



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LIBRARIES

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

continuum

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LIBRARY

DIVING INTO THE
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continuum supports the mission of the University Libraries and our community of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends by providing information that:

- > highlights news, events, developments and trends within the Libraries
- > examines issues facing libraries globally
- > provides a forum for dialogue
- > connects the many constituencies of the Libraries

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Last year I had the opportunity to participate in the University's Great Conversations series, a program that brings together someone from within the University and a notable individual from outside for a public conversation. I shared the stage with Henry Petroski, a Duke University engineer and historian of science. Those who have read Petroski's many books (including *The Pencil*, *The Book on the Bookshelf*, and *Small Things Considered*) will be familiar with his fascinating technique of researching objects and chronicling the explorations, experimentation, and discoveries that fuel new developments in design and engineering. In his works, he describes vividly the cumulating aspect of research. His intriguing case studies reveal the interplay of documentation and discovery, the process by which new insights build upon the record of the past. Recorded knowledge forms the raw material of new knowledge; past scholarship begets new scholarship.

This ongoing cycle of knowledge creation and dissemination is, of course, a fundamental activity within the academy. Universities are rich environments for exploration, experimentation, and discovery and libraries have been a critical player in that process for ages. Libraries are, by definition, the organizations that capture and preserve the products of scholarship as fuel for future study.

This issue of *continuum* explores the library's role in the research process. Dean Steven Rosenstone describes the centrality of libraries within the liberal arts, yet he also notes the transformations that technology has brought to scholarly endeavor and to the library.

UNIQUELY MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota Libraries' archives and special collections provide a particularly fruitful context for research. Scholars travel from around the globe (or call... or email...) to tap these unique resources. Something quite extraordinary happens when a researcher can hold a rare volume and gain insights into the context of its creation. The experience of examining original literary manuscripts – complete with the author's edits and marginalia – or comparing versions of original illustrations is an incomparable opportunity for humanists. These resources are singularly Minnesota and stimulate new creative works.

THE UBIQUITOUS LIBRARY

Most of us are all too familiar with the rapid growth of the Internet and the flood of information sources now available online, some of questionable origin or value. Publishing has experienced significant transformation and new genres have emerged that allow wholly new research methods. University researchers are able to analyze

language in text, study features of art, and manipulate large bodies of data—capabilities unheard of only a decade ago.

What is the library's role in an era of ubiquitous access to digital information? A planning grant, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is helping the Libraries explore the changing methodologies in humanities and social science research. Our goal is to better understand the diversity of content, tools, technologies, and facilities that support research and determine where improvements can be made. While the project is in an early stage, we are hopeful the broad consultation and assessment will help us design new services to respond to the research community's needs.

TRAILBLAZING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Transformational change in technology has dramatically altered the research landscape. Growing interdisciplinary inquiry has heightened demand for electronic services that can mine information resources from multiple disciplines, bridging different vocabularies and research methods. At the same time, publishing has "morphed" beyond the traditional journal to incorporate large databases, interactive features, and new media. We see our future in the library increasingly focused on customized services that bring together relevant publications, data, and tools – new virtual libraries that can fuel technology-dependent research. The dual challenge is to manage the new content and tools and to deliver these new resources in ways that meet the needs of specific research communities.

Over 60 years ago, physicist and engineer Vannevar Bush (then Director of the U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development) forecast an era of robust computational devices that could store hundreds of documents (on microfilm) and employ techniques to index, find, and make associative links between sources.

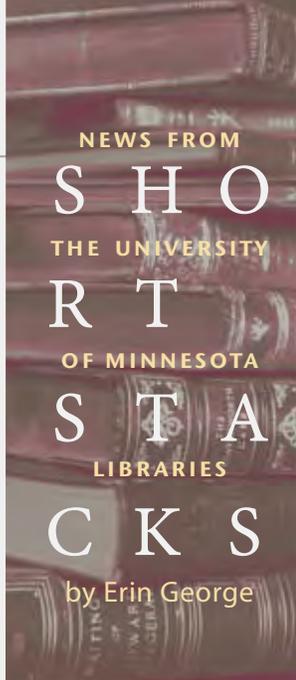
Interestingly, Bush also forecast a new profession of *trail blazers*, "those who find delight in the task of establishing useful trails through the enormous mass of the common record." Librarians and partner technologists now serve that function, creating systems of content and tools that make associative links and enable unprecedented analysis of the research literature. Vast amounts of information resources and data can be retrieved and analyzed with speed not yet imagined in Bush's day.

RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING

Exploration, experimentation, and discovery are fundamental activities of the university. The cycle of drawing on the scholarly record and creating new scholarship – whether documenting a genome or giving voice to a poem – is a continuous process that advances science and enriches our culture. In his later years, Vannevar Bush captured the ultimate goal of research: "Knowledge for the sake of understanding, not merely to prevail, that is the essence of our being." The Libraries play an enduring role to preserve the knowledge of the past, while pursuing our trail-blazing work for

WENDY PRADT LOUGEE

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN *and* MCKNIGHT PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR



A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

Policy makers in Africa, undergraduate students in the United States, and scholars in Europe all use AgEcon Search (<http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/>) when they want access to the latest research in agricultural, applied, and resource economics. Developed in 1995 and maintained by University Libraries and the Department of Applied Economics, AgEcon Search is a repository, or virtual storage space, for full-text working papers, conference papers (most required to be deposited before conference presentations are made), and small press journal articles. The site has an international scope, with materials deposited by researchers across

the globe. Librarian Julie Kelly, one of its coordinators, explains that it is “the go to place” in these disciplines to get a window on current research. Available free of charge, this web-based service includes 18,500 full-text documents and has recorded over a million downloads since 2001.



INFOMANIACS TAKE THE FIELD

Hank Aaron breaking Babe Ruth’s home-run record? That was big. Lou Gehrig proclaiming himself “the luckiest man on the face of the earth?” That was big too. But the inaugural season of the Infomaniacs? Now, that is really big. In October, Bio-Medical Library staff came together on the West Bank’s windswept Field #1 to launch a fall intramurals softball dynasty at the University. They may be directors, librarians, and students during the day, but when the lights come on and the crack of a bat can be heard, they are a team with grit, determination, and enthusiasm. A heart-breaking loss in the season’s last game closed the book on their playoff chances, but with spring training in full swing, they will take it one game at a time and be ready to play their game next season.



PHOTO: SYDNEY REYES BEATTIE

ROASTING RESEARCH

The aroma of fresh-brewed coffee, the din of lively conversation, and the bustle of a favorite campus hangout...in the library? Welcome to the Wise Owl Café, a coffee shop and intellectual gathering place in the Walter Library basement. A space beyond lattes and snacks, the Wise Owl hosts events and exhibits and provides library research and meeting space for the University community. Housed opposite the basement circulation desk, students, faculty, and staff have been streaming in since the opening in October to read, meet, chat, have lunch, or use the online catalog.



A COOL TWO MILLION



As part the University's biennial budget appropriation for the '05-'06 fiscal year, the Libraries received a significant new investment: \$2 million in recurring funds for the collection budget. This new money enables the Libraries to target specific teaching and research needs of individual departments while meeting campus information needs. For instance, this allocation strengthens monographic purchases across the collection, covers rising journal subscription costs (where inflation averages 9 percent annually), and provides investment for high-demand digital resources for students, faculty, and staff. These new resources include ARTstor, a cross-disciplinary image database containing over 300,000 art images with descriptive information covering art, architecture, and archeology, and campus-wide access to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

A DIGITAL WINDOW INTO MINNESOTA'S PAST



Through the Minnesota Digital Library project (MDL), over 6,000 historical images have come together in *Minnesota Reflections*, a searchable digital collection of the state's past. The images were culled from the individual collections of 55 historical societies, special collections, museums, and libraries including the University Archives, the Minnesota Orchestra Archives and the Northwest Architectural Archives within University Libraries. *Minnesota Reflections* is the first digitization effort by the MDL, and this web-based collection features digital copies of photographs, stereographs, and postcards from across Minnesota, all taken or produced prior to 1909. Sneak a peak through this marvelous digital window and browse the collection at <http://reflections.mndigital.org/>.

FEED ME



What is an RSS feed? RSS is a web-based tool for distributing frequently-updated information. For example, news organizations use them to alert readers to new headlines. How do you get an RSS feed? You subscribe on the organization's website, and then software called a news reader or aggregator will connect regularly with the feed and download anything new. Then, you can review the feed and use the links provided to read the full entries (a list, a news story, an announcement, etc.). How does this work at University Libraries? RSS feeds for faculty can be effective and timely tools for staying connected to new developments and publications in their academic fields. The Science and Engineering Library, for example, provides RSS feeds for new book lists. Unlike most feeds that just announce new books, this RSS feed, thanks to some custom programming, gives faculty links to a dozen subject categories of books. In the feed's Comment section, space is provided for faculty to suggest new books for the Libraries to purchase. How can you learn more about the Libraries' RSS feeds? Visit <http://www.lib.umn.edu/site/rss.phtml>.



UNBINDING THE LIBRARY

A NEW INITIATIVE SEEKS TO MAKE THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OMNIPRESENT

LIBRARIES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS—BUILDINGS WITH BOOKS ON SHELVES. THAT'S A PREVAILING NOTION AMONG MANY ACADEMICS, AND—MISGUIDED AS IT IS—IT'S NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND ITS ORIGINS. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, LIBRARY FACILITIES ARE SPREAD ACROSS THREE CAMPUSES IN 15 SEPARATE BUILDINGS. OVER SIX MILLION VOLUMES ARE HELD WITHIN THESE WALLS.

While scholars draw upon a range of resources for their research, the library has always been the “go to” place for books. Most academics were working long before the advent of the digital age. What’s more, scholarly research itself is changing: academic disciplines are refocusing their priorities, and scholars often perceive libraries as behind the times.

“A Multi-Dimensional Framework for Academic Support,” a University Libraries research project, is out to change those perceptions.

The goals of the project, a collaboration between the University Libraries and the College of Liberal Arts (CLA),

are to better understand scholarly research behavior, to uncover the full range of resources that support research, and, ultimately, to develop new tools and services to create a more coherent and coordinated whole out of these currently fragmented resources.

When people think of research, they often envision a laboratory with scientists, clad in white coats, peering into microscopes. But for many academic scholars—especially scholars in the liberal arts—the library is the laboratory. The University Libraries and CLA embarked on this project to better support this kind of academic research.

“In a digital age, we have an opportunity to reconceive libraries in a more holistic way,” said University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee. “At their core, libraries are about providing collections and access to information. But with new technologies, we have the opportunity to knit together library and other resources into a coordinated online environment. We can break down the boundaries to effective research.”

RESEARCHING RESEARCH

Scholars in the College of Liberal Arts were recently asked: *How important are the University Libraries for the following aspects of your research process?*

VERY / SOMEWHAT / NOT VERY / NOT AT ALL

As a resource for identifying, retrieving, or working with research materials:



As a collector, purchaser, or subscriber for books, journals, electronic databases, interlibrary loan materials, etc.:



As a repository (organizer, archivist, or preservationist) of scholarly resources:



As a developer of technology or tools for information access or management:



Research conducted as part of “A Multi-Dimensional Framework for Academic Support,” a joint project of the University of Minnesota Libraries and the College of Liberal Arts, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Lougee is leading a team of researchers in this effort, which is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The project began in fall 2005 when Lougee’s team conducted surveys and focus groups, contacting more than 1,200 CLA graduate students and faculty.

THE BOUND LIBRARY

Survey results weren’t exactly surprising. “Respondents are saying things that we expected they would say,” said post-doctoral fellow Cecily Marcus, part of the project team. “For example, they say that the main responsibility of the library is to collect research materials—books, journals, et cetera.”

Here again is the traditional notion of a ‘bound’ library: a physical place where collections are stored and managed, which is ostensibly a good thing. But this perception is limited by constraints of time and place—a bad thing if you need a book at another university library, or don’t have the time or budget to personally visit distant archives to view 17th century Spanish sundials, for example.

The Internet has brought materials from many libraries and archives to a worldwide audience. Many professors are aware that online information is out there but aren’t sure how to get to it. “I’m not good at finding archival sources,” one CLA professor said. “Sometimes a colleague will tell me about a site, and it will just be a goldmine, but ...I wouldn’t know how to find it on my own.”

The challenge is to expand the library’s role in providing access to information beyond the volumes it holds on its shelves. This might require new thinking about the roles of libraries and librarians. Libraries might need to become more “diffuse,” said Lougee. For those of you at home reaching for your dictionaries, this is not “diffuse” in the sense of “disorganized,” but in the sense of being spread out: reaching into departments, desktops and collaborative pods of researchers collaborating online.

Another word might be “unbound”—a library that is omnipresent, whether it’s an online archive, an online information community, or even a subject librarian. For example, a number of librarians from the University Libraries are mobile, actually working onsite in academic departments instead of only at the library. Thus, librarians have a more engaged role in the scholarly activities of a department. These efforts are already changing perceptions: one faculty member reported that “our subject librarian is someone whom I think in many ways is seen as an additional member of the department.”

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KEEPING TRACK OF STUFF

The project survey indicated an increasing focus on interdisciplinary research (scholarly work involving resources, theories, or published materials from more than one academic discipline). Even scholars who don't consider their work to be interdisciplinary *per se* often need to use information and methods outside the traditional bounds of their disciplines.

Furthermore, scholars in the humanities and social sciences often investigate untold stories, unwritten experiences, and previously unheard voices, reinforcing the idea that scholarship isn't just the realm of the powerful.

All of this requires access to a huge variety of resources, which can include oral histories, little-known archives of cultural artifacts, museum collections, and rare documents. It might also require reading between the lines of established sources and reading in other disciplines for fresh viewpoints. As one professor said, "I have been researching political economy, social movement theory, linguistics and language theory, linguistic anthropology, transgender studies, sexology, [and] medical anthropology."

This kind of research is a plus for the most part, as another professor suggested: "When you work in an interdisciplinary field ... you come up against different people thinking different things are important, which has really contributed to my project."

But there are challenges: when you're working outside your discipline, how do you know when you've done an exhaustive search? When a topic is foreign to you, how do you know when you discovered something new? And once you've amassed a wide body of research materials, how do you manage it all so that you can revisit it after days, weeks, or months?

The survey and focus groups revealed a need for the Libraries to do just that—develop tools to help researchers identify and manage a complex range of research materials. Technology staff at the University Libraries have begun designing prototypes for new tools like online research "collaboratories"—virtual environments where a group of scholars would have access to content in their

LIBRARY AS PLACE

Scholars in the College of Liberal Arts were recently asked: *How important are the University Libraries as a place for research or study?*

VERY / SOMEWHAT / NOT VERY / NOT AT ALL

Graduate Students



Faculty



discipline and related fields, could share work, find software to analyze the images or data, or access library services and librarians online.

"The idea is to design something that would give them whatever they need for their regular research activities—all there in one place," Marcus said.

BRING ON THE VIRTUAL, BUT KEEP THE PHYSICAL

Technology tools are likely to catch on, since most researchers are seduced by the ease of electronic resources. One professor admitted, "I prefer to download a PDF to [my] laptop rather than turn around and find the physical journal [on my shelves]." Another confessed, "I'm a webaholic... I hate saying the same thing that everybody else is saying. If someone else has said it, I prefer to use their words and their web pages."

So what exactly are they using? Professors and graduate students in the liberal arts use traditional library-funded databases like Lexis Nexis Academic Network, the library's

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WHEN LIBERAL ARTS SCHOLARS HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIBRARIES THESE DAYS, THE MOOD IS SOMETIMES GRIM, OR AT LEAST RESTRAINED. A colleague recently referred to academic libraries as the canary in the coal mine. And what's the coal mine? Public research universities—in particular, the liberal arts (arts, social sciences, and humanities).

In other words, where the library goes, so go the liberal arts, and so goes scholarship as we have known it. But there's another side to the story. Libraries have changed dramatically over the past decade, but they continue to play a vital role in the academy. Some view the changes as cause for celebration, not alarm.

As stewards of and research partners with our fine University Libraries, we can actively help shape the libraries' future: "where the library goes" is up to all of us.

Liberal arts scholars have traditionally been the heaviest users of the libraries we have known—bricks-and-mortar warehouses of knowledge and ideas captured and stored in bound, printed volumes lined up on shelves and indexed in card catalog drawers. For the more adventurous, there were and still are "the stacks"—miles and miles of books waiting to be stumbled upon and retrieved. In the stacks, serendipity is often the parent of discovery.

Liberal arts scholars are readers and writers. They're word people, creators and users of written texts as intellectual property. It is by poring over these texts that both faculty and students follow the unraveling of a conceptual or epistemological mystery to reach a full understanding of an author's thoughts, of a movement or theory, or of a historical period, culture, society, or art form. To read one of these texts is to follow a path to discovery that is sometimes picturesque, sometimes densely overgrown, and often strewn with references to roads not taken or roads taken by scholarly and literary predecessors.

Enter the digital age. It's no secret that the digital revolution has transformed the way we do business. Libraries



are no longer just real spaces but also are virtual spaces traversable by hyperlinks. Reading rooms have become sites for electronic information retrieval; words are binary data to be "captured;" carrels have become workstations; and the lines

between librarians (information specialists and collections curators) and information technology specialists, even between users and professionals, have become increasingly blurry.

For some liberal arts scholars, the word "library" may conjure a well-upholstered marble-and-mahogany space containing browsable stacks of journals and hard-bound books—a concrete and lendable aggregation of the world's recorded knowledge. A place where books and other materials are checked out (or "borrowed") at the circulation desk and returned by a stamped due date. Where books are usable one at a time, sharable only over time. Got a question? A reference librarian will get back to you after a scavenger hunt through the collections.

For other scholars, though, a library is an information environment, a virtual world of information resources, accessible with a few keystrokes and mouse clicks. The "circulation desk" is somewhere in cyberspace. The reference librarian is a search engine. And sharing is simple: thousands can access the same digitized source material simultaneously.

Most liberal arts researchers still—at least occasionally—visit the libraries in person, search the stacks, and pore over historical documents, archival manuscripts, special collections, and scholarly journals. They check out books, peruse multi-page indexes for key words, skim relevant chapters, or read books from cover to cover. But they also visit the libraries from their home and office computers. For all of us, the question these days is not whether, but how, to use the library's technology resources in our research and our teaching.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope the year has gone well for you. Now that the frenzy and festivities of the holidays are over, I so look forward to curling up in front of the fireplace on a cold winter night and immersing myself in the books that I have been wanting to read for the past couple of months. I may have difficulty choosing because there are so many in the pile! However, Friends of the Libraries events always seem to tempt me away from my reading into the cold night!



In January, we kicked off our **STUDENT BOOK COLLECTION CONTEST**, which invites students to write a short paper on their own special book collections. The top two receive a cash award and present their collections at the Friends' annual meeting in the spring. Last year the winners submitted essays on fascinating collections such as *Books Not Just for the Birds: A Collection of Avian History and Natural Biology* and *Beyond Tarzan: The Fantastic World of Edgar Rice Burroughs*.

Also in January, we enjoyed **DINNER WITH JEEVES** at the Campus Club. This special event was similar to the very successful **DINNER WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES** that we co-sponsored with the Friends of Sherlock Holmes Collection last year. We celebrated the writings of P.G. Wodehouse and his unforgettable characters, with a menu based on Wodehouse's books. The evening was definitely worth leaving our nice warm homes and sharing good food, company and entertainment!

But the fun doesn't stop there. There's more to come this winter. On March 23, poet and University of Minnesota professor **MICHAEL DENNIS BROWNE** will speak to us about his works. This evening will celebrate the University Libraries recently acquired Browne's personal and teaching papers as part of its permanent archives. At our **ANNUAL MEETING** on May 4, Tony Woodcock, President of the Minnesota Orchestra, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. We are thrilled that the University of Minnesota Libraries has been selected to keep the archives of this world-renowned orchestra.

I can't help but reflect on the entertaining and interesting events we had last fall. Brothers Arthur and Michael Phillips discussed their recent books and our audience had an opportu-



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Friends of the Libraries

nity to ask about their experiences researching and writing *The Egyptologist* and *The Gift of Valor: A War Story*.

In December, we were treated to a wonderfully entertaining and powerful performance of **BEOWULF** performed by local playwright, producer and actor Charlie Bethel. Dr. Gerhard Weiss introduced Charlie and showed us a very early edition of *Beowulf* that belongs to our rare book collection.

But none of these fantastic events would be possible without the commitment and support of the Friends. If you are not already a member, please join us and help make our great Libraries even greater. Your membership dollars provide the Libraries with essential support, that is vital in ensuring the growth and development of our Libraries. And what's more, you'll meet fascinating people, learn about our many collections and have a wonderful time.

I look forward to seeing you at Friends events throughout the year!

MARY MCDIARMID
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES

YOUR BACKSTAGE PASS



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

There will be sweet music on May 4th at the Friends of the Libraries' annual meeting and dinner, where Minnesota Orchestra President Tony Woodcock presents a talk entitled "Your Backstage Pass." Woodcock will talk about what goes into putting a world-class symphony performance onstage—from musicians' early training through auditions, planning innovative concert programming, selecting and engaging guest artists, developing ideas for new commissioned works and putting them into action with composers and performers (such as a Paul McCartney work Woodcock commissioned while managing the Liverpool Philharmonic.) The evening has an equally

symphonic setting: the Minnesota Centennial Showboat, docked off of Harriet Island near downtown St. Paul. Join us for sweeping views of the Mississippi, great food, a stirring presentation and good company. Save the date now and watch for more information in your mailbox soon!

FINNISH FIRST

He may be more at home behind a podium than in a subterranean cavern, but that didn't stop the Minnesota Orchestra's music director, Osmo Vänskä, from making his first visit to the Minnesota Orchestra archives, which have been part of the Performing Arts Archives at Elmer L. Andersen Library since 1975.



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Vänskä's purpose? To see with his own eyes a letter written by his countryman, legendary Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. Sibelius wrote the letter 50 years ago to the Orchestra's then-music director, Antal Dorati, thanking him and the Orchestra for an all-Sibelius concert saluting Dorati on his 90th birthday.

"I have reviewed many Sibelius scores," Vänskä explained, "but they were just copies I used for performances and recordings. It's an amazing feeling to hold an

original Sibelius document—something he wrote himself. Finding his good wishes here, in our own Archives, is a very happy connection for me!"

Even though his visit was late in the afternoon before a weighty all-Beethoven concert, Vänskä took time for a tour of the collection, which contains materials representing all 102 years of the Orchestra's history. In addition to the Sibelius letter, Vänskä explored the archival caverns beneath Andersen Library, where the Orchestra's materials fill more than 300 linear feet on shelf after towering shelf.

Vänskä was particularly intrigued by several huge scrapbooks into which Orchestra volunteers of yore had pasted symphony programs, tour announcements, event invitations, and other memorabilia documenting the Orchestra's first decades, when it was a pioneer in the fledgling symphonic recording industry and a leader among its peers in touring.

A GREAT UNIVERSITY NEEDS A GREAT LIBRARY...

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA LIBRARIES!

TRANSFORM

In all outstanding universities—and in the libraries that undergird their intellectual vitality—the difference between adequacy and excellence increasingly rests on the ability to adapt.

The University of Minnesota is currently engaged in an unprecedented process of strategic repositioning. This extraordinary effort will poise the University to become one of the top three research universities in the world.

By becoming a Friend of the Libraries, you'll play a vital role in this transformation. The Libraries are among the University's most crucial assets, and your membership dollars will provide essential support to acquire and maintain important research collections, and for the technology necessary to share those collections with users.

ENGAGE

Your membership in the Friends of the Libraries also helps to:

- › Fund innovative new library programs and events that fuel learning and discovery
- › Stimulate contributions and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the University Libraries
- › Encourage use and appreciation of the University Libraries among audiences on campus, throughout the state, and across the world

CELEBRATE

But that's not all. When you become a member of the Friends, you join a dynamic, engaged community of thousands of people whose interests mirror your own. The Friends share a love of learning, of scholarship, and of literature. You'll be invited to attend stimulating and thought-provoking events celebrating books, knowledge, and the University Libraries' collections.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- › Borrowing privileges at most Twin Cities campus libraries (for members of certain membership categories)
- › Invitations to lectures, exhibit openings, author readings, and other special events at the University of Minnesota Libraries. Recent events have featured acclaimed speakers and performers like Lynne Rossetto Kasper, Charlie Bethel, Arthur Phillips and Michael Dennis Browne
- › A subscription to *Continuum*
- › Discounts at the University of Minnesota Bookstore, located in Coffman Memorial Union

To join the Friends of the Libraries, complete and return the form with the envelope provided in this issue of *continuum*. For additional membership information, call (612) 624-9339 or email LANAYA STANGRET at stangret@umn.edu.

KIDS' STUFF

Marilyn Hollinshead brings a global audience to the Kerlan Collection

“KEEP WRITING.”

That was the advice University of Minnesota professor emeritus Robert Owens gave Marilyn Hollinshead decades ago. Hollinshead, then an undergraduate in Owens's literature course, took his advice to heart: she became a published author and an influential figure in the field of children's literature.

A recent gift of \$25,000 from Hollinshead and her husband, Warren, established the Kerlan Collection Grant-In-Aid program, which funds research visits from children's literature researchers from across the globe. In 2005, scholars from Duluth and New York visited the Kerlan Collection to study manuscripts and art.

Hollinshead's interest in writing flourished during her time at the University, but “it goes back to my childhood. When I was eight my parents divorced, and this in great part led to my immersion in reading,” she said.

Reading, Hollinshead believes, is a crucial developmental tool for children. “Reading is a way children learn to think, to experience the world beyond their community, and to become thoughtful adults,” she said. “Today, especially, children need to become more aware of different cultures. Reading good books can do that.”

Hollinshead spent much of her life bringing children and books together. For 17 years she ran Pinocchio Bookstore for Children in Pittsburgh. In addition to selling books, the store became known for its public events featuring notable children's authors and illustrators.

“It was a labor-intensive business,” she said. “It was profitable until Barnes and Noble opened about a mile from the store. Our sales dropped 20 percent, putting us in the red.” Hollinshead closed the store in 1997 when she and her husband moved to Massachusetts, where she now resides.

The rigors of owning a business didn't keep Hollinshead from other professional activities, however.

by Christopher James



While running the store, she was active in the children's division of the American Library Association, serving on juries for the esteemed Newbery and Caldecott prizes. She also wrote her own children's book, *Nine Years Wonder*, in the early 1990s.

It was also during this period that Hollinshead first visited the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

“It was housed in [Walter] Library then,” Hollinshead recalls, “with no climate control to protect manuscripts and books.”

Still, Hollinshead was fascinated by the collection. “I have always found research stimulating in the children's writing field,” she said. “Here was a place to study the creative process of writers and to assess aspects of children's literature in critical papers.”

Since then, Hollinshead has revisited the Kerlan Collection in its new digs in Elmer L. Andersen Library. She remembers being struck by the state-of-the-art facility: “Now the collection had climate control, archival storage boxes for manuscripts, specialized displays, and aisles and aisles of stacks all devoted to children's books. It was awe-inspiring.”

So inspiring, in fact, that Hollinshead was moved to endow the Kerlan Grant-in-Aid program. She wants to be sure that researchers worldwide have access to the collection's resources.

“I believe that writers should set high standards for themselves,” Hollinshead said. “By studying the great worldwide body of books for children, researchers can only increase their facilities.”



THE THING ITSELF AND NOT THE MYTH

DIVING INTO THE SUNKEN ARCHIVES

by Jessica Nordell

*“THE THING I CAME FOR:
THE WRECK AND NOT THE
STORY OF THE WRECK
THE THING ITSELF AND
NOT THE MYTH..”*

— “Diving into the Wreck”
ADRIENNE RICH

In Adrienne Rich’s poem “Diving into the Wreck”, a deep-sea diver plunges into the water to explore a sunken ship. She immerses herself in the world of the wreck, stroking the beam of her lamp along its side, watching the fan-like plants that live between the reefs. She is an explorer, and she wants to see the actual ship with her own eyes. She wants “the wreck and not the story of the wreck/ the thing itself and not the myth.”

For scholars and researchers, as for Rich’s diver, it’s not enough to hear or read about an object or primary source; they want to see and touch it themselves. The primary source may be a hand-written letter, a drawing, or notes jotted on the back of a receipt—anything that provides the scholar with additional insight into her field. Looking at primary sources allows researchers to draw conclusions based on their own direct sensory experiences; it allows them to use existing objects—letters, diaries, clippings, photographs—to create new scholarship. Because primary sources are unique, one-of-a-kind objects, scholars will travel across the country to immerse themselves in the world of primary sources, or archives, usually housed in a library’s “special collections.”

Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota is one of these special collection libraries. Its underground storage caverns hold millions of documents, ranging from original illustrations

Diego Rivera made in 1931 for a magazine about social reform, to early Guthrie Theater promptbooks with Sir Tyrone Guthrie's notes in the margins, to the personal letters of poet and activist June Jordan. In a way, Andersen Library serves as a sort of scholarly Petri dish, where primary sources and researchers mingle to create new life—or, at least, new ideas and scholarship.

THE POWER OF PROCESS

Daniel Powers, a children's book illustrator and author, traveled from New Mexico last year to spend a week

Mirette on the High Wire, he was surprised to see the way in which the story changed through successive versions. This made him feel free to experiment with his own work: "Sometimes when I'm writing, I feel Sister Mary Mark looking over my shoulder—that I've got to get it right—but looking at the McCully manuscripts I realized I could allow myself to play. I don't have to get it right the first time."

For Powers, the real gift was being able to peer into Gag's and McCully's minds through looking at their drafts. He says, "When you're publishing books, at first,



CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATOR DANIEL POWERS COMPARED PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS, LIKE THESE TWO DRAWINGS BY ACCLAIMED ILLUSTRATOR WANDA GAG, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

in the Children's Literature and Research Collections at the Andersen Library. He'd come on a fellowship to pore over—and learn from—the work of Wanda Gag, the Minnesota illustrator who, in the 1920s, revolutionized children's picture books. Powers says one of the most powerful moments for him was seeing two finished drawings Gag had made for her book *The Fisherman and his Wife*. They were nearly identical versions of the same image, and both were exquisite, but Gag hadn't been quite satisfied with her first attempt, so she created an entirely new image. For Powers, this was a tremendous example of Gag's working method: landing on a great idea and then reworking it until it shone. It also served as a reminder to him of how important it is to be exacting with one's own work.

Powers also spent time with the work of Emily Arnold McCully, a Caldecott children's literature award winner. As he looked at the written manuscripts for her book

it's just exciting to have a book in print. By the time you're into your second or third book, you realize it's all about the process. That's what the [collection] did for me—in a hugely generous setting, it allowed me to look at other people's process."

HUMANS AND ANIMALS

Susan Jones was lured to the U in part because of its archives. Jones, a new associate professor in the University of Minnesota Program in the History of Science and Technology and the Department of Ecology, Environment, and Behavior, is particularly interested in the history of physicians and veterinarians working together to combat zoonotic diseases—diseases shared between animals and humans (avian flu, for example). During an orientation visit to the Andersen Library, an archivist tipped her off to the papers of Jay Arthur Myers, a Minnesota physician and leader in fighting bovine tuberculosis in humans (a form

of TB passed from cows to humans through raw milk).

For Jones, these papers—which are held in the University Archives—proved to be a goldmine: letters between Myers and veterinarians demonstrate that he developed his system for testing and controlling TB in humans by adapting the method veterinarians had developed for fighting TB in cattle: first, testing by means of a small injection of tuberculin (a liquid containing a small amount of the bacterium that causes TB), then making epidemiological maps of each county to account for every animal. Part of Jones’ agenda, she says, is to persuade people that physicians, vets, and public health workers must work together to deal with our vulnerability to animal diseases. And these letters between Myers and veterinarians demonstrate that there’s a fruitful history of collaboration.

letter writer is typically a mother who cannot, financially or physically, afford to have any more children, and who is seeking sterilization as a last resort. By the 1970s, the typical letter writer is a young, childless man or woman seeking sterilization in order to preserve his or her lifestyle: “childless by choice.”

For Dowbiggin, the archives also reveal attitudes that are not expressed in official documents. While combing through the AVS records, he discovered a small, yellowed newspaper clipping from the 1950s. It featured a photograph of a proud mother posed with the nine of her 17 children who became priests and nuns. In the margin was a hand-written note: “How depraved can people get?” Whoever wrote this note, says Dowbiggin, must have believed that the woman was “depraved” both for having

“It’s all about the process. That’s what the [collection] did for me—in a hugely generous setting, it allowed me to look at other people’s process.”

– DANIEL POWERS

POPULATION MODERATION

Ian Dowbiggin, history professor at the University of Prince Edward Island, has made seven trips to Minnesota in the last six years to comb through Andersen Library’s Social Welfare History Archives. He is interested in the history of population control, and for his forthcoming book on this subject, he’s pored over the records of the Association for Voluntary Sterilization (AVS), a group that, from the 1950s to 1970s, helped break down barriers in the medical community and change attitudes and policies about sterilization. (Now, says Dowbiggin, about three in ten families worldwide use sterilization for birth control.)

The physical documents in this archive helped Dowbiggin understand birth control trends: he realized, for example, while poring over the hundreds of letters in the AVS archives from people seeking referrals for sterilization, that the reasons people chose sterilization changed radically from the 1950s to the 1970s. In the 1950s, the

such a big family and for having so many nuns and priests among her children. In the 1950s, the birth control movement saw the Catholic Church as its main adversary, and Dowbiggin believes this remark is a window into the relationship between the two groups. While fairly typical of the anti-Catholic sentiments that cropped up in the movement at that time, it reveals how those sentiments manifested themselves on a personal, individual level.

For these researchers, and countless others who fill Andersen Library’s reading rooms on any given day, primary sources are their bricks and mortar—the fundamental building blocks of their research. But the privilege and thrill of the primary source does not belong exclusively to them—Andersen Library (like most special collections) does not require that one be associated with a university to use it. In fact, anyone with a scholarly or personal interest is welcome to don a figurative mask and flippers and dive in, whether one’s interest is bovine TB, Wanda Gag, or any of the millions of other items waiting, like sunken treasure, to be explored.



REBEL ROUSER

DESPITE APPEARANCES, KRIS KIESLING BRINGS A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH TO ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

KRIS KIESLING DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A REBEL.

With long, steely-brown hair, bright eyes, and a cheery countenance, she looks about as even-keeled as they come. In truth, though, Kiesling—an archivist by training—has been involved in some of the most revolutionary projects in the library and archive field. She brings her groundbreaking approach to Minnesota as the University's first Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections.

Kiesling comes to Minnesota from Texas, where for 16 years she first ran the Department of Manuscripts and Archives and was then Associate Director at the renowned

by Christopher James

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, the special collections library at the University of Texas at Austin.

When Kiesling began her tenure at the Ransom Center, another revolution was just beginning: the dawning of the digital age. The Internet was emerging as a tool not just for communication but for academic research. The Internet's possibilities were particularly apparent in the world of archives, which, because they contain unique items not available in other libraries, tend to attract a global research audience.

"When the web was born, it opened up a whole new

avenue of outreach for archivists,” Kiesling explained. “As the technology evolved, archivists’ work also evolved. It was a really exciting time with lots of experimentation.”

One successful experiment was the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard, a protocol that Kiesling, along with a team of archivists from across the country, developed in the mid-1990s. EAD allows an archive’s collections to be described online so that a scholar can find information about the collection from anywhere in the world. Before EAD, most archives kept only printed inventories, so researchers needed to physically visit the archive to find out what it contained. Throughout the 1990s, EAD caught on at archives around the world (it’s been translated into French, Spanish and Chinese) and remains an international standard in the industry.

“It was really a revolution in terms of how people were conducting their research,” Kiesling said. “People could look at finding aids online and come into the repository knowing exactly what they wanted.”

Kiesling knew exactly what she wanted when she learned of the new position at Minnesota. As the University’s first-ever Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections, Kiesling believes she has a chance to revolutionize the University Libraries’ most distinctive department.

“Throughout the country, academic libraries are struggling to maintain some sort of identity,” she explained. “They all look alike in terms of what they’re collecting. The special collections are what make each library unique. In the past, many special collections have lain fallow—they haven’t gotten a lot of interest from library administrators.” But at some institutions—like Minnesota—“library directors have realized there’s a lot of potential in special collections.”

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES UNITS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

ANDERSEN HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY includes books and periodicals on horticulture, botany, natural history and landscape architecture. It also maintains one of the largest seed and nursery catalog collections in the country, including current and historical catalogs dating from the mid-1800s. This collection is located at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

CHARLES BABBAGE INSTITUTE is an archives and research center dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of information technology. Its archival collections include personal papers, corporate and organizational records, newsletters, photographs, and other rare or unique sources documenting the history and impact of computing.

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS is an internationally recognized resource in the field of children’s literature. Two notable collections are The Kerlan Collection that contains more than 65,000 children’s books as well as original material including manuscripts, art work, galleys, and color proofs and The Hess Collection that is comprised of primarily inexpensive, popular literature from the 19th and 20th centuries: dime novels, Big Little Books, comic books, etc.

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER is dedicated to fostering research on, and understanding of the history of American immigration. It locates, collects, and preserves the records of ethnic groups that originated primarily in Europe and the Near East. Its collections include personal papers, organizational records, books, newspapers, and other original sources documenting immigration and ethnicity in the United States.

JAMES FORD BELL LIBRARY is a collection of rare books, maps, and manuscripts from 1400-1800 that document the expansion of Europe as it relates to the origin and development of international trade. Books by merchants, travelers, explorers, missionaries, and colonists record their experiences in their own words. The collection is located in Wilson Library.

THE MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION is organized in three major areas: the Literary Manuscripts Collection is the repository for the personal papers and manuscripts of Minnesota authors and poets including John Berryman and James Wright. It also houses a rich collection of posters from World War I and World War II; The Performing Arts Archives houses collections that trace the history and activities of professional and amateur performing arts groups in Minnesota

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Minnesota's special collections are different from most, Kiesling said, because of their breadth, which "enables us to reach a broader swath both on campus and internationally. There's so much focus on 'what the campus needs,' but special collections have always had a much broader appeal. We draw on not just a local but a national or international audience, which should enable us to respond to interdisciplinary kinds of research."

Like any revolutionary, Kiesling faces some challenges, including the need for additional storage space. The 75,000 cubic feet of archival storage space beneath Andersen Library is filled to 95 percent capacity, and, as a result, some units have stopped collecting new material. "The need for more storage space looms large," Kiesling said.

The architecture of the library itself is another challenge. "The building, beautiful as it is, is a barrier to inter-unit cooperation and sharing," she said. "It's really divided up. The staff for each unit is really very small. If we could find a way to work cooperatively, it would open up so many possibilities [for interdisciplinary research.]"

Kiesling believes the real "stuff" in special collections will always be useful, despite sweeping digitization efforts like the recent collaboration between Google and major research library collections.

"The experience of actually seeing something like the first edition of the King James Bible, or being able to hold a manuscript by a favorite author in your hand and read it, can't be conveyed on the web," she said. "If you have the original in hand, you can sometimes see erasures, or catch subtle odors. That can't be expressed through a digital image. There will always be a need for the original. I don't envision us deviating from that culture for a very long time."

Now *there's* a revolutionary concept.

including the Minnesota Orchestra, the Guthrie Theatre, and the Minnesota Dance Theatre; The Northwest Architectural Archives preserves the records of architects, engineers, contractors, etc. from Minnesota and surrounding areas. It also includes trade catalogs and pattern books.

SOCIAL WELFARE HISTORY ARCHIVES collects, preserves, and makes available the archives of voluntary-sector social service and social reform organizations and the personal papers of individual leaders in the field. Focusing on the late 19th and 20th centuries, the collections include materials from such organizations as the Child Welfare League of America and the Minnesota Charities Review Council. Located within the SWHA is the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives that represents the largest and most important collections of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest. Included are the records of local organizations such as Talmud Torahs and Hillel, various synagogue records, and women's organizations such as Hadassah.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND RARE BOOKS serves as the University Libraries' general repository for items that require special attention because of age, value, or fragility. These include clay tablets, papyri, medieval manuscripts, and fine printing and fine bindings. Also included are special collections such as The Archie Givens Sr. Collection, one of the country's richest collections of African-American literature, biography, social science, art, and manuscripts; The Sherlock Holmes Collections that constitute the world's largest gathering of material related to Sherlock Holmes and his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and The Tell G. Dahllof Collection of Swedish Americana that covers the history of Swedish emigration to America, Swedish culture in America, and travel descriptions by Swedish visitors to North America.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES collects, maintains, and provides access to historical and legal documents of the University of Minnesota. These holdings, which include books, blueprints, memorabilia, audio/video tapes, and more than 90,000 photographs, serve as the collective memory of the University of Minnesota. Also included are faculty papers and departmental and student organization records.

WANGENSTEEN HISTORICAL LIBRARY OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE is a collection of rare books and manuscripts dating from the early 1400s to 1920. Subject concentrations are medicine, both broad and specific, biology, and natural history. The collection is located in the Bio-Medical Library.

KAUTZ FAMILY YMCA ARCHIVES documents the work of the YMCA of the USA and local YMCAs. It serves, generally from the 1850s to the 1960s. It contains extensive information regarding programs in religion, education, physical education, sports and leisure. Two of the richest parts of the collection are the records of the international division that began sending "fraternal secretaries" abroad in 1889 and of the Armed Services YMCAs that began with services to soldiers in the Civil War.

UNBINDING THE LIBRARY *from page 8*

online catalog MNCAT, downloadable articles from journal archives like JSTOR, online collections like *African American Newspapers*, and indexes like *America: History & Life*.

But these scholars use nontraditional electronic resources as well. In several humanities departments, digital archives were rated as essential. Geographers cited the usefulness of Web access to images of fragile documents like maps. Classics and Near Eastern Studies reported that “Classics has pursued electronic tools long before they were even available to many other fields,” mainly because they are working with static bodies of work that are not likely to change—ancient manuscripts and archeological materials.

The Internet notwithstanding, survey respondents consistently viewed the physical space of the library as important, even essential. When asked about ideal research environments, professors responded with ideas about physical spaces. One professor wanted to be able to smoke in the library, an unlikely contingency. One mentioned a museum-like environment, with specialists like conservators, artists, and computer technicians on hand. Another, who’s worked at a software company, had innovative ideas about a space with “conversation pods,” white boards and other aids to spontaneous collaboration. Yet another wished for a 24-hour lab staffed by indefatigable (and well-compensated) graduate students. Another said, “My dream would be to have my class in the library with the kind of information technology that I need.” Most lamented that there was no time for “browsing the stacks,” spending time in a reading room with colleagues, and other ways that serendipitous discoveries occur.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Next steps are likely to occur over the next two to three years. Funding from the Mellon Foundation extends through May 2006, but the University Libraries plan to seek additional grant funding to extend the project. The Libraries will explore strategies to make the physical library more responsive to researcher needs and to create new innovative virtual environments.

“Our project has helped us more fully understand the tasks and resources that researchers employ, and now we have a better chance of making connections, and of determining how to knit together the distributed collections, tools, and services they need into a more holistic service model,” Lougee said. “The hope is that the project will enrich research by bringing added expertise to the process. Ironically, it’s by removing boundaries that we bring more coherence to our services.”

CANARY IN THE COAL MINE? *from page 9*

Significantly, interdisciplinary and collaborative work is on the rise: 93 percent of CLA researchers responding to the Mellon survey report drawing on literature or methods from multiple disciplines and collaborating with colleagues across disciplines. Such collaborations reflect the increasingly interdisciplinary bent of University scholars and curricula. They also, for the faculty of a college comprising 22 buildings on both sides of the Mississippi, reflect the comparative advantage of online over on-foot travel.

Whatever our habits or our druthers, we all view the library as a critical academic resource. But we have redefined what we mean by teaching and learning spaces. Only 21 percent of CLA faculty respondents think of the library as a physical place for research or study. But 95 percent view it as an important collector, purchaser, or subscriber of books, journals, electronic databases, and other materials; 81 percent as a resource for identifying, retrieving, or working with research materials; 64 percent as an organizer, archivist, or preservationist of scholarly resources; and 40 percent as a developer of technology or tools for information access or management.

Questions about how we use the library cut to the core of how we view ourselves as scholars and researchers in the liberal arts. I fully expect that these questions will continue to be asked, and will be answered differently in generations to come. Our libraries will continue to evolve in ways that serve our critical needs as teachers, researchers, and students. The canary might sing a different song, but it will thrive. We’ll all see to that.



SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE

Research methods and behaviors may be changing, but the University has always been a hothouse of new ideas. In this image, taken in 1914 and provided by the University Archives, students transplant seedlings in the Medicinal Plant Laboratory on the Minneapolis Campus.



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