sciences Program
Harvard College Library

Hugh Truslow holds a BA in Russian language from the University of Vermont. He also spent a year at Moscow University and attended the Middlebury College Russian Language School. He received an MSLIS from Simmons in May.

Ruth Tucker

Ward Music Cataloger (January)
Houghton Library
Harvard College Library

Ruth Tucker will catalog the collection of ballet, opera, and dance materials given by Professor Emeritus John Ward to the Harvard Theatre Collection. She has worked in the Weissman Preservation Center as a projects cataloger since 2003 and as a project cataloger in the Houghton Library from 1994 to 1996 and from 1999 to 2001. She has a BA in music and English and an MLS with a certificate in music librarianship from UCLA, as well as a JD from Suffolk University Law School.

Darla White

Records Manager and Archivist
(December)
Center for the History of Medicine
Countway Library of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Darla White worked for seven years for the Hunt Alternatives Fund, most recently as archivist and librarian. She also serves as the librarian for the Massachusetts Orchid Society. In addition to a dual MSLIS/MA in history from Simmons, she has a BA from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in English literature and religious studies.

Allan Wright

Binding Manager (February)
Binding and Shelf Preparation
Preservation and Imaging Services
Harvard College Library

Allan Wright has worked in the Binding and Shelf Preparation unit since 2005. He earned a BA in psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Shelley Zatsky

Imaging Technician (February)
Preservation and Imaging Services
Harvard College Library

Shelley Zatsky worked recently as a photography teacher at Belmont High School. She has an AS in photography from Endicott College, a BFA in photography from California Institute of the Arts, and an MFA from Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

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Loeb Music Co-Authors Groundbreaking Report on Audio Preservation

Although Gordon and Loeb Music attempted to come up with solutions for working with DATs, they met with limited success. “We recommend that DATs be reformatted ASAP, if possible,” said Gordon. “Since writing the document, we have heard of several other methods of retrieving data off of DAT tapes that warrant investigation.”

Along with the report comes a suite of 40 pieces of software, designed at Harvard and overseen by David Ackerman, audio engineer in Loeb Music’s Audio Preservation Studio, who wrote nearly a third of the program code. The software enables audio engineers to streamline the preservation process and to remove the likelihood of human error from the mechanical aspects. It will be publicly available to the preservation community, Ackerman stated, and

it should have the potential to help other institutions solve problems similar to those Harvard and Indiana have encountered.

“My expectation is that the report is going to reach a lot of organizations, both in the US and internationally,” said Ackerman. “The Library of Congress has called us to talk about the software and to say they want to get hold of it, so the impact is there.” The report is all the more valuable because it takes a candid look at Harvard’s and Indiana’s experiences, reporting on the failures as well as successes. “It would have been easy to write a report like this that whitewashes all the problems that you encounter. There was an effort from both institutions not to do that.”

Only a month after release, the publication has been downloaded nearly 1,200 times and each appendix at least 165 times—and some close to 300 times. The project team has also fielded requests for a print version.

The *Sound Directions* project began several years ago when Virginia

Danielson, Richard F. French Librarian of the Loeb Music Library, and Daniel Reed, director of the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University, discovered that their institutions shared a similar objective in moving forward responsibly with audio preservation. Discussions with NEH revealed that American granting agencies were concerned about standards and best practices within US institutions. They applied for and received funding and began their work by looking at standards developed in Europe and Australia.

“We are certainly not a standards-creating organization,” said Danielson, “but we did think we could work on best practices, particularly using published documentation from IASA [the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives] as a point of departure.

“The report has been very well received by IASA membership,” said Danielson, “and it is being circulated

by the Coalition for Networked Information.” Richard Wright, archive technology manager at the BBC Future Media and Technology program, wrote, “I was impressed with the clarity and especially the division between presentation of curatorial vs. technical guidance. I’m sure this is a tremendous contribution to audio preservation.”

Danielson partially credits the seven-member advisory board—composed of sound engineers whose experience in academic institutions included long-term audio storage—that aided the *Sound Directions* project with its success. The board consulted with Harvard and IU throughout the project. “We really tried to cast our net as broadly as possible, nationally and internationally, and put ourselves on the most solid ground we could in saying that these looked to us like the best practices,” said Danielson.

Sound Directions: Best Practices for Audio Preservation is available in PDF: http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/sounddirections/papersPresent/lsd_bp_07.pdf.

Staff Activities

Michael Bradford, serials and electronic resources librarian at Andover–Harvard Theological Library, Harvard Divinity School, has co-authored an article entitled “Education and Electronic Resources (ER) Librarianship: How Library School Programs Are Meeting the Needs of the ER Librarian Position.” It will be simultaneously published in volume 32, number 1/2 of the journal *Collection Management* and as a chapter in the forthcoming monograph entitled *Electronic Resources Librarianship and Management of Digital Information*.

Ravi Mynampaty, software engineer, Baker Library—Knowledge and Library Services, Harvard Business School, gave a presentation on “Implementing One-Stop Enterprise Search” on November 7, at the Enterprise Search Summit conference in San Jose, California.

Leah Orent, Littauer Hebraica Specialist in the Harvard College Library’s Judaica Division, has had a book published recently by Hakibuts Hameuchad Press in Jerusalem: *Ratso va-shov: yesodot etiyim u-mistiyim be-torato shel R. Shneur Zalman mi-Ladi: iyun hashva’ati (Running and Returning: Ethical and Mystical Elements in the Teachings of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Lyady: A Comparative Study)*. The book deals with the conflict between ethical and mystical values in a religious context, comparing Chabad Hasidism to other religious traditions, specifically Christian and Hindu.

Pamela Schechtmann, library assistant at Baker Library—Knowledge and Library Services, is now an HUCTW union representative for Harvard Business School. Schechtmann has also completed certification requirements for the title “Mediator” in the State of Massachusetts; certificate requirements were completed at Mediation Works in Boston.

Liam Sullivan, library assistant at Baker Library—Knowledge and Library Services, was elected as a representative of the Professional Region to the HUCTW Executive Council on December 4, 2007. Sullivan began participating in bi-monthly Executive Board meetings on February 12, 2008.

Loeb Music Co-Authors Groundbreaking Report on Audio Preservation



Jennifer Tomasec/Harvard College Library

Bruce Gordon, audio engineer in Loeb Music Library's Audio Preservation Studio, is the co-author of the *Sound Directions* report.

A new best practices report co-authored by staff in HCL's Loeb Music Library is drawing both national and international attention for its comprehensive and candid approach to the field of audio preservation at both the curatorial and technological levels. *Sound Directions: Best Practices for Audio Preservation* provides solid grounding for institutions pursuing audio preservation either in-house or in collaboration with an outside vendor.

Part of the *Sound Directions* project undertaken jointly by the Loeb Music Library at Harvard and the Archive of Traditional Music at Indiana University (IU), this 168-page publication presents the results of two years of research and development funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The work was carried out by project and permanent staff at both institutions in consultation with an advisory board of experts in audio engineering, audio preservation, and digital libraries.

Audio preservation is vital to the survival of an enormous variety of recordings that are by turns cultural, educational, artistic, and documentary—covering everything from birdsong to court case depositions to poetry readings to academic lectures to musical performances.

At Harvard, for instance, work is currently under way to preserve the Milman Parry Collection of Yugoslav Oral Epic Poetry, recordings of

20th-century poets reading their own works, a collection of Iranian oral histories, and South Indian classical musical performances by major artists of the mid-20th century.

"In the recent past, audio preservation meant the maintenance of a physical object such as a grooved disc recording or an open-reel tape recording," said Bruce Gordon, audio engineer in Loeb Music Library's Audio Preservation Studio and co-author of the *Sound Directions* report. "Before the original was in danger of deterioration, the curator would direct an audio technician to perform preservation transfers of the original recording onto a new magnetic tape—and each tape was in turn copied before it also was endangered."

Unfortunately, said Gordon, multigenerational analog transfer accumulates noise and distortion. So true audio preservation was not practical, if even truly possible, until the development of high-resolution digital audio that allowed technicians to copy items without loss of fidelity or increased noise. More recently, thanks to innovations in electronic data storage and a drop in the cost of large storage systems, true audio preservation is not only possible, but practical and cost-effective.

"As a result," continued Gordon, "audio preservation has evolved from the simple care of physical objects to a system or program of digitization, storage, and access as well as the retention and care of the original object. The complexity of preservation

systems requires the curator to rely upon audio engineers, technicians, and information systems specialists to attend to the technical details."

Co-authored by Gordon and Mike Casey, associate director for recording services at IU, the *Sound Directions* report establishes best practices in many areas where they did not previously exist. This work also explores the testing and use of existing and emerging standards and includes chapters on personnel and equipment for preservation transfer, digital files, metadata, storage, preservation packages and interchange, and audio preservation systems and workflows. Each chapter has two major parts: a preservation overview that summarizes key concepts for collection managers and curators, followed by recommended technical practices for audio engineers, digital librarians, and other technical staff. The publication is very detailed about discoveries at both Harvard and Indiana.

"Our aim was to offer two real-world examples of preservation programs and systems, and to provide the community with a set of realistic best practices based upon existing or emerging standards and upon our own experience."

"Our aim was to offer two real-world examples of preservation programs and systems, and to provide the community with a set of realistic best practices based upon existing or emerging standards and upon our own experience," said Gordon.

Gordon and Casey designed the report to be as user-friendly as possible, despite its necessarily technical bent. "Rationales are given for those best practices, followed by background material, and then the

details of the work for the rabid technologist and the very curious curator. There are appendices for the essential but otherwise unwieldy information."

For example, the best practice that calls on curators to use skilled audio engineers and technicians may seem self-evident, but it is particularly imperative considering the extreme fragility of some recordings. Institutions might be tempted to enlist the help of trained students to perform preservation transfers, but using a professional is simply a wiser choice.

"Although students can be trained, they typically do not have intimate knowledge of obsolete playback technologies and might compromise the quality of the transfer of a critically endangered object. The object may only be playable once before it is damaged beyond repair, so the curator must be aware of the true cost of unskilled labor," Gordon stated.

A sixth best practice, for example, is more technical: "Use the Broadcast Wave Format for the preservation of audio." Gordon explained that this format is easily identifiable and playable by the largest number of audio software applications, and the file can store metadata (data about the audio data) as well as the pure audio data. "We believe Broadcast Wave Files will have the longest useful life until that format itself becomes obsolete. Having all of our data in a single format will facilitate the inevitable migration to the next logical format."

One of the biggest technical obstacles they encountered is a format of digital tape called DAT (digital audio tape). "It was originally designed as a consumer format, but was widely adopted by the professional audio community and by ethnomusicologists for field recordings because of its compact form and ability to record up to two hours of CD-quality digital audio," said Gordon. "It became a de facto standard for portable digital audio recording. This is unfortunate because it was not designed for robustness as a professional tape format should be."

DAT tape is extremely thin and narrow and, with data recorded by a rotating head like that in a VCR, prone to tracking errors. Recordings are sometimes flawed, and a poorly stored tape may refuse to play years, months, or even days later.

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