Foreword

Harvard's libraries reflect the complete world of scholarship and information. They acquire, disseminate, and preserve information in all the forms in which it is created. Harvard's library holdings range from traditional print collections to rapidly expanding inventories of digital resources. It is the work of the Harvard libraries to provide the University's faculty, students, and researchers—now and in the future—with comprehensive access to all of these materials.

The Harvard University Library is in a distinct class with the greatest libraries in the world: the Library of Congress, the British Library, the New York Public Library, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The world-renowned Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, which is under the aegis of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), is the heart of the University Library. In addition to Widener, the Harvard University Library system encompasses more than 80 libraries gathered into a single system that is widely recognized as the largest academic library in existence.

The Harvard University Library is headed by the senior faculty member who holds the title of Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library. The director interprets the technical and organizational challenges of the library system to the president and serves as chief steward of the collections for the Harvard Corporation.

Sidney Verba, director of the University Library since 1984, will retire on June 30, 2007. Verba will be succeeded by Robert Darnton, currently the Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of European History at Princeton University, effective July 1, 2007.

A Message from Sidney Verba

While a 1636 vote of the Massachusetts General Court appropriated £400 to found an unnamed college in a place then called Newtowne, it was John Harvard's 1638 bequest—his personal library of 400 books together with £700—that set Harvard College on its course and led to the gathering of its first class here in Cambridge.

Nearly 400 years later, the roots of Harvard College, with its mission to raise up ministers for service to the Protestant new world, are difficult to discern. The University’s scope is as comprehensive as its mission: to advance knowledge, promote teaching and research, and help society discover new ways to overcome its most pressing problems.

Harvard’s library system has evolved as the largest university library in the world, with its holdings distributed across more than 80 individual libraries. In addition to more than 15.8 million volumes, the collections include journals, primary source materials, images, audio and video recordings, and digital resources that span a wide range of subjects, languages, and dates. A vast number of rare—and often unique—books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, ephemera, and other materials constitute Harvard's special collections—the rarest of the rare.

Meanwhile, visitors to the Harvard Libraries web site (http://lib.harvard.edu) can find and use thousands of individual digital materials from the Harvard collections, with more available each day.

Because legitimate research materials now include not only thousands of licensed holdings that the University does not own or control but also a plethora of web-based documents, publications, blogs, and other materials whose authority may be difficult to assess or establish, the tasks facing Harvard librarians grow increasingly complex.

Can there be any doubt that we need more information about the world? Today there are no geographic or cultural boundaries to our need to know. But we have two problems. One is that we have too little information; the other is that we have too much information.

Our librarians and our IT professionals are developing new and unimaginably advanced methods for searching out information. They will do so because we can now capture the full text of works—not just a few keywords or subject headings. They’re showing us new ways of figuring out what a book has in it—by looking for particular combinations of words, particular themes, and so forth. In a way, it’s sort of a desire to ask what anybody would ask about a book. Is this book of interest to me? What’s it all about? To some of us, this has become known as the Google-ization of the research library.

Whatever you choose to call these shifts in search methodology, they are changing the nature of scholarship.

In The Tempest, Shakespeare’s Miranda reminds Caliban that she taught him to speak. “I endowed thy purposes with words that made them known.” And Caliban replies, “You taught me language, and my profit on it is I know how to curse.”

We know that new technologies and the Internet and the information they provide can be used for good and for evil. Though there is much to be pessimistic about, remember that Caliban’s mordant comment comes in a work filled with some of the most glorious language and sentiments in the English language.

The glory of libraries is that they preserve and disseminate such creations, along with our scientific achievements and the record of the follies of humanity. The information revolution makes that task more complicated, but makes our ability to preserve and enlighten greater. So let’s hope that we can do it: it will be worth the effort.
Harvard graduates often recount their memories of the library—memories that sometimes go back many years. They usually have fond recollections—even among those who struggled as undergraduates with term papers or who tried to beat a PhD dissertation into shape. They talk of wandering the stacks of Widener, discovering that special book, writing that crucial last chapter. Above all, many remember the library as a place of refuge—outside of time—a place for contemplation.

Today, however, if you tell someone who works in a Harvard library that it is a place of quiet contemplation, cut off from life’s commotion, they would likely answer, “You’ve got to be kidding!” As we withstand and, in fact, learn to love a virtual storm of technological advancement, it is important to recall that each Harvard library is still a unique place of tremendous importance to the University.

If you go to the new reading rooms in Widener, you’ll see that they are filled with people, some of whom are using laptops to access the great range of digital information that is available. Some are writing, while others work in small groups. Naps are not unknown. A large, and perhaps surprising, number of library patrons continue to work with printed books and journals.

In short, the digital and paper media are both alive and well, and are used as part of a seamless body of information. And people still go to the library because it’s a good place to work.

Consider the case of Lamont, the library that is so central to undergraduate life. Since 2005, Lamont has operated 24 hours a day, five days a week—a schedule requested by our undergraduates that was initially viewed with great skepticism among University administrators.

Lamont’s 24/5 service is demonstrably a great success. Visit Lamont at 3 am on a typical weekday, and you’ll find dozens of students in the reading rooms, more in the Lamont Café, and numerous other individuals sprinkled through the stacks. The numbers are consistently greater than we were able to anticipate. It’s quiet, yes, but the sense of energy is palpable.

Lamont Library is woven deeply into the fabric of undergraduate life. It has evolved as much more than a library, and, today, it is one of the most intensively used facilities on the Harvard campus.

Throughout the Harvard Libraries, our great reading rooms have retained their historical importance through careful renovation and renewal. They are—and will continue to be—great centers for scholarly work.

“But the library—especially one so vast—is no mere cabinet of curiosities; it’s a world, complete and uncompletable, and it is filled with secrets. Like a world, it has its changes and its seasons, which belie the permanence that ordered ranks of books imply.”

—Matthew Battles, from Library: An Unquiet History

The main stairs in Widener—Photo by Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office

A Place to Think
Collecting for All Time

Harvard’s libraries collect and hold material from every century—from books and articles about the Big Bang beginning of the universe, through the ages of humans on earth, to the latest news. Our library materials include early medieval manuscripts, old Chinese scrolls, the latest scholarly monographs, bound books from the age of the printing press, and, much more recently, a wide range of digital objects.

In fulfillment of the historical mandate to support teaching and research at Harvard and around the world, the University’s libraries have comprehensive programs to collect
• materials that support today’s curriculum;
• materials that provide the record of today’s scholarship for future generations; and
• primary resources that will support scholarship and instruction as they change over time.

The scope of knowledge that we want and need has increased tremendously. Disciplines have lost their boundaries; barriers have been broken so that people in different disciplines want much more varied material than ever before. And because much more is being written on all subjects, it is our job to collect it.

Around the world, publishing capabilities vary from region to region. Published materials include not only printed books and journals, but “grey literature,” such as political pamphlets, newsletters, reports by governments and non-governmental organizations, and other resources—often of inestimable value to scholars—that were never created to be lasting documents. More and more of this grey literature is web-based, adding urgency to collaborative efforts—primarily through Harvard’s Library Digital Initiative—to archive online materials.

Globalization and multiculturalism are nothing new to the Harvard Libraries. A recent count from the HOLLIS catalog shows the collection containing books in 458 languages—from Abkhaz to Zuni. The Harvard Libraries have been international for a very long time.

Collecting in less developed countries is a complex process that involves nurturing relationships between Harvard’s area and language specialists and local sources on every continent. Without these personal contacts, many valuable items would be unknown and unattainable.

The Harvard Libraries collect materials that originate in all parts of the world. Just as library collections extend from the prehistoric past into the future, so they also extend across space. In this, there is great consistency and continuity.

“. . . when the mind opens and reveals the laws which traverse the universe and make things what they are, then shrinks the great world at once into a mere illustration and fable of this mind. What am I? And what is? asks the human spirit with a curiosity new-kindled, but never to be quenched.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, from the Divinity School Address, July 15, 1838
Given the wide range of their subject and language specialties, the Harvard Libraries are exemplary, exceptional, and deeply complex. Ensuring that the Harvard Libraries are effective partners in teaching and research demands that the University retain and cultivate an equally exemplary cadre of librarians who serve the University community with great skill and tremendous innovation.

“Harvard’s librarians are dedicated professionals at the top of their game,” states Sidney Verba. “They push the envelope to make us better and better in all ways.”

Librarians work more and more closely with students and faculty, helping them to find their way along the paths opened by the information revolution—a revolution that shows no sign of abating. Harvard librarians must envision new services, new forms of outreach, and new ways of acquiring scholarly resources if they are to support the growing and changing demands of teaching and learning across the University.

In Library: An Unquiet History, writer Matthew Battles notes that “Librarians, like those scribes of the Middle Ages, do not merely keep and classify texts: they create them, too, in the form of online finding aids, CD-ROM concordances, and other electronic texts, not to mention paper study guides and published bibliographies.”

As the boundaries around the Western canon have collapsed, as scientific and technological inquiry has exploded, the amount of information that students have available to them has expanded beyond measure—and beyond the four walls of the library. Much of this new information is found on the Internet.

As vital and dynamic a research tool as the Internet may be, its search results can be a mixed blessing. Harvard librarians work directly with students to instill in them the habit of asking the right questions about Internet sources and their authority, bias, currency, and documentation.

“Although reviews of undergraduate education all across the country are almost entirely concerned with curriculum—what courses do we teach and in what order and which ones are required—the question of how we teach those courses is at least as important, if not more so, in determining the ultimate value and impact of a college education.”

—Derek C. Bok, Interim President of Harvard University

Instructional Commitments

![At the main entrance of Lamont Library—photo by Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office](image)
Harvard’s world-renowned library collections are the results of centuries of careful acquisitions that have been made possible by the support of generations of alumni/ae and friends. Materially as well as intellectually, these holdings constitute one of the University’s most valuable assets. The Harvard Libraries are charged with preserving these holdings and ensuring their availability for the long-term future. This vital work is carried out in Harvard’s two major library conservation facilities as well as in collection-specific conservation labs across the University.

The Weissman Preservation Center
At the Weissman Preservation Center, Harvard cares for its most valuable library holdings, including unique and rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, drawings, prints, and archival materials.

Scholarly demand, classroom and exhibition use, and selection for digitization inform the work of the Center. Materials in need of attention are identified by Harvard’s librarians and curators. Once selected, Weissman Center conservators provide the highest possible level of conservation treatment for each of these rare and distinctive items.

Conservation Services in Widener
In the College Library’s collections conservation lab—located in the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library—conservators focus on publications currently in demand by and in circulation to the Harvard community.

Each week in Widener alone, approximately 12,000 items are reshelved. One item out of every ten—because of damage or wear—becomes a candidate for conservation treatment. The goal is to maintain very long-term access to the full range of Harvard’s research collections.

Why Preserve?
The University is sometimes asked, “Why preserve the books if you can keep digital copies? Why keep a high-maintenance physical object when you can account for its intellectual content in digital form?”

In The American Scene (1907), Henry James noted that, “though money alone can gather in on such a scale the treasures of knowledge, these treasures, in the form of books and documents, themselves organize and furnish their world. They appoint and settle the proportions, they thicken the air, they people the space, they create and consecrate all their relations, and no one shall say that, where they scatter life, which they themselves in fact are, history does not promptly attend.”

“Books belong to economics because they are commodities—they are bought and sold. They belong to art history because they are works of aesthetic value. They belong to philosophy and intellectual history because they are carriers of ideas. They belong to English as a form of literature, and they belong to history because they mobilize public opinion and often prove decisive during political conflicts.”

—Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director-Designate of the University Library
For the Harvard Libraries, the desktop computer may be the most powerful agent of change since the development of card catalogs in the 1840s. Today, the Harvard Libraries deliver materials and services to desktops across the campus and around the world.

This massive electronic distribution of materials and services places new and continual demands on the University. Constant upgrades to networks, servers, switches, and other equipment are necessary to accommodate rapidly expanding digital content. This infrastructure is every bit as important as reading rooms and teaching spaces.

Technology is advancing in ways that outpace and out-imagine these tactical, purely technical considerations.

The Harvard Libraries are engaged in sustained, cross-faculty development of comprehensive, multifaceted digital resources and collections; and in the integration of library “discovery” tools with related efforts in research and instruction across the University.

Librarians are surrounded by dramatic and often novel developments in the ways in which users discover scholarly resources. These include:

- the use of “relevance ranking” and “social” features (“others who liked this also liked . . .”) in discovering and selecting resources;
- the explosive growth of full-text search systems including, but not limited to, Google and Amazon.com, that seem to make traditional subject headings and keywords obsolete; and
- the entry of new powerful commercial players into the library “discovery space” —notably Google, Amazon, and Microsoft.

Because of these commercial resources, today’s library patrons have new expectations and new habits of searching, browsing, and navigating information spaces.

According to Dan Moriarty, Harvard’s senior associate provost and chief information officer, “The digital environment has become increasingly competitive—not just among major companies such as Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo, but among different sorts of entities that combine technology and information management services. I think it’s important for universities to form partnerships to leverage evolving commercial technology where it really adds value to the academic mission.”

Nonetheless, the Harvard Libraries retain their special obligation to select, authenticate, deliver, and preserve information in its many forms.

“It has essentially become impossible to talk about libraries, and to plan for their future, without also taking into account the present pace of technological change . . . . A library will be—indeed, it is already being—conceived less as a single discrete physical space than as a gateway to a complex of networks for information, ideas, and knowledge.”

—Neil L. Rudenstine, President Emeritus of Harvard University

Technology is omnipresent in the Monroe C. Gutman Library—Photo by Kris Snibbe/Harvard News Office
A Selection of Digital Collections

Harvard University provides open, online access to a rich array of digital materials, including photographic collections, documents, musical scores, prints, drawings, historical maps, books, legal transcripts, diaries, manuscripts, and more. For an overview of web-accessible collections, visit http://digitalcollections.harvard.edu.

Photograph of the “little sisters” is included in Immigration to the United States, 1789–1930. The collection can be accessed online at http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration.
The Harvard College Library

In its more than 350 years, the Harvard College Library (HCL) has gone through many transitions as Harvard itself evolved from a small college in a distant colony into a world-renowned university. The College Library presents extensive and diverse collections spread across multiple locations. Skilled professionals select and care for these resources, both virtual and physical, and make them accessible to a wide range of users. The library constantly strives to develop services and programs that support students, faculty, and scholars both in Cambridge and around the world.

Mission

The Harvard College Library supports the teaching and research activities of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the University, and the larger scholarly community. Fulfilling the HCL mission requires an extraordinary complement of individuals who can build upon the strong history of the Library while integrating new technologies and incorporating changes from many sectors within and beyond the University.

To achieve this goal, the Library acquires, organizes, preserves, and makes readily available collections of scholarly materials in all media and formats. In addition, the Library provides instruction to users in the location and use of the materials, as well as facilities and services for research and study.

Major Facilities

The Harvard College Library, which holds over 9 million of the University’s 15.8 million volumes, is composed of the following libraries and special units.

Cabot Science Library

Cabot has general collections in all areas of science, with undergraduate materials in applied sciences, astronomy, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, physics, zoology, history of science, and agricultural engineering; and research collections in earth and planetary sciences, pure mathematics, and theoretical statistics. In addition, it houses collections in the fields of geology, geophysics, mineralogy, stratigraphy, geochemistry, and regional geology.

Fine Arts Library

One of the world’s most comprehensive academic art libraries, the Fine Arts collection covers all of Western and non-Western art and architecture, from antiquity to the present, with special collections in East Asian and Islamic art and architecture and the Harvard Film Archive.

Harvard-Yenching Library

The most extensive academic research collection on East Asian materials outside of Asia, the Harvard-Yenching collection consists of publications in the humanities and social sciences on traditional and modern East Asia, and is renowned for its rare books and manuscripts.

Houghton Library

Harvard’s primary repository for rare books and manuscripts, Houghton holds collections on the study of Western civilization, particularly European and American history and literature, and special collections in printing and graphic arts and the theater.

Lamont Library

Lamont supports the humanities and the social sciences curricula and houses the Woodberry Poetry Room, which contains a special collection of contemporary poetry, and the Lamont Library Café. The library is open 24/5 during Fall and Spring semesters.

The Widener colonnade—Photo by Brian Smith/Harvard University Library

Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library

One of the world’s preeminent libraries supporting music research, the Loeb Music collections include thousands of books, scores, and recordings; a world music archive; the world’s largest collection of Turkish and Indian classical music; jazz and African-American music; and an extensive Mozart archive.

Social Sciences Program

Littauer Library

including Environmental Information Services and Numeric Data Services

Littauer holdings include books and serials on economics, government, and political science, with special collections in manpower and industrial relations; electronic numeric data files; and the Environmental Science and Public Policy Archives.

Government Documents/Microforms

This collection includes US and foreign government publications, some intergovernmental publications (especially those of the United Nations), serials, newspapers, government documents, archives in various microformats, electronic data files, and statistics.

Harvard Map Collection

This is America’s oldest map collection, with over half a million maps, atlases from the 15th century to the present, gazetteers, reference books on the history and science of cartography, and detailed topographic maps.

H. C. Fung Library

Fung has holdings focusing on international politics, foreign relations, foreign policy, economics, history, culture, and political science, with select collections in Russian, Eurasian, and East Asian studies.

Tozzer Library

Tozzer is one of the world’s foremost collections supporting the study of anthropology, extending to all its subfields, including archaeology, and is renowned for collections relating to the indigenous people of the Americas.

Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library

Harvard’s flagship library, Widener contains more than 3.5 million books, journals, and other materials that comprise one of the world’s most comprehensive research collections in the humanities and the social sciences.
The Graduate and Professional Schools

The library, under its new leadership, is committed to reaching out and effectively serving its broad range of constituents, including researchers in the basic sciences, clinicians, and health-care consumers.

Andover-Harvard Theological Library
Harvard Divinity School
485,046 volumes
Supports the study of religion at the University and the education of women and men for service as leaders in religious life and thought. A source for research materials on religion for the entire Harvard University community, and, to a lesser extent, for graduates of the University, the schools that make up the Boston Theological Institute; clergy in the vicinity of Cambridge; and researchers and laypersons throughout the world who have a scholarly need to consult the collections. Areas of special collection strength include Biblical studies, Protestant Christianity, Christian doctrinal theology, and certain denominations and sects, especially Unitarianism, Unitarianism, and the liberal religious traditions.

Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Harvard School of Public Health
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
681,677 volumes
Supports and advances the research and teaching activities of the Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, and Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Countway’s collections are among the most extensive in medical libraries. Included among them are an extensive range of primary and secondary resources supporting scholarly studies in the history of medicine. The library is home to the Warren Anatomical Museum, one of the oldest and finest collections of anatomical specimens in the United States and the world. The new HMS-wide Center for Biomedical Informatics is housed in the Countway Library. The library, under its new leadership, is committed to reaching out and effectively serving its broad range of constituencies, including researchers in the basic sciences, clinicians, and health-care consumers.

Harvard Law School Library
1,744,017 volumes
Supports the teaching and research activities of the Harvard Law School, the world’s premier center for legal education and research. Functions as the law library for the University and serves as a resource for legal scholars throughout the world. The Harvard Law School Library is the second largest law library among the University’s more than 80 libraries. Collections include legislation and scholarship from all countries and unincorporated holdings in Anglo-American legal history. The library’s staff includes twelve lawyers. Reference staff have become increasingly involved in research instruction, logging over 300 hours in the classroom and over 500 hours in individual research consultations. Special collections include unique holdings of art and memorabilia related to the law. Mentors a unique collection of art and memorabilia related to the law.

Francis Lecky Library
Harvard Graduate School of Design
291,120 volumes
Supports and enhances the educational programs, curriculum development, and research activities of the Harvard Graduate School of Design as an integral component of the School’s mission to prepare and advance individuals in professional and academic careers concerned with the making of built environments, and to extend the knowledge and skills of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning and design. In addition to collections in these subject disciplines, materials in the areas of building technology and materials, public policy, transportation, environmental issues, and real estate are collected.

Baker Library
Harvard Business School
641,576 volumes
Supports the research, curriculum development, and educational activities of the Harvard Business School. Serves the faculty, staff, and students of Harvard University, as well as HBX alumni, and visiting scholars and students from around the world. Enables the exchange of ideas, expertise, and information in support of the mission of the Harvard Business School. Unique among business school libraries, Baker Library’s historical collections offer a window on the development and growth of business and industry from the 15th through the 21st centuries. The Business School recently completed a $53.4 million renovation and expansion of Baker Library.

Monroe C. Gutman Library
Harvard Graduate School of Education
58,578 volumes
Supports the teaching and research of the Harvard Graduate School of Education by providing access to information in the field of education; teaching the use of information resources; and supporting the collections, equipment, and staff in a manner ensuring that the library remains a leader among education libraries. Research collections include one of the largest collections in the United States of historical textbooks, US public school reports, and private school catalogs from the early 19th century to about 1940.

John F. Kennedy School of Government Library
58,378 volumes
Supports and advances the educational and research mission of the Kennedy School of Government. Offers expert guidance to students, faculty, and other researchers in locating, evaluating, and making use of information resources relevant to the interests of the Kennedy School. Provides a working collection of up-to-date and balanced materials in the areas of public policy, government and politics, management, international affairs, and related areas. Facilitates access for the Kennedy School community to global information at Harvard and beyond.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America
85,037 volumes
Supports research in women’s history and advances knowledge about women’s lives and contributions to American society and culture. Collects manuscripts, books, and other materials essential for understanding women’s lives and activities in the United States. The non-circulating library is open to the public free of charge and draws researchers and students from around the world. A major renovation, completed in 2003, marked a new phase in its existence as a special collections library.

Reference staff have become increasingly involved in research instruction, logging over 500 hours in the classroom and over 500 hours in individual research consultations.

Photos of the graduate and professional school libraries by Brian Smith/Harvard University Library
The many libraries at Harvard University comprise the largest academic library in the world. They are located in more than 80 repositories within a decentralized university system famously known as the Harvard University Library system. Harvard University Library (HUL) is a specific unit of Harvard’s Central Administration. HUL’s mission is to collaborate with and coordinate the many independent parts of the Harvard library system to provide users with the best possible collections in all media, to make them as accessible as possible, and to preserve them for the future. HUL’s overall goal is to make the decentralized Harvard library system into one library whose collections are easily accessible and equally available to all those authorized to use them. E pluribus unum: from many we create one.

HUL provides the University’s libraries and archives with services that cannot be delivered by individual schools, as well as services that would be less efficient and effective if separately offered.

HUL develops and provides services for collecting, managing, making accessible, storing, and preserving scholarly resources in all media whether print, analog, or digital. HUL also has a special role in preserving and making accessible Harvard’s historical record and in developing Harvard’s records management program. In addition, HUL develops and coordinates programs that use digital technologies to make Harvard library resources available generally to users outside of Harvard.

Harvard Depository
The Harvard Depository (HD), which completed its 20th year of service in FY 2006, is a high-density, offsite storage facility shared by the Harvard libraries and located 30 miles west of Cambridge. Research libraries and consortia worldwide have adopted the innovative design of the Harvard Depository.

As of the end of FY 2006, the Depository held in storage nearly 6.4 million items comprising various media, including books, records boxes, microforms, films, etc.

Office for Information Systems
HUL’s Office for Information Systems (OIS) develops, implements, and maintains innovative and stable systems and services that support the academic and research mission of the University by providing integrated and coherent access to research materials and resources.

To achieve its mission, OIS collaborates with a wide variety of staff and committees across Harvard, including librarians, curators, and instructional technology staff, on innovative projects and strategic initiatives that integrate technology services, digital catalogs, and content into the fabric of the University.

By participating in strategic partnerships with colleagues and organizations nationally and internationally, OIS promotes the development of models, standards, and infrastructure to support research, teaching, and scholarly communication in the digital information age.

Open Collections Program
Through Harvard’s Open Collections Program (OCP), the University advances teaching and learning on historical topics of great relevance by providing online access to historical resources from Harvard’s renowned libraries, archives, and museums. OCP’s highly specialized “open collections” are developed through careful collaborations among Harvard’s distinguished faculty, librarians, and curators. The goal of the Open Collections Program is to offer a new model for digital collections that will benefit students and teachers around the world.

Two “open collections” have been launched since 2004: Women Working, 1800–1930, and Immigrants to the United States, 1789–1930. Two additional collections are under development now: Contagion: Historical Views of Contagious Disease and the Islamic Heritage Project. Harvard University established the Open Collections Program in 2002, with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The program has received subsequent support from the Arcadia Trust and from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud.

Weissman Preservation Center
Special Collections: Books and Paper
The Weissman Center specializes in the conservation of rare and unique books, manuscripts, maps, drawings, and other objects, which are known as special collections. The center provides centralized, professionally managed conservation services for special collections across the University. Materials are selected for conservation primarily to support classroom use, research interests, loans and exhibitions, and digitization projects.

Special Collections: Photographs
For more than 160 years, Harvard has collected photographs in its libraries, archives, museums, and teaching hospitals. These photographs span the history of the medium in all its facets, from daguerreotypes to digital images, and document an encyclopedic range of subjects, from art history to zoology. With generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Weissman Preservation Center has launched a comprehensive, University-wide preservation program for Harvard’s holdings of more than 7.5 million photographs.

Digital Preservation
The proliferation of digital material is adding new dimensions to library preservation at Harvard. Working across the boundaries of library preservation and information technology, the Weissman Preservation Center and its collaborators are addressing the serious challenge of preserving digital collections for future generations.

State-of-the-Art Facilities
The Weissman Preservation Center operates a secure, state-of-the-art special collections conservation laboratory designed by Samuel Androwson Architects of New York City. Here, highly specialized equipment supports the work of the Weissman Center conservators.

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Among Harvard’s thousands of daguerreotypes, users of Harvard’s Visual Information Access system—a catalog, will find this ca. 1840 image (photographer unknown) of John Langdon Sibley, a Harvard alumnus of the Class of 1825, who served as the Harvard College Librarian from 1856 to 1877. Sibley’s image is among the holdings of the Harvard University Archives.
Beginning with John Harvard’s 1638 bequest of 400 books, gifts have proven essential to the growth of the Harvard Libraries. Today, the generosity of alumni/aes, friends, foundations, corporations, and other organizations is a dynamic and inspiring force among the University’s libraries, their services to students, and their renowned collections.

Much More Than Books
The need for library support is greater than ever. The expansion of resources to include photographs and other visual images, music, poetry, and other audio recordings, as well as a growing number of resources that exist only in digital formats, has placed increasing demand on the Harvard Libraries. In addition to acquisition of both traditional and new formats, today’s library must preserve its collections and make them accessible both in reading rooms and online.

Unique Opportunities
A gift to the Harvard Libraries gives you the unique opportunity to make a gift to an area of personal interest or intellectual commitment. The extent of Harvard’s library collections, in combination with evolving faculty and student needs, creates an almost limitless array of gift opportunities.

Harvard seeks to increase funding for the Libraries in four crucial areas:
• preservation and conservation
• access and technology
• collections
• positions

Examples of current needs in the Harvard Libraries include:
• support to digitize library resources and make them freely available on the web
• acquisition funds for resources in new areas of study and research, including South Asia and Africa, life sciences, and jazz
• gifts designated to preserve Harvard’s rare and unique materials, including illuminated medieval and Renaissance manuscript collections

For more information on these and other library needs, contact Peggy Davis Molander at 617.495.8062 or pmolander@fas.harvard.edu.

Meaningful Gifts
The Harvard Libraries will work with you to create a gift that is meaningful to you and meets true needs. Endowment opportunities begin at $25,000. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated for current support. If you are an alumna/us, you will receive full class credit for your library gift or pledge.

All gifts to Harvard’s libraries are tax deductible under the full extent of the law. You may receive additional tax benefits by making a gift of securities. Please contact the Harvard Management Company at 866.845.6596 or security_gifts@hmc.harvard.edu.

Giving to Harvard Libraries
You may make your gift online by visiting the web site http://www.haa.harvard.edu, clicking on “Make a Gift,” and selecting the appropriate option.

Or, you may send your gift or pledge commitment to:
Peggy Davis Molander
Director of Development
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