A Letter from the Provost of Harvard University

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On the Cover:

Maud Wood Park
Photograph, 1848
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America: Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

This 1848 photograph of Maud Wood Park captures the vision and determination of the woman who would become a prominent leader in the women’s rights movement of the early 20th century. Park served the cause of women’s suffrage as a national activist, strategist, and speaker. Lobbying for the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington from 1917 to 1920, she played an instrumental role in moving Congress to pass the 19th amendment, establishing the vote for women.

Following the ratification of the amendment, Park served as the first president of the National League of Women Voters (1920–1924). In this position, she advocated for protections for working women, an end to child labor, improved maternal and infant health, and voter education. Poet, dramatist, and world traveler, Park also investigated social conditions for women across the globe.

In 1943, she donated to Radcliffe College, her alma mater, not only her own papers but also a wealth of material documenting the lives and work of her colleagues Lucy Stone Blackwell, Antoinette Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe, Grace Johnson, and many more. The collection was the genesis of the Women’s Archives, now the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

Today the Schlesinger Library houses a premier collection of diaries, correspondence, books, and photographs that document women in American culture, economy, and social and civic life. The manuscript collection that began with Maud Wood Park’s gift now advances research in the history of women’s suffrage, work, health, sexuality, and everyday life. As a repository of the records of early women’s suffrage organizations, plus contemporary organizations such as the National Organization of Women (NOW), Boston Women’s Health Collective, and 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women, the Schlesinger Library attracts researchers from across the globe.
Dear Friends,

The fall semester has begun and the Harvard Class of 2009 is among us. They will make their marks on the world at large, and, with their interests, their expectations, and their inquiring minds, they will also make their marks on this great University. Considering our newest undergraduates and the experiences we will share with them, I want to offer a perspective on the world of the Harvard libraries.

In 1723, Harvard published what we hold to be the first library catalog in the United States. The catalog was a “shelf list,” identifying the books by their fixed locations on our very limited 18th-century shelves.

In the 1840s, the University offered its first card catalogs, helping students and faculty to locate books according to title, author, or subject—and in ways that were no longer dependent on a static physical location.

Now fast-forward to 1984: the automated HOLLIS catalog made all of Harvard’s extensive library holdings “discoverable” from virtually any computer—the most fundamental change to library science in over 100 years.

In 1999, the University Library took a related, and tremendously significant, step by creating an online research portal for the Harvard library system. Built around a single-page web interface, the portal provided access to HOLLIS, as well as to other Harvard library catalogs; to electronic resources and journals; and to basic information on circulation, access, and service hours in each of Harvard’s many libraries.

Implicit in this portal was the most profound and dynamic change yet: the portal delivered information directly to the user’s desktop. Not just cataloging data, but articles, full text. In this sense, the portal was quietly revolutionary. And it was exactly what our students expected from us.

Throughout the University—in the classrooms, laboratories, study groups, museums, departments, and institutions—similar transformations have been going on.

As technology took hold at Harvard in the 1980s, it first developed on separate tracks—in the libraries, the laboratories, or the museums; in the offices of the deans or the registrars; in the programs, the departments, the institutes. In recent years, those separate tracks have been merging, and the resulting integration provides new benefits to Harvard’s students and helps us to meet their needs and expectations.
This fall, for example, Harvard students will rely on an enormously successful collaboration (see page 5) among the Instructional Computing Group (ICG), the Registrar’s Office, and the University Library’s Office for Information Systems (OIS). This is the University’s new Reserves List Tool, which is not actually a single tool, but a collection of web-based services that allow instructional staff and library reserves staff to work to deliver reserves reading lists—with links to full text wherever possible—directly to Harvard students on their course web sites.

The Reserves List Tool streamlines the work of our students and faculty. It also makes some fundamental changes to the ways in which the Harvard libraries do business.

Knowledge, as Webster would have it, is “what is or can be known by an individual or by mankind.” Obviously, the world of knowledge—and our relationship to it—is undergoing a transformation that will continue well into the foreseeable future. In Harvard’s libraries, our relationship to knowledge is undergoing a parallel transformation, the end of which is not in sight.

At Harvard, technology will continue to challenge us and to tax us. Our commitment to technology must be at once flexible, practical, and visionary. The paths that we are following today may not be the paths of tomorrow. Whatever technological direction Harvard follows, rest assured: it will be in the service of knowledge, of learning, and of this great academic community of which we are all a part. The raison d’être for every one of these efforts is to serve and support those who use knowledge—namely our students, faculty, and researchers. In the libraries and, indeed, throughout Harvard, their expectations can and will be met.

Yours sincerely,

Steven E. Hyman
Provost
Online for the Fall Semester: Harvard’s New Reserves List Tool

Harvard’s new Reserves List Tool is online and in use for the fall semester for approximately 450 courses offered by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Using the Tool, Harvard instructors and library reserves staff have developed a new, streamlined means for managing reserve reading lists and delivering information directly to course web sites.

The Reserves List Tool was developed jointly by the Harvard University Library (HUL) Office for Information Systems (OIS), iCommons, the FAS Instructional Computing Group (ICG), and the FAS Registrar’s Office.

According to Harvard’s Assistant Provost and CIO Dan Moriarty, the collaboration is “admirably efficient—financially, organizationally, and intellectually. But the ultimate benefit is to the students.”

Faculty submit their course-specific reserves lists through the online Instructor’s Toolkit. The lists go directly to reserves staff for processing and, simultaneously, are displayed for students to view on course web sites.

Library reserves staff use a parallel Reserves List Management Tool to process citation requests and to complete citation information. The management tool provides links to materials that are available digitally and to the HOLLIS catalog records for material available in the library.

The Reserves List Tool supports three delivery modes:

- Physical copies supported by links on the reading list that connect to an availability screen in HOLLIS, the Harvard Online Library Information System.
- Deep-linked electronic copies supported by links on the reading list that point to the resource on the web.
- Scanned copies supported by links on the reading list that point to PDFs stored on a Reserves List server.

Throughout the University, librarians and IT specialists are working together to developing streamlined systems that meet current and anticipated user needs. Improving, consolidating, and simplifying the search for information is the goal.

Earlier this summer, the University Library launched a new set of tools for accessing and searching electronic resources on the Harvard Libraries web site located at http://lib.harvard.edu. These tools, known as “E-Research @ Harvard Libraries,” go far beyond helping users to locate e-resources and e-journal titles. E-Research allows Harvard users to search across the content of multiple resources (“federated searching” or “cross-searching”) with a single search, to save customized sets of e-resources for ease in future searching, to save lists of favorite e-journals, and to save and manage search results. Results include “Find It @ Harvard” buttons that link users directly to many items online or point users to the location of individual materials on library shelves.

According to a recent editorial* in the Harvard Crimson, “HUL has done a tremendous job with the new easy-to-use site, and we applaud them for dreaming up such a helpful resource. The new E-Research page puts a high-tech user interface on top of Harvard’s vast array of online subscriptions, making resources more readily accessible—whether users know the exact journal they are looking for or are just poking around for sources. But the best thing about the new e-research page is the plethora of features it provides that take full advantage of computers to make research easier.”

* The Harvard Crimson, Friday, October 7, 2005: “E-Resource Elation: Efforts to streamline HUL’s online resources yield impressive results”
Merging the Old and the New: The Massive Baker Library Renovation Is Now Complete

Since its campus was dedicated in June 1927, the stately columns and iconic bell tower of Baker Library have served as a symbol of Harvard Business School (HBS). The library’s namesake, New York banker George Fisher Baker, was the School’s first benefactor. In the early 1920s, Mr. Baker delighted the School’s leadership by offering the full $5 million needed to build the original campus.

Baker, a self-educated man whose son George Jr. was a member of the Harvard Class of 1899, was a highly respected businessman. Standing on the steps of the new library, the 87-year-old Baker addressed the crowd with prescience and deep emotion. “I hope and I believe that this school is to be the standard for all others,” he said, and then cautioned that “the standard of excellence which must be
maintained comes not simply from the outside of the buildings but from the work and training on the inside.”

In the eight decades since it first opened, Baker Library has been an integral part of the HBS experience. In 1927 it housed the world’s first collection of business materials as well as the classrooms where students took their courses through the 1950s. Over the years its acquisitions expanded, and today the School’s collections of rare and unusual business manuscripts are world-renowned.

While it contains materials that date back to the 15th century, the library’s own history mirrors the changes of the 20th century. The library’s staff and acquisition budgets were cut during the Depression, and its skylights were covered during the war years, when civilian education temporarily gave way to military instruction. For several decades students delivered their Written Analysis of Cases (WACs) to a slot on the outside of Baker, often causing a scene as the deadline neared. Since the campus was built, the historic reading room has served as a study hall to all generations of students, from those who removed their fedoras to those who silenced their cell phones. As part of a larger plan assessing the future needs of the campus, the School began in the 1990s to thoroughly examine how to update Baker Library to better serve its constituents and preserve its treasures. In particular, the cramped, un-air-conditioned stacks required attention, and the library needed to be wired for the new century.

By 2001 the research yielded an ambitious plan to redefine the building for the 21st century. The goals for the project included strengthening the intellectual community; creating a facility where faculty, students, alumni/ae, and outside scholars could come together to build knowledge; and stimulating collaboration by increasing access of the building’s users to knowledge and information as well as to each other.

In the summer of 2003 the School broke ground on the revitalization of Baker Library, a massive two-year renovation and rebuilding project. While the iconic north façade of the building remains, the back half of the original Baker was torn down in order to increase space for books and offices.

Several elements of the original structure have been removed and restored—such as the cornices on the exterior—while others, including the windows, were updated with newer materials.

Campaign gifts from the charitable foundations of de Gaspé Beaubien in Montreal, E. Roe Stamps IV, MBA 1974, and Penelope W. Stamps have helped to cover the cost of the renovation and restoration of Baker Library. Additional generous support has been provided by many alumni/ae and friends, including George F. Baker III, MBA 1964. “When my great-grandfather inaugurated the School, he said he hoped HBS would set the standard for all others,” noted Baker. “With this renovation, we are setting the standard for a business library for many generations to come.”

Now reopened, the renovated Baker Library provides an ideal merging of the past and the future, implementing 21st-century technology and conveniences throughout while maintaining much of the look and feel of the original building, including its grand reading room. Moreover, as home to the School’s vast collections of important business materials, the new academic center will be the intellectual center of the campus, a home—both physical and virtual—to a powerful community of scholars.

According to Baker Executive Director Mary Lee Kennedy, “HBS students using Baker will enter an environment that embraces traditional library materials and real-time information. It’s an environment that reflects the HBS intellectual community. Our students must navigate a universe of information that can’t be contained in the traditional four walls of the library. In it, Baker librarians must act as information counselors, helping students to ask—and to answer—the question, ‘What is the right source for me to use at this time?’”
The rubbings, which are part of the Rübel Asiatic Research Collection in HCL's Fine Arts Library, capture Buddhist and Daoist scriptural texts that are carved on stone slabs, cave walls, bronze vessels, jade, ceramics, roof tiles, and other materials. While the original carvings date from the Qin (221–207 BCE) to the Ming dynasties (1348–1644 CE), the rubbings themselves date from the Ming Dynasty to about 1940. The rubbings are highly accurate, and often unique, sources for scholars of Chinese history, epigraphy, and related disciplines. Each rubbing is an “ink squeeze”—that is, an impression made by pressing thin, damp paper over a carved or “incised” surface. Using a brush, the paper is then tamped into the incisions. When the paper is almost dry, ink—usually black—is skimmed evenly over the entire paper surface. Because the ink does not adhere to the carved incisions, the result is a “rubbing” with white writing on a black background.

The Rübel rubbings, which range in size from six inches square to four by ten feet, present a range of challenges to imaging specialists and to conservators. Some of the rubbings are formed from multiple sheets of paper. Others have been folded into tight bundles and have developed creases that lead to distortions, that obscure image areas, and that weaken the surface of the paper and compromise the adherence of the ink.

According to Jan Merrill-Oldham, Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian, the Rübel rubbings project shows Harvard’s preservation activities at their best—and most comprehensive. “Within the Harvard libraries, digital imaging and traditional conservation efforts are always intertwined. Before we digitize an object—whether it’s a book, a photograph, a map, a manuscript, or a rubbing—our conservators assess its condition and treat it as necessary. Our goal is to ensure that the Library’s rare and unique materials receive the care necessary to ensure that they survive far into the future.”

College Library Breathes New Life into Rübel’s East Asian Rubbings

Through the generosity of Kenneth Chang, AB 1968 and MArch 1973, HCL is working to digitize and preserve East Asian rubbings like this one from the Rübel Collection.
University Library Appoints First Senior Photograph Conservator

With the October 1 arrival of Brenda Bernier as senior photograph conservator in the Weissman Preservation Center (WPC), the Harvard University Library will officially launch a University-wide photograph preservation program. The University’s photographic holdings, estimated at more than 7.5 million items in 48 Harvard repositories, date back to the emergence of photography in the 1840s.

Brenda Bernier comes to Harvard from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), where she joined the staff as senior photograph conservator in 2001. At NARA she was responsible for assessing the nature and condition of the agency’s vast photograph collections, performing conservation treatments, developing plans and guidelines, preparing storage specifications, conducting original research related to the deterioration and treatment of photographic materials, monitoring the work of conservation intern and junior conservators, and serving on NARA’s Emergency Response Team. Bernier represented NARA on the International Standards Organization working group responsible for the preservation of photographic materials.

Bernier is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and earned an MS in conservation of photographic materials from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. She completed conservation internships at the National Gallery of Art, the Baltimore Museum of Art, NARA, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Harvard’s new photograph preservation initiative, made possible through a $2.1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, complements ongoing preservation programs for Harvard’s 15 million books and millions of manuscripts, printed documents, maps, prints, drawings, disks, tapes, and other media. The Mellon Foundation has played a leadership role in the field of photograph conservation for almost a decade, investing in training and the establishment of positions for photograph conservators in the US. With support from Mellon, a second conservator and two conservation technicians will join a project team at Harvard under Bernier’s direction, staffing the new program for its first five years.

“The new photograph preservation program will have significant capabilities,” stated Nancy Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College. “Brenda Bernier will play a leadership role, helping to integrate the activities of Harvard’s libraries, archives, museums, and academic programs in unprecedented ways.” She will collaborate closely with Pamela Spitzmueller, James W. Needham Chief Conservator (rare books); Thea Burns, Helen H. Glaser Conservator (senior paper conservator); conservators at Harvard’s Fogg Art Museum and Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology; and librarians and curators across the University.

“A systematic, well-planned effort to preserve Harvard’s magnificent collections of photographs has been high on the Library’s agenda for some time,” stated Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library. “Caring for and disseminating Harvard’s great scientific and artistic photographic works will prove to be an enormous challenge, but the outcome of the University’s work will be of worldwide importance.”

To learn more about Harvard’s collections, see “A Directory to Photographs at Harvard” at http://preserve.harvard.edu/photographs/directory.html.
From John Harvard’s founding bequest of 400 books, Harvard University’s library collections have grown to include more than 15 million books and journals, as well as millions of other manuscripts, maps, photographs, recordings, and digital objects. The Harvard system of more than 90 individual libraries is one of the world’s five greatest libraries—and the most comprehensive academic library in existence.

It is the primary mission of Harvard University’s libraries to support teaching, learning, and research throughout the University. Individually, Harvard’s libraries respond to the needs of the faculties that support and use them. Simultaneously, Harvard’s libraries work collaboratively to build, to preserve, and to house great collections, and to ensure comprehensive access to those collections over time.

The sustained growth and the long-term excellence of Harvard’s libraries are dependent on increased levels of support from alumni/ae, friends, corporations, and foundations. Specifically, Harvard seeks to increase funding for the libraries in five crucial areas:

- Preservation and Conservation
- Access and Technology
- Collections
- Positions
- Renovations and Capital Projects

Donors have the unique opportunity to link gifts to the Harvard libraries with areas of personal interest or intellectual commitment. Whether you give to an individual Harvard library or to the programs that benefit the entire library system, Harvard’s library professionals will work closely with you to develop a gift that is meaningful to you and of importance to Harvard and its libraries over time.

**Tax Benefits**

Gifts to Harvard’s libraries are tax deductible. However, you may receive additional tax benefits by making a gift of securities. For more information, contact the Harvard Management Company at 1.866.845.6596 or security_gifts@hmc.harvard.edu. You may also find information online by visiting http://www.baa.harvard.edu and selecting “Give to Harvard, Make a Gift, Stocks.”

**Planned Gifts**

You may achieve greater tax savings by making a planned gift. To learn more about planned gifts or including Harvard’s libraries in your will, contact University Planned Giving at 1.800.446.1277 or http://www.baa.harvard.edu/pgo.

**Memorial Gifts**

Memorial gifts to the library are a thoughtful way to honor a friend or relative while providing meaningful support to the Library. Please make your check payable to “Harvard University Library,” noting the name of the person you wish to honor. If you want us to acknowledge your gift (not the amount) to the honoree’s family, please include the appropriate name and address.

**How to Contribute**

You may send your gift or pledge commitment to:

Peggy Davis Molander  
Director of Development  
110 Widener Library  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Checks should be payable to “Harvard University Library.” For more information, contact Peggy Davis Molander at 617.495.8062 or molander@fas.harvard.edu.
After Word

In the days immediately following the devastation of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina, Sidney Verba sent the following message to Harvard’s library community.

If you have not yet read President Summers’s letter on Harvard’s response to Hurricane Katrina, it’s important that you do so. You can read the letter online at http://president.harvard.edu/speeches/2005/0902_katrina.html.

President Summers has outlined steps that we can take to help individually with Harvard’s support. Notably, the University will match, up to $100, donations made to specified organizations by Harvard students, faculty, and staff.

The President has also outlined the many ways in which the University can and will provide academic and organizational resources to help in the aftermath of natural disaster. He notes the libraries specifically:

“Our libraries will make their resources available to scholars whose work has been interrupted, and members of our preservation staff expect to collaborate with other institutions to assist in the recovery and preservation of important scholarly materials.”

The College Library has already received at least one hurricane-related request for use of its libraries. Collectively, we do not yet have firm procedures in place for responding to these requests and registering the affected individuals. HCL is working out details right now. Tomorrow, ULC will be discussing the matter in its monthly meeting. Details will obviously be forthcoming.

As the days and weeks unfold, the ways in which the Harvard libraries may be called upon to help will become clearer. As a library community, our responses will require a unique blend of professionalism, flexibility, and compassion. I know that Harvard can count on its remarkable library community to respond effectively.

Sidney Verba
Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library