1832

“The number of its volumes, now exceeding forty thousand,—its completeness, selectness, and extent, it being in these respects altogether unrivaled in this country, and especially in maps, charts, and works belonging to the department of American history….”

—Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard University

A Message from Robert Darnton

What direction should we set for the Harvard Libraries now that we are deep into the 21st century and a new age of information? The technology changes so rapidly that the landscape keeps shifting. To imagine a roadmap into the future would be folly. But it should be possible to keep our bearings if, like a cautious driver, we glance into the rearview mirror while watching the bends ahead. For my part, I think it important to look backward as well as forward, and I would distinguish two views, one fixed on the venerable codex, the other on the Internet.

When I walked up the steps of Widener for the first time during my freshman year, way back in the 20th century, I felt overwhelmed with awe. The grand flight of stairs, the Corinthian columns, the studious silence in the monumental reading room—everything about the library made it seem like a teraphic of learning located, appropriately, in the center of Harvard Yard. Here, I thought, is all the learning in the world contained within one building. It comes packaged between hard covers, laid out on shelves, and findable from a card catalog.

That, of course, was a grand illusion. Freshmen no longer share it today. For them, all knowledge exists online. Many of them never enter Widener. They call up books on their computers; and if they wander into a library, it often is Lamont, in order to escape from their roommates and cram before exams.

Today’s freshmen harbor a different grand illusion. They imagine shortcuts to learning, something comparable to one-stop shopping. Although they may distinguish between information and knowledge, they often think that knowledge comes in clicks. They rarely understand when they first arrive in Harvard Yard that for the most part knowledge must be extracted from books, books located in libraries.

Grand illusions contain grains of truth. The vision of the library as a temple of knowledge and of the Internet as the source of everything knowable are both true in their own way, and they are not incompatible. The enthusiasm for mining data from digitized texts may seem to be at odds with the love of books, but most of the data came from the books in the first place. In fact, books are more important than ever, and they also are being published in greater numbers. Whether or not they are reduced to electronic impulses, it is their content that counts. We have accumulated content in Harvard’s libraries, generation after generation, since 1638. The investment of time, money, and intelligence has created the greatest university library in the world. To maintain its greatness, we must advance on two fronts.

On the digital frontier, we must build new systems, buy the data sets, install the software, digitize the texts, and preserve them for the future. At the same time, we must not falter in sustaining our traditional collections. We must continue to acquire monographs on everything of importance across the entire spectrum of learning.

Lesser libraries may rely on Google, JSTOR, and whatever they can harvest from the Internet, but Harvard has a responsibility to keep up with the production of scholarship by increasing its acquisitions of books—old-fashioned books, printed on paper and constructed on the model of the codex, which was invented in the third century BCE. Our responsibility extends to future generations, both at Harvard and throughout the world of learning. No other university library has contracted such a heavy obligation, because none can compare with Harvard in the depth and breadth of its collections. Somehow we must find a way to stock our shelves with books and to build a digital infrastructure for the 21st century. We owe it to ourselves, to our successors, and to our fellow citizens everywhere in the republic of learning.
Harvard’s great libraries are the very heart of the University. Indeed, the legendary George Lyman Kittredge is said to have remarked that “every other building here could burn to the ground, but if that library continued to stand, we should still have a university.”

The Harvard Libraries house priceless collections of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and newer media, such as video and audio files, databases, and geospatial information. The collections come to life in the dynamic stewardship of Harvard’s librarians and curators, whose task it is to serve the scholars of today and prepare for the scholars of tomorrow. Physical holdings are augmented by a plethora of online resources that are available 24 hours a day.

The early history of the Harvard Libraries reflects a constant struggle first for books, then for shelf space, and later for adequate heat and light. Despite a succession of renovations and additions, picturesque Gore Hall (see page 2) was repeatedly ready to burst at its seams.

The gift that created the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library ensured that Harvard’s flagship library not only contained millions of volumes but also offered unprecedented gifts of time and space to library users.

Opened in 1915, Widener was the generous gift of Eleanor Elkins Widener in memory of her son Harry, AB 1907. At that time, the building was considered a state-of-the-art facility, in which light and air generously circulated through the stacks. With advances in the field of preservation, light and air and the accompanying dirt and fluctuations in temperature and humidity were identified as hazardous to the life span of library materials. With extraordinary levels of support from alumni/ae and friends, a comprehensive renovation of Widener was completed in 2004.

In addition to dynamic services and irreplaceable collections, the Harvard Libraries provide many priceless gifts of time and space for study, thought, reflection, exploration, and collaboration. The libraries are vast repositories for the knowledge of the past and vital conduits for real-time information in its many forms.

The monumental reading rooms of Widener, Langdell, and Baker/Bloomberg exist in counterpoint with more intimate spaces at Houghton, Schlesinger, and Gutman. The libraries of the Harvard Kennedy School and the Graduate School of Design are central spaces in vibrant classroom buildings, while in Lamont, which is open 24 hours a day, the reading rooms have acquired new life and meaning of their own.
Unique Collections

John Harvard’s 400-volume library provided the taproot for today’s Harvard University Library—with its 15.9 million volumes and its burgeoning inventory of digital holdings. But, in the words of former President Derek Bok, the growth of the library “is not just a story of oaks from acorns.”

By 1780, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had recognized Harvard as a university. Medical instruction, which commenced in 1781, led to the founding of a medical school in 1782, and to the establishment in 1803 of a separate medical library. The faculties of divinity and law established separate collections, in 1812 and 1817 respectively, serving their own specific needs.

By 1828, the Corporation had identified the need for a catalog of all library holdings within Harvard University—an enterprise that continues to this day. Between 1900 and 1986, the faculties of business, design, government, and education established their own libraries. Radcliffe—whose former undergraduate library is part of today’s Harvard College Library—established its specialized Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America in 1943.

Nearly 375 years after John Harvard’s bequest, Harvard University is the steward of one of the five great libraries of the world. That the Harvard Libraries contain millions of books is only part of the story. The libraries also hold journals, primary-source materials, images, audio and video recordings, and digital resources that span a wide range of subjects, languages, and dates.

Significantly, the collections encompass vast numbers of rare—and often unique—materials. These range from illuminated manuscripts and the earliest of printed books to photographs gathered since the dawn of photography, as well as personal papers and organizational records, cartographic holdings from around the world, and much more.

The Harvard collections are peerless in significant ways: in their numbers, in their global reach and overall breadth, in their decentralized organization, and in the thousands upon thousands of individual items that are historical, rare, or unique. The experience of working with such materials has long been an irreplaceable part of a Harvard education.

Harvard students and faculty, regardless of their specific University affiliations, have open access to every Harvard library. But at the same time, each library develops and stewards particular collections and services that support the work of its own community of students and faculty. Each library, in turn, benefits from the support of generous alumni/ae and friends.

1932

“…from the recently established Henry Saltonstall Howe Fund we bought, among other items, an edition of Petrarch, with manuscript notes by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, an edition of Henry More, once the property of Charles Lamb, and Isaac Walton’s copy of Donne’s Poems, 1650. Several other rare editions of Donne were bought either with the Norton fund or with the gifts of Friends. With the income of the Nash fund, we continued to buy many rare books…”
—Alfred C. Potter, University Librarian
A Vision for Acquisitions

“Special attention has been given to the development of an acquisition policy for Middle Eastern studies. Increased help from the Faculty has been obtained in the selection of Spanish and Latin American history and literature; and new members of the Faculty have been consulted regarding collecting policies and procedures in Armenia studies and in statistics.”

—Paul H. Buck, Director and Librarian

Throughout history, the unique nature of the Harvard collections stems from visionary gifts that support acquisitions. In the 18th century, however, numerous visionary gifts came in response to adversity.

When the library burned in 1764, a true leadership gift from John Hancock provided for the purchase of 1,300 replacement volumes, while support from the Province of New Hampshire facilitated the purchase of an additional 700. Declining to fulfill a request for support from Yale’s library, Nathaniel Lardner wrote, “For now the Harvard College is the object of the regard and attention of those who concern themselves for [New England] . . .”

In 1774, the growing collections acquired their first endowments when Thomas Hollis established Harvard’s first endowed book fund. Interest from the Hollis Fund continues to underwrite acquisitions in the 21st century.

In the College Library, the Charles Warren American History Fund, established in 1934, underwrites the American history collection and supports the work of Alison Scott, the Charles Warren bibliographer.

“For the Library,” Scott explains, “the Warren gift means that Harvard’s American history collection can be the collection that we ought to have—rather than the collection that we can have. It ensures that the resources that faculty, students, and visiting researchers need to pursue their work can be here—if they are available at all. The Warren benefaction is a magnificent gift that, over time, has helped make the Harvard College Library one of the greatest in the world.”

Harvard’s collections are the product of more than three centuries of decisions encompassing every imaginable thematic interest. The changing contours of these collections reflect Harvard’s evolving understanding of not only the nature, but also the mission of the University’s great academic library system.

Today, as always, library acquisitions are guided by sound scholarly principles. But today’s program of acquisition must recognize and support research in emerging fields, particularly those that straddle different disciplines or that rely on non-traditional information formats and sources.

On a fiscal level, acquisitions are guided by University-wide cooperation and cost-effective use of limited resources. This balance between visionary action and fiscal prudence is dependent on sustained support over time.

1957

Above: Robert Gould Shaw, a member of the Class of 1860, was the colonel of the first black regiment to serve with the Union Army during the Civil War. He and over half his regiment were killed in battle at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863. Shaw’s letters are among the holdings of Houghton Library. Image courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

Opposite: Students at work in Lamont Library. Photo by Justin Ide.
The Challenges of Preservation

As Harvard’s traditional collections age, caring for them is an increasingly high priority.

For example, a number of Harvard’s extraordinary medieval manuscripts are, because of their physical condition, currently unavailable to scholars. Because text and illustrations have deteriorated and are literally falling away from parchment pages, these manuscripts cannot be handled until pigments are consolidated. Even 19th- and early 20th-century books and manuscripts are disintegrating because they were written or printed on acidic paper. Because even the most careful scanning process can cause damage, fragile items must be stabilized before they can be digitized. In short, keeping millions of paper- and parchment-based items in good condition is a continuous, multifaceted, and daunting task.

Across the University, preservation specialists work in partnership with faculty, librarians, curators, and archivists to identify vulnerable materials that require thoughtful preservation. In state-of-the-art conservation labs, the libraries provide museum-quality care not only for rare and unique library materials, but also for vital, circulating collections. Highly skilled conservators train library staff to handle, house, and exhibit materials safely. They work with facilities managers to monitor environmental conditions in libraries across the University. Other specialists protect the University’s most fragile materials by creating high-quality digital “surrogates,” which are then made freely available online for research and study.

One of the most important preservation issues for the Harvard Libraries is the proliferation of new—largely digital—media among the collections.

It is possible for materials on paper to survive some measure of benign neglect. If an event is recorded in a journal or reported in a newspaper, that journal or newspaper, if left on the shelf, can survive—up to a point. However, if a digital object is neglected, it can disappear quickly—as material on the web that was here yesterday may be gone tomorrow, or as information recorded on outdated media can no longer be accessed.

A relatively new challenge is presented by the need to preserve not only individual digital objects, but the technology associated with those objects as well. Where the conservation of books, manuscripts, maps, and drawings is focused on the care of material objects, the survival of digital materials requires the preservation of readable electronic tiles.

1873

“The care of the libraries belonging to the University is one of the chief responsibilities of the Corporation. A great collection of books, like a museum of natural history or archaeology, is not only to be made useful to the present generation, it is also to be transmitted safely to future generations. Teachers and students who use a public library or a scientific collection in their daily work are of course more inclined to remember the needs of the present than of the coming generations: but the Corporation have constantly to watch for the preservation of the libraries and collections in their charge.”

—Charles William Eliot, President

The Harvard Libraries preserve their library holdings for the long-term future. This vital work is carried out in Harvard’s two major library conservation facilities—the Weissman Preservation Center in the University Library and the Preservation and Imaging Department of the College Library—as well as in collection-specific conservation labs across the campus.

Above: In the Collections Conservation Laboratory in the Preservation and Imaging Department of the Harvard College Library. Photo by Brian Smith.

Opposite: Books on a shelf in Widener Library. Photo by Justin Ide.

19
In the 21st century, library technology is pervasive. The Harvard Libraries rely on technology to acquire and license materials, to provide discovery and access services, and to ensure delivery of materials ranging from books held at the Harvard Depository to current journal articles delivered to a patron’s desktop computer.

Until recent decades, library systems have evolved relatively slowly. Harvard first published its library catalog in 1723—at a cost of £20 in a document that listed just over 3,000 volumes. The catalog, in the words of Kenneth E. Carpenter, “was not published to disseminate information. Its main goal was to stimulate gifts.”

Library regulations of 1765 stated that “A written catalogue of all the Books in each Alcove, shall be hung up therein; And an alphabetic Catalogue of the whole Library, divided into Chapters, according to the Diversity of subjects, shall be printed . . . There shall also be an Account of the Donors, open to every Ones inspection.”

Card catalogs revolutionized library science in the 1840s. But the subsequent decades offered few substantive advancements until the 1970s, when a widely distributable union catalog for the Harvard Libraries was offered on microfiche.

It is in 1984, with the earliest implementation of the HOLLIS catalog—the acronym honors the 18th-century donor and stands for Harvard Online Library Information System—that technology truly arrives at the library and inaugurates a period of rapid-fire change that shows no signs of abating.

As forward-looking as the original HOLLIS proved to be, it could not have prefigured the library systems of subsequent decades. Early HOLLIS users found in automated form the author, title, and subject information from the card catalogs. It was a discovery-only system, and users were assumed—quite rightly—to be in a Harvard library or about to visit one.

Today, HOLLIS users may discover and use Harvard library materials without entering a library building. HOLLIS is integrated with other catalogs—including VIA for images and OASIS for archival materials. It has symbiotic relationships with other systems ranging from “E-Research @ Harvard Libraries” to the Harvard-specific version of Google Book Search.

The challenges for the coming decades are to simplify the search and discovery environment and to deliver a burgeoning number of online materials simply and seamlessly.

“Technology for the Future”

“In 1982, with the earliest implementation of the HOLLIS catalog—the acronym honors the 18th-century donor and stands for Harvard Online Library Information System—that technology truly arrives at the library and inaugurates a period of rapid-fire change that shows no signs of abating.”

—Oscar Handlin, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library
Using the Library

Online

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. Any reader of this publication can find and use thousands of digital materials from the Harvard collections. Here are some places to start:

**HOLLIS Catalog**
http://holliscatalog.harvard.edu

HOLLIS is Harvard’s web-based union catalog. An online patron can use HOLLIS to identify books, periodicals, and other library materials of interest. But today’s HOLLIS also provides direct access to digital objects and collections.

1. Look for “Internet Links” in HOLLIS records or choose “Digital Resources” when you begin your HOLLIS search.

**Google Book Search for Harvard**
http://books.google.com/books/harvard

This new version of GBS offers users the option to search the full text of all books available in Harvard libraries, web-accessible collections, and specialized digital collections with topic-specific web interfaces for the benefit of users everywhere in the world.

1. **Google Book Search for Harvard** at http://books.google.com/books/harvard
   
**VIA (Visual Information Access)**

http://via.harvard.edu

VIA (Visual Information Access) is Harvard’s online union catalog of visual materials. VIA documents the arts, material culture, and social history, and contains descriptive records and images of paintings, sculpture, photography, drawings, prints, architecture, decorative arts, trade cards, rubbings, theater designs, maps, and plans. New material is added to VIA daily.

1. To locate the book and view sample pages, go to Book Search for Harvard at http://books.google.com/books/harvard
   - enter “George Washington’s False Teeth” to search for the book
   - choose “Google Books” for additional features, including views of selected pages provided by the publisher

A Selection of Web-Accessible Collections
http://digitalcollections.harvard.edu

Thousands of individual items have been digitized and added to the HOLLIS catalog. In addition, the University offers highly specialized digital collections with topic-specific web interfaces for the benefit of users everywhere in the world.

**Sample Search:**

- **Web-Accessible Collections**
  - *Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics*
  - *George Washington’s False Teeth: An Unconventional Guide to the Eighteenth Century*
  - *Guide to the Eighteenth Century*
  - *Carriers of Culture: Visual Collections from the Library Collections in Latin America*
  - *Harvard Medical Library in the Yard: The Collections of the Harvard Medical School*

**Harvard Libraries Web Site**
http://lib.harvard.edu

The Harvard Libraries site is a research portal that offers access to HOLLIS, VIA, E-Research @ Harvard Libraries, web-accessible collections, Google Book Search, and other important discovery tools.

1. To visit the collection, go to http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagon
   - choose a disease “episode” from the left side of the home page and view related online holdings
   - use the “Search/Browse” button and select “materials by type” to browse texts, early printed books, manuscripts, broadsides, or images
   - use “Catalog Search” to identify materials by keywords from the HOLLIS catalog
   - use “Full Text” to search for a specific term in the full text of the printed books

**Sample Search:**

- **Google Book Search for Harvard**
  - enter “Robert Darnton” in the “Search for” box
  - select “Limit search to records that have digital images”
  - click the “Search” button and view a thumbnail of the image
  - choose “Go to record,” then “View larger image”
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 Harvard College Library provides a variety of programs and services designed to complement the teaching and research programs of FAS departments. All of these services help instructors to help the students make the best possible use of library resources.

Library Liaisons and Research Contacts
HCL’s Library Liaison program links a librarian with an FAS department, academic committee, or program. Liaisons establish ongoing relationships within departments and collaborate with faculty and instructors on creating and teaching library-related classes. They meet with students and faculty, provide one-on-one consultation, develop course research guides, assist with content for course web sites, and provide general reference services to the department’s faculty and students.

In addition, students and instructors have access, through the HCL web site, to a list of research contacts, librarians with a subject specialty who are available to consult one on one. The contacts are listed by subject, concentration, language, and region.

Locating and Linking E-Resources to Course Web Sites
Librarians assist instructors in locating e-resources (full-text articles, databases, images, HOLLIS records) and linking to them from course web sites. Providing course reading materials online has helped to significantly reduce the cost of course packs.

Assembling Source Materials for Courses
Librarians help instructors find, prepare, and present source materials for their courses. They can help instructors assess when to put books on reserve and when to create links to full-text articles from the course syllabus or reading list on their course sites, and assist with course reserves.

Preparing Course-Related Research Instruction
Librarians collaborate with instructors to design research classes tailored to the specific goals of a course and using the resources the instructor would like the students to use in their research. Library instruction often includes an introduction to research strategies and demonstrations of specific online databases and other research tools.

Consulting One-on-One
Research librarians in any of the HCL libraries will schedule individual consultations with instructors to collaborate on course needs or with students to assist them in effective use of library resources or to devise strategies for class assignments, theses, dissertations, and other research projects.

Creating Research Guides and Research Sites
Created by College librarians, research guides give detailed advice on how to use the libraries to conduct research. Librarians will also collaborate with instructors to create course-specific research guides. In addition, there are guides created specifically for instructors, guides for first-time library users, guides for subjects and courses, guides for using online research tools, and guides for identifying sources of information—all available 24/7 on the HCL web site and discoverable through the E-Research @ Harvard Libraries.

1873
“... each candidate will be required to write a short composition, correct in expression, spelling, grammar, and punctuation, the subject to be taken from the works of standard authors, the work selected for the purpose being announced from year to year. Thus, in 1874, the subject will be taken from one of the following works: Shakespeare’s Tempest, Julius Caesar, or Merchant of Venice; Goldsmith’s Vicar of Wakefield, Scott’s Ivanhoe or Lay of the Last Minstrel.” — E. W. Garney, Dean of Instruction
The Graduate and Professional Schools

1906

“...The library contained, August 1, 1906, about 96,345 volumes and about 10,600 pamphlets. The collection of portraits of judges and lawyers has been increased, during the past year, by four engravings, two etchings and six photographs....

An interesting collection of colored cartoons of judges and lawyers has been made, mostly during the past year.

It numbers 177."

—James Barr Ames, Dean of the Harvard Law School

Andover-Harvard Theological Library

492,041 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 school that makes 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, Universalism, and the liberal religious tradition.

Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine

671,971 volumes

Supports and advances the research and teaching activities of the 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 extensive 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 is committed to reaching out and effectively serving its broad range of constituents, including researchers in the basic sciences, clinicians, and health-care consumers.

Harvard Law School Library

1,765,543 volumes

The Harvard Law School Library is the second largest unit among the University’s more than 80 libraries. Collections include legislation and scholarship from all countries and unparalleled 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 350 hours in individual research consultations. Special collections include unique holdings of art and memorabilia related to the law.

Knowledge and Library Services

Baker Library Services and Historical Collections

644,387 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 HBS alumni and visiting scholars and students from around the world. 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.

Mondade C. Gutmacher Library

Harvard Graduate School of Education

208,886 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 will remain 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

57,852 volumes

Supports and advances the educational and research mission of the John F. 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 Harvard Kennedy School. Provides a working collection of up-to-date and relevant materials in the areas of public policy, government and politics, management, international affairs, and related subjects. Facilitates access for the Harvard Kennedy School community to global information at the University and beyond.

Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

89,196 volumes

Documents women of the past and the present for the future. Collections and services encourage research, promote knowledge of history in all its dimensions, and further the Radcliffe Institute’s commitment to the study of women, gender, and society. Holdings include 3,000 manuscript collections, as well as 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.

Photos of the graduate and professional school libraries by Brian Smith.
The many libraries at Harvard University form the largest academic library in the world. They are located in more than 80 repositories within a decentralized university system broadly known as the Harvard University Library. The 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 and equally available to all those authorized to use them.

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 Harvard’s historical record and in developing Harvard’s records management program. In addition, HUL develops and coordinates programs that use digitization to make Harvard library resources available generally to users outside of Harvard.

The Harvard Depository

The Harvard Depository (HD), which completed its 21st year of service in FY 2007, 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 emulated the innovative design of the Harvard Depository.

As of the end of FY 2006, the Depository held in storage more than 6 million items comprising various media, including books, records, microformats, films, etc.

The Harvard University Archives

The Harvard University Archives supports the University’s dual mission of education and research by striving to preserve and provide access to Harvard’s historical records to gather an accurate, authentic, and complete record of the life of the University; and to promote the highest standards of management for Harvard’s current records. The collections in the Harvard University Archives, which date from the 17th century to the present, are used by scholars of American social, intellectual, and academic history; by historians of Harvard, including University departments studying their own history; by students learning the methods of historical research; and by the general public.

The Harvard–Google Project

The Harvard University Library and Google are collaborating on a project to digitize a large number of Harvard’s library books that are out of copyright and to make them available to Internet users. The project, which is one of several collaborations between Google and major research libraries, is expected to bring millions of works to the web. Implementation of the Harvard–Google Project is a Harvard-wide collaborative effort involving libraries and library staff across the University, with management, leadership, and overall coordination provided by key staff members in the University Library’s Office for Information Systems, Harvard Depository, and Weissman Preservation Center, as well as in HUL’s Office of the Director.

HUL’s Office for Information Systems

HUL’s Office for Information Systems (OIS) develops, implements, and maintains innovative 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.

Three “open collections” have been launched since 2004: Women Working, 1800–1910; Immigration to the United States, 1789–1930; and Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics. Additional collections, including the Islamic Heritage Project and Organizing Our World: Sponsored Exploration and Scientific Discovery in the Modern Age, are currently in development. Harvard established the Open Collections Program in 2002.

Office for Scholarly Communications

Steven E. Hyman, Provost of Harvard University, has charged the Harvard University Library 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.”

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

Weissman Preservation Center

The Weissman Preservation Center specializes in the conservation of rare and unique books, manuscripts, maps, drawings, music scores, photographs, and other objects held in repositories across Harvard University. The Center provides centralized, professionally managed conservation services ranging from assessment and analysis of single objects and whole collections to conservation treatment carried out at the highest level of practice.

Several important goals trigger conservation action in the Weissman Preservation Center. These include the research needs of individual faculty members and students, classroom use, exhibition of collections, loans to other institutions, and identification by curators of materials at great risk of deterioration or loss. In addition to these traditional drivers, today support for digitization projects draws upon over 60% of the Center’s conservation resources.

In addition, generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has allowed the Center to launch a comprehensive program for the University’s holdings of more than 7.5 million photographs.
### Use of E-Resources, 1998–2007

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>2000</th>
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<th>2002</th>
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<th>2007</th>
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<td>5,835</td>
<td>5,883</td>
<td>5,930</td>
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<td>6,072</td>
<td>6,170</td>
<td>6,266</td>
<td>6,368</td>
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- **Growth since 1998:** 14.2%


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<tr>
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<td>$12,400</td>
<td>$12,600</td>
<td>$12,800</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$13,200</td>
<td>$13,400</td>
<td>$13,600</td>
<td>$13,800</td>
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</table>

- **Growth since 1998:** +23.81%

### Volumes, 1998–2007

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</table>

- **Growth since 1998:** +14.2%

### E-Resources, 1998–2007

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<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
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<td>800</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Growth since 1998:** 33.81%

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### Facts and Figures

**Harvard Libraries 1998–2007**

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/a, 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.

#### Giving to Harvard Libraries

“The Library is again indebted, as so often in the past, to many generous friends for gifts, both of books and money.”

—Justin Winsor, University Librarian

### 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 alumnus/a, you will receive full class credit for your library gift or pledge.

### 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 molander@fas.harvard.edu.
Funds Established in the Harvard Library

**2006–2007**

The following gifts were made in support of Harvard Libraries:

**Sue Lonoff**

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Joan Booth

Ellen Berk

Anna Kelly

Antonio Aidala

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In this report, contributions of $1,000 or more that were received between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, are acknowledged.