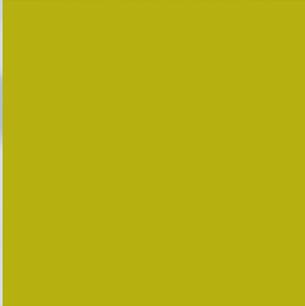


# A Very Archival Pursuit



EYES ON THE PRIZE  
INTERVIEWS DIGITIZED  
AND AVAILABLE ONLINE



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SPRING  
17

# LETTER FROM THE LEADER OF THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



**I BEGAN MY SERVICE AS LIBRARY LEADER IN SUMMER 2016.** Since that time, I've come to know the expert staff, generous donors, and dedicated faculty library committee that make it possible for the Libraries to fulfill their mission of serving the WU community. Now, almost a year later, I continue to be delighted by the spirit of innovation and excellence that's in the air at the Libraries.

In this issue of *Off the Shelf*, we share big news: Denise Stephens, university librarian at the University of California-Santa Barbara, has been appointed vice provost and university librarian at WU. Stephens will begin her tenure on July 1, and we look forward to her arrival. You can learn more about her in the story on page 5.

Even as we gain a new leader, we say goodbye to a beloved colleague. Associate University Librarian Virginia Dowsing Toliver retired in January after 35 years at WU (see page 13). Long considered the soul of the Libraries, Toliver will be missed by faculty, students, and staff. We wish her the best as she embarks on a new life chapter.

Also in this issue, we look at two very different but equally exciting digitization projects that will make the Libraries' rare resources available to the WU community and the wider world. These projects underscore the Libraries' ongoing goals of sharing research expertise and promoting scholarship across campus and beyond.

The previous issue of *Off the Shelf* provided an in-depth look at the Olin Transformation Project, an extensive renovation of WU's main library that is now well underway. Within these pages, you'll find an update on the renovation—an undertaking that will add 16,000 square feet to Olin Library and more than five times the exhibition space. You'll also find reading recommendations, an overview of recent exhibitions and events, and a roundup of new staff members.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Off the Shelf*. I'm impressed by what the Libraries have accomplished thus far in 2017, and I think you will be, too.

**MARION CRAIN**  
Leader, WU Libraries

## ON THE COVER

Images of Ernest Green, John Lewis, and Donie Jones from *Eyes on the Prize*. Jim Hone of WU Libraries' Film & Media Archive at work. *WU Libraries*

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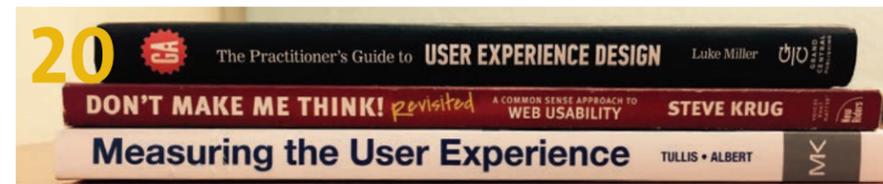
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# A Look Back:

## EVENTS & EXHIBITION NOTES

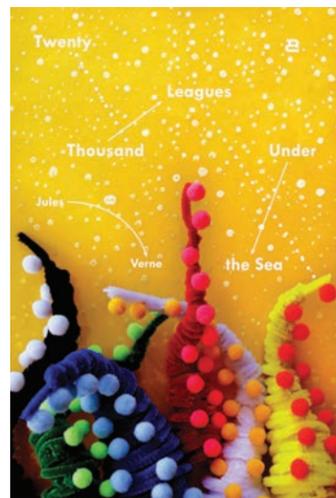


«50 x 50 Missouri» exhibit at Olin Library. *Anna Kong*



*Anna Kong*

### “50 x 50 Missouri” Gives Classic Books a New Look



≈ Cover art for *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Rebecca Christman.

A pop-up exhibit called “50 x 50 Missouri,” an offshoot of the White House initiative “Recovering the Classics,” was on view at Olin Library from September 30 to October 7. Conceived as a tool to promote classic literature to a new generation of readers, the exhibit featured cover artwork for famous books such as *Moby-Dick*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Little Women*. The project, which is ongoing, is supported by a number

of national organizations, including the Digital Public Library of America and the New York Public Library.

The national initiative gives illustrators and designers a chance to showcase their work by creating new covers for some of the greatest works in the public domain. Twenty local artists, including WU students and faculty, were included in the

Olin Library exhibit. The other 30 covers were selected from the national database of “Recovering the Classics.”

Bill Feng, an economics and strategy major at the Olin Business School, organized the local exhibit with WU Libraries’ Cheryl Holland, education and library science librarian, and Erin Sutherland, curator of exhibitions. Feng contacted different campus organizations and fellow students to garner interest in the project.

“The aim of (‘Recovering the Classics’) is to get a pop-up exhibit to appear in every state in the country,” Feng said. “I thought it would be great for Missouri to be one of the earlier states to have a pop-up exhibit.”

With the pop-ups, each state can customize its own exhibit, Holland said. Two WU artists created covers for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Missourian Mark Twain.

After the exhibit at Olin Library, Holland and Feng made the artwork available to other local organizations and institutions, particularly schools. “We want these covers to excite students, especially young readers, about classics in literature,” Holland said.

≈ Ines von Ketelhodt discusses her work with students. *WU Libraries*



### Acclaimed Book Artists Visit Olin Library

On February 14, WU Libraries and the Kranzberg Book Studio welcomed **INES VON KETELHODT** and **PETER MALUTZKI**, two of the most celebrated book artists working today. Von Ketelhodt and Malutzki presented their work in Room 142 of Olin Library, drawing a large crowd of WU faculty, students, and community members.

Von Ketelhodt and Malutzki work independently and as a team to create artist books that are conceptually complex and meticulously designed. During the February 14 event, Von Ketelhodt gave an overview of her recent project, “Farbwechsel/ Color Change: One Project, Six Books, Six Colors.” Von Ketelhodt treats the subject of color in different ways in the work, matching concepts, texts, and images to individual colors—yellow, green, blue, red, white, and black—with photography, ink, and paper contributing to the end result.

In a talk entitled “Three Decades of Making Artists Books,” Malutzki provided a retrospective of his career. He has shared a collaborative workshop in Flörsheim, Germany, with Von Ketelhodt since 2002. His collaboration with Von Ketelhodt, the 50-volume edition, *Zweite Enzyklopädie von Tlön*, a response to the story by Jorge Luis Borges, is found in collections worldwide.

Both artists have been at the vanguard of book art in Europe since the 1980s. Their presentations were followed by a reception and an exhibit in the Special Collections classroom in Olin Library.

### Library Faculty Book Talk Series Spotlights WU Scholarship

In November 2016, WU Libraries hosted two inspired discussions by WU authors as part of its Library Faculty Book Talk Series. The events were held in Room 142 of Olin Library. On November 21, **ANDREA NICHOLS**, a lecturer in WU’s Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, discussed her new book, *Sex Trafficking in the United States: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice*. In her talk, Nichols defined different types of trafficking and explored the misconceptions and legalities surrounding the commercial sex industry.



≈ Andrea Nichols, lecturer in WU’s Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. *Anna Kong*

On November 29, **KIMBERLY JADE NORWOOD**, WU professor of law and editor of *Ferguson’s Fault Lines: The Race Quake That Rocked a Nation*, led a panel of the book’s contributors. Participants included Brendan Roediger of the Saint Louis University School of Law and Vetta L. Sanders Thompson from WU’s Brown School of Social Work. The panel discussed topics such as for-profit policing in St. Louis County, housing and education inequalities in greater St. Louis, and the role of the media in shaping narratives about race.



≈ Kimberly Jade Norwood, WU professor of law. *Anna Kong*

The series continued in 2017 with a February 2 talk by **SHANTI PARIKH**, associate professor of Anthropology and African & African American Studies at WU. Parikh discussed her book *Regulating Romance: Youth Love Letters, Moral Anxiety, and Intervention in Uganda’s Time of AIDS*, which draws on ethnographic research and more than 300 letters to reveal how young people’s concepts of romance have been shaped by the moral panic surrounding HIV and youth sexuality. Parikh shared stories from her field research in Uganda and read some of the letters she collected for the book.



≈ Shanti Parikh, associate professor of anthropology and African & African American Studies. *WU Libraries*

Each Library Faculty Book Talk includes a brief Q-and-A session with the author and a post-discussion reception. The talks are free and open to the public.



# New Leadership for WU Libraries: DENISE STEPHENS NAMED VICE PROVOST AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

When Denise Stephens, university librarian at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), visited WU in 2016, she was encouraged to see how essential John M. Olin Library is to the university.

"I was very impressed with the scope and the depth of the academic and research programs at Washington University," Stephens said. "And the library is at the intersection of cultural, historical, and intellectual activity on campus."

Stephens soon will be part of the hub of activity when she begins her position as vice provost and university librarian at WU on July 1, 2017.

"Our libraries play a central role in Washington University's mission by providing book and electronic resources to researchers and creating space for contemplation and study," Provost Holden Thorp said in the announcement of Stephens' appointment. "Denise Stephens will advance that mission through her vast experience developing programs, shepherding capital projects, acquiring scholarly materials, and engaging in campus life."

Stephens will manage WU Libraries' nine locations, the system's vast archives and special collections, and more than 150 professional and support staff. She will also lead the Olin Library Transformation Project, which is scheduled to debut in spring 2018. The renovated Olin Library will provide new spaces for study and exploration, more accessibility to specialized research services, a new north entrance, new exhibition spaces, and a vault to house the university's growing special collections.

Stephens has experience with major renovation projects. During her five years at UCSB, she planned and executed the \$80 million expansion and update of the university's library.

"One of the important lessons I learned is that the project itself needs to be owned by—and it's something that generates a great deal of excitement for—everybody, for the entire campus," she said about the UCSB renovation. "It's really not just a library project, it's about the university."

At UCSB Stephens managed a collection of nearly 10 million books, e-books, electronic journals and digital objects. She also developed a scholarly communications program and launched the Interdisciplinary Research Collaboratory, which supports data-centric study and research projects.

During her tenure as university librarian, Stephens served two years as interim chief information officer. In that role, she implemented a central information technology services division responsible for the campus network, IT security, telecommunications, and other functions.

She has had leadership roles at several other academic libraries in the U.S. Stephens worked at the University of Kansas, where she held positions as strategic and organizational research librarian, information management coordinator, and vice provost for information services. She also served as a librarian at Syracuse University and the University of Virginia and as a senior library technician at the University of Oklahoma. Stephens earned her undergraduate degree and master of library and information science degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Stephens is eager to begin work at WU and to help act as a bridge between the Libraries and the rest of the university. "How we communicate the responsibility of libraries with our constituents and how we gain useful information from them about how to do that work is going to drive what the outcomes are," she said. "It's about the relationships we have with campus, and particularly the relationship with faculty. Like any library, it's their teaching that most dramatically influences what we collect, in what format we collect it, and what we do with it. It's setting up an entire foundation of engagement and planning and acting accordingly."

Stephens was selected by a 13-member search committee led by Carmon Colangelo, the Ralph J. Nagel Dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Stephens succeeds Jeffrey G. Trzeciak, who left the university in July 2016.

Marion Crain, vice provost and the Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law, has served as the leader of University Libraries since August 2016.



Joe Angeles/WUSTL Photos

## Robert Coover Reads Classic Short Story at WU Libraries

AS PART OF WU LIBRARIES' NEUREUTHER LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES, esteemed fiction writer Robert Coover gave a reading in the Special Collections classroom of Olin Library on November 1, 2016. About 50 people attended the reading, which was sponsored by WU Libraries and the WU Department of English.

Because of the event's proximity to the November 8 election, Coover read his classic 1968 short story, "The Cat in the Hat for President," a clever send-up of national politics in which Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat appears as a prime presidential candidate, his main strengths being charisma and a singular ability to adapt to any situation. A masterful piece of dark humor, the narrative was first published in the journal *New American Review*.

"Robert Coover is one of the living legends of the fiction world, so it was a great pleasure to host his reading," said Joel Minor, curator of WU Libraries' Modern Literature Collection. "'The Cat in the Hat for President' remains as timely as it was in 1968."

Coover, who is 85, is the author of 11 novels, including *The Universal Baseball Association*, *The Public Burning*, and *Spanking the Maid*. His newest novel, *Huck Out West*—a continuation of the adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer—was published by Norton in January 2017. Set around the time of the Civil War, the book is narrated by a grown-up Huck, who has headed for the frontier, along with old friends Jim and Tom, with plans of joining the Pony Express. The book was described by *The Washington Post* as a "magical act of literary ventriloquism."



Robert Coover reads "The Cat in the Hat for President" at Olin Library. WU Libraries

A pioneer in the field of electronic writing, Coover is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the recipient of many awards, including Rockefeller and Guggenheim fellowships. At Brown University, where he is the T.B. Stowell Professor Emeritus in Literary Arts, he teaches experimental narrative and literary hypermedia courses. His "Cave Writing" course is a spatial hypertext writing workshop in immersive virtual reality.

The November 1 event featured a reception and an exhibit of Coover-related materials drawn from WU Libraries' Modern Literature Collection. A video of the reading is available on the Modern Literature Collection's YouTube channel: [youtube.com/ModernLitCollection](https://youtube.com/ModernLitCollection).



# A Very Archival Pursuit

EYES ON THE PRIZE INTERVIEWS DIGITIZED AND AVAILABLE ONLINE

BY ALISON CARRICK, REFERENCE AND OUTREACH SUPERVISOR FOR ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In late 2016, WU Libraries' Film & Media Archive completed the "Eyes on the Prize Digitization and Reassembly Project," making the complete interviews from the groundbreaking television series *Eyes on the Prize* available to scholars, researchers, and the general public for the first time.

The interviews, along with accompanying transcripts, can be accessed via WU Libraries' Digital Gateway ([digital.wustl.edu/eyesontheprize](http://digital.wustl.edu/eyesontheprize)). The completion of the project was made possible by a 2016 grant of \$150,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Produced by filmmaker and WU alumnus Henry Hampton and his company Blackside, Inc., *Eyes on the Prize* attracted more than 20 million viewers when it aired in the 1980s and 1990s. It was

praised by the *Boston Globe* as "one of the most distinguished documentary series in the history of broadcasting." Today *Eyes on the Prize* is considered the definitive work on the Civil Rights Movement.

The *Eyes on the Prize* interviews are part of WU Libraries' Henry Hampton Collection, which is housed at the Film & Media Archive. WU Libraries staff began preserving the interviews in 2011 with funding from a four-year, \$550,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The preservation of over 75 hours of complete interviews, including

**"SINCE COMING TO THE LIBRARIES 10 YEARS AGO, I HAVE DREAMT OF THE DAY WHEN WE WOULD MAKE THESE HISTORICALLY AND CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE IN THEIR ENTIRETY. I'M THANKFUL TO THE MELLON FOUNDATION AND THE NHPRC FOR THEIR SUPPORT. AS A RESULT OF THE LIBRARIES' EFFORTS, THESE STORIES OF STRUGGLE AND PERSEVERANCE WILL LIVE ON FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."** —Nadia Ghasedi, associate university librarian



« At left: Henry Hampton's Steenbeck flatbed film editor. WU Libraries

≈ Above left: Marian Wright Edelman talks with Henry Hampton. WU Libraries

≈ Above right: Jim Hone of WU Libraries' Film & Media Archive at work. WU Libraries

never-before-seen outtakes totaling 375,000 feet of film, was the first step in ensuring that the interviews were not lost due to the deterioration of the original acetate film.

Associate University Librarian Nadia Ghasedi, Cataloging and Metadata Archivist Irene Taylor, Digital Archivist Jim Hone, and other staff from Special Collections and Scholarly Publishing contributed to the project.

"Since coming to the Libraries 10 years ago, I have dreamt of the day when we would make these historically and culturally significant interviews available in their entirety," says Ghasedi. "I'm thankful to the Mellon Foundation and the NHPRC for their support. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to lead these projects and grateful for the expert staff members who have seen them through to successful completion."

Taylor participated in both grants, ensuring that the film and audio elements were cataloged prior to being shipped to Colorlab, the preservation lab that conducted film-to-film preservation. Taylor received inspection reports from Colorlab with information regarding the condition of the film, which she added to the Libraries' catalog record. Most of the film elements were in very good condition.

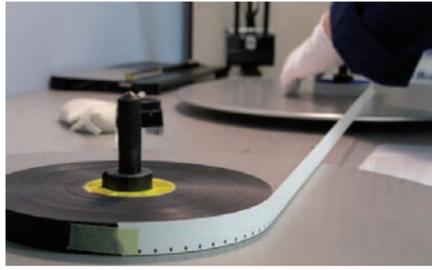
The next step in the process was to digitize and reassemble the complete interviews. During this

part of the project, Jim Hone worked with 375 digitized camera rolls, 204 digitized sound rolls, 13 digitized *Eyes on the Prize* film episodes, and 13 digitized magnetic sound reels.

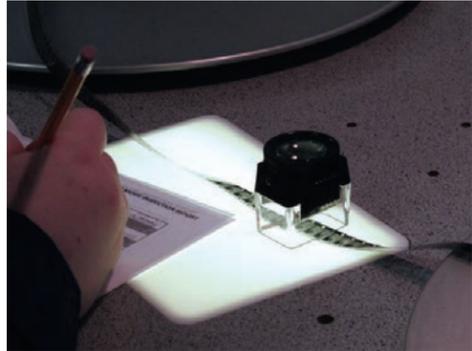
One of the greatest challenges of the project, according to Hone, involved pilot interviews shot by Blackside in 1979 with funding Hampton received from Capital Cities/ABC. The Blackside team shot over 30 interviews during this first phase of production before creative differences brought a temporary halt to the work.

In reassembling these interviews, some of which had no identifying information, the grant team had to do detective work to piece back together material from multiple reels, both sound and audio.

"Hampton and his crew of fledgling filmmakers were trying to develop a project original in both subject matter and approach for Capital Cities/ABC," says Hone. "They must have been facing enormous budget and time constraints, as well as their own inexperience. Their record keeping was disorganized. When the project was finally put into storage, many of the camera rolls were simply concatenated together without regard to order. So the principal challenge in bringing sound and picture back together again was to establish original order—a very archival pursuit."



The preservation of over 75 hours of complete interviews, including never-before-seen outtakes totaling 375,000 feet of film, was the first step in ensuring that the interviews were not lost due to the deterioration of the original acetate film. *WU Libraries*



A good example of the challenge posed by this process involved Hone's reassembly of a 1979 interview with John Lewis. Hone was dismayed to discover that more than five minutes of sound for the first camera roll of the interview were missing.

This led to more detective work involving a short reel of audio tape that Judy Richardson, one of *Blackside's* longest-serving producers, sent to the archive several years ago. Richardson mentioned that the tape featured Lewis talking about his childhood on a chicken farm.

"I wasn't familiar with this tape or the story of its provenance," Hone says. "But Irene Taylor thought we should send it to the vendor for digitization. When we got it back, we were happy to discover that it was the missing audio segment from Lewis's 1979 interview. It turns out that John Lewis wanted to be a pastor from his early childhood and in his zeal would preach to the chickens!"

Mislabeled and misidentified reels were another problem the grant team encountered. Such discrepancies were often discovered during the digitization process. Team members corrected spelling and name errors and also added time code to the transcript files, so that the video and transcripts would synchronize at two-minute intervals. This synchronization of video and text allows viewers

to identify exact quotes and view sections of the interview side-by-side. This work was done by Film & Media Archive Processing Assistant Barry Kelley, Film Preservationist Tyler Bequette, Taylor, and Alison Carrick.

"Adding time code so that the video and the transcripts would synchronize meant that watching the interviews was necessary," says Taylor. "This was perhaps my favorite part of working on the project. I'm honored to have been a part of it."

During the final stages of the process, Kelley and Film & Media Archive Curator Brian Woodman revised and edited the biographies of the interviewees. Woodman solicited feedback about the project and the functionality of the web interface from a diverse group of stakeholders, including filmmakers, archivists, and faculty and students at WU and other universities.

The Film & Media Archive is proud to have been able to preserve and digitize the historic interviews and make them available online. The total running time of the interviews is 76 hours, 29 minutes, and 58 seconds. Interviewees include Lewis, Coretta Scott King, and Amiri Baraka. A full list of the interviewees with links to the interviews and biographies can be found at [digital.wustl.edu/eyesonthepize/browse.html](http://digital.wustl.edu/eyesonthepize/browse.html).

**"DURING THE PROJECT, I ADDED TIME CODE SO THAT THE VIDEO AND THE TRANSCRIPTS WOULD SYNCHRONIZE. THIS MEANT THAT WATCHING THE INTERVIEWS WAS NECESSARY. THIS WAS PERHAPS MY FAVORITE PART OF WORKING ON THE GRANT. I'M HONORED TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF IT."** — Irene Taylor, cataloging and metadata archivist



## Artist Seymour Chwast Lectures at WU

Artist Seymour Chwast and WU faculty member Linda Solovic talk with students in the Sam Fox School. *John Hendrix*

On October 24, 2016, WU Libraries and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts hosted legendary designer Seymour Chwast. Chwast delivered a lecture about his work entitled "God/War/Sex" in a jam-packed Steinberg Auditorium. About 300 WU students, faculty, and community members attended the talk.

Chwast presented a retrospective slideshow of his career, which spans six decades. During the talk, he offered an inside look at his creative process and artistic influences. After the lecture, he took questions from the audience.

Chwast was born in 1931 in New York City and is a graduate of The Cooper Union, where he studied illustration and graphic design. In 1954, with Cooper Union colleagues Milton Glaser, and Edward Sorel, he established Push Pin Studios. The firm's unique style has influenced contemporary visual communications around the world. In 1981 the studio's name was changed to The Pushpin Group. Chwast now serves as its director.

A frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, Chwast often combines social issues with humor in his illustrations. His work has been featured in advertisements, animated films, and on record covers. He has designed and illustrated more than 30 children's books and has developed several typefaces. He also published *Push Pin Graphic*, a magazine with subscribers across the globe.

"It was a pleasure to spend time with Mr. Chwast during his visit to Washington University, and an even greater honor to have the opportunity to hear his lecture," said Skye Lacerte, curator of the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library

≈ Skye Lacerte, curator of the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library, and Seymour Chwast. *WU Libraries*



**LEARN MORE. BETTER YET, VISIT.**

D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library  
 Located inside West Campus Library  
 7425 Forsyth Boulevard, Lower Level  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Visits are by appointment only. Contact Skye Lacerte at [slacerte@wustl.edu](mailto:slacerte@wustl.edu) or 314.935.7741 to schedule an appointment. For more info about the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library, go to: [library.wustl.edu/spec/MGHL](http://library.wustl.edu/spec/MGHL).



≈ Chwast presents "God/War/Sex" lecture in Steinberg Auditorium. *WU Libraries*

≈ Artist Seymour Chwast with students in the Sam Fox School. *John Hendrix*



≈ Seymour Chwast and Douglas Dowd. *WU Libraries*

(MGHL). "His presentation offered significant insights into many aspects of his work."

While visiting WU, Chwast dropped in on a senior class in the Sam Fox School called "The Illustrator's Sketchbook" taught by associate professor of art John Hendrix. Sam Fox faculty member Linda Solovic also joined the class, bringing with her vintage posters and books from her personal collection of Chwast's work.

"It was really wonderful to see him flip through old editions of things and talk about the process and what he remembers from the era," said Hendrix. "Probably the most amazing thing was seeing how much the students enjoyed the time with him.

It was inspiring to think about the many different generations of illustrators in one room that could so easily connect over a love of making pictures and telling stories."

Chwast also toured the Dowd MGHL, where Professor Douglas Dowd interviewed him for an oral history. The interview will be included in the Dowd MGHL's Seymour Chwast Collection, which includes posters, professional development materials, and mechanical drawings mainly dating between the 1960s and 2000s. For more information about the collection, visit [archon.wulib.wustl.edu/?p=creators/creator&id=1889](http://archon.wulib.wustl.edu/?p=creators/creator&id=1889).

# Travel That Transforms:

## WU LIBRARIES PARTICIPATE IN FOCUS HOLOCAUST PROGRAM



≈ Dr. Erin McGlothlin, associate professor of German and Jewish studies at WU, talks with FOCUS students at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. *Brian Vetruba*

**ON FEBRUARY 2, 2017, AN EXHIBIT CALLED** "Thirteen Washington University Students and Their Deep Dive into the Study of the Holocaust" opened at the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. The exhibit was based on the travels of WU students, faculty, and staff, who visited Holocaust sites in Europe in May 2016 as part of the College of Arts & Sciences' FOCUS program "The History, Memory, and Representation of the Holocaust."

The exhibit, which ran through April, was curated by FOCUS students Cecily Hibbs, Talia Wazana, and Abigail Wippel, with assistance from Germanic Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, and European Studies Librarian Brian Vetruba.

Geared toward first-year WU students, the FOCUS program on the Holocaust spanned the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters and concluded with the trip overseas. Erin McGlothlin, associate professor of German and Jewish studies, and Anika Walke, assistant professor of history, designed and co-taught the seminar, offering courses that addressed the scope of the Nazi genocide and

depictions of the Holocaust in literature and film. Along with Vetruba and Michael Getty, an assistant dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, they accompanied the students on the trip. The exhibit featured 18 posters with photographs from their travels and a video of student interviews.

"Getting to know the students was a great experience," says Vetruba. "This project provided a perfect opportunity for some of them to get involved with the Libraries, and they really took the initiative and made the exhibit happen. I was excited to have the chance to show our faculty that we can support the curriculum in a way that we don't normally demonstrate."

Wippel, an anthropology major from Hernando, Mississippi, found it interesting to work in the professional setting of the Libraries. "We had meetings to discuss content and things like deciding what color and size the panels should be," she says. "I have newfound respect for the people who curate exhibits professionally, because a lot of thought and planning goes into it."



≈ A trail marker for a memorial site near Veliučionys. Brian Vetruba



≈ Brian Vetruba WU Libraries

events we refer to as the Holocaust,” McGlothlin says. “To understand this very difficult and complicated history, one needs to take into account the ways in which the events played out in different regions of Europe at different moments before and during World War II, and one needs to consider the disparate ways that people in specific places at specific times experienced those events based on their class, gender, national origin, degree of religious practice, sexual identity, and political affiliation. The exhibit shows how the FOCUS group tried to come to terms with this extreme complexity and diversity.”

The complexity was brought home to Vetruba during the course of the trip. In Lithuania, the group journeyed to a remote site in some woods near Veliučionys—a hard-to-access spot where Jews had been taken and shot. Their guide said they were the first visitors there for the year. The contrast between that lonely location and Auschwitz, which receives 2 million visitors annually, stood out to Vetruba.

“What spoke to me were all the different depictions and memorials of the experience,” he says. “There is such a variety. And yet there is so much work to be done, still.”

McGlothlin, who has been teaching about the Holocaust for nearly 20 years, has noticed an increase in student interest in the period—an upsurge she feels has been caused by recent developments in American politics. It’s an interest that Vetruba wants to build upon. He hopes to plan another Holocaust-related trip through the FOCUS program for 2018.

“The fact that a new generation is interested and invested in this is very important,” he says. “We’re excited about the fact that young people are taking this on.”

*The FOCUS trip was made possible by funding from the Rubin and Gloria Feldman Family Education Institute, the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, the Holocaust Educational Foundation, the College of Arts & Sciences, and WU Libraries. To view the students’ exhibit, visit [openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib\\_present/25/](https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present/25/).*

The students used Adobe InDesign—a computer program that was new to them—to create the posters, and Vetruba assisted them with the layout and the text. He also interviewed the students featured in the video, which was edited by Sean Garcia, digital media editor in Arts & Sciences.

“I feel that when you look at the posters you can tell that we put everything we had into the project,” says Wippel. “We were all really invested in it.”

Vetruba, McGlothlin, and Walke presented a smaller version of the poster exhibit at the Lessons and Legacies Holocaust Studies conference in November 2016 in Claremont, California. McGlothlin feels the project rounded out the students’ coursework and travels by giving them a chance to reflect on the FOCUS experience and to consider the ways in which they’d grown both intellectually and personally during their first year in college.

“I think the experience has been transformative for all of us,” she says, “but one notices its imprint more in the students. I’ve really enjoyed seeing how they’ve reacted and developed during the course of the program.”

The trip, which lasted 12 days, included visits to the Warsaw and Vilna ghettos, the Auschwitz and Treblinka death camps, and important points in and around Berlin. Along the way, the group took about 1,100 photos, which Wippel, Hibbs, and Wazana worked with to create the posters.

“The exhibit shows what arduous effort it takes to really learn about the complex constellation of

## AFTER 35 YEARS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN VIRGINIA DOWSING TOLIVER RETIRES

# Toliver Known as ‘Heart and Soul’ of the Libraries



≈ Toliver speaks to the crowd. Mary Butkus

**DURING HER TIME AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY,** Virginia Dowsing Toliver worked in every area of administration for the University Libraries, including budgeting, facilities, human resources, technology, and two multi-year renovations of John M. Olin Library.

But after more than 35 years, the associate university librarian was ready to retire. Hundreds of friends, family members, and WU staff and faculty celebrated with Toliver at her retirement party on December 21, 2016, at Anheuser-Busch Hall.

“In the four years I’ve been here, there are a few people that I’ve always felt were the go-to people, the people who always knew what was going on,” said Provost Holden Thorp in his remarks at the celebration. “At the top of that list has always been Virginia Toliver. She is somebody who knows all the people you need to know to do what you want to do. She is somebody who has the intellect and experience to advise people on how to get things done. And she is the heart and soul of the University Libraries.”

Toliver has dedicated her time to countless committees and groups on campus, among them the Danforth University Management Council, the James E. McLeod Honors and Awards Program Planning Committee, the Chancellor’s Roundtable on African American Student Recruitment, and the Human Resources Advisory Committee. She also has been a progress counselor for the College of Arts & Sciences to help students on academic probation.

For Toliver, working with colleagues has been the highlight of her career. “I love being around people,” she said. “This is my family.”

Toliver’s connection with others, her candor, and her sense of humor are well known in the Libraries. “She has helped the staff by making them feel valued,” said Associate University Librarian Jackie Lorraine. “When she talks to you, she’s concerned about what’s going on in your life, not just your professional career. She’s there for you.”

Marion Crain, vice provost and leader of Washington University Libraries, summed up Toliver’s contributions: “She is, to put it in a word, indispensable.”

### EARLY BEGINNINGS

Toliver grew up in the segregated South, in rural Mississippi. From the time she was 5 years old until she went to college, she worked in the cotton fields.

“The South back in those days was centered around the needs of white farm owners, so black schools were in split sessions,” she said. “So we’d go to school in summer because we had to be out in time to pick the cotton. And then you’d go another few months, and you had to be out in the spring to chop the cotton for the next crops, so we didn’t have the regular school year. That schedule was only in the rural black schools.”

After graduating from high school, Toliver went to Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1965 and majored in English literature. She began the first of her 45 years of working in libraries there, when she was hired to work in the cataloging department at the school’s library.

With encouragement from the university’s library director and after she received a minority fellowship, Toliver pursued a master’s degree in library



◀ Toliver's family: El Hadji Samba Amadou Diallo, Mawdo Diallo, Toliver, Coumba Diallo and Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo. *Mary Butkus*

science at the University of Illinois in Champaign from 1972 to 1973. "I didn't like coming to the cold," she said. "It was a very different experience. It was rural, which kind of helped, but it was so large. I was used to small colleges like Jackson State."

When Toliver finished her degree, her home state called to her, and she returned to work at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, for four years, including three as acting library director. After an internship at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California, she went on to the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg, where she served as coordinator of computerized information retrieval.

#### AN INTERNSHIP, THEN A JOB

In 1981, Toliver made her first connection to Washington University when she interviewed to be an Academic Library Management Intern for the Council on Library Resources, an opportunity that prepared middle managers for leadership positions in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

Toliver was nervous during her interview for the internship. It was a national program, and Mississippi did not have any ARL libraries. Plus, Charles Churchwell, then the dean of Washington University Libraries who was on the interview panel, was intimidating. "Churchwell was the only African American on the panel, and he was so hard on me," Toliver said. "He was more probing and asked the hardest questions, and I just felt like if I blew it, it was because of him. I found out later, that's just how he is; he's just very thorough."

To her surprise, she was selected and became the first female African-American librarian in the internship program. She was assigned to work under Churchwell at WU for a year. The internship led to a job in 1982 as director of administration and planning at WU Libraries. At that time, the university was entering an era where departmental accountability was extremely important, so Toliver had to help develop internal procedures for the Libraries' budget and operations.

She ranks her ability to bring "chaos into control" as her greatest achievement at WU. "Establishing business operations that are functional and compliant and getting a handle on the budget has been good," she said. "Now that's second nature to everybody, but it wasn't at first when we didn't have it. It's a quiet achievement, but I like that behind-the-scenes planning and implementation."

Rudolph Clay, head of library diversity initiatives and outreach, has worked with Toliver since she started her internship at the Libraries in 1981 and says her willingness to share information has been a great benefit. "Human resources is so rule heavy that it was nice to have someone in the library who could make it more humane," Clay said. "She could always explain a policy to you, so that you would at least understand—even if you didn't agree with it—why that particular policy was in place."

At Toliver's retirement party, Churchwell recounted how the two of them discovered that several members of the Libraries' staff did not take advantage of the university's retirement program. "We had a discussion, Virginia and I, and I said, 'You have to let them know that they're making a big mistake,'" Churchwell said. "She sat down with staff members and told them about the matching program. Those (staff members) that Virginia convinced have all retired and are enjoying their benefits, and they owe Virginia a great thank you."

#### RENOVATING OLIN LIBRARY

Toliver put her organizational and communication skills to good use when she tackled one her biggest projects. Shirley Baker, former dean of the University Libraries and vice chancellor for scholarly resources, asked her to oversee the first renovation of Olin Library.

"It was a gut rehab that took three years, from 2001 to 2004, and we kept the library open the entire time," Baker said. "One of the things that made it work very well was that Virginia had excellent relations with the workers all up and down the line, from the architects at the top and the designers who worked with us to the building and grounds crew who were absolutely critical to it."

The renovation increased user space, opened up the building with windows to bring in more light, and added Whispers Café. Because every level of the library was affected, every member of the staff had to move at least once; the Shelving Unit moved seven times.

"We had never gone through a renovation before, and we never closed, so we just ran into unexpected things," Clay said. "One morning we came in and all of the sudden there was a dust cloud by the reference desk, and you couldn't see your hand in front of you. Virginia was helpful with the staff, and she was there telling us what happened and what we were going to do."

Despite the disruptions and the long duration of the project, Toliver found the experience, especially working with the various team members, rewarding.

"It was different, and I think that's why I enjoyed it," she said. "So much of what I do is routine: the budget's going to be pretty stable, statistics, facilities, even HR is pretty straightforward. It was a challenge as someone who knew nothing about the construction industry."

When the first phase of the Olin Transformation Project started in May 2016, Toliver had only one bit of advice for her colleagues: "Just get some earplugs."

#### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

In addition to her work at Washington University, Toliver has been involved in professional organizations, the community, her church, and her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She served as vice chair of the Literary Awards Committee for the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, was a member of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and was on the planning committees of the 2007 and 2009 African American Librarians Conference.

"Because she was active in these organizations, she could help other librarians, especially new librarians, to be involved nationally and regionally in those groups," Clay said.

Toliver has helped several organizations that support AIDS patients. She was a facilitator for Steps to Living, a support group for people with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers, and served as a board member of Food Outreach Inc., a St. Louis organization that provides food to people living with AIDS. She also chaired the National Committee on Self Development of People for the Presbyterian Church USA.

Toliver also became a member of the board of trustees of Eden Theological Seminary in 2006. Just four years later, she was selected as chair of

board, the first African American and the first woman to hold that title in the seminary's 160-year history.

In 2012, she was the recipient of the Gerry & Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award. Presented by the Community Service Office of the Gephardt Institute for Public Service, the award recognizes WU community members who exemplify a character of service and giving to the St. Louis region.

#### LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

Toliver has seen major changes in the Libraries over the past three decades, with the introduction of computers and the phasing out of card catalogs. The composition of the staff has also changed. A larger number of support staff was needed in the 1980s because so much of the work was manual in circulation and in technical service areas like acquisitions and cataloging. Now the Libraries have a higher proportion of professional staff in specialty areas that didn't exist earlier

The students have evolved, too. They are more independent and more connected, she said. "No one had a cellphone or a computer or any electronic device when I started. A larger number of them physically came to the library and the librarian. You knew the students, and you knew what they were working on because there was such direct involvement with them."

Toliver knows the shifts in technology will continue to change libraries. "Electronics will continue to be sweeping, and budgets will have to increase significantly to keep up with the industry," she said. "That also means an increase in consortium arrangements because no library will have the budget to do everything. There has to be a change in the perception of library users so they agree to this library sharing."

But future changes at the Libraries will have to happen without Toliver. She plans to move back to rural Mississippi and continue to be involved in community activities. "It's been a wonderful 35 years," she said. "I'm going to miss it, but I'm excited about turning off the alarm clock and sitting in my WU rocking chair. As for the cotton fields—my house now sits on one of them!"



◀ Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton takes a selfie with Associate University Librarian Virginia Dowsing Toliver. *Mary Druyvesteyn*

# The Transformation Continues

BY SARAH LAAKER, MANAGER OF LIBRARY USER SPACE PLANNING

## OLIN LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION BY THE NUMBERS

Free earplugs distributed to Olin users:

**More than 4,000 pairs**

Pieces of furniture relocated within Olin:

**More than 200**

Truckloads of dirt removed from the excavation site:

**More than 900** (more than 8,000 tons)

Average daily trips up and down the excavation site ladder for the construction manager: **9**

Field hours worked by the construction team: **More than 25,000**

Tons of structural steel to be installed: **92.3**

Miles of rebar in the new foundation walls of the building's southeast quadrant: **3.03**, or the approximate distance from Olin Library to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis



« Rendering of the Thomas Gallery C&G Partners

## NEW STUDY SPACES COMING WITH THE OLIN TRANSFORMATION

With more than 1,000 seats and a variety of spaces for quiet study and group work, Olin Library is already a well-used and appreciated place among students and the campus community. When the Olin Transformation is complete, the library will boast even more seats and an even greater variety of welcoming study spaces. Below is a guide to help you begin planning your exploration of the new Olin Library.

**Whispers Café, Level 1:** Since it opened in May 2004, Whispers has given students a relaxed, social study experience in a café setting. The Olin Transformation will bring a rebuilt, expanded Whispers with more than 135 seats. Visitors will also find new furniture, including tables and chairs, lounge and bar-height seating, with plenty of access to power outlets, coffee, and snacks.

**Newman Exploration Center, Level A:** Located right below Whispers, the Newman Exploration Center will be a special study space with a capacity for about 40 visitors. The area will offer lounge and table seating and thematic elements that evoke the mind-expanding process of exploration.

**Risa's Landing, Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, Level 2:** A round study space located in the Newman Tower, Risa's Landing will feature an open balcony with views of the surrounding study spaces on Level 2 and of Whispers below. More than 35 seats at tables will support collaborative study and give visitors a visual taste of the treasures to be found in the library's collections.

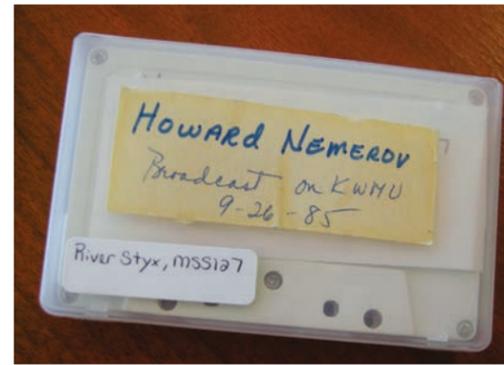
**Sky Room, Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, Level 3:** The Sky Room will delight those seeking higher heights and a quieter environment. Featuring tables and lounge seating for about 20, it will offer views of the sky both day and night through Olin's lantern windows. The round, airy space is sure to become a favorite place for many Olin users and visitors.

*The Olin Transformation Project is made possible thanks to the generous support of philanthropists Eric and Evelyn Newman, University Trustee Andy Newman and his wife, Peggy, and University Trustee Jack Thomas and his wife, Debbie.*

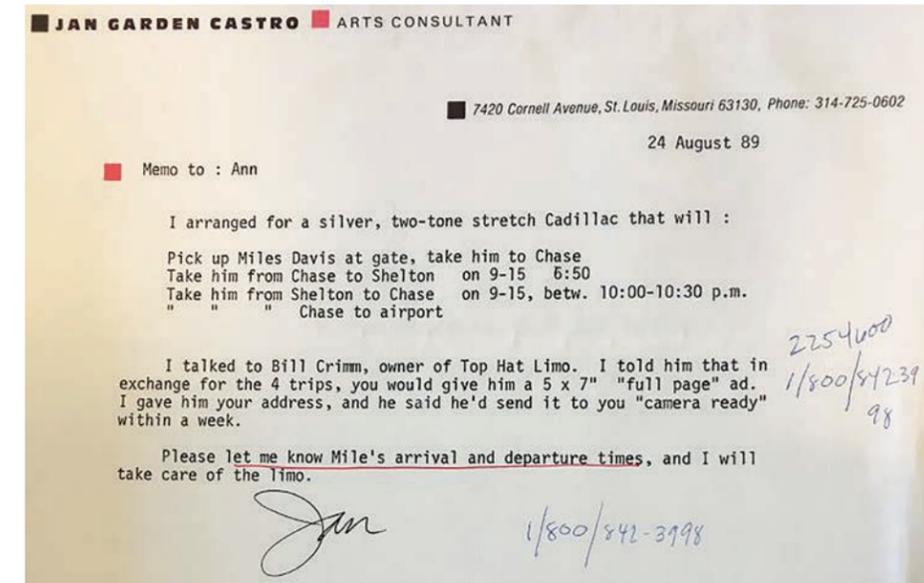
**THE RENOVATION OF WU'S JOHN M. OLIN LIBRARY,** which kicked off in May 2016, is moving forward as planned. During winter break 2016-2017, excavation of Levels A and B was completed. In February, work began on the new north entrance of the library and on the areas of Level A that will connect the future Newman Exploration Center with the existing Arc, the library's teaching, learning, and computing hub. The installation of steel beams within the excavation site also started in February. Thanks to this progress, the new footprints of Level A and Level B are beginning to take shape. Preparations for building the Newman Tower of Collections and Exploration, which spans Levels A, 1, 2, and 3, are also well underway.

## IMPORTANT TARGETS ON THE TRANSFORMATION TIMELINE:

- After final exams in May, renovation of the Arc on Level A is expected to begin.
- After Commencement in May, construction of the Thomas Gallery, an exhibition space on Level 1, will begin.
- By mid-summer 2017, the new north entrance to Olin is expected to be open and operational.
- Soon after the north entrance opens, the existing south entrance will close for renovation. The south entrance is scheduled to reopen in the middle of the fall 2017 semester.
- The Transformation will be substantially complete by mid-December 2017, with new spaces available to library users for the spring 2018 semester.



River Styx items from the archives, including a memo from Jan Garden Castro. WU Libraries



## Preserving Poetry:

### WU LIBRARIES' "LIBERATING THE SPOKEN WORD PROJECT" GIVES NEW LIFE TO RARE RECORDINGS

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a grant of \$34,433 to WU Libraries to fund the project "Liberating the Spoken Word: Poetry Readings and Literary Performances in St. Louis, 1969-2005."

The grant will allow the Libraries to digitize and create metadata for 947 audio recordings from three archival collections: the River Styx Archive, the Jan Garden Castro Papers, and the Michael Castro Papers. Selected recordings will be made available online.

During the late 1960s and early '70s, WU alum Michael Castro, St. Louis's first poet laureate (see interview on page 19), and Jan Garden Castro, a noted author and arts activist, were instrumental in starting the River Styx Poets radio show and the literary journal River Styx. They also helped establish St. Louis's renowned River Styx poetry series, a program of regular public readings by prominent regional, national, and international writers, with an emphasis on diversity.

Held at Duff's Restaurant, the monthly readings featured guests such as South African poet Dennis Brutus and Native American writer Joy Harjo, as well as a host of local poets. A second program,

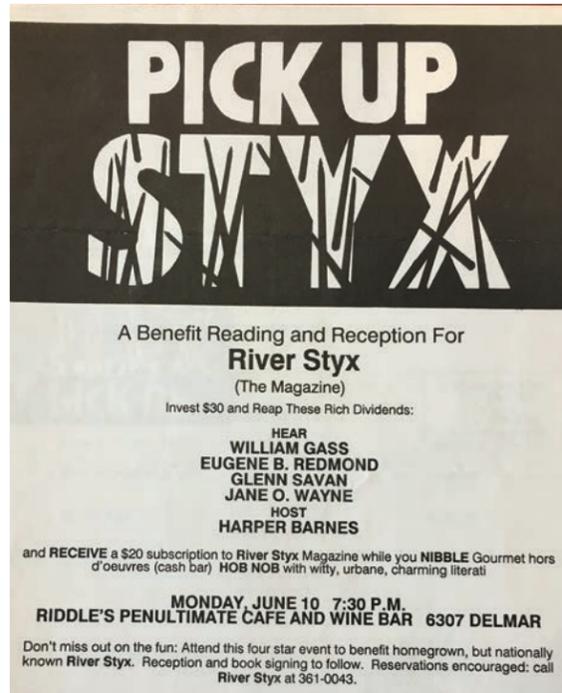
the River Styx PM reading series, which started in 1981, featured the likes of James Baldwin, Adrienne Rich, Robert Bly, and Margaret Atwood. More than 700 poets were recorded through the radio show and reading series.

A wealth of archival material connected to the literary organization can be found in the River Styx Archive, the Jan Garden Castro Papers, and the Michael Castro Papers, which are housed in the Manuscripts unit of Special Collections at WU Libraries. The collections contain small-press publications, correspondence, and ephemera, as well as audio recordings, and provide an intriguing overview of St. Louis literary history.

## A CLASSIC COLLECTION ENTERS THE DIGITAL AGE

The NHPRC awards funding each year to select archival projects. WU Libraries' was one of seven institutions selected for a grant from a pool of 48 applicants. The two-year grant started on March 1.

"The funding from the grant will allow us to provide complete public access for the first time to the recorded River Styx performances," says Joel Minor, curator of the Modern Literature Collection and Manuscripts at WU Libraries.



» River Styx flyer from the 1980s. WU Libraries

“The recordings will deliver the authentic, immediate experience of hearing some of the most important literary voices of our times perform their own work.”

The recordings include cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes, most of which are in good condition. Minor believes that 60 percent of them consist of poetry and literary performances. Migrating the recordings to digital format through an outside vendor will take between four to six months. Quality checks and metadata creation—identifying who’s on the tape, and when it was recorded—will follow. Additionally, about 2,300 leaves of ancillary materials—flyers, letters, and other paper items—will be scanned and made accessible online to complement the listening experience.

The digitized performances and accompanying ephemera should be available via Washington University’s Digital Gateway by March 2019. Enhanced finding aids and complete metadata for all 947 recordings will also be available online. To visit the Digital Gateway, go to digital.wustl.edu.

### A CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL CASTRO, ST. LOUIS’S FIRST POET LAUREATE

Michael Castro lives by this rule: *Never read your poetry unasked. If asked, never refuse.* He can’t recall where he came upon these words of wisdom—in a fortune cookie, maybe, or the Analects of Confucius—but the concept made a lasting impression.

For Castro, the invitations to read have been on the upswing since 2014, when he made St. Louis history by being selected to serve as the city’s first poet laureate. A beloved figure in local literary circles, he was chosen from a pool of 64 candidates in a unanimous vote by the City of St. Louis Poet Laureate Taskforce. He was officially inaugurated to the two-year post on January 31, 2015, in a ceremony at the Regional Arts Commission.

From the early immersion in Native American cultures that led to his groundbreaking book *Interpreting the Indian: Twentieth-Century Poets and the Native American* (1983) to more than four decades of teaching, translating, and composing poetry (not to mention a brief stint in the ’70s as secretary to Allen Ginsberg, with whom he collaborated on a poem), Castro’s past primed him for the position of poet laureate. He came to St. Louis from his native New York in 1967 to attend Washington University, earning a doctorate in American literature. He went on to teach at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Lindenwood University.

He was an early advocate for diversity. In the 1970s, Castro helped shape the arts scene as a co-founder of River Styx, a St. Louis-based literary organization that promoted multiculturalism before the term was in use and advocated for an inclusive approach to poetry. The group put out the first issue of its award-winning journal, *River Styx*, in 1975 and is still publishing today.

During his 32-year tenure at Lindenwood, Castro established the MFA program in creative writing. Now 71, he has published 10 verse collections. His term as poet laureate ended in January, but he continues to act as a sort of literary prime minister for the city of St. Louis, speaking at civic events and mentoring aspiring writers.

Acclaimed poet and St. Louis native Eugene Redmond, who has known Castro for 50 years, spoke at his inauguration in 2015. “Michael Castro has no equal in this country for his service to poetry and poets,” Redmond said. “Wherever poetry can grow, you’ll find Michael Castro.”

# O+A

OTS sat down with the poet for a Q-and-A.

### YOU MOVED TO ST. LOUIS IN 1967 TO ATTEND WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AND NEVER LEFT. HOW HAS THE CITY INFLUENCED YOU AND YOUR WORK?

**MC:** One influence has been my exposure to all of the wonderful music here in St. Louis. Over the years, I’ve done a lot of performing with jazz musicians, and as a result, the rhythms of jazz and the notion of improvisation are central to my poetry. The foundation of listening, which is important in jazz, is also important with my poetry. I’ve been fortunate to be associated with many great musicians in St. Louis who are open to poetry and really get it.

### YOU’VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ST. LOUIS POETRY SCENE FOR ABOUT FIVE DECADES. HOW HAS THE LITERARY LANDSCAPE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

When I was a grad student here in the 1960s, I found that the only readings taking place were in academic settings, and they were staid, dull affairs. So I started meeting with other young poets and sharing work, and that’s how River Styx came to be. We started the River Styx radio program with the notion that poetry should have a wider audience and not be limited to academics.

We also encouraged diversity and multiculturalism. Our readings were highly charged, electric events with energy. With music. We believed poetry could bridge diverse readers and audiences and could be a rich experience, and our model spread all over St. Louis. Today most readings don’t take place on university campuses. They’re held at coffee shops and community centers. They’re community-based events, and the people who attend—to read or to listen—are a more diverse group. River Styx pioneered these types of readings in St. Louis.

### COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE POTENTIAL OF POETRY—AND OF THE POET—TO ACT AS A SOCIAL FORCE, TO CREATE CONNECTIONS AND SERVE AS A UNIFYING INFLUENCE, IN LIGHT OF DIVISIVE EVENTS LIKE THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

Poetry can’t solve problems, but it can work as a consciousness raiser and put people on the same wavelength. It can have a ripple effect, spreading the ideas that need to be spread to produce healthy change. As a poet, I often write about social issues, and unity is a theme that dominates my work. But I respect many poets whose work is more hermetic, because that, too, establishes unity, by taking the reader out of the prison of his own consciousness and establishing a connection, which is very healthy and very important.

### WHAT WERE YOUR GOALS AS POET LAUREATE? DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THEM?

My goals have been to promote the art of poetry, to unify the poetry communities, to expose poets to new audiences and new audiences to them. Another goal was to contribute to the healing process in the region in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown.

I think I’ve been successful in promoting the art of poetry. I’ve made over 100 appearances in the past two years and launched two reading series with the help of the Unity Community team [a group of regional writers, curators, artists, and organizers] I’ve assembled. In 2016, the five-day St. Louis Brick City Poetry Festival featured Missouri’s poet laureate, Alike Barnstone, St. Louis’s first youth poet laureate, Bisa Adero, and the poet laureate of the United States, Juan Felipe Herrera. We’ve held readings in the Old North neighborhood, the Central West End, the Cherokee neighborhood, Maplewood, East St. Louis, and University City. All of these events have promoted the Unity Community theme. We’re still working on the healing of the region.

### MORE AND MORE U.S. CITIES ARE APPOINTING POETS LAUREATE. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS SPURRING THIS TREND?

There’s a reason that poets have been called the unacknowledged legislators of mankind. Institutions are objective, and poets are subjective—they interpret, they bridge gaps and build connections. I think that poets can provide an in, they can penetrate communities and populations that might otherwise be off-limits. They can build trust, raise consciousness—political and otherwise—and open people to an awareness of the unity of humanity and all levels of life.

### WHAT WRITING PROJECTS ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

I’ve got a manuscript close to completion that deals with my heritage as a Sephardic Jew, and I’ve put together a collection of selected poems from 1970-2016 that will be published this year by Singing Bone Press. A collection of Sephardic proverbs that I’ve gathered and in some cases translated will also be published this year, by Coolway Press. I have journals going back to 1969 that have made me think of doing a memoir. They’re a little sporadic but pretty representative of the times. I have a lot of raw material to work with. I’ll just keep on trucking.



» Michael Castro Adelia Parker

# On the Job: REFLECTIONS FROM A SOCIAL SCIENCES AND USER EXPERIENCE LIBRARIAN

BY JESSICA KLEEKAMP



Libraries have a long history of striving to provide exceptional customer service to patrons. Whether it be answering a printer-related question for the tenth time in a single day or providing an in-depth research consultation, helping users is the common goal of all library staff.

While my initial interest in libraries came from frequenting them as a child, I served as a student worker at my undergraduate institution's library and quickly came to enjoy sharing information and helping patrons find resources. I was always looking for ways to locate materials more easily and thinking about strategies for improving library processes, so that our patrons would have fewer questions. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was slowly growing an interest in the library user's experience.

User experience—or UX—has become a buzzword lately in quite a few different fields, including the library world. UX commonly refers to the concept of looking at processes, products, or services and the ways in which patrons interact with them. A common example of UX is watching an area where people walk from point A to point B and noticing that most people cut across a patch of grass instead of taking a nearby sidewalk. Instead of ignoring this new path, a good UX professional would take note and then add a sidewalk across the grass.

The same mode of thinking can be applied to libraries. For instance, when librarians noticed that students and some faculty prefer working from the comfort of their own homes rather than coming into the physical space of the library, they accommodated the needs of users by making resources—and themselves—available online.

Of course librarians have been doing UX work in one form or another throughout the years, but today more and more libraries are devoting time and personnel to the concept. I joined the WU Libraries staff in June 2016 to fill the newly created position of UX librarian, and I like to think that my main role is to be the advocate for the users of our resources, whether it be our website or our physical space.

As we go about redesigning web pages, processes, and spaces, it's easy to forget that our patrons don't necessarily use or view library resources in the same ways that we do as staff members. And it's easy to forget that different patrons take different approaches to our materials. Students have unique

needs, and their research methods may not be the same as those of our faculty. We can even go so far as to say that undergraduate students are going to use our resources differently than graduate students. It's my job to figure out how we can accommodate WU Libraries' patrons in all their variety and to make sure that they have a positive experience with our many collections and resources.

Much of my UX work has to do with conducting usability studies. I do this by gathering qualitative data through focus groups and interviews and by observing how patrons interact with programs or spaces. I also gather quantitative data in the form of surveys and analytics. For example, if we notice that our patrons are having trouble accessing articles or requesting interlibrary loan materials online, we know that it's time to take a look at the statistics for the results pages related to those problems in order to see where people are getting stuck. Actually observing users as they try to find an article through our website is also helpful. By combining different kinds of usability tests, I'm able to see the bigger picture and get a better understanding of what might need to be changed.

In addition to being the UX librarian, I serve as the subject librarian for WU's newly reestablished sociology department. It may be surprising, but UX and sociology go hand in hand. They both focus on groups of people and the ways in which they interact, sometimes with each other and sometimes with objects. Both areas also rely on quantitative and qualitative data to help support research, or in the case of UX, to support the need for change.

Being a subject librarian has helped me to see how our students and faculty interact with the library. I hear firsthand about their struggles with accessing an e-book from home or with not being able to find a particular journal. This anecdotal evidence is a great starting place for UX projects.

While many of the UX endeavors I've been involved with focus on web usability and assessment, I hope to take my UX skills to other areas of the library. UX can be helpful in fields like space planning and student engagement. In fact, almost any project within the library stands to benefit from the UX approach. Because every decision made in the library affects our users, it's important to make sure that any changes that occur result in a more positive experience for patrons.

## STAFF PICKS: WHAT WE'RE READING

### BORN A CRIME

By Trevor Noah (Spiegel & Grau, 2016)

*Born a Crime* is a memoir by Trevor Noah, the South African comedian who shouldered the unenviable task of succeeding Jon Stewart as the host of *The Daily Show* in late 2015. Subtitled "Stories from a South African Childhood," the book provides a window into two extraordinary personalities—those of Noah and his Xhosa mother Patricia Nombuyiselo Noah, who dared to fall in love and bear a child with a white man under apartheid. Patricia Noah is a force of nature, and the author's relationship with her is the axis around which the book revolves.

Trevor spins tales of childhood adventure, teen heartbreak, and occasional hair-raising violence (if you're a cat lover, you may wish to skip the first couple of pages of Chapter 7). He reveals himself to be relentlessly curious and bright, forever exploring the possibilities available to him despite the oppression of apartheid, the weight of which is felt throughout. I lost count of how many languages Noah speaks but am fairly sure the task would require the fingers of more than one hand. Indeed, Noah is a walking advertisement for diversity, for the fact that his life spans so many borders—between languages, races, countries, and eras of South African history—is what has made him what he is, one of the most cogent political commentators currently on the air.

Reviewed by Paul Hahn

Library assistant, Gaylord Music Library

### A GOLDEN AGE

By Tahmima Anam (Harper Audio, 2008)

Lately I have enriched my commute with audiobooks from Olin Library's Neureuther Popular Literature collection. One of my favorites is Tahmima Anam's *A Golden Age*, a novel of family and belonging set during the Bangladesh War of Independence of 1971.

The protagonist, Rehana Haque, is a widow whose first loyalty is to her family, and who has little investment in nationalist politics. Her narrative centers around the daily rituals of homemaking, monitoring her children's health, and especially food. Despite Rehana's attempts to maintain normalcy and quiet amidst the violence of war, she finds herself drawn into the thick of the Revolutionary movement.

*A Golden Age* is also the story of a mother whose children are coming of age and asserting their independence. By interlacing personal and political drama, Anam gently prepares the reader for the difficult decisions that the characters must make and the pain of sacrifice. Madhur Jaffrey, the audiobook narrator of *A Golden Age*, conveys the emotion of both dialogue and narrative with her voice, making for an enjoyable listening experience. *A Golden Age* is the first volume in a trilogy by Anam. I look forward to reading the other books in the series, *The Good Muslim* and *The Bones of Grace*.

Reviewed by AJ Robinson

Islamic, Near Eastern, and South Asian Studies Librarian

### THE MEMOIRS OF LADY HYEGYŎNG: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITINGS OF A CROWN PRINCESS OF EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY KOREA

Translated by JaHyun Kim Haboush

(University of California Press, 2013)

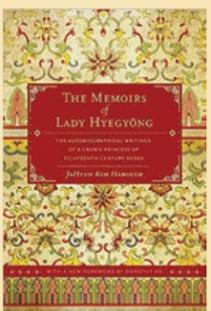
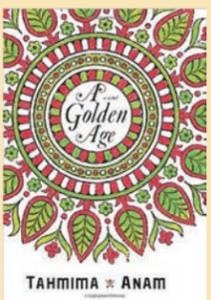
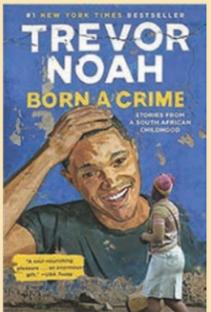
In 1744, at only 9 years old, Lady Hyegyŏng was chosen to be the wife of Prince Sado, the future king of Korea, and taken to live in the royal palace. Eighteen years later, Prince Sado was executed at the command of his father, King Yŏngjo, who ordered him to climb into a rice chest, where he died of starvation.

Korean historians are still divided over what led up to that dramatic moment. Was Sado the innocent victim of political enemies, or a mentally ill killer who was unable to control himself and unfit to rule? Lady Hyegyŏng's *Memoirs*, which paint her husband as a sensitive, unstable young man desperate to please his father and prone to obsessive thoughts and delusions—and to cutting off people's heads—are the chief evidence for the latter opinion.

The book covers Lady Hyegyŏng's childhood and life as a princess and offers a fascinating look at the political intrigue and culture of the royal palace, as well as a firsthand account of her husband's terrifying mental illness and tragic death. Haboush's translation is excellent, and her extensive notes give the necessary historical and cultural context, so no special knowledge of Korean history is needed to understand Lady Hyegyŏng's story. This is an excellent book for anyone interested in Korean history or women's narratives.

Reviewed by Ryan Wallace

Library assistant, Ronald Rettner Earth & Planetary Sciences Library



## STAFF NOTES NEW FACES

WU Libraries welcomed **AMANDA ALBERT** as information literacy coordinator in February. Albert's responsibilities include coordinating the Libraries' activities with the College Writing 1 program and providing support for library employees who serve as instructors. Prior to joining WU Libraries, Albert worked as access services coordinator for the Medical Center Library at Saint Louis University, as an information associate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and as distance learning librarian and librarian assistant professor at Kennesaw State University. Most recently, she served as instructional services librarian and assistant professor at Saint Louis University Libraries. Albert holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Webster University and a master's degree in library and information science from Syracuse University.



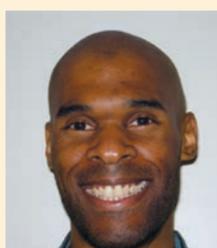
≈ Amanda Albert



≈ Stephanie Bemberg



≈ Nicole Fry



≈ Bryan Henderson



≈ Sarah Weeks

**STEPHANIE BEMBERG** joined WU Libraries in January as grants and accounts specialist. Her responsibilities include overseeing grant operations, working with principal investigators on pre- and post-award grant processes, and maintaining an online database of grants. Bemberg also works to identify grant opportunities and match them to WU Libraries programs, generating new funding opportunities that fit the Libraries' organizational priorities. Bemberg comes to the WU Libraries with more than 19 years of experience, including work as a research grant analyst in WU's Office of Sponsored Research Services. She holds a bachelor of music degree from Missouri State University and a master of music from the University of Arkansas. She completed post-graduate studies in piano at École Normale de Musique de Paris in Paris, France.

WU Libraries welcomed **NICOLE FRY** as library technical assistant for the Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP) project in January. In this two-year, grant-funded position, Fry oversees digitization work for the Newman portal, supervises a team of student workers, and manages NNP collections in the Internet Archive. Fry worked as a student on the NNP project in 2016. With her previous experience, she brings knowledge of the project's goals, workflows, and staff. Fry holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in studio art from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a master of fine arts degree in studio art from Washington University.

**BRYAN HENDERSON** joined the staff of the WU Libraries in October 2016. As a library technical assistant, he is part of the Support Services unit. Henderson handles ordering, shipping, receiving, mail delivery, and assembly at WU Libraries'



≈ Derrick Nickson



≈ Ellen Riney

Danforth Campus and West Campus locations. He has more than six years of work experience, including time spent as a customer service associate with AT&T. Henderson holds a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in drawing from Webster University.

**DERRICK NICKSON** began work at WU Libraries in November 2016 as a library technical assistant. Nickson is part of the Support Services team. His responsibilities include ordering, shipping, receiving, mail delivery, and assembly at WU Libraries' Danforth Campus and West Campus locations. Nickson brings more than two years of experience to the WU Libraries, having worked as a customer service associate with Executive Management.

**ELLEN RINEY** came to the WU Libraries in December 2016. As a library assistant in the Kopolow Business Library, she is responsible for all circulation services, including reserve material. She also handles citation analysis and prepares print journals for binding. Additionally, she hires, trains, manages, and performs budgeting for student assistants in the Kopolow Business Library. Before joining WU Libraries, Riney spent seven years at Barnes and Noble, where she trained new employees, managed inventory, and organized in-store events such as book fairs and author signings. Riney holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Maryville University.

In February, **SARAH WEEKS** joined the Kranzberg Art & Architecture Library team as library assistant. She manages the library's service desk, hires, trains, and supervises student assistants, and provides circulation, research, and technology support to users. Weeks' background includes work as evening and weekend librarian at Lindenwood University and as corporate librarian at Anheuser-Busch InBev. Weeks has experience in historic preservation and recently developed a WordPress website and implemented ILS and CollectiveAccess archival database software and metadata schema for the National Building Arts Center library collection. She holds a bachelor's degree in rhetoric from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Washington.



## Special Collections Outreach Program Introduced at WU Libraries

WU Libraries' Special Collections unit introduced a new outreach program in 2016. The goal of the program is to strengthen connections between Special Collections and other areas of WU Libraries, to raise awareness of Special Collections' holdings and services among staff, and to spread knowledge of archival practices. The program will offer a variety of lectures, workshops, and tours for staff, with fellowship opportunities in the department planned for the summer of 2017.

Joy Novak, head of collection management and outreach for Special Collections, kicked the program off in August with a talk called "Archives 101." Novak discussed the key concepts of archival theory in the Arc Lab in Olin Library. A September "Behind the Scenes" tour of the West Campus Special Collections vault and processing areas was led by Jim Hone, Andrea Degener, Sarah Schnuriger, Irene Taylor, Tyler Bequette, Barry Kelley, Tony De Marinis, Mary Whiteley, and Rose Haynes.

The program's "Curator Conversations" workshops offer overviews of exhibit materials, collections, and the work that goes into managing them. University Archivist Sonya Rooney led a session in September that focused on how University Archives supports teaching and learning in the campus community. In March, Skye Lacerte, curator of the D.B. Dowd Modern Graphic History Library, gave a talk about digitizing tear sheets from the Walt Reed Illustration Archive, a project funded by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Novak is excited about the program and happy with the response from her colleagues. "Special Collections has so much to offer that the staff will find interesting," she says. "We plan to provide a variety of workshops and to keep the topics diverse. Some of the sessions come from an academic, theoretical perspective, while others are focused on collections and materials."

The department will present workshops throughout the year, with new topics and possible repeat sessions held for new staff.

## STAFF NOTES NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Three GIS Staffers Contribute to Publications

Data Services Coordinator and Research Transparency Librarian **CYNTHIA HUDSON-VITALE** authored a chapter for the 2017 volume *Curating Research Data: Practical Strategies for Your Digital Repository*, edited by Lisa Johnston and published by ACRL. The chapter, entitled "The Current State of Meta-Repositories for Data," provides an analysis of international meta-repositories, focusing on their objectives, purposes, and challenges.

Data Specialist **CINDY TRAUB** co-authored an article that appeared in March in the international weekly science journal *Nature*. Traub worked with Michael Frachetti and C. Evan Smith of WU's anthropology department and Tim Williams of University College London on an exploration of the patterns and predictability of Silk Road sites in Asia. Their research resulted in an article called "Nomadic ecology shaped the highland geography of Asia's Silk Roads." GIS Programmer **MOLLIE WEBB** also contributed to the project.

### Holland Chosen for PLAN Program

**CHERYL HOLLAND** has been chosen to join the 2017 cohort of WU's Professional Leadership Academy & Network (PLAN). PLAN is a yearlong professional development program stewarded by the Office of the Provost that cultivates future leaders at WU. PLAN offers a curriculum that enhances staff growth and productivity in order to provide the university with leaders who will contribute to initiatives and projects. The program features retreats and monthly Lunch and Learns.

### Zeller and Stenberg Publish Book Chapter

Copyright Services Analyst **MICAH ZELLER** and Digital Publishing and Digital Preservation Librarian **EMILY STENBERG** co-authored a chapter called "Faculty Require Online Distribution of Student Work: Enter the Librarian" that was included in the December 2016 book *Open Access and the Future of Scholarly Communication* (Rowman & Littlefield). The chapter addresses legal mechanisms, privacy rights, online identity, platform choice, and ethical questions related to mandating a digital presence.



≈ Cynthia Hudson-Vitale



≈ Cindy Traub



≈ Mollie Webb



≈ Cheryl Holland



≈ Micah Zeller

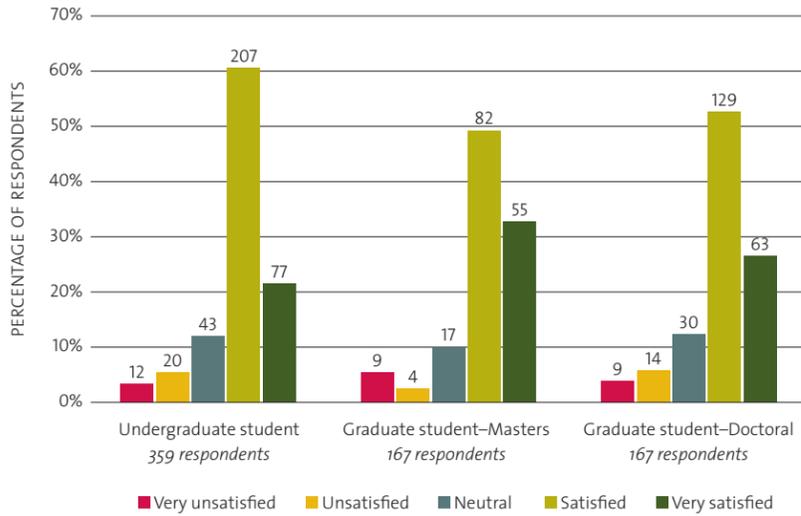


≈ Emily Stenberg

# Survey Results:

## WHAT STUDENTS TOLD US

### OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

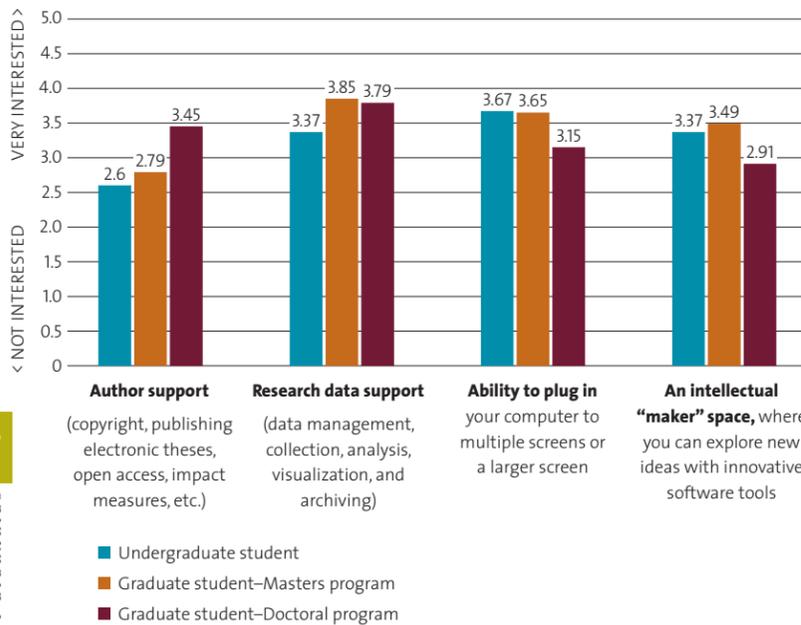


### MORE THAN 800 STUDENTS RESPONDED TO WU LIBRARIES' STUDENT LIBRARY SURVEY IN OCTOBER 2016.

The purpose of the survey was to provide a clear snapshot of user needs, highlighting areas for deeper investigation. While we continue to analyze the data, there are already some preliminary findings to share.

Overall, student satisfaction with WU Libraries is strong, although the early stages of the Olin Library renovation have caused some disruptions. On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very satisfied, the overall scores landed at 3.9.

### HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING EMERGING SERVICES?



### THE 2016 SURVEY INCLUDED A NEW SECTION OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EMERGING SERVICES

in the WU Libraries. Graduate students rated research data support as their highest priority, while undergraduates rated the ability to plug their computers in to multiple or larger screens as most appealing (see chart at left).

### THE 2016 SURVEY YIELDED OVER 1100 COMMENTS ABOUT COLLECTIONS, SERVICES, AND SPACES.

A few of the factors we're now tackling include:

- The absence of Whispers Café during the renovation to Olin Library
- The volume of printing in Olin Library, which has resulted in systems issues
- Better access/navigation to online resources, particularly e-journals

Library teams are working with students to understand and respond to these and other issues. As progress is made, we will post the information on the WU Libraries website. For more information about the survey, contact Assessment Coordinator Carol Mollman at mollmena@wustl.edu or 314.935.6465.



≈ Jody Mitori



≈ Julie Hale

*Off the Shelf* is a publication of Washington University Libraries, published for Washington University faculty, staff, and supporters of the Washington University Libraries, and colleagues at many other research libraries.

**Executive Editor:** Jody Mitori  
**Writer and Managing Editor:** Julie Hale  
**Contributor:** Miranda Rectenwald

If you have comments, questions, or address changes, email [jhale@wustl.edu](mailto:jhale@wustl.edu) or write to:

Communications & Special Events  
 Washington University Libraries  
 Campus Box 1061  
 One Brookings Drive  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899

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### OLIN LIBRARY HOSTS MAJOR/MINOR OPEN HOUSE

≈ Librarians Jessica Kleekamp and Melissa Vetterman the table at the Major/Minor Open House. *WU Libraries*

### IN SUPPORT OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES' ARTSCI MAJOR-MINOR WELCOME WEEK,

Washington University Libraries held an open house for students February 9-10. Geared toward freshmen and sophomores, the open house gave students an opportunity to meet with librarians from Research Services and learn about resources connected to their potential areas of study. About 100 students stopped by tables set up in the lobby of Olin to pick up information on library services

and grab a snack. Students also had the opportunity to make original button artwork related to their desired majors. Along with Research Services, other library units, including Special Collections and Scholarly Communications, set up tables at the event with takeaway material for students. A joint Access Services/ Instructional Support Services table had examples of the technology items (digital cameras, video projectors, and more) available for checkout at WU Libraries. Tours of Olin were also offered.



≈ Mary Druyvesteyn

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPORTING** the Washington University Libraries through annual fund gifts, endowments, or other types of giving, contact the Libraries' director of development, Mary Druyvesteyn, at 314.935.5219 or [druyvesteyn@wustl.edu](mailto:druyvesteyn@wustl.edu).

### FOLLOW US:



### WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HAS 12 LIBRARIES:

the John M. Olin Library and nine school or departmental libraries on the Danforth Campus, one library at the Medical School Campus, and one at West Campus.

*Change service requested*

FSC

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



### LOOKING BEYOND THE SURFACE OF ST. LOUIS HISTORY

A single image provides many perspectives for visitors to WU Libraries' Department of Special Collections. This 1964 aerial shot shows St. Louis' Chinatown (highlighted in blue), a frequent topic of research for American Culture Studies students at WU. Established in the mid-1800s in the block between Market, Walnut, and 7th and 8th streets, by 1966 the neighborhood—also known as Hop Alley—was removed to make way for the construction of Busch Stadium.

The Entre Nous (designated by the blue marker), one of the city's earliest gay bars, which operated at 617 Pine Street from the 1930s through the 1950s, was also in the area. WU Libraries is working with the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies on the project "Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis" to create GIS-encoded maps that highlight the region's under-documented queer history. Finally, the photo shows the Mississippi riverfront under construction.

≈ 1964, downtown St. Louis, looking east across the Mississippi River. WU Photographic Services Collection, #64-288-3. Department of Special Collections.

The development of the riverfront is a subject that landscape architecture students are researching in order to learn how the planning and construction of the Gateway Arch altered the city's greenspace (shown here about half-way complete). To learn more about Local History collections available in Special Collections, see [libguides.wustl.edu/stl-urban-history](http://libguides.wustl.edu/stl-urban-history).