Collective Collections, Collective Actions

PAGE 2
The Libraries’ Library

PAGE 8
Is There a Curator in the House?

PAGE 11
Radical Acts of Collaboration

PAGE 20
The Year in Pictures
Collective Action!

Sharing. Cooperation. Collaboration. These words sound like the wise counsel a mother might give a child as rules to live by. Yet they have distinguishing characteristics, and libraries have a rich history of engaging in all three strategies. This issue of continuum captures exemplary work of the University Libraries in working with other organizations and institutions to achieve common goals.

Sharing. This year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Minitex, Minnesota’s groundbreaking and unique enterprise to share our resources across the state and region. Over time, Minitex has developed far beyond sharing library collections, with a current portfolio of services that includes licensing digital content for every resident in the state, sharing technologies, and offering educational programming for staff in Minnesota libraries.

Cooperation. The Libraries are frequent partners with campus departments and a variety of off-campus organizations to pool resources in a joint endeavor. Our partnership with Penumbra Theatre (working with the Apollo Theater in New York) will preserve the rich heritage of Penumbra and create a model archiving program for other performing arts organizations, enabling other theaters to capture everything from administrative records to information about each and every performance—truly a treasure trove for future research.

Collaboration. The HathiTrust digital library represents another kind of extraordinary coalition. Now with over 60 member institutions, HathiTrust has amassed digital copies of over 10 million titles from library collections. Through collective investment, HathiTrust members have created common infrastructure for access and long-term preservation of digital content that would simply be impossible to achieve on our own.

Working together…good practice, but increasingly an essential strategy. Mom did know best.
THE LIBRARIES’ LIBRARY

By Tim Brady

Conceived as a way to bring the University of Minnesota Libraries to every citizen of the state, Min tex celebrates forty years of excelling at that mission and much, much more.

Min tex has always kept a low profile, yet few state and university enterprises have had as much praise heaped upon them by patrons over the years. Born forty years ago as a means to share the library resources of the University of Minnesota with libraries throughout the state, Min tex was housed initially in borrowed space in Wilson Library.

It has since moved to the ground level of Elmer L. Andersen Library on the west bank of the Twin Cities campus, where it continues to thrive unobtrusively while the rest of the University of Minnesota hums around it.

Min tex’s quiet effectiveness was noted almost from the start. In 1971, John Robson, Director of Instructional Resources at Southwest Minnesota State College in Marshall, called the newly invented state and University of Minnesota library resource system “a revolutionary and innovative concept. Its success is due mainly to the willingness of the University to make its materials available, and to provide necessary support services. I can think of no better way that the University can serve the entire state than by making the wealth of its resources available to all its citizens. MINITEX is a giant step in that direction.”

Speaking in the same year, Jan Schroeder, assistant director of the Duluth Public Library, said, “The informational impact of Min tex has been tremendous for a region that is remote from large resource institutions [like the U of M, Twin Cities].”

When students are asked how they feel about Min tex, they say “Wow!” added Rudy Johnson, assistant professor and librarian at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

The “revolutionary and innovative concept”—the “wow factor” that Robson, Schroeder, and Johnson were raving about forty years ago—was a pilot project, initially funded in 1969 through a grant from the Louis and Maude Hill Foundation and state and federal grant funds from the Minnesota State Department of Education. Over the next two years, a system was developed that allowed quick delivery of library materials from the University’s numerous libraries on the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses to the University of Minnesota, Duluth; the University of Minnesota, Morris; and nine other public and private colleges and universities and public libraries around the state.

Each cooperating library was hooked into the Min tex offices at Wilson Library by means of a teletype machine. In fact, the acronym for the enterprise—MINITEX, the service’s name, now rendered with only an initial capital letter—is a reminder of the institution’s history: it initially stood for Minnesota Interlibrary Teletype Experiment.

Requests for materials could be sent day or night via the teletype machine. The search would arrive at the Min tex office in Minneapolis and be printed in duplicate by the machine. Min tex workers—primarily University of Minnesota, Twin Cities students—would search the University’s card catalog for the materials requested, and then, these same workers would hustle to the various libraries around the campus to collect the volumes and articles needed, which were then shipped to outstate libraries. All in a day’s time.

This was a new service, not just to Minnesota, but to the nation as a whole. While more efficient and comprehensive interlibrary service had been a much-discussed, and much-longed-for, innovation in the world of libraries prior to Min tex, this project was the first of its kind in the country.

The pilot was a test to see if rapid service was feasible; if the costs of such a program were manageable; and whether the shared resource service would strain the heart and core of the program—the University’s own library service. On each count, Min tex passed with flying colors.

Today the “wow factor” at Min tex is outlined by an alphabet soup of services provided by and through Min tex and its library partners around the state and region.

• The Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) is an extensive collection of online publications made available to all Minnesota residents through their libraries or an ELM portal (elm4you.org).

• The Minnesota Library Information Network (MnLINK) Gateway is a search engine that allows home access to the catalogs of local libraries and other resources like ELM, electronic books, and online journals (mnlinkgateway.org).

• The Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC), a gigantic library storage facility for lesser-used volumes owned by Minnesota libraries, is housed within the limestone cliffs on the banks of the Mississippi River, deep in the recesses beneath Elmer L. Andersen Library (minitex.umn.edu/storage).

• AskMN is an online chat reference service that puts information seekers in touch with a live librarian, day or night, 24/7 (askmn.org).

• Min tex is the administrative home for the Minnesota Digital Library (MnDL), which helps to provide the technical foundation for the digitization of materials from libraries and the state’s other cultural heritage organizations. Its signature collection, Minnesota Reflections, contains more than 100,000 images, maps, and documents (mndigital.org).

• MnKnows is an online emergency knowledge base for K-12 libraries (mnknows.org).

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For all this, Min tex is well known by librarians but nearly invisible to the thousands of patrons whose libraries rely on Min tex services. To help raise that visibility, Min tex created MnKnows—a Dig Deeper @ Your Library (mnknows.org), a public-facing portal to give Minnesotans one-stop access to these online library services. In addition to connecting users directly to Min tex services, the site solicits stories from those users, “not only to make improvements, but also to share with legislators and other library administrators about the usefulness of this site.”

The comments have been overwhelmingly positive, with ELM alone generating a sixty-page collection of over 200 stories, including one from a high school librarian who said ELM “is like an Emergency Room of knowledge. Without ELM resources, we would struggle mightily to provide accurate, timely and reliable resources for our students.” One middle school student even reported that ELM “saved my school career and kept me from detention about 9000 times.”
For more than a decade, Minitex remained a tightly packed office primarily composed of Wilcox, Oxborrow, a limited number of other full-time staff, and a growing number of student workers trying to navigate through desks, boxes of books, the teletype machine, and stacks of library requests from the ever-expanding number of patrons.

Nancy Walton, the current Minnesota State Librarian, was working then in the Ames Library, housed near Minitex. “I can still remember hearing the clacking of the teletype machines through the walls,” she says.

Kathy Drozd, who started out as a student worker in the early 1970s and is now Assistant Director for Delivery Services and MLAC, says, “Excuse me,” was the most commonly heard phrase in the office.

In the early years, the delivery service used sturdy beer boxes, painted and color-coded, to hold books and documents that were shipped out to the various libraries. “These were coded according to the cities that they were being sent to,” says Drozd. “I think Northfield was green, for instance. So we’d pack up the green beer boxes headed for Northfield and drive them to the Greyhound bus depot in Minneapolis, where we’d buy tickets for the boxes to be delivered. We’d also pick up any returning boxes at the station coming up from Northfield.”

“Everybody did everything,” says Oxborrow, who recently retired from her position as reference librarian in the Plum Creek [Minnesota] Library System, “whether it was checking the card catalog or going to the libraries to pull documents and books, or heading to the bus depot.”

Minitex grew quickly. Between 1969 and 1971, the number of requests at Minitex more than tripled, from around 20,000 to over 70,000, requests doubled to over 140,000. “Here we were, starting to get a national reputation,” recalls Drozd, “but it you stepped into our offices, you just saw boxes on shelves getting set for delivery.”

By the mid-1970s, the original staff had doubled. New services—like a very popular reference referral system—were instituted, and the number of libraries in the system expanded dramatically. For the first time, libraries from South Dakota and North Dakota were included in the service. Because the number of requests for journal articles at Minitex grew exponentially, a project to create a unified list of journals owned by Minnesota libraries was started. Nicknamed MULS (initially Minnesota Union List of Serials, and later, Minitex Union List of Serials), the painstaking efforts to discover and collate the holdings of libraries around the state and region required the hand-coding work of about 30 students of all backgrounds and stripes—“They came from everywhere: Cyprus, Greece, and Thailand to Brainerd,” according to Cecelia Boone, who joined the Minitex staff in 1978, and soon began to supervise the student workers.

Alice Wilcox, the original director of Minitex, was a “visionary leader,” according to Drozd, and “a very special person,” in Boone’s estimation. “She was delightful company,” says Oxborrow. But, all agree she could be demanding and impatient. Wilcox expected a lot from her staff, and the staff delivered. Dave Paulson, Minitex Resource Sharing manager, recalls being asked at a management seminar in the early 1980s how many requests Minitex could handle in a given day? He was stunned, trying to come up with a number. “All I could think to say was, ‘We do whatever comes in.’”

Veterans of the early years at Minitex are unanimous in applauding the collegial staff. Boone remembers students singing the alphabet song as they labored over MULS coding; Paulson remembers organizing a Minitex softball team and a particular game in which Minitex challenged the staff of the University’s Bio-Medical Library to a game at Riverside Park.

“The pitcher for that team was Mary Rae Oxborrow, whose memories of those early years include the pleasures and difficulties of traveling around the region to help teach librarians new to the Minitex system its ins-and-outs. On one late fall excursion to Rapid City, South Dakota, she found herself with a day off in the Black Hills and decided to visit the Crazy Horse monument being constructed in the south end of the mountains. On her way back to Rapid City, she decided to cut through the Hills by means of the narrow, winding Needles Highway—a mistake. About six miles from Custer State Park, she got stuck in a snow-packed mountain pass as the sun was setting over South Dakota. “I was raised in the Midwest and knew that I was supposed to stay with my car when it got stuck in snow,” says Oxborrow, “but I just didn’t think it was advisable there.”

She got out of her car and trudged for an hour or two before finally finding a cabin. She knocked on the door, but found no one home. The sun had long-since disappeared, and she knew she had to stay there for the night. Using some of that beer-box ingenuity accrued at Minitex, she scrounged around until she found some plastic garbage bags on the property, clothed herself in these, and cuddled up on the porch for a long, cold night. The next day, still wearing the garbage sack, she slogged back toward the highway where she was rescued by a Custer Park employee, who was no doubt impressed by the perseverance of this Minitex ambassador.

A Modern Minitex: From Teletype to the World Wide Web

There were seventeen inches of snow on the ground at the airport when Bill DeJohn got off the plane in Minneapolis to interview for the position as the second director of Minitex in 1984. He came with a long and distinguished background in complex and multi-state library systems. After growing up in St. Louis and getting an undergraduate degree in Russian Civilization at the University of Missouri and a graduate degree in library science at the University of Pittsburgh, DeJohn worked in a succession of libraries, including the state libraries of Missouri and Illinois. He arrived at Minitex from the University of Washington in Seattle, where he’d headed a resource system that included the Pacific Northwest states,
Minitex had a good story. It was built around cooperation and was a national leader in what it did. It was a model of efficient use of resources, too.”

– Former Minnesota state senator Steve Kelley

The technological revolution helped steer DeJohn and Minitex toward an answer to that question. So did the inclinations of state funding sources. “Ann Kelley from the [Minnesota] Office of Higher Education let us know early on that if we wanted money from the state legislature, we should go after technology funds,” says DeJohn.

Many members of the Minnesota Legislature, like state senator LeRoy Stumpf, former state senator Steve Kelley, and long-time member of the Minnesota State House of Representatives, the late Irvin Anderson, were instrumental in advocating for Minitex. “There was an idea of a virtual library floating around in the early to mid-90s and people in the legislature saw it as an exciting notion,” says senator Kelley. “Minitex was seen as a great vehicle because it had this history of being in the business of sharing resources, which was also central to the idea of creating a virtual library. Minitex had a good story. It was built around cooperation and was a national leader in what it did. It was a model of efficient use of resources, too.”

With the help of libraries throughout the region and in response to the libraries’ needs, Minitex services again expanded. A $12 million state grant funded the development of MnLINK and the MnLINK Gateway system between 1997 and 2004. Funding for ELM and the Minnesota Digital Library became available in the late 1990s into the 2000s. The teletype machines were replaced by computers as email and the Web emerged.

Most recently, Minitex was a partner in the creation of a lasting library storage facility, which culminated in the April 8, 2000, dedication of the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Built into the banks along the Mississippi River, the Minitex offices are now located only partially underground, with a reading room for users of MLAC materials, windows overlooking the Mississippi, and enough space to make all the “Excuse mes” a recollection of yesteryear.

The beer box–themed distribution center is ancient history as well. Now, a lengthy conveyor belt winds its way from the ground floor offices, down 85 feet to a spacious loading dock in the bowels of Andersen. There, little trains of plastic-covered bins, full of books and documents, are picked up by privately contracted delivery services (not Greyhound buses) and driven off to libraries in the three-state region.

Next to the loading docks are two gigantic, climate-controlled caverns—each two stories high and the length of two football fields— that house row after row of shelved documents. In one cavern are the University Libraries’ archives and special collections, the other holds the Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC), which is managed by Minitex.

MLAC was first proposed by the Minnesota Library Planning Task Force to house less-used, but important, print materials from the University and other libraries across the state. Minitex was designated to operate MLAC as part of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

While the number of services provided through the Minitex system continues to expand, those that have existed from the beginning continue to grow and meet new challenges. The document delivery service, the organization’s original function that’s now called Resource Sharing, processed 431,000 requests for books, journal articles, and other materials in 2010. The Minitex Delivery Service staff handled a staggering 1.07 million items that same year.

A Minitex service called MEDI (Minitex Electronic Document Delivery) is an increasingly busy and important part of the Resource Sharing department. Through MEDI, about 85 percent of all copy requests were scanned and delivered electronically to individual patrons or requesting libraries.

As Minitex moves into its next forty years of operations, it does so without the man who served as director for the last 27 years. Having interviewed for the position in the wake of a snowstorm, it is fitting that Bill DeJohn’s last days as director were in the midst of winter 2012. He retired effective January 11, following a retirement celebration attended by more than 250 of his colleagues and friends from across the state and the Dakotas.

The backbone of Minitex remains the University of Minnesota Libraries, and its director, Wendy Pradt Lougee, has high praise for Bill DeJohn and his tenure at Minitex. “He’s always been concerned about and understood what people really need from this service.”

Lougee expects the “symbiotic” relationship between the University Libraries and Minitex will continue for many years to come. “Minitex has a home here and serves a great function for the University. This is a wonderful outward-facing part of what we do.”

Tim Brady is a St. Paul–based freelance writer and frequent visitor to the University Archives, where he conducts research for his regular contributions to the University of Minnesota Alumni Association’s Minnesota Magazine.
IS THERE A CURATOR IN THE HOUSE?

The story would by now seem apocryphal, if it wasn’t true. Years ago, a Twin Cities performing arts organization began pouring the contents of its file cabinets and closets—correspondence, memos, press materials, even set pieces—out an office window, down a chute and into a dumpster. Someone in the building, horrified at the potential loss of important historical artifacts, rescued the material. Then they phoned the Performing Arts Archives at the University of Minnesota, which gladly accepted the discards.

The theater was born out of the Black Arts Movement and founded in 1976 by Lou Bellamy, whom Hoda Kotb called “a legend in the world of American theater” on a recent edition of the television news magazine Rock Center. Bellamy’s goal was to stage the plays of African American writers and portray the lives of African American people.

In its 36-year history, Penumbra has become the largest African American theater in the country and has produced 23 world premiers. Many of those were works by playwright August Wilson, who earned two Pulitzer Prizes for the plays and scripts, performance videos, production notes, and costume renderings—are currently housed in the University Libraries’ Givens Collection of African American Literature.

One day Widdess realized those archival efforts weren’t sufficient. Such material, while important, didn’t represent the depth or breadth of Penumbra’s real work. “Our mission is to stimulate dialogue around issues of racism and social justice from the African American perspective,” she explains. “In addition to staging plays on the African American experience, we surround the performances with community discussions, and written, audio-visual, and web-based educational tools on themes and history.”

“If you go to our archives and look at the plays, there isn’t any material that provides a cultural context for the work,” she continues. “In our current archives, you see the content, but not the context for the content. There isn’t any context for appreciating or understanding what we did and why we did it; for how we articulated our mission through the plays.”

After contacting the Institute of Museum and Library Services about funding a project that would address such contextual issues, Widdess contacted Marcus about collaborating on the Leadership grant. “The Twin Cities is unique in its concentration of performing arts, particularly with theaters of color—of which Penumbra is particularly exemplary,” Marcus says. “But the challenges of building an archive that fully addresses a theater of color’s history isn’t unique to the Twin Cities.”

“So we became interested in talking with other theaters of color around the country confronting the same questions and finding a solution that could be shared,” Marcus continues. “If we could provide resources helpful to performing arts organizations regardless of size or location, that would be valuable.” In addition, the Friends of the Libraries had articulated a desire to focus its energies on the Performing Arts Archives. And Marcus was eager to build upon the archives Penumbra had already accumulated.

Using the framework in place for maintaining the archives of the Minnesota Orchestra, Penumbra and the Performing Arts Archive will work with such regional theaters as the Guthrie, and national partners including the American Theater Archiving Project, Theatre Library Association, and Apollo Theatre Project, to understand the barriers to creating a comprehensive theater archive. The collaborators will also identify processes that can be adapted by theaters of different sizes and configurations, to ensure long-term preservation of and access to their archives.

After the planning year, the collaborators will have devised a national model for a sustainable archival process, including how to locate and acquire scattered records from past productions—materials that costume designers, set designers,
The innovative proposal was one of 48 selected from 210 applications. “The peer review panel thought highly of the project,” says Robert Horton, Associate Deputy Director for the Performing Arts Archives for her Ph.D. thesis, “The Potentials of Performance: Professionalism and Cultural Democracy in the Twin Cities.” Her research focuses on theater development in the Twin Cities from 1950 to 1975, a time period that encompasses the Black Arts Movement.

“One of the issues I’m looking at is the decentralization of professional theater outside of the New York City,” she says. “The archives provide me with information and insights I couldn’t get anywhere else.” Her research thus far has been focused on the Guthrie Theater. But Engstrom looks forward to examining the origins of Penumbra Theatre, and including the contextual information for which the planning grant provides a archival framework.

The Givens Collection, in which Penumbra’s archives currently reside, “is broader than African American theater and the arts,” explains Widdess. The processes explored and material archived as a result of the planning grant will “allow us to tap into and compliment the existing collection.” Added materials such as study guides, scholarly papers, and other resources will help researchers “understand what Black Americans were dealing with socially and culturally at the time a play was written,” she explains, “or to learn the meaning behind the numerology in Wilson’s Two Trains Running.”

That Penumbra and the Performing Arts Archives could well serve as a model for theaters of all sizes and types, or directors often take with them after a production. They will also create a framework for community-based audio-visual preservation and recommend best practices for union contract agreements surrounding the use of performance video recordings.

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As Marcus explains, “Every library in the country is struggling to figure out what to do with electronic records. So much correspondence, so many conversations are now happening via email. We’re still encouraging people to print out important emails, but that’s neither practical nor complete. The grant provides us with funding to work on this urgent problem.”

Susannah Engstrom is a Chicago-based scholar who will benefit from the findings of the planning grant. She’s currently doing research in the Performing Arts Archives for her Ph.D. thesis, “The Potentials of Performance: Professionalism and Cultural Democracy in the Twin Cities.” Her research focuses on theater development in the Twin Cities from 1950 to 1975, a time period that encompasses the Black Arts Movement.

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That Penumbra and the Performing Arts Archives could well serve as a model for theaters of all sizes and types, and conceivably inform other archiving and documentation projects as well.” Horton adds, “It’s a planning grant, so implementation will be an even bigger challenge. But as the proposal explained, now is the time to get a handle on the variety of formats being used to produce content, from digital to email, and recommend and improve ways to move to more sustainable archiving.”

In the pre-Web 1960s, research librarians began to catch hopeful glimpses of the kind of “collective memory machine” that Vannevar Bush in the 1940s futuristically described in his iconic article “As We May Think.” Bush envisaged a massive information repository connected to a navigation device that mimicked the web-like thought association processes of the human mind. Although Bush didn’t conceive of libraries that were “digital,” he foresaw that “the Encyclopaedia Britannica could be reduced to the volume of a matchbox [and a] library of a million volumes could be compressed into one end of a desk.” The specifics of imagined technologies aside, Bush envisioned something as big and interconnected as the World Wide Web that harnessed the post-war achievements of science to revolutionize information access towards the betterment of society. In many ways, he presaged the Web, as well as the idea of a vast library of information available in a transparently networked environment.

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Fast forward 60 years and the seemingly sudden availability of digital content in vast quantities combined with high-speed global networks has turned what we once may have considered as “dreams of a digital library” into a great frontier for research libraries. And there is some urgency to the trek. Increasingly, the vast majority of library use takes place beyond library buildings—in labs, offices, and coffee shops around the campus, the state, and the world. The desire for anytime, anywhere electronic access to the books, journals, media resources, and archives of a great research library has clearly become the University community’s dream, if not its expectation. However, to build a digital library on the multi-million-volume scale of our great research libraries requires expertise and expense beyond any single institution’s capacity. This can only be the work of many, as one.

Our big—and perhaps once wildly futuristic—dreams for research libraries are possible if we take cooperation to the next level, says Columbia University’s Jim Neal, one of the thought leaders in research library administration. Neal calls upon our great university libraries to enter an age of “radical collaboration.” By this Neal means that libraries that share goals and a willingness to share risks must go beyond cooperation to create new structures, services, and breakthroughs. Before our eyes, the HathiTrust Digital Library (hathitrust.org) is emerging as a premier example of Bush’s vision for massively scaled information access brought about through acts of radical collaboration.

Beyond Cooperation

Libraries have a long history of committing “acts of cooperation” to achieve a greater public good. Cooperation exists in our cultural DNA, an instinctual response to provide the “best books for the most people at the least cost” (a motto for libraries attributed to Melville Dewey). The 40-year-old Minnetex resource-sharing network and much younger Minnesota Digital Library, both with operations based at the University of Minnesota, give ample evidence that libraries, working in cooperation, can provide the public with a wealth of services that would simply be impossible for many libraries to deliver on their own, ever.

The University of Minnesota has served as the foundation for much of the significant library cooperative achievement in the state and region. But what happens when the University dreams of something that requires effort far greater than what it can do alone?

HATHI TRUST

The HathiTrust has rapidly become the largest digital library in the world—and proven what impossible dreams are possible when we work together to achieve them.

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partner to build what some claim to be the world’s largest digital library. Leveraging the digitized copies of books and journals returned to libraries by the Google Book Project, along with digital scans from other initiatives, the HathiTrust library has now grown past 10 million total volumes and 3.5 billion full-text searchable pages (but not all viewable, due to copyright). At the moment, all the books and journals in the HathiTrust would fit on a shelf 120 miles long!

With very few exceptions, the size of the HathiTrust collection now exceeds that of nearly any single university library collection in North America (for example, our collection at Minnesota is just over 7 million volumes). It has approximately 300 languages represented, with publications dating from the pre-1500 period to the present. While the University of Minnesota has to date contributed around 100,000 volumes to HathiTrust, nearly 40% of the works in our collection are already represented in HathiTrust. This overlap is expected to grow to 60% by 2014. This is the power of the “collective collection,” a phrase coined to describe the synergy when research libraries bring together their treasured collections to provide a level of access that no one library can achieve alone.

**Hathi** is a Hindi word for “elephant,” an animal highly regarded for its memory, wisdom, and strength.

**Fueling Research**

Words are read, but in the digital environment, they can also be computed upon in the pursuit of new knowledge. This past year, the HathiTrust Research Center was established to enable advanced computational access to the massive collection of digitized text in HathiTrust. Using established technologies to enable advanced computational access to research library collections, it is equally committed to preservation of the digital copy over time. Following digital preservation standards and best practices, coupled with use of robust technologies to ensure multiple copies of digitized books and journals are safely kept in widely separated geographical locations, the HathiTrust is exemplifying preservation practices in the digital world.

**Complexities and Challenges**

Building a digital library on the scale of HathiTrust is not solely a technology challenge. In fact, when the history of HathiTrust is written, technology may end up viewed as among the easier parts of this remarkable undertaking. Duplicate digital copies resulting from bringing together large research collections, quality control, and intellectual property issues are challenges that cannot be entirely resolved by twenty-first century digital engineering capabilities. Take copyright, for example. HathiTrust makes full use of works in its collection that are in the public domain. Of its 10.1 million volumes, about 2.7 million volumes (or 27%) are fully searchable and viewable, cover to cover. HathiTrust also aspires to make lawful uses of works in copyright (for users with “print disabilities”) or are of indeterminable copyright status (the so-called “orphan works”). These are areas where there may be a lack of complete legal clarity or precedence, and HathiTrust is defining its policy and advocacy role.

HathiTrust partners share in addressing these specific challenges, as well as overall planning and governance, technology development and evaluation, and costs of operations. This past fall, the HathiTrust held its first Constitutional Convention, complete with ballot measures, to chart its next stage of governance and programmatic focus. Which brings us back to the long road that HathiTrust has traveled in a remarkably short time to harness vision, use of advanced information technologies, and a daring dose of radical collaboration to achieve the common good.

**Enduring Access**

Long-term access to the information contained in our libraries—whether the works are in print, digital, or other formats—depends on a commitment to preservation. While HathiTrust brings an unprecedented level of digital access to research library collections, it is equally committed to preservation of the digital copy over time. Following digital preservation standards and best practices, coupled with use of robust technologies to ensure multiple copies of digitized books and journals are safely kept in widely separated geographical locations, the HathiTrust is exemplifying preservation practices in the digital world.

**John Butler** is the University of Minnesota Associate University Librarian for Information Technology. He arrived at the University in the late 1980s as a freshly minted, ideas-breezing librarian, holding glimpses of a digital library. He now serves on the HathiTrust Strategic Advisory Board.

**Minawaanigwad vai!! (This is exciting!!)**

Speakers of Ojibwe—and those who’d like to learn the language—have a wonderful new reference tool created by the University Libraries, the U’s American Indian Studies Department, and the Minnesota Historical Society. The Ojibwe People’s Dictionary (http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu) is a searchable, talking Ojibwe-English dictionary that features the voices of Ojibwe speakers.

John D. Nichols, professor in the American Indian Studies department and one of the foremost Algonquian language experts, approached Jason Roy, director of Digital Library Services, to move his print dictionary *A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* into a dynamic, online environment. Nichols envisioned expanding the original dictionary as well as providing context for the words. The entry for wild rice, for example, includes audio clips of four Ojibwe elders speaking the word *manoomin,* photos from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and snippets from texts including meeting minutes, reports, and research manuscripts dating from 1922.

“The Libraries were honored to lead the software and interface development for the dictionary,” said Associate University Librarian John Butler. “The project uniquely demonstrates how the Libraries work with faculty and researchers to support new forms of scholarship.”

**Educating the next generation of scientists . . .**

In partnership with librarians at the University of Minnesota, the University of Oregon and Cornell University, Purdue University Libraries received nearly $250,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop programs that train students to find, organize, use, and share data efficiently and effectively.

The University of Minnesota team, lead by co-principal investigators and assistant librarians Lisa Johnston and Jon Jeffryes, are working with professor of civil engineering Arturo Schultz to train his graduate students to manage structural engineering data, such as structural health monitoring of bridges, including the new I-35W bridge. The training program will build on the Libraries’ expertise in digital data management best practices and their successful “Creating a Data Management Plan for your Grant Application” workshops that have been offered to faculty since December 2010.

. . . and preserving the past generation of theater

A $159,200 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society will enable the reformattting of magnetic media and film held by the Performing Arts Archives. The old recordings to be preserved are from six local and important performing arts organizations: the Guthrie Theater (pictured at right), Penumbra Theatre, James Sewell Ballet, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Minnesota Orchestra, and Minnesota Dance Theatre.
Scholars dig for treasures in the collections

Nine students and faculty members from institutions around the world were named this year’s Andersen Research Scholars. Named for former governor and University of Minnesota regent Elmer L. Andersen, the program provides recipients with funding to support their research in various special collections in Andersen Library. Several of these scholars had visited Andersen Library previously, only to find that our holdings were too rich and extensive for a single research trip.

Minnesota journalist Britt Aamodt will produce a feature-length radio documentary on science fiction writer Clifford Simak using Simak’s papers in the Upper Midwest Literary Archives. Stephani Hinnershitz will use the Kautz Family YMCA Archives for her dissertation, Building the Cultural Bridge: Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese Students and West Coast Civil Rights, 1915–1968.

University of South Carolina professor Sara Schwebel will also use CLRC materials to research Scott O’Dell’s Island of the Blue Dolphins to produce the first scholarly, critical edition of this landmark novel.

Charles Parker, St. Louis University professor, will use the James Ford Bell Library's collection in Dutch ethnographic and travel literature from the 17th century to produce a book focusing on Calvinist engagement with non-European, non-Christian societies around the world.

West Point associate professor Karin Hoffmann will use the Robert By papers in the Upper Midwest Literary Archives for a biography of the early life of American poet John Ashbery. University of Sheffield professor Paul Knepper examined the American Social Health Association records for a book on the traffic in women during the interwar period. An account of Knepper’s research appears as a special web-extra in the online edition of continuum.

Texas A&M University associate professor Maura Ives will use the Ellen Raskin papers in the Children’s Literature Research Collections (CLRC) to publish a book about the publishing history of Christina Rossetti’s Goblin Market.

All work and no play…

… makes for a stressful finals week. Staff at Walter Library have instituted a creative and very successful antidote. The Great Hall was outfitted with a collection of games and puzzles for students to take a break. The centerpiece was this crossword puzzle, written by U chemistry professor George Barany. It wasn’t long before our clever students had filled in the blanks. Kudos to staff and Dr. Barany, who has been constructing crosswords for years (including some for The New York Times).

A library in your pocket!

Research anywhere, anytime with our new mobile site. The first time you browse to our homepage from your smartphone, you can opt to use the mobile site for all future visits.

Site features include:

• Search for books, videos, maps, and music, and more using the library catalog
• Find magazine and journal articles using library databases.
• Email citations of the resources you find.
• Browse for article databases that have mobile interfaces.
• Check library building and collection hours.
• Contact librarians by email or phone.
• Look up when your checked out items are due.
• Check availability in library computer labs.

Those without Internet-enabled phones can view the mobile site from any computer at lib.umn.edu/mobile.

Enjoy your favorite Friends events again!

Did you miss any of our events this past year, or would you like to relive a favorite one? We’re now recording selected events so anyone can enjoy them again (and again and again). Watch online at YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/user/umnLibraries) or, if you want to watch on the go, download a podcast to your mobile device from iTunes U (http://z.umn.edu/itunesumo).

The Secret to Success

A librarian and a computer science professor are walking down the street, and one asks the other about data. This is not the opening line of a joke, but rather how a project to investigate the impact of libraries on student success got started. Kate Peterson, Kristen Mastel, Jan Fransen, and Shane Nackerud—along with several of their colleagues from the University’s Office of Institutional Research—are reporting preliminary results of a just-completed semester-long study of library use and academic performance. Among the findings:

• 77% of undergraduate students used the University Libraries system in the fall semester of 2011.
• 85% of graduate students used the Libraries during that same semester.
• For first year students, “using the library one time was associated with a .23 increase in student GPA” (in other words, moving from a 3.0 to a 3.23).
• First year students who used the library at least once were 1.54 times more likely to re-enroll in classes the following semester than those who didn’t.
• Students who took the Libraries’ online introductory research course were 7.58 times more likely to re-enroll.

Visit the project blog at http://blog.lib.umn.edu/idsys to learn more.
If you build it, they will come.

Just eight years ago, 25 people representing Minnesota's academic and public libraries, historical societies, and art museums envisioned a central repository for images, maps, and historical documents. Today, that dream has been realized with over 100,000 items from 129 of the state's cultural heritage institutions. And it's working—last year alone, 240 requests from all over the world were fielded for the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest's collection, including two images needed for Hamodia, a Jewish newspaper in New York. Curious? Come find something exciting at Minnesota Reflections (reflections.mndigital.org).

First place winners: Grant Sorenson, Sarah Williams, Jon Dahlin, Jenna Frankenfield, and Nicholas Larkins Perez

Second place winners: Chance Ovik, Ben Gavin, Joe Marino, Sean Lee, and Andy Engstrom

Photo reproduced courtesy of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.

Lights, Camera, Libraries!

For our first-ever student video contest, the Friends of the Libraries asked students to tell us what they've discovered at the Libraries. 60 students on fourteen teams entered for a chance to win an iPad. The panel of prestigious judges—which included Milton Chen from the George Lucas Educational Foundation, Amy Matthews from the DIY and HGTV Networks, and Karen Gibbs from the Education Programs division at National Geographic—were impressed with the enthusiasm expressed and the overall quality of the videos. The winning videos, "Through the Halis" and "It All Starts at the Library," can be viewed along with all the submissions from our contest playlist: http://z.umn.edu/fol/videos

The Friends also announced the annual Outstanding Library Student Employee awards: Artie Byron and Christine Avery each received $250 scholarships for their stellar service. Darren Terpstra and Lois Hendrickson were this year's Staff Development Grant Award recipients.

If you build it, they will come.

Cooking with the Kirschner Collection

Saint Paul native Doris Schechter Kirschner received her first cookbook when she was 17 years old, which sparked a lifelong interest in cooking and recipes. Years later, Kirschner would seek the help of her then-dressmaker and future culinary entrepreneur LeeAnn Chin to locate hard-to-find ingredients for Chinese dishes.

The 1957 University of Minnesota graduate donated her vast collection of cookbooks, pamphlets, and recipes to the University's Magrath Library in 1985, but now foodies from all over the world can get a glimpse into this special collection, thanks to the new Kirschner Collection blog. One especially poignant post highlights the nearly forty years' worth of Kirschner's menu calendars. About the May 1970 calendar, librarian Megan Kocher writes, "I love the level of activity in this calendar with the arrows pointing all over, the way that May 27th couldn't be contained in one block (looks like there was a party), and that on the 29th "jello?" is listed with a question mark and followed by "Ha." This is such a fun way to view the life of a family."

Read more at http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mkocher/kirschner

Discover the Borchert Map Library

Would you like to know what your grandfather's Minnesota farm looked like in 1935? Or how the surrounding land and water features have changed over the last 30 years? The staff of the Borchert Map Library—with its 370,000 sheet maps, 9,600 atlases, and 415,000 aerial photos from the 1920s to near-present—can help you answer these questions and more! Visit map.lib.umn.edu to learn more.

Get Short Stacks in your inbox every month!

Some of these stories were featured recently in Short Stacks, our monthly e-newsletter for Friends and supporters of the University Libraries. Visit z.umn.edu/shortstacks to read past issues, and be sure to subscribe if you're not already getting this in your email box!
Notable Acquisitions

Bill Holm Papers
Literary Manuscripts Collections
William Jon Holm (1943–2009), Minnesota born-and-bred writer, poet, teacher, composer, musician, world traveller, raconteur, impresario, and McKnight Distinguished Artist, lived much of his life near the Minnesota farm of his birth, with regular forays to his home in Iceland and to teaching in China. Holm had an uncommon talent for capturing the humor and pathos of daily life, and daily life’s largest themes, in his work. The Holm Papers include manuscripts of his poems and essays, materials documenting his esteemed career as a teacher at Southwest Minnesota State, and prolific correspondence with writers such as Robert Bly, Phoebe Hanson, recent Nobel-Prize winner Tomas Transtromer, Studs Terkel, and Kurt Vonnegut.

Brave New Workshop Archives
Performing Arts Archives
Founded in 1958 by Dudley Riggs, the Brave New Workshop is the longest running satirical and improvisational theater in the country. The Dudley Riggs’ BNW Collection, part of the Performing Arts Archives, contains over 100 boxes of script notes, video and audio recordings, research materials that skrew anyone from presidents to peons, posters, programs, and more. This rich collection captures the working life of one of the Twin Cities most dynamic and unpredictable theatrical institutions.

Lisa Albrecht Library
Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
This collection of books, donated by activist, writer, and associate professor in the University of Minnesota School of Social Work Lisa Albrecht contains several hundred titles across various disciplines, including lesbian and feminist fiction; GLBT non-fiction; lesbian and feminist pedagogies; lesbian and feminist poetry; and many lesbian and feminist early women’s movement newspapers and periodicals.

Margaret Ann Hubbard Papers
Kerlan Collection, Children’s Literature Research Collections
In 1968, curator Karen Nelson Hoyle first approached Minnesota novelist and playwright Margaret Ann Hubbard about donating her papers to the Kerlan Collection. Forty years later, on the eve of Hoyle’s retirement, Hubbard’s complete works and papers arrived. Included are Hubbard’s literary works and manuscripts, as well as her extensive collection of related articles, reviews, research materials, and correspondence.

Ralph Rapson Papers
Northwest Architectural Archives
After graduating from the University of Michigan, Ralph Rapson attended the Cranbrook Academy of Art where he studied under Eliel Saarinen. Rapson was head of the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota from 1954 to 1984. He is most well known for designing the original Guthrie Theater in 1963 and Cedar Square West (now Riverside Plaza) in Minneapolis, which featured his typical asymmetry and use of colors. The collection, currently being processed, contains a number of rolls of drawings for his more than 300 different commissions, along with renderings, blueprints, sketches, models, some job files, and presentation boards.

Early works on wine and coffee
Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine
In this very rare and early work, author Mini compares what one tastes in the flavor of wine with the qualities of sweetness of honey, milk, and water. He also discusses bitterness, acidity, pungency, sharpness, roughness, depth as associated with sweetness, blandness, staleness, and saltiness. The second half of the book focuses on recommendations from Aristotle and Galen about the nutrition of wine, whether it heats up the body, and whether it aids in digestion.

This first edition of an influential work on coffee begins with a description of coffee’s origins, how the plant is processed, social life around consumption, and then proceeds to medicinal uses. The author, a medical professor from the Paris University, describes many therapeutic applications of coffee for a number of illnesses.

Dale Carpenter Papers
Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies
Dale Carpenter, Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law, University of Minnesota Law School, donated his papers from 1993 to 1998. During this time, Carpenter was president and board member of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas and employed by the Houston law firm Vinson & Elkins, where he successfully lobbied for domestic partner benefits for firm employees. The donated items include memos, notes, letters, a videotape, and other memorabilia.

Domestic Violence Research Collection
Social Welfare History Archives
Several Minnesota-based organizations have a long history of leadership in domestic abuse legislation, prevention, and intervention. Records documenting more than 30 years of work by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, an early leader in the field of domestic violence, are being processed and made ready for research use. The records of the Duluth-based Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP), founder of the “Duluth Model” of community coordination to end domestic abuse, are being transferred and will also be made available to researchers. These new additions will form the core of an important research collection on domestic violence services, advocacy, legislation, and prevention, both in Minnesota and nationally.

Vogue Archive
Billed as the essential creative resource for fashion enthusiasts and style, design, and marketing professionals, this online archive contains every story, every dress, every advertisement from 1892 to today.

Patricia Hampi Papers
Literary Manuscripts Collections
University of Minnesota Regents Professor and winner of Guggenheim and MacArthur fellowships, among others, Patricia Hampi is a prolific essayist and memoirist. The Patricia Hampi Papers, part of the Upper Midwest Literary Archives, is a meticulous collection of over 100 personal and literary journals, literary manuscripts of her 11 published books and hundreds of essays, reviews, and poems; and rich correspondence with writers such as Ted Kooser, her dear friend Carol Bly (whose collection is also part of the UMLA), Pat Conroy, Garrison Keillor, Kate Millet, and Allen Ginsberg. The collection also contains recordings of readings, concerts, and other literary collaborations, as well as materials documenting her extensive travels to and love of Prague.
The movie-themed Staff Recognition event "Tinseltown in Dinkytown" was held at the Varsity Theater.

Master storyteller Charlie Bethel performed his take on the ancient tale of Gilgamesh for a full house of Friends.

Friends filled the Campus Club for the annual Feast of Words dinner. English professor Michael Hancher riffed on questions that have long puzzled dictionary makers and dictionary users—the relationship of things, names of things, and pictures of things.

Attendees at the annual Friends-Member appreciation reception enjoyed "I Could Write a Book, Marian," a bibliophile recital by tenor Vern Sutton... 

Local tenor Roy Heilman (center) is accompanied by Mary Jo Gothmann (left), singing original compositions by Linda Kachelmeier based on poems by Arthur Upson. Peter Campion (right) narrates.

The Archie Givens Sr. Collection of African American Literature hosted a dinner and special viewing of the "Bibliophilia: Collecting Black Books" exhibit. Above, curator Cecily Marcus explains materials in one case to Karen Kaler.

Heidi Erdrich read from her hot-off-the-presses collection "Cell Traffic" for the Third Annual Pankake Poetry Reading.

Pulitzer-prize winning author and Dickens biographer Jane Smiley capped off the Friends' celebration of the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens.

Eric Black (left), former Star Tribune reporter and current MinnPost blogger, eulogized Paul Nagel and introduced inaugural Nagel Lecture speaker Henry Adams.

Henry Adams (right), professor of American art at Case Western Reserve University and descendant of presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, spoke on the work of noted historian and Adams biographer Paul Nagel.
Bee Collective

Pictured here is Father Francis Jager, a renowned beekeeping expert and faculty member, who donated his collection of 660 books in 1930. Father Jager’s books are part of our Bees and Beekeeping Collection, one of several collections of distinction at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Learn more at:
lib.umn.edu/naturalresources/
collectionsofdistinction