I HAVE ALWAYS IMAGINED THAT PARADISE WILL BE A KIND OF LIBRARY.  
JORGE LUIS BORGES
A PUBLICATION OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

WELCOME to Off the Shelf, Washington University Libraries’ new magazine. With the launch of this publication, the Libraries are celebrating some recent accomplishments and looking ahead. This issue features articles on some of our outstanding collections and staff and on plans for the future.

The magazine’s name exemplifies libraries today. We are building on tradition, and expanding access to resources through technology. We are reaching more and more people beyond the walls of the library even as we bring more people into the beautiful spaces we’ve created. Our books, our study spaces for individuals and groups, and certainly our cafe attract users, as do our 24/7 electronic services. As the “Library without Walls” article in this issue demonstrates, as we become more digital, we move further “off the shelf” to reach a wider audience and to provide the best resources possible.

Even as we embrace change, we value our history and heritage. The recent celebration of the Libraries’ centennial as a government documents depository reflects our important role as a keeper of our country’s history. We thank the supporters who have been with us over the years, helping us build strong collections. We look forward to the new friends we will gain in the coming years.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Off the Shelf and those to come. If you have questions or comments, contact the editors at offtheshelf@library.wustl.edu. Or if you would like to contact me, call my office at 314-935-5400 or email me at shirley.baker@wustl.edu.

SHIRLEY K. BAKER
Vice Chancellor for Information Technology &
Dean of University Libraries

OFF THE SHELF
A PUBLICATION OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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ON THE COVER
Images from Washington University Libraries’ collection of more than one million government documents.
A Look Back

Every year the libraries host events that highlight our collections and services and celebrate scholarship at Washington University. The pictures below represent a few important library events from recent years.

In 2001, the Libraries acquired an historic and largely unexplored collection of materials owned by Blackside, Inc., the largest African-American-owned film production company of its day. Founded by Henry Hampton, a 1961 WU alumnus, Blackside produced Eyes on the Prize, the seminal documentary film series on the civil rights movement, as well as documentaries on social justice, democracy, the arts, the sciences, and religion. All materials used in the research and production of these films now reside at the Film & Media Archive, at West Campus Library. To celebrate this acquisition, the Libraries hosted a lecture by civil rights activist Julian Bond, who narrated Eyes on the Prize, shown here talking with Chancellor Mark Wrighton.

OLIN LIBRARY EMERGES ANEW

The three-year project to renovate and expand the John M. Olin Library reshaped the main library facility into a more comfortable, light-filled building ready to meet the needs of the 21st century University community. The renovation was designed by architects Kallmann McKinnell & Wood (Boston) and was completed, almost miraculously, without compromising the library’s hours of operation. The project proceeded level by level, with books and staff shifting as needed and each of Olin’s 1,551,000 items moving, on average, 2.5 times.

The renovation has won several awards, including a 2005 Keystone Project of the Year Award from Associated General Contractors, a 2005 Regional Excellence Award from St. Louis Construction News & Review, and a 2004 St. Louis Design Honor Award from the St. Louis chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

When professor emeritus and author extraordinaire William Gass turned 80, the Libraries hosted an October 2004 party complete with readings, remarks, an exhibition, and a reception. Friends, colleagues, and admirers gathered in Olin Library’s Whispers Café to hear readings from several of Gass’s works along with tributes by Chancellor Emeritus William Danforth and others. An exhibition of photographs by Michael Eastman, with text by Gass, was on view during and after the party.

Mona Van Duyn (1921-2004) won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and was U.S. Poet Laureate. She was pivotal in building the Libraries’ Modern Literature Manuscripts Collection, persuading many important writers to place their papers here. In March 2005, the Libraries and the English Department celebrated Van Duyn’s life and work by hosting an event where poets and friends read from her work. Visit www.artsci.wustl.edu/~english/news/mona.htm to hear Van Duyn reading her poems.

Monica Posega, (right) head of Special Collections, and Erin Davis, curator of rare books, hold memorabilia “hot off the press” at the 2005 annual open house of the Kranzberg Illustrated Book Studio. The studio, created in part through gifts from library and art supporters Kenneth and Nancy Kranzberg, is a classroom and workplace for student bookmakers. Every year, at the open house, the Nancy Award is presented to the students who produced the most outstanding work that academic year. In 2006, the studio moves to its new home in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts.

In 2007, the Libraries acquired an historic and largely unexplored collection of materials owned by Blackside, Inc., the largest African-American-owned film production company of its day. Founded by Henry Hampton, a 1961 WU alumnus, Blackside produced Eyes on the Prize, the seminal documentary film series on the civil rights movement, as well as documentaries on social justice, democracy, the arts, the sciences, and religion. All materials used in the research and production of these films now reside at the Film & Media Archive, at West Campus Library. To celebrate this acquisition, the Libraries hosted a lecture by civil rights activist Julian Bond, who narrated Eyes on the Prize, shown here talking with Chancellor Mark Wrighton.

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Several hundred people attended the Olin Library rededication ceremony, held outdoors, south of the library, on May 7, 2004. Among the speakers were Neil Rudenstine, former president of Harvard University, who delivered the keynote address, and Professor Wayne Fields, shown above at the podium.

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WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT?
Admit it. When you hear the term “government documents,” images come to mind of thick books with small type, transcripts from congressional hearings, and statistical minutia.
Or maybe you think of the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, or the Bill of Rights—some of the very first U.S. documents.
But Washington University’s government publications librarian Barbara Rehkop wants readers to know that, while government documents do include all of the above, they also include publications like a coffee table book on the art in the Senate building…the bestselling 9-11 Commission Report…photographs of the surface of Mars…and posters by Works Progress Administration artists, just to name a few.
Government documents are books, brochures, CDs, microfilm, websites, and maps. They are the U.S. Census, congressional reports, Supreme Court decisions, scientific studies, and more.
“Documents like the narrative of Commodore Perry’s expedition to Japan and John Wesley Powell’s surveys of the Grand Canyon reveal our past,” says Rehkop. Recent documents reflect…cell research, homeland security, and rebuilding the Gulf Coast. Government documents reflect who we are as Americans.

THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM
Government documents are created by every federal governmental agency, making the U.S. government the world’s largest publisher. The Government Printing Office (GPO) prints these agencies’ documents and distributes them to more than 1,250 libraries around the country. This network of libraries—the Federal Depository Library Program—was created in 1813 to guarantee that federal information would be accessible to the American public.
“One of the principles of democracy is that our elected and appointed representatives cannot be effective, nor can we as citizens be involved in decision-making, if we are not informed,” says Rehkop. Federal depositories provide free, local access to government information. By gathering and preserving government documents and helping patrons use them, depository libraries build communication between the people and the government.
In 2006, the Washington University Libraries celebrated their 100th year as a federal depository, hosting several events and displaying an exhibition entitled Celebrating 100 Years of Federal Information in the John M. Olin Library.
The University Libraries hold more than one million government documents, including books, periodicals, microforms, and maps. The Libraries also provide access to more than 50,000 electronic government documents. Government documents are held in several libraries on campus, including Olin Library’s open stacks and Special Collections, the West Campus Library, the Earth & Planetary Sciences Library, the Law Library, and the library of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. The Libraries house documents from every area of government, but their collections of the hearings of the Congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs and of U.S. Geological Survey maps are especially strong.

Barbara Rehkop manages the Libraries’ documents, serves as liaison to the GPO, and helps students and faculty with research that draws on government documents. She is aided by librarian David Straight, who manages the Libraries’ West Campus facility, where most pre-1976 government documents are housed.

One of Rehkop’s main tasks is informing patrons of what’s actually in the documents collection. She must combat many students’ assumptions that government documents are tedious or written in hard-to-read governmental jargon.

Rehkop introduces undergraduates to government documents in the University’s required writing course, where she teaches students that government documents are primary sources or written in hard-to-read governmental jargon.

“Most government documents librarians I know are passionate about seeing that the public is informed about the activities of their government. It’s important to realize that today’s decisions may have roots in events from the 1700s or 1800s.”

Barbara Rehkop

Washington University faculty and graduate students from many disciplines use the documents collection. For example, Elizabeth Childs, associate professor of art history and archaeology, is researching John Wesley Powell’s geographic surveys of the Grand Canyon from the 1860s and ‘70s.

Childs says, “In the years following the Civil War, science and art came together in the exploration of the American West. Ambitious federal surveys, funded between 1867 and 1878, mapped the nation in the common service of scientific knowledge, military control, and industrial expansion. One of the largest surveys was led by John Wesley Powell.” Powell’s surveys allowed the U.S. War Department to complete its maps of the Grand Canyon and surrounding areas, and encouraged further exploration.

Physics Professor Michael Friedlander uses government documents to show how astronomers use historical observations to better understand the cosmos. He says, “While collecting material for my book, I needed to consult an 1882 paper dealing with the orbit of Mercury, the innermost planet in our solar system, which appeared in the *American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac*, published by the Navy’s Bureau of Navigation.”

**WHO USES GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS?**

Rehkop feels a sense of discovery working with government documents. She says, “The books’ old paper, language, topics, and construction allow users to experience history in a tangible form.” Curating the *Celebrating 100 Years of Federal Information* exhibition allowed Rehkop to delve into areas of the Libraries’ documents collection new even for her. Rehkop says, “I’ve had the opportunity to explore the collection’s breadth and depth. I’ve been able to go off on tangents and come back, and it’s been great fun.”

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Barbara Rehkop
A Library without Walls: THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Washington University Libraries has holdings of more than 3.7 million items. These include many unique collections—authors’ manuscripts, rare books, maps, and film and media—of such caliber that they attract scholars from far and wide.

As fascinating as they are, the maps’ sheer numbers and physical format make their data difficult to access and interpret. For their protection, the maps must be stored in closed areas and retrieved by request. A researcher’s task is further complicated by the fact that no Missouri institution owns a full set of the St. Louis maps. Digitizing a complete run of Whipple and Sanborn maps will be a collaborative project, completed by the University Libraries in cooperation with the University of Missouri, the Missouri Historical Society, the St. Louis Public Library, and the Landmark Society.

Once digitization is completed, researchers will be able to access a full run of out-of-copyright (usually items more than 75 years old) maps online. An architectural historian in France could examine the digital maps for building materials used in the late 19th century, while a social work student in New York studies them for the effects of road construction on population patterns in the early 20th century.

Digitization allows the Libraries to bring important documents to users around the world. Archived materials such as rare books, film, and manuscripts can be scanned, cataloged, and put online to create a digital library, accessible to many and preserved into the future.

The digital library is the next step—a way for the Libraries to move from just subscribing to electronic materials to creating their own digital resources and opening their own unique collections for fuller use.

By building a digital library, the University Libraries are extending the walls of the library to wherever a user is able to logon to the internet and changing the very ways scholarship is done.

As digitization means change, just as building a print collection requires more than putting books on shelves, a digital library requires more than putting materials online. Digital librarians work with faculty and other libraries to decide what materials should

This title page of The Song of Solomon appears in the Libraries’ online exhibit Women Artists in the Washington University collections, found at www.library.wustl.edu/units/spec/exhibits/. The book is part of the Libraries’ Triple Crown Collection, held in the Department of Special Collections.

A Whipple map from 1871 shows St. Louis’s Old Cathedral and surrounding areas.

A Whipple map from 1871 shows St. Louis’s Old Cathedral and surrounding areas.
Andrew Rouner joined the University Libraries as digital library director, effective March 1, 2006. Rouner comes to Washington University from the University of Richmond, where he was the digital resources librarian, responsible for creating a digital library presence and for building relationships with other universities and archives. He led a project to digitize Civil War-era newspapers to enable users to search and interact with the papers online. Rouner was previously the project manager for the Center on Religion and Democracy at the University of Virginia, where he designed and implemented a website with an extensive library of original material relating to religion and government. Rouner earned a doctorate in religious studies from the University of Virginia and a master’s of divinity from Yale Divinity School.

At Washington University, Rouner will direct, plan, and implement digital projects, working with faculty, librarians, and administrators to create and manage digital content for teaching and research. Any faculty member engaged in or interested in creating a digital project should contact Rouner at arouner@wustl.edu.

Items must be digitized with an eye toward how they will be preserved in the future. Because neither the future uses for the image nor future technological changes are known now, digital librarians must preserve the images at a high quality and consider how they will be stored. The constraints of copyright law must also be taken into account when the Libraries bring materials into a more accessible and transferable digital format. The Eames and Young team has established a process to follow when the copyright status of materials is unclear.

The Libraries are selecting equipment to purchase for future digital projects. Even more important than hardware are the many support services required for a digital library. The University Libraries have hired a digital library director to provide the needed leadership. The University Libraries are laying the groundwork for significant change in what they provide to users and in how users will eventually think of a library.

According to Associate Dean Gail Oltmanns, "The ultimate goal is for the Washington University Libraries to be part of a network of digital libraries around the world, a truly global digital library. We make our curatorial and purchasing decisions with that in mind." This global digital library is changing scholars’ and the world of the academic. Head of Access Scott Britton says, "In the foreseeable future, tenure may be based on digital projects as much as or more than print." Librarians may be involved in a professor’s research from beginning to end, supporting faculty members’ creation of research that can be preserved digitally and ultimately publishing the work on the Libraries’ website.

As technology advances, the capabilities of the digital library will also evolve. The Libraries plan for the future, making decisions based on what we know now and expecting change to continue. These efforts, along with digitization efforts of Google and Yahoo!, will take the Libraries and the academy into new and exciting territory. The library of the future will still prominently feature a help desk, shelf upon shelf of books and periodicals, computers, and study and reading areas. The number of books owned by the University Libraries will continue to grow, and users will still have expert librarians to help them identify and locate materials. But the library itself will be at their fingertips, the physical and the digital existing side by side, functioning together seamlessly. The pace of change is breathtaking, exciting, and challenging. The library of the future is now.
THE NEW EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES BUILDING
opened on Washington University’s main campus in fall 2005, offering new classrooms, laboratories, and offices. In addition, this handsome new building gives the department something it long had needed: a new library. The Ronald Rettner Earth & Planetary Sciences Library is named after 1972 Arts & Sciences alumnus Ronald Rettner, a generous University supporter. This 3200-square-foot library serves the Earth & Planetary Sciences Department but can be used by anyone at the University. It features a comfortable reading room with soft chairs and a spacious reference area. Easily the University’s most colorful library, with a mix of earthy reds, oranges, and greens that match the decor of the building, the library offers users a welcoming, light-filled environment.

In addition to almost 40,000 volumes and subscriptions to some 175 print and electronic journals, the library features public access computers, a map room, a workroom for scanning and printing, and a small-group room where students can study or view videos. Compact shelving provides twice as much shelf space as the old Wilson Hall location. Adjacent to the library is the department’s computer classroom, which library staff use to conduct library instruction.

Above the library entrance is a mural depicting the Transantarctic Mountains with the moon, Mercury, and Venus visible in the sky. The mural represents aspects of the department’s work—paleontology, geology, and planetary study—and reflects the library’s crucial role in the department.

THE STAFF AND THE RESOURCES
Earth & Planetary Sciences librarian Clara McLeod manages the library, and her full-time assistants Cheryl Morton and Marty Campbell have backgrounds appropriate to the library. Doctoral student Dawn Cardace says, “Clara McLeod is a wonderful librarian, managing and building resources, and maintaining a comfortable, welcoming work environment. Cheryl and Marty are always helpful and knowledgeable, and have consistently gone above and beyond in ensuring access to materials.”

Departmental library staff members’ close working relationship with faculty means staff know which resources faculty need and are able to focus the collections. Professor Robert Dynek says, “We are blessed to have a departmental library, as are all science departments on campus. Virtually everything that I need for my work has been available at the library, and when it’s not, the library gets it.”

Because the most current scientific research appears in journals, the library acquires scholarly journals in print and digital form. Recent acquisitions include Geomicrobiology Journal and Astrobiology. Good maps are also critical to much of the work of the department. The map room of the library houses most of the University Libraries’ approximately 119,000 maps. It features a strong collection of printed topographic and thematic maps, as well as some digital maps, of the United States and other areas of the world important to the department.

Dawn Cardace comments, “I am continually impressed by the library’s great collection of fundamental and sometimes rare books in my field. I am a regular user of print materials, MORBUS, and materials from West Campus Library. I often access library databases from the Earth & Planetary Sciences Library.”

MAPPED SPACES: GIS
Earth and planetary scientists, as well as scholars from many other fields, want to map data they collect across both space and time. The recent development of new mapping tools is revolutionizing their work. Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)—software to manage data spatially—is now available across the University. With a crossdisciplinary advisory committee, hardware and software supported by the Libraries and Network Technology Services, and skilled staff, scholars are experimenting with new ways of analyzing and presenting their research findings.

In addition to providing traditional library services and resources, the Earth & Planetary Sciences Library promotes the use of geospatial software at the University. Library assistants Morton and Campbell have experience working with the technology and lead workshops to train the University community. A large-scale printer and scanner in the library support work with large-format maps and other computer output. Scans of fragile maps can substitute for frequent handling of these endangered items.

Geospatial technology allows researchers to show information on a computerized map. Using more than one set of data, researchers can create maps with several layers of information and explore relationships among the data. For example, researchers could enter data about the locations of homeless people in a city and then add a second layer of information showing the locations of various services to the homeless, revealing whether services are appropriately located.

Assistant Professor Jen Smith uses geospatial technology in her graduate class Surface Processes where students focus on understanding landscape evolution—how wind, water, and ice sculpt land surface. Students work with topographic data showing the shape of the land. The software helps students visualize landscapes, automates measurements, and allows students to perform computed and otherwise time-intensive analyses of the land’s changes.

In another of Smith’s classes, Earth and the Environment, students use geospatial technology to compare levels of seismic hazards in different California cities by looking at the distance between active faults and places of human activity like hospitals and major highways.

In the Ronald Rettner Earth & Planetary Sciences Library, traditional library resources dwell with new technologies, which librarians are instrumental in implementing and teaching. Library staff work hand-in-hand with the department—and the rest of the University—to create an environment that aids and promotes excellent scholarship.
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES’ MISSION is to support learning, teaching, research, and creative expression by providing the University community with access to information.

During my tenure as associate dean for library collections, I have seen a dramatic shift in the nature of that information and in the choices the Libraries must make about how to provide access to it.

The Libraries have always experienced more demand for materials than our budget could support. One of our strategies for meeting budgetary challenges has been to establish gift and endowment funds to support collections. Gift endowments represent the many friends and benefactors who strengthen the University Libraries and are critical to our ability to provide information to our community.

In purchasing resources, our traditional approach has been to strike a balance between the acquisition of books and journal subscriptions. Difficult choices are nothing new for us, but in this “information age,” the situation has become even more challenging, calling for new strategies. Library friends, who have always played an important part in building our collections with their generous donations, now have a new way to demonstrate their support through the Libraries’ Most Wanted List, a program that allows donors to adopt specific high-priority titles.

The dominance of the internet has led publishers to make more and more journals and databases available online. Electronic resources are extremely attractive, because they can be used more flexibly and creatively than print materials, and they do not require physical space in our building or handling by our staff.

But electronic resources have a downside as well. The electronic publications that our professors and students need carry hefty upfront fees. At first glance, this seems rather like a one-time acquisition fee, just as we pay for books. However, the initial fees do not convey ownership. Publishers of electronic resources almost always charge ongoing fees for continuing access to these materials, in effect turning all electronic resources into subscriptions and making their cost much higher than print materials.

Prices have also gone up for traditional resources like books and print journals. These days we often must decide between acquiring print holdings for our collections and providing access to resources in electronic form. “The Libraries have always experienced more demand for materials than our budget could support.”

Where the budget allows, the Libraries purchase titles that have the greatest impact on teaching and research at Washington University. However, there are many resources that we would like to make available for our faculty and students but for which we have no funds. Last year, we established the Most Wanted List as a way to request new, important resources. These include books and electronic databases in virtually every subject area, ranging in price from a few hundred dollars to more than $300,000. We are now looking for donors who may be interested in “adopting” titles. The List is posted on the Libraries’ website (www.library.wustl.edu/mostwanted/). Take a look at the List to see if there is anything there that you might be interested in supporting.

People who support the Most Wanted List receive special mention in the Libraries’ online catalog, as well as appropriate bookplates in any books purchased. Gifts of more than $100,000 are recognized with a name plate on the benefactors’ wall on level 1 of Olin Library. Gifts between $25,000 and $100,000 will be recognized on a second donor wall, now under development.

If you have questions about the Most Wanted List, contact BJ Johnston, associate dean of University Libraries at 314-935-5468 (bjjohnston@wustl.edu), or Joy Lowery, director of communications, at 314-935-5418 (jlowery@wustl.edu).
Black Film Promotional Materials Enrich Holdings

Researchers interested in how blacks have been portrayed in film have a new resource to explore thanks to the University Libraries’ recent acquisition of the Black Film Promotional Materials Collection. The collection is made up of some 2,700 posters, programs, photographs, advertisements, press kits, and other materials used to promote more than 400 films between 1915 and 1980.

The Libraries’ Film & Media Archives have incredibly strong holdings in documentary filmmaking, particularly in the films made by African-American filmmaker Henry Hampton, a Washington University alumnus. The Black Film Promotional Materials Collection strengthens the Libraries’ existing collections by adding another dimension.

According to John Baugh, director of African and African-American Studies and Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts & Sciences, “This exceptional collection is a wonderful complement to the Hampton Collection. In the spirit of Spike Lee’s work, many of these artifacts will affirm various stages of racism and [show] the promotion of African Americans in the entertainment industry.”

Nearly all prominent African-American actors, directors, and screen writers of several decades appear in this collection. The collection is rich in materials on Paul Robeson, Sidney Poitier, Ossie Davis, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Dorothy Dandridge, and many others.

Among the more rare items in the collection are materials related to films made before 1950, including The Birth of a Nation (1915), Cabin in the Sky (1941), and Stormy Weather (1943). The collection also includes materials for films with all-black casts, including a number of exceptionally rare pieces from the silent films of the 1920s.

Most of the films are American-made, but there are some rare holdings from countries such as the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, and Romania.

The collection is housed in University Archives, located at West Campus Library. For more information contact University Archives by phone at 314-935-5444 or by email at spec@wumail.wustl.edu.

Endowments last forever. The University manages its endowments so that the principal grows and the income keeps up with inflation. The names associated with endowments endure. Neureuther, Arnold, Messner, Whitman, and Wickes are a few of the names spoken often in the Libraries, thanks to their enduring gifts. One student told the dean, “All the good books in the Library have a Carl Neureuther bookplate in them!” Mr. Neureuther gave the Libraries an endowment to buy books that would encourage students to read—and it is working! The bequest from actress Mary Wickes (Mary Isabelle Wickenhauser to St. Louisans) allows the Libraries to meet the needs of a fast-growing film studies program. Endowments make the difference between a good library and a great one.

Today even the most affluent universities struggle to provide enough financial support to keep up with the ongoing need for new resources, as well as the ever-escalating prices of subscriptions. In recent years, endowment income has made it possible for the Libraries to maintain and even increase purchasing power for new books. Endowment income has also supported the acquisition of new electronic databases supporting research in all academic disciplines. The Libraries also benefit from an anonymous endowment for a lecture series and the Darrow endowment for the preservation of books. Endowments for the Libraries can be established by as little as $25,000 as a gift or a bequest.

According to John Baugh, director of African and African-American Studies and Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts & Sciences, “This exceptional collection is a wonderful complement to the Hampton Collection. In the spirit of Spike Lee’s work, many of these artifacts will affirm various stages of racism and [show] the promotion of African Americans in the entertainment industry.”

Nearly all prominent African-American actors, directors, and screen writers of several decades appear in this collection. The collection is rich in materials on Paul Robeson, Sidney Poitier, Ossie Davis, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Dorothy Dandridge, and many others.

Among the more rare items in the collection are materials related to films made before 1950, including The Birth of a Nation (1915), Cabin in the Sky (1941), and Stormy Weather (1943). The collection also includes materials for films with all-black casts, including a number of exceptionally rare pieces from the silent films of the 1920s.

Most of the films are American-made, but there are some rare holdings from countries such as the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, and Romania.

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A World in the Palm of Your Hand:

THE MINIATURE BOOK COLLECTION
OF JULIAN EDISON

MINIATURE BOOK HISTORY

Edison’s miniature book collection has indeed become one of the premiere collections in private hands. A glimpse into it demonstrates these books’ incredible variety:

- A set of nesting books, like Russian nesting dolls, by contemporary artist Marilyn Poole Adams
- A 40-volume set of complete Shakespeare, two inches high and easily readable
- John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address
- The eulogy from Kennedy’s funeral
- Facts about the Candidate endorsing Theodore Roosevelt’s presidential campaign
- The first book on contraception
- Promotional copies of magazines

Surprisingly, miniature books have been made for almost as long as writing itself has existed. Miniature books survive from every period of the history of writing. Edison’s oldest example is a Babylonian tablet from 2000 BC, slightly larger than a postage stamp. Over time, miniature books have been almanacs, Bibles, dictionaries, picture books, and books for children. For Edison these books are ‘frequently works of beauty; many have been created for useful purposes, information a reader might want to carry in a pocket. Edison’s personal favorites include jewel-like illuminated manuscripts and antiquarian books.’

Edison’s collection includes a three-inch-tall book entitled Fruits of Philosophy, or The Private Companion of Young Married People. Published anonymously by American physician Charles Knowlton in 1832, this small book on contraception was the first of its kind in the U.S. Meant to be a practical tool to advise newlyweds on family planning, Fruits of Philosophy calmly discussed the medical, social, and economic issues involved in birth control.

The book was published in this small format to be inconspicuous and discrete. Fruits of Philosophy existed on the radar for decades until it was brought to England and caused a stir for what some considered its shocking and tasteless material. There, in 1873, a well-publicized legal battle ensued with the courts eventually finding in favor of the book. After the trial, the sales of Fruits of Philosophy and contraceptive behavior increased dramatically, with a noticeable drop in the English birthrate.
Stella Darrow:
A LIBRARIAN SUPPORTING THE LIBRARIES

A LONG-TERM SUPPORTER, Stella Darrow (1911–2002) gave to Washington University in a variety of ways. And as a former librarian, she had a special place in her heart for the University Libraries. Darrow was active with the Libraries’ Bookmark Society and served on its Eliot Society and its National Council from the 1980s until shortly before her death in 2002. She funded the Libraries’ acquisition and preservation of Clayton and Bell’s drawings for the stained glass windows in Graham Chapel, and in the spring of 2002, she left a bequest of $500,000 to the Libraries.

A St. Louis native and a 1931 graduate of the School of Arts & Sciences, Darrow was a librarian for the St. Louis County Library until her marriage to Edward Darrow. Even after leaving her job, Darrow continued to care deeply for the profession. Dean Shirley Baker says of her, “Stella was a steadfast supporter of the Libraries throughout the years, intrigued by the mix of new technologies with the traditions she knew.”

Knowing Mrs. Darrow’s interests, the Libraries chose to use a portion of her bequest to establish an endowment for preservation of library materials. This endowment helps fund the Libraries’ “unique books” preservation project, focusing preservation efforts on materials held only at Washington University Libraries. Part of Darrow’s gift was used to match a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant, funding the preservation of and making accessible historic film from the Eyes on the Prize documentary film series, part of the Henry Hampton Collection in the Film & Media Archive.

Thus, Stella Darrow’s gift has made hundreds of hours of historic film footage available for use, and, through the endowment, is preserving many unique but deteriorating books now and for years to come. This valuable support strengthens and extends Darrow’s earlier support of the Libraries, when she worked with Barbara Rea and others to form the Libraries’ Bookmark Society, a literary society that attracted donors from a community of book lovers. Rea, who today directs major events and special projects for the University, describes Mrs. Darrow as a sweet and generous person who gave, not just financially, but with all her resources, saying, “Stella loved the Libraries. In her quiet way, she was one of the core group instrumental in helping build philanthropy there.”

In addition to her contributions to the Libraries, Mrs. Darrow supported the School of Medicine and many projects in Arts & Sciences, and was an Eliot Society member and a longstanding member of the Washington University Women’s Society. In 1978, Stella Darrow established the Albert F. Koetter, M.D. Scholarship Fund in memory of her father, an alumnus and faculty member of the School of Medicine. This fund awards at least one full-tuition scholarship every year on the basis of academic achievement and financial need.

Mrs. Darrow was also influential in organizing the annual brunches, beginning in 1953, to support the Washington University Newman Center (later renamed the Catholic Student Center). In 1978, her 25 years of service to the Center were honored with an award, and in April 2002, she established the Stella Koetter Darrow Chair in Catholic Studies in the Religious Studies program in Arts & Sciences.

Father Gary Braun, director of the Catholic Student Center, says of Mrs. Darrow, “She was a strong woman. She was humble of heart and carried herself beautifully and with dignity. She was committed to young people, their education and faith.”

This commitment continues to be felt in Stella Darrow’s generous legacy to the Libraries and the University as a whole.
IN OCTOBER 2004, the Bibliographical Society of American (BSA) celebrated its centennial, holding its annual conference in St. Louis, the city where it was founded. Washington University Libraries co-hosted, with Anne Posega, head of Special Collections, serving on the planning committee for local arrangements.

The BSA is a scholarly society devoted to the study of books and manuscripts as physical objects. Its annual meetings are held in various locations throughout North America. In 1904—the year of BSA’s founding—St. Louis hosted the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, better known as the World’s Fair. The title of the 2004 conference was “Roughing It: Printing and the Press in the West.” Erin Davis, the University Libraries’ curator of rare books, presented her paper “Printing at the Fair: The Printing Exhibits at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase International Exposition” during the conference. Her paper and several others presented at the conference were published in the September 2005 issue of The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America.

Head of Access Attends Leadership Institute

Scott Britton, University Libraries’ head of Access, was selected to attend the Frye Leadership Institute at Emory University in June of 2005. The Frye Institute is an intensive, two-week residential program whose purpose is to develop creative leaders to guide information services for higher education in the 21st century. During the program, participants analyze challenges that arise from changing technologies and the increasing complexity of higher education. Participants then explore these issues within their own institutions in a year-long practicum.

As head of Access, Scott Britton directs activities of Circulation, Reserve, Interlibrary Loan, Shelving and the Arc (Technology Center), and coordinates access policies and procedures among all Danforth Campus libraries. At the Frye Institute Britton was one of 40 participants selected from a pool of 220 applicants. He examined how libraries are adapting to the growing role that technology plays in research, teaching, and information management.

Britton is now applying the knowledge he gained at the institute to his work on Washington University’s online course management system, with the goal of bringing ERes (electronic reserves) and other library resources to faculty and students more seamlessly.

Huestis, on Fulbright, Aids Library Development in Nepal

Jeff Huestis, the director of applications and information resource development at Washington University Libraries, traveled to Nepal in 2004 to assist the nation’s largest library in its efforts to modernize its resources. Funded by a Fulbright grant, Huestis spent six weeks in Kathmandu researching the possibility of creating a digital network to link Nepal’s 60-odd college libraries. A network of this sort would connect the libraries to each other and allow users at each location to order items from the other libraries.

While optimistic about the long-term, Huestis says the current infrastructure needs vast improvement before such a system can be created in Nepal. Through several years of political unrest, libraries have not been a priority, and the neglect has resulted in outdated technology and under-trained staff. The first step, Huestis says, is helping the Nepalis acquire cheap technology, which will allow them to maintain the software and hardware needed. “There are a lot of places in the third world where the expensive networked resources are available at subsidized prices or downright free,” Huestis says. “Spreading awareness and getting people access to them is where I see this thing going.”

In the time since Huestis returned to the United States, a strategic partnership has been formed between COPPADES (the Nepali affiliate of the World Computer Exchange) and READ-Nepal, an organization that supports the startup of village libraries. Through this partnership, COPPADES’ efforts to place computers in schools will be extended to READ-sponsored libraries. During his Fulbright visit, Huestis was instrumental in bringing these two groups together.

The Library is the Temple of Learning, and Learning Has Liberated More People Than All the Wars in History.

Carl Thomas Rowan

Erin Davis

Scott Britton

Jeff Huestis
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: BY THE NUMBERS

COLLECTIONS
Print volumes: 3,694,504
Print and electronic journal subscriptions: 44,806
Microforms: 3,355,312
Maps: 119,161
Audio Recordings: 39,203
Films and videos: 34,993
Computer files: 9,051
Manuscripts and archives: 14,169 linear feet

SERVICES AND STAFF
Books and other items checked out: 278,705
Hours Olin Library is open annually: 6,032
Reference transactions: 58,129
Interlibrary loans provided: 40,603
Interlibrary loans received: 51,110
Professional Staff: 108
Support Staff: 133
Student Workers: 57 full time equivalents

OLIN LIBRARY RENOVATION DATA
Number of square feet added in the renovation of Olin Library: 17,000
Library unit relocated most times during the renovation: The Shelving Unit moved 5 times in 3 years.

Average number of times each of the 1,551,000 volumes in Olin was moved during the renovation: 2.5

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY has 14 libraries on three campuses, 12 on the Danforth Campus and one each at the Medical School Campus and West Campus:
Art & Architecture Library
Bernard Becker Medical Library
Biology Library
Chemistry Library
East Asian Library
Gaylord Music Library
John M. Olin Library (includes Special Collections)
Kopolow Business Library
Law Library
Mathematics Library
Gustavus A. Pfeiffer Physics Library
Ronald Retter Earth & Planetary Sciences Library
Social Work Library
West Campus Library (houses University Archives, Film & Media Archive)

Unless otherwise indicated, statistics refer to all University Libraries, including the Becker Medical School Library, the Law Library, and the George Warren Brown School of Social Work Library. They reflect the academic year 2004-2005.

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