



LibraryNotes

For Harvard Library staff

Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Available Online

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A screen shot from the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Online. The result of a multiyear digitization effort, the online portal offers scholars access to the thousands of pages of interview transcripts that make up the HPSSS.

For decades, the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System (HPSSS) has been a major source of information for researchers analyzing the Soviet Union between World War I and World War II. Due to its archaic and often confusing indexing system, though, the HPSSS has also been a major source of frustration for researchers trying to comb through its 61 volumes in search of specific data.

With digitization of the thousands of pages of summary interview transcripts that make up the HPSSS and the creation of the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Online, those frustrations should become a thing of the past. The web-based portal serves as the primary access point to the HPSSS for scholars studying Soviet history, culture, society, economics, and a multitude of other subjects. It allows scholars to search interview transcripts online, quickly finding material that previously may have required weeks to locate. The site also includes links to finding aids and includes guidelines to aid scholars in their searches.

“The paper and microfilm versions are difficult to use,” said Bradley Schaffner, head of the Slavic Division of Widener Library Collection Development, Harvard College Library. “Students could spend a whole semester or more attempting to identify relevant information.”

As part of the digitization effort, every transcript page was re-keyed, according to Richard Lesage, technical services librarian for the African and Asian Unit of HCL Technical Services. HPSSS makes it feasible for researchers to search the text of every transcript for any word or phrase. The search feature allows researchers in minutes to find material that may previously have taken days or weeks to find.

“Now you can find the same material by using keywords, like ‘school,’ ‘education,’ or ‘teaching,’ or you can combine those words,” said Lesage. “That’s definitely one of the great advantages, besides the simultaneous remote access that the online version provides.”

Though the paper transcripts had been used for teaching by Terry Martin, the George F. Baker III Professor of Russian Studies, he now uses the new, digital format for his Soviet history classes. The online resource has been used by other instructors as well. A post-doctoral fellow in the Davis Center for Russian Studies, Benjamin Tromly presented students with a selection of quotations from the transcripts, which students used to identify research topics. One student was able to identify, categorize, and analyze instances in which interview subjects discussed rumors related to Stalin, while another used the transcripts for a paper on abortion, a subject that hasn’t been extensively studied in Stalinist Russia.

Conducted between 1950 and 1953, the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System included interviews with more than 700 refugees from the Soviet Union, along with several thousand written questionnaires. The goal of the project was to document the life of ordinary Soviet citizens from about 1917 until the outbreak of World War II. Interviewees were Soviets who found themselves outside their country at the end of the Second World War, and were therefore more willing to talk to researchers.

The two-year digitization effort, launched in 2005, was a joint project between staff of HCL’s H. C. Fung Library and the Slavic Division of Widener Library, and was funded by the Harvard University Library Digital Initiative. Production of the digital collection was undertaken by Harvard College Library Imaging Services staff.

“There’s nothing like it, there’s just nothing like it,” said Hugh Truslow, librarian for the Davis Center Collection at the Fung Library. “There was no public opinion data available, so there was no way to find out how the society really worked, other than talking to its people. Of course, that was not an option in the Soviet Union. There’s just nothing like it on this scale.”



Harvard's New Discovery Platform

In a March 9 message to Harvard librarians, Dale Flecker, associate director of the University Library for Systems and Planning, announced that Harvard University Library (HUL) will adopt the AquaBrowser Library as its new discovery platform, offering new ways for users to search and interact with data in Harvard's library catalogs. Selection of the new platform is in keeping with strategic goals set by Harvard's University Library Council in 2007.

Sometime in April, HUL will debut a beta version of the AquaBrowser Library. The beta, initially running in tandem with the current "Harvard Libraries" portal at <http://lib.harvard.edu>, includes the entire HOLLIS catalog and offers faceted searching, relevancy ranking, integrated Authority File, word-cloud discovery, and real-time availability information for items. Additionally, the AquaBrowser system provides links to circulation services, allowing patrons to place holds, make requests, view circulation information, and renew items.

Harvard's AquaBrowser implementation will be updated continuously over the coming months, providing users with new sources of data and additional functionality. HUL expects a full release by September 2009 and will continue to update the product in response to user feedback.

A small advisory team of Harvard librarians has worked with HUL's Office for Information Systems (OIS) and AquaBrowser's developer MediaLab Solutions (a business unit of R. R. Bowker) on the configuration and scaling of the new discovery platform. The team has also helped to establish a plan for a fast implementation of the system.

Prior to the beta launch, OIS will hold an open meeting (date to be announced) for Harvard librarians to discuss the new system. In addition, OIS will offer the University Library community a week-long preview of the system prior to its public launch for students, faculty, and staff.

To view AquaBrowser implementations at other universities, visit the University of Chicago's Lens (<http://lens.lib.uchicago.edu>) or the University of Pittsburgh's PittCat+ (<http://pittcatplus.pitt.edu>).



A 10-Year Celebration for VIA

Harvard librarians recently marked the 10th anniversary of the VIA—or Visual Information Access—catalog, which now contains more than 500,000 records and images. For this landmark occasion, the VIA Working Group hosted a March 4 celebration in the Lamont Forum Room, highlighting VIA as a unique resource for study, teaching, and research. The VIA Working Group offered poster sessions on VIA as it relates to the history of art and architecture, social history, material culture, the Middle East and Asia, business history, Harvard history, the history of the photograph, and more.

To explore VIA, visit <http://via.harvard.edu>.

Dear Colleagues,

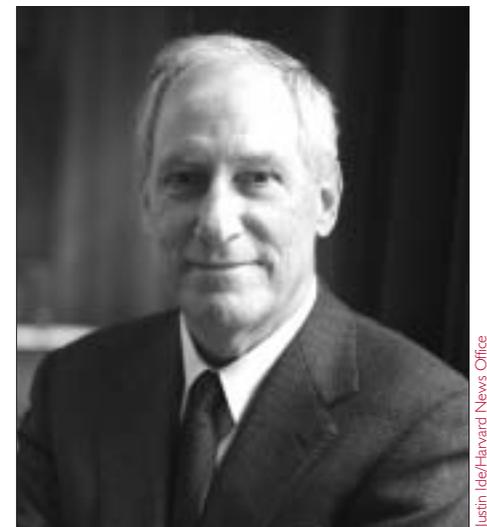
As most readers of *Library Notes* probably know, a task force chaired by Provost Steven Hyman has been appointed to study the University Library and come up with suggestions for its improvement. According to the announcement, made on February 27, the task force is to recommend ways for the entire library system to be adapted to the information needs of the 21st century. The charge and the list of members of the task force follow on the next page. I write to provide some context for this initiative.

No one among the readers of *Library Notes* is likely to question the central importance of the library to the life of the University. But how can we express it most effectively? We have plenty of statistics: holdings of 16 million volumes, 7.5 million photographs, millions of manuscript pages, more than 10 million bibliographic records in HOLLIS, and more than 6 million digital objects in the Digital Repository Service. We can also point to the services provided by our library community—in access, reference and research, IT, preservation, and other areas—which bring the collections to life.

And we can cite our history, beginning with the beginning of the college itself and the bequest of John Harvard's 400 volumes in 1638. Since then, the library has grown, sprouting branches and sending out shoots, until it now fills several landscapes. As the system has evolved, Harvard's libraries have adapted to environments, acquired identities, developed traditions, and commanded the loyalties of the intellectual communities they serve. Whatever the task force recommends, their institutional integrity should be preserved.

That thought leads to the most important point to make about the task force: it is meant to make a great library greater; it is not intended merely to produce cutbacks.

To be sure, the current fiscal challenges have provided the impetus for a general re-evaluation of HUL. When every tub is forced to shrink its bottom, how could this enormous library system, which costs more than \$150 million a year, not come under scrutiny? Despite great efforts to avoid duplication, notably in subscriptions to serials, many services and collections throughout HUL could be organized more efficiently.



Robert Darnton

The task force will not behave in the manner of efficiency experts, but it will look for opportunities to integrate all the parts of the whole and to make them function more effectively.

In order to do so, it needs to hear from those who know the system best—that is, from the professional experts who keep the Harvard Libraries going. For the library community, there will be forums for discussion, meetings within individual libraries, and a web site for feedback and suggestions. The task force will not be a closed investigation, working in camera. Its existence is bound to arouse anxieties. Who cannot be worried at a time when the entire University is contracting and each of us has seen her or his savings shrink? But as can be seen by the following mission statement, the task force is meant to be a force for good, and its primary task is to make the library better.

Cordially,

Robert Darnton

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

Harvard's Provost Announces A New Library Task Force

February 27—Provost Steven Hyman today announced the formation of a task force charged with developing recommendations to make the Harvard Library system stronger and more responsive to the needs of students and faculty at a time of both technological change and financial challenge.

Harvard's libraries are one of its greatest assets, with more than 16 million volumes, vast archival collections, and a robust menu of online offerings. Since the establishment of the first Harvard library in 1638, however, the system has grown organically. The resulting highly decentralized system has made it difficult to coordinate services or to be as nimble as we might be during a period of rapid technological change.

"We will come out of this process with an organization that is more responsive to the needs of the research and teaching communities across Harvard," Hyman said. The panel will set priorities to tailor the system for the rapidly changing digital information landscape and propose reforms aimed at supporting collecting, preservation, and other core activities."

The task force, which Hyman will chair, will be comprised of 19 members chosen from the faculty and from libraries across the University. The committee will consider how acquisition, preservation, and conservation policies can be improved. In addition to assessing the system's changing technological needs, the task force will also prepare for changes in the way scholars are pursuing research.

"This is an opportunity to craft a different approach to the management of our libraries, one that takes into account the increasing interest in interdisciplinary research," said Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College and a member of the task force. "We need to better understand our colleagues' needs, and we need to better understand how our users' changing needs can be met."

Robert Darnton, the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library, said that while the current economic climate added urgency to the task, the task force's mission was focused on improving the library system.

"We can make a great library system even greater by rethinking structure and services on a pan-University scale," said Darnton, who also will serve on the task force. "It is being done in the spirit of trying to improve service."

The Task Force Charge

Harvard's libraries are among its greatest resources and contribute to the University's global leadership. At this time in its history, the library system faces significant challenges as it seeks to maintain its collecting and to fund other aspects of its core mission. This system, comprised of more than 70 separate libraries, has evolved organically over 371 years, often with too little consideration given to its overall structure.

Many of the components of this system are great treasures, yet the duplication of acquisitions, licenses,

We will come out of this process with an organization that is more responsive to the needs of the research and teaching communities across Harvard.

and long-term storage space may detract from our ability to fund critical priorities. Several libraries have their own preservation laboratories, digital facilities, archives, and methods of handling special collections. They undertake common activities in incompatible ways, often without reference to the resources and expertise available at the center of the system in places like the Weissman Preservation Center, the Harvard University Archives, and the Office for Information Systems. The creation of HOLLIS showed how all of the libraries could benefit from a centralized service.

This task force is charged with making clear recommendations to the President and the Council of Deans to adapt the Harvard Library system to the 21st century to make a stronger and more efficient library system. This effort is not meant to slow efforts going on within schools, but to facilitate University-wide efforts to rationalize our system. In particular the committee should (1) set clear priorities to tailor the system to the information landscape being created by technological innovation, and (2) propose reforms that will help maintain collections and support other core activities at the highest attainable level.

Task Force Membership

- Chair, Steven Hyman, Provost; Professor of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School (HMS)
- Jeremy Bloxham, Mallinckrodt Professor of Geophysics and Professor of Computational Science; Dean of Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)
- Nancy Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, FAS
- Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library (HUL)
- Mary Maples Dunn, Former Director, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
- Andrew Gordon, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, FAS
- Jennifer Hochschild, Henry LaBarre Jayne Professor of Government and Professor of African and African American Studies, FAS
- Mary Lee Kennedy, Executive Director, Knowledge and Library Services, Harvard Business School
- Isaac Kohane, Lawrence J. Henderson Professor of Pediatrics; Director, Countway Library of Medicine, MS
- David Lamberth, Professor of Philosophy and Theology, Harvard Divinity School
- James McCarthy, Professor of Biological Oceanography; Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, FAS
- Kathleen McCartney, Gerald S. Lesser Professorship in Early Childhood Development; Dean, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Louis Menand, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English, FAS
- Donald Oppenheimer, Associate Dean and Chief Information Officer, John F. Kennedy School of Government
- John Palfrey, Vice Dean of Library and Information Resources and Henry N. Ess III Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- Antoine Picon, Professor of the History of Architecture and Technology, Harvard Graduate School of Design
- Stuart Shieber, James O. Welch, Jr., and Virginia B. Welch Professor of Computer Science, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Director of the Office for Scholarly Communication, HUL
- Laurel Ulrich, 300th Anniversary University Professor, FAS
- Clayton Spencer, Vice President for Policy, ex officio

Staff Activities

Kate Bowers, collections services archivist in the University Archives, Harvard University Library, has compiled and edited a new online publication, *Thesaurus for Use in College and University Archives*—a set of 1,300 terms for use by any college or university archives in the US for describing its holdings. The topical facets are academic affairs, administration, classes of persons, corporate culture, events, fields of study, history, infrastructure, sports, and student life.

The publication is available on the Society for American Archivists web site: <http://www.archivists.org/publications/epubs/thesaurus.asp>.

Photograph conservator Elena Bulat and Paul M. and Harriet L. Weissman Senior Photograph Conservator Brenda Bernier, both of the Weissman Preservation Center, Harvard University Library, presented papers at the Photographic Materials Group (PMG) meeting in Tucson, Arizona. The PMG of the American Institute for Conservation is the professional association for photograph conservators, and its biannual meeting is the premier scholarly venue for its members, drawing an international audience.

Bulat's presentation, entitled "A Case for Preservation: Revisiting the Agassiz Collection of Daguerreotypes from the Peabody Museum Archives at Harvard University," summarized an extensive preservation project on 36 exceptional daguerreotypes, some of which

famously depict African American slaves. The daguerreotypes are among Harvard's earliest photographs and present numerous conservation challenges.

Bernier's talk, "Polaroid Vectographs," focused on an unusual type of 20th-century three-dimensional photograph. She outlined the history and physical characteristics of vectographs in general and the preservation of the extensive vectograph material from the Polaroid Corporate Collection at Baker Library Historical Collections. Audience members were given 3-D glasses to view part of her presentation.

Haden Guest, director of the Harvard Film Archive (HFA) in the Harvard College Library's Fine Arts Library, has published an interview he conducted with the Argentinean director Lucrecia Martel when she visited the HFA. The interview is in the Winter 2009 edition of *BOMB* magazine, a quarterly arts and culture publication.

Steve Livernash, media technician for the Harvard Film Archive, was honored with a special commendation on February 8 by the Boston Society of Film Critics for "setting a sterling example of film projection as a serious, aesthetic calling, and for extending his job definition to include film preservation."

Harvard–Yenching's New Digital Collections Capture Bygone Era in China

Two new digital photograph collections, the Edward Bangs Drew Collection and the John Freeman Collection, have been added to the collections of Harvard–Yenching Library. The images are of particular significance to researchers, said Raymond Lum, librarian for the Western Languages Collection in the Harvard–Yenching Library, because they illustrate a China that vanished decades ago.

"There's a tremendous interest now in old photographs of Asia," Lum said. "One reason is that China has changed so tremendously in the 20th century that a lot of what was photographed, like temple buildings, customs, and clothing styles, has disappeared. A lot of Chinese don't have any memory of these things." By allowing students to see the cultural practices they discuss in class, the photo collections have proven an effective pedagogical tool, Lum said.

Made up of more than 500 photos, the Drew Collection was amassed by Edward Bangs Drew, Class of 1863, who worked for decades in China at the end of the 19th century. Shortly after graduating from Harvard, Drew was recruited by Sir Robert Hart to join the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service, a Chinese governmental agency created to collect customs on inland and ocean trade. He returned to Boston following his retirement in 1908.

The Freeman collection includes nearly 750 photographs of northeast China and Manchuria taken by John Freeman

in the 1930s. The photographs are collected in albums and mounted on black paper, and it is the albums themselves that have been digitized. The Freeman albums came to Harvard in the 1970s through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant overseen by Mary Ellen Alonso, then an associate of Harvard's Fairbank Center for East Asian Research. Through the grant, Alonso had travelled throughout the US, identifying and copying photo collections of China's minorities still held in private hands.

"Digitizing photos allows us to make them available to the international scholarly community without having to let anybody handle the originals," Lum said. "These digital projects, and others, like the Hedda Morrison Photographs of China and the Rev. Claude L. Pickens Jr. Collection on Muslims in China, also alert people to what we have, and that's part of the mission of the library. The success of our digital projects has led people who are not associated with Harvard to donate their collections. We've received thousands of additional photographs, mainly of China, but also some of Japan, because people know we're interested, and we're doing something with them."

View the Edward Bangs Drew Collection in the VIA catalog at <http://via.harvard.edu>. Search for "Edward Bangs Drew" in "anywhere."

View the John Freeman Collection using Harvard's Page Delivery Service: <http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/11173092?n=1&imageSize=1200&jp2Res=.125>

Houghton to Host Four Major Symposia in 2009

The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ballets Russes, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the 300th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Johnson—and all four will be celebrated at HCL's Houghton Library.

Scholars from around the world will gather at the library next year for four major exhibitions and symposia dedicated to Lincoln's life and legacy, the artistic impact of the Ballets Russes, a reexamination of Doyle's place in literary history, and a

comprehensive examination of Johnson's contributions to intellectual and creative cultures.

Two of the events—the Ballets Russes and Samuel Johnson exhibitions and symposia—will highlight collections that are among the most extensive in the world. "The other two, the Lincoln and Doyle events, highlight collections that people do not normally associate with Houghton," said Tom Horrocks, associate librarian for collections at Houghton Library.

"It just so happens that 2009 marks a significant milestone for four of our collections," Horrocks said, "and we plan to celebrate each fully."

**Abraham Lincoln at 200:
New Perspectives on His Life and Legacy**
January 20–April 25
Houghton Library

Curated by Tom Horrocks, associate librarian for collections, Houghton Library

**Diaghilev's Ballets Russes:
20 Years That Changed the World of Art**
April 15–August 28
Pusey Library

Curated by Fredric Woodbridge Wilson, curator, Harvard Theatre Collection

Ever Westward: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and American Culture
May 5–August 8
Houghton Library

Curated by Peter Accordo, coordinator of programs, Houghton Library

**A Monument More Durable Than Brass:
The Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson**
August 26–November 14
Houghton Library

Curated by John Overholt, assistant curator, Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson and Early Modern Books and Manuscripts, Houghton Library

Enhancing the User Experience

OIS Relaunches Harvard Geospatial Library

Following a yearlong process of redesign and testing, HUL's Office for Information Systems has relaunched the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL), the University's catalog and repository of data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The new HGL offers an enhanced user experience through new functionality and a highly intuitive interface. To view the new HGL, visit <http://hgl.harvard.edu>.

Open to the general public, HGL allows users to search the descriptive information of thousands of GIS layers using text as well as geographic coordinates. In addition, many of the layers are available for download, and are in a consistent, open format so they can easily be used by many different software packages without the need for translation. In order to facilitate the search for meaningful and usable data, HGL can also display GIS layers in a web-based mapping environment. For information about GIS in general, visit any of the links listed in the help pages within the HGL web site.

The HGL redesign reflects careful teamwork accomplished by Bonnie Burns, HCL's interim co-head of the Harvard Map Collection and geographic information systems coordinator; Wendy Gogel, digital projects program librarian in HUL's Office for Information Systems (OIS); David Siegel, geospatial data and information software engineer (OIS); Randy Stern, manager of systems development (OIS); and Janet Taylor, usability and interface librarian (OIS). Working with consultants from Northern Geomatics, the team set out to adopt universal web conventions, such as map controls and page titles, to simplify access to search and browse functions, to provide easy access to help, and to generalize page layouts, reserving a left-hand column for user actions and a right-hand column for data delivery.

According to Burns, "What we have accomplished with the HGL redesign is twofold. First, we have made the extensive geospatial resources of the library far more accessible to all users by making the web site more intuitive and up to date. Second, we have given ourselves more freedom and flexibility for future improvements by using open-source components and standard protocols. This will allow us not only to continue to improve our own site, but to work more easily with other geospatial data providers and their systems."



The new front end to the Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL) and the subject browse tab listing the highlights of the collection. Within the HGL interface you can display multiple layers from multiple time periods to visualize change over time.

While anyone can use the catalog to discover GIS items held at Harvard, access to the repository is limited on a layer-by-layer basis. Some layers are held in the public domain and can be viewed and downloaded by all users. Other layers are restricted by license agreements and can be viewed by Harvard-affiliated users only. Access to restricted layers requires a Harvard ID and PIN.

The Harvard Map Collection in the Harvard College Library holds the largest collection of GIS-ready data on campus and is the largest contributor of data to the HGL repository. Other contributors of data include the Center for Geographic Analysis, the Harvard-Yenching Library, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. At this time, Harvard College Library staff are solely responsible for contributing the metadata that describes data added to the HGL repository. Metadata describing information held by organizations other than HGL is created by those groups and harvested into the HGL catalog.



One of the over 6,000 layers of data available from HGL, this 1833 map of Harvard Square by Alexander Wadsworth shows the area of Dudley House, the Cambridge Trust building, the Coop, and Wadsworth House.



Modern information is overlaid with the 1833 Wadsworth map showing how the layout of the Square has changed, including the addition of the Out of Town News building and a partial relocation of Wadsworth House. This data can all be downloaded from HGL and used in research and analysis.

Harvard University Library Notes, in print and online at <http://hul.harvard.edu/publications.html>, is published bimonthly by the Office of the Director of the Harvard University Library on the third Thursdays of January, March, May, July, September, and November. URLs cited are accurate at press time. Inquiries and submissions are welcome at least four weeks in advance. Call 5-7793 for further information.

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Clarification: Interview with Ceilyn Boyd

The *Library Notes* January 2009 interview with Ceilyn Boyd (http://publications.hul.harvard.edu/in_1347/ceilyn-boyd.html) neglected to inform readers that Boyd's yearlong appointment in the Harvard University Library (HUL) is co-sponsored by the Harvard College Library. We regret the omission.

New Appointments

Emily R. Novak Gustainis

Collections Services Archivist (January)
Center for the History of Medicine
Countway Library of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Most recently, Emily R. Novak Gustainis served as librarian/archivist for Historic New England, where she worked on a wide variety of descriptive, reference, research, and public-access projects. Prior to that, she worked as a photograph cataloger at the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, for a digital access project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She was also an archivist for the Information and Archival Services Division of the Winthrop Group, Inc., where she arranged and described collections for a wide variety of corporate and nonprofit clients, including the Architectural Research Institute (Beverly Willis Papers Project), the United Nations, and WGBH. She holds both an MLS and a BA in English literature and teacher education from the State University of New York at Albany.

Ramona Islam

E-Learning and Curricular Design
Librarian (January)
Harvard College Library

Ramona Islam previously worked at Connecticut's Fairfield University as an adjunct professor and senior reference librarian and instruction coordinator. She earned a BA in fine arts from Alfred University, an MLS from Kent State University, and an MA in educational technology from Fairfield University.

HCL's Christina Davis Wins 2009 Witter Bynner Fellowship

US Poet Laureate Kay Ryan has chosen Christina Davis, curator of HCL's Woodberry Poetry Room, as one of two recipients of the 2009 Witter Bynner Fellowship. Ryan introduced Davis and fellow recipient Mary Szybist at the Library of Congress on February 26. Davis and Szybist each received a \$10,000 fellowship, provided by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry in conjunction with the Library of Congress. According to Ryan, "Christina Davis knows when not to know, but simply transmit the compelling illogic of what we really feel. Her poems are filled with room for amazement."

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said, "These fellowships—to poets whose distinctive talents and craftsmanship merit wider recognition—provide a wonderful way for the Laureate, the Library, and the Witter Bynner Foundation to encourage poets and poetry."

The Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry was incorporated in 1972 in New Mexico to provide grant support for programs in poetry through nonprofit organizations. Witter Bynner was an influential early-20th-century poet and translator of the Chinese classic *Tao Te Ching*, which he named *The Way of Life According to Laozu*. He traveled with D. H. and Frieda Lawrence and proposed to Edna St. Vincent Millay (she accepted, but then they changed their minds). He worked at *McClure's Magazine*, where he published A. E. Housman for the first time in the United States, and was one of O. Henry's early fans. For further information on the Witter Bynner fellowships and the poetry program at the Library of Congress, visit <http://www.loc.gov/poetry>.

Ben Johnson

Special Collections Processor (February)
Baker Library Historical Collections
Knowledge and Library Services
Harvard Business School

Ben Johnson came to HBS from the Massachusetts Historical Society, where he was the manuscript and special materials cataloger. He holds an MSLIS (archival management concentration) from Simmons and a BA in history from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts.

Christine Rivera

Information Research Specialist (February)
Baker Research Services
Knowledge and Library Services
Harvard Business School

Christine Rivera has a BS from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, an MS in biostatistics from Dartmouth College, and is in the process of getting her MBA online from Northeastern University. Most recently she was an independent consultant to Hawaii Emergency Physicians Associated, Inc., and she spent several years as a statistician at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Lauren Moffa Syer

Technical Services Librarian for the
Lamont Unit of CSS (January)
HCL/FAS Cataloging Support Services
HCL Technical Services
Harvard College Library

Lauren Moffa Syer has worked at Harvard University Library since 2003, most recently as the workflow and operations supervisor for the Harvard–Google Project in the Office for Information Systems. She has held cataloging positions at MIT, Massachusetts College of Art, and Harvard. She earned a BA in music history and music theory from Oberlin College, and an MSLIS from Simmons.

McMullen to Lead Library and Knowledge Services at HKS

Heather McMullen is the new director of Library and Knowledge Services at the Kennedy School of Government (HKS), replacing Ellen Isenstein, who retired on January 31 (see "Interview: Ellen Isenstein" on page 8). Don Oppenheimer, associate dean and chief information officer of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, made the announcement to the library community on February 17.

"In her short, 16-month tenure here at HKS," Oppenheimer stated, "Heather's contributions have been invaluable to the HKS library as well as to a number of University-wide library initiatives. We look forward to Heather's ongoing role and leadership both in strengthening our current library services and in developing new services to satisfy the School's constantly changing needs for accessing information and knowledge."



Heather McMullen

McMullen joined HKS as head of access and research services in October 2007 after 11 years of experience in academic and government libraries, including positions at MIT. She earned a BA in economics from Canada's University of Waterloo and an MLIS from the University of Western Ontario.

Loeb Music Library Launches Bernstein Web Site

Leonard Bernstein's Boston Years: Team Research in a Harvard Classroom (<http://my.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=bernstein>), a web site devoted to Bernstein's roots in the Boston area, was launched in February by HCL's Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library. Created by students, faculty, and librarians, it features more than a dozen unique interviews with Bernstein family, friends, and contemporaries.

As its name suggests, the site is largely the product of research conducted by students taking part in a Spring 2006 class taught by Music Department professors Carol Oja and Kay Kaufman Shelemay. Working in teams, students fused ethnography and archival research to explore the interlinking communities and institutions that shaped Bernstein's formative years, and prepared an exhibit for the "Leonard Bernstein: Boston to Broadway" festival held that fall. The site also includes interviews conducted during the festival by students in a musical theater seminar led by Oja.

Virginia Danielson, the Richard F. French Librarian of the Loeb Music Library, believes the site will offer insight into a largely unexplored facet of Bernstein's history. "In all of the literature and journalism surrounding the life and musicianship of Leonard Bernstein, his origins in Boston have not really been explored," she said.

"I am particularly proud of this project as a thoroughly integrated endeavor, knitting together the resources of the Music Department faculty, of students, and of the Loeb Music Library."

This month's launch marks the end of more than three years of work, much of it spent tackling technical issues, securing the consent of dozens of students and interview subjects, and contextualizing the material, according to Liza Vick, music reference and research librarian at Loeb Music, who helped construct the site. For now, the site consists largely of interviews with individuals connected to Bernstein, but additional material, including photographs and archival documents, will be added in the coming months.

The site is the result of a collaborative effort among the library, the Academic Technology Group, and several Presidential Instructional Technology Fellows, Vick said.

While some of the student-conducted interviews will be available to all site visitors, the interviews conducted during the 2006 Bernstein festival and selected student findings will be accessible only on computer terminals in the Loeb Music Library. Researchers who wish to access the material off-site will need to make special arrangements with Vick (lizavick@fas.harvard.edu).

Report from Harvard Business School— Mary Lee Kennedy Reflects on a Fact-Finding Trip to China



Brian Smith/Harvard University Library

KLS Executive Director Mary Lee Kennedy: “KLS has a unique information research support model. However, we have very limited experience working with Chinese resources and only a nascent practice in supporting Chinese research.”

In FY 2008 alone, the Harvard Business School (HBS) faculty produced hundreds of working papers and research articles, books, book chapters, field cases, and other teaching materials. Of these, 37% focused on global research, with China representing one of the largest research interests.

At HBS, strategic plans include opening a classroom in Shanghai in FY 2010, continuing to offer annual immersion programs in China to MBA and doctoral students, and expanding executive education programs in China over the next three years.

To address the growing importance of China and to meet the needs of these programs, HBS Knowledge and Library Services (KLS) has established two key goals:

- to establish relationships with universities, business schools, NGOs, and other public- and private-sector organizations in order to support the HBS faculty’s information needs for research and teaching; and
- to establish a network of colleagues (e.g., academics, practitioners, and information professionals) to contribute to a global information network in support of business management education and research.

Most recently, these goals translated into a fact-finding trip to China, during which KLS staff met with colleagues in government and non-government agencies with strong ties to business, professional services firms, and universities, including

- Hong Kong University
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Chinese European International Business School
- Fudan University
- Tsinghua University
- Peking University

In reviewing the China trip, KLS Executive Director Mary Lee Kennedy provided the following reflections for *Library Notes* readers.

“Business as an academic discipline has a short history in China, and our findings reflect its relative newness. Given the emergence of business education, we recorded our findings about degrees, student population, joint programs, and anything else we felt might be of interest to the broader HBS community.”

“We were interested in Chinese content–vendor relationship management, how institutions manage purchased information and intellectual capital, and how they provide access to their information resources.”

“We discovered that the institutions are way ahead of us in terms of digitization; however, the degree to which they are making it accessible and the manner in which they preserve digital objects require further investigation. There are more efforts in institutional repositories than we understood in our early analysis, all of which may be of value to our faculty.”

“KLS has a unique information research support model. However, we have very limited experience

working with Chinese resources and only a nascent practice in supporting Chinese research. Our focus was on identifying unique resources, understanding to what degree our faculty and students could have access to them, and recording any topics that the various institutions highlight as key to their research programs. While we have a more sophisticated research support function than any university we visited, there are many resources we have to review in terms of their usefulness to our faculty. There are also research capabilities in China that may be of use to our faculty, such as that available through the Shanghai Municipal Library. Mandarin fluency (written and verbal) will be essential.”

“One of the primary goals of HBS faculty is knowledge dissemination. KLS plays a role in this and is particularly interested in how knowledge is shared within and outside of institutions. China was a complete blank slate for us, and we used this visit to increase our understanding.”

“We are taking what we have learned, working with China experts at Harvard University, as well as with our newly established Chinese colleagues, to establish the appropriate support mechanisms for faculty and students at HBS. China is a long-term commitment.”

Rubén Blades Archive Comes to Loeb Music Library

He’s attained fame as an award-winning actor and musician, founded a political party and run for President of his native Panama, and served as the Panamanian Minister of Tourism, but now Rubén Blades, LL.M. ’85, will add another credit to his résumé—Harvard College Library benefactor. Earlier this month, Blades agreed to give his personal papers, including rare recordings of rehearsals and concerts, interviews and films, books, and other material, to the Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library. The gift “marks the opening of a whole new vein of intellectual pursuit and a new opportunity for study of Latin American popular culture,” said Virginia Danielson, Richard F. French Librarian of the Loeb Music Library.

The arrival of the archive at Loeb Music Library is largely the result of the work of two people: José Massó, host of the popular radio program *¡Con Salsa!* at WBUR, and Alison Weinstock, a Blades fan, who created *maestravida.com*, an online discography and song reference guide dedicated to Blades’ career. “José and Alison approached the Latin American, Spanish, and Portuguese Division of Widener with the idea of giving the material they had amassed to Harvard,” Danielson said. “Rubén liked the idea, and agreed to give his own material as well. . . . Although it isn’t all music, a lot of it is, so we decided to bring it to the Music Library.”

Though she is not an archivist or librarian, the first hands the material will pass through as it comes in will be Weinstock’s. As part of the gift, she was named by Blades as the coordinator of the Rubén Blades Archive at Harvard University, and she will work with Danielson and other library staff to guide the collection to Harvard.

“This collection will come to us gradually, over a period of years,” Danielson said. “Right now, the material that’s come in is mostly commercial productions, but the next things we’ll get are unique video and audio recordings. That’ll be the really interesting phase. It would be fair to say we expect the archive to entail hundreds of recordings.”

The collection is also a sign of HCL’s growing interest in popular culture, particularly in Spanish-speaking America. “Associate Librarian of Harvard College for Collection Development Dan Hazen and Lynn Shirey, the librarian for Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, have led a really aggressive acquisitions program in the Spanish-speaking world in recent years,” Danielson said. “It’s not just normal books and serious journals, but newspapers and popular media. The Music Library very much wants to be part of the development of a good Hispanic collection.”

Interview: Ellen Isenstein



Jon Chase/Harvard News Office

On January 31, Ellen Isenstein, director of the John F. Kennedy School of Government (HKS) Library, retired after 26 years at the library—12 of them as director. Isenstein, a Belmont native, earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Intending a career as an elementary school teacher, Isenstein found herself drawn to librarianship—initially children’s librarianship—and secured a two-year internship in the Gifts and Exchange program in Harvard’s Widener Library. Subsequently, she earned her MLS from Simmons, served as a government documents librarian at the Boston Public Library (BPL) from 1968 to 1982, and returned to Harvard, this time to the Kennedy School. Isenstein was interviewed for Library Notes on February 18.

LN

You set out to be a children’s librarian, but began your career in librarianship as an intern in Widener.

EI

I had sent off résumés and letters to all the public libraries in Massachusetts, when I heard about the internship program at Widener—which obviously had nothing to do with children’s librarianship. I sent off an application, had an interview, and was offered the job—and I had no idea what a big academic library was like.

I was an intern in Gifts and Exchange for two years, which didn’t really give me a good sense of what librarians do in an academic library. Then the head of that department left for the Boston Public Library and I had another year of library school, so I applied for a job in documents receipts at Widener and got that—and that’s where I got my first step into Government Documents. Subsequently, I spent 14 years in Government Docs at the BPL.

LN

After which you arrived at the Kennedy School. It was 1982, and still the early days of the School. How did you imagine that the library would grow and change?

EI

I actually wasn’t thinking into the future at all. Graham Allison was our very dynamic dean. He was a great fundraiser and energizer. The School was going to grow, but it wasn’t what was really on my mind. It was the era when people were starting to do online searches, which was something that really excited me. I had taken a course in how to do that at Simmons, but there was no opportunity for that at the BPL. Initially, I was a reference librarian for the Kennedy School, and online searching was to be a big part of the job. That was the attraction for me.

LN

We need the perspective of time: when you helped with those early online searches, you were actually doing them, rather than teaching people to do them on their own.

EI

Exactly. None of us in 1982 could have imagined where we are now. For the first venture into “end-user searching,” we had this huge machine that operated a CD-ROM. You pressed a button, a light went on, and it would scroll through an index to newspapers. The students thought it was absolutely spectacular—and it did nothing except scroll through an index.

I also had a NEXIS terminal that took up half of my office. And it really was a dinosaur, even from day one. NEXIS was not widely available at Harvard, but it was crucial for the kind of work that got done at the Kennedy School. There was a fee for service. We paid by the minute, and while I was doing a search, I’d be very conscious of the clock ticking and how much it would cost. It was used by faculty or research assistants—people that had a budget. Students almost never used it.

The growth since is just mind-boggling. I mean, you start out with doing online searches in Dialog and end up where everybody has not just their own computer, not just a laptop, they have Blackberries, they can hook onto the web anytime, anyplace.

We used to be the gatekeepers. Librarians were the key to knowledge, the key to information. Now, students and faculty can get their own information, but they don’t necessarily realize that the information they’re getting might not really be good information.

Today, a crucial part of our work is helping students to evaluate the information that they’re getting. Where is it coming from? Does the source of it have a vested interest in telling you a certain thing? Is it objective? Is it up to date? Who is the author? Of course, that’s always been the case in a way, but when you had a printed book or a journal, there was something, you could fairly safely assume somebody’s vetted this.

LN

The imprimatur is not the same online as it is in print.

EI

Absolutely not. Especially now, when people are getting so much information from the open web, because that’s easiest to find.

LN

Among the constellation of Harvard libraries, the HKS library is fairly small. What are the challenges of being a small library at Harvard?

EI

Well, first of all, it is a challenge to define your role. Why is the Kennedy School Library important when there is a Widener, and there is a major research library for every professional school? And what is the ideal content for a school of government? If we had unlimited collecting space and money, I’m not sure what the collection would be.

What we have tried to do is to make the library a place that really works for people, to define ourselves as user-friendly, with good customer service. And if there were problems, we were small enough so that I could know about them, and, if necessary, get involved in fixing them.

Another advantage we have in being small is flexibility and the opportunity to experiment. Staff members’ roles aren’t necessarily cast in stone. People get to work in various parts of the library and get involved in special projects depending on their skills and interests. And we were early adopters of various kinds of technology; for example, chat for reference, and blog software for a library online newsletter and a knowledge base for staff.

The Harvard Kennedy School is a small, defined community. We can help somebody at the reference desk in the morning and then see them in line at the cafeteria. It’s possible to interact with people on many levels.

LN

The library’s central location is a factor, too. And directly below the forum, which doubles as the cafeteria.

EI

People walk in and out all the time because it’s not a major trip. In between classes, students run down to the library.

LN

What do you think is the greatest strength of the Harvard Kennedy School Library?

EI

The staff. We’ve really tried to hire people who have that attitude about wanting to make things work. Caring about the customers, the users. When there’s a problem, wanting to solve it. Reference people who really know what is available for the research interests of the school and make a point of making sure they know how to use it. Making a point of knowing who they’re dealing with and adding value whenever possible.

We don’t have a huge collection or a great space. The greatest strength of the HKS Library is the staff.