Yale Contributes to the World Digital Library

Yale University Library joined with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the Library of Congress, and approximately 40 international institutions in Paris in April 2009 to launch the World Digital Library (WDL), a web site that features unique cultural materials from libraries and archives around the world. The site, http://www.wdl.org, aims to provide free, unrestricted public access to manuscripts, maps, rare books, films, sound recordings, prints, photographs and other cultural heritage materials in digital format. The partnership will grow rapidly in content and with new library partners.

Yale has contributed a number of important works in the pilot phase, including 22 pencil drawings of the Amistad slave ship prisoners, ca. 1839–40; William Clark’s 1810 map of North America; an Arabic calligraphy primer, ca. 1852–53; and one of three manuscript copies of Ferdinand Magellan’s journal from his voyage around the world in 1522. As the project expands, more content will be added from digital collections across the University, reflecting the international strength of Yale’s holdings.

The launch took place at UNESCO’s headquarters, co-hosted by UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Leaders from the partner institutions were on hand to present the project to ambassadors, ministers, delegates and special guests attending the semi-annual meeting of UNESCO’s Executive Board.

Associate University Librarian Ann Okerson represented Yale at the launch and said, “One of the Library’s highest priorities is to support and promote Yale as a truly global university. The WDL will not only open many of our collections to the world, but will also support teaching and scholarship at Yale in area studies, languages and world cultures.”

The WDL’s staff and volunteers translate the content descriptions into seven languages, with content in more than 40. Browse and search features facilitate cross-cultural and cross-temporal exploration on the site. Descriptions and videos, some with expert curators speaking about selected items, provide context intended to spark curiosity and encourage both students and the general public to learn more about the cultural heritage of all countries.

In September 2009 the Library of Congress provided Yale with initial viewing data for its contributions to the WDL. Yale content has been viewed 193,431 times between April 21 and August 31 and Library staff find it encouraging that of the top 20 items, only half are the English language versions of the metadata record. This means that materials are reaching non-English speakers in their native languages and scripts at an unprecedented rate.

The Library of Congress and UNESCO are currently drafting a WDL Charter that will establish a governance structure for this important new cultural resource. –AO & GL

Pencil sketch of Kimbo, one of the Amistad Prisoners, by William H. Townsend, ca. 1839–1840. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.
University Librarian Appointed Principal of Somerville College, Oxford

Yale University Librarian Alice Prochaska has been appointed Principal Somerville College at Oxford University and will take up her duties there in September 2010.

Prochaska has been University Librarian since August 2001 and previously served as Director of Special Collections at the British Library. She studied at Somerville and received her undergraduate degree and doctorate in Modern History from Oxford.

In announcing Alice’s appointment, President Richard C. Levin said “During her eight years as our University Librarian, Alice has provided conspicuous leadership in advancing Yale’s library system — although she would be the first to say that it is not her work, but that of the library staff that should be credited.” Levin added, “It has given her particular pride to see the Yale University Library develop as the leading international research library of North America, with its growing strengths in nearly all parts of the world and extraordinary collections of special, rare, and unique materials.”

Borrow Direct Milestones

The 1 millionth item request through the Borrow Direct interlibrary loan service was created and filled on May 9, 2009. The book was Salman Rushdie’s The Moor’s Last Sigh (Pantheon, 1995) and was lent by the University of Pennsylvania Library to a reader at Princeton University.

Borrow Direct, which also celebrates its tenth birthday in 2009, is one of the most popular forms of interlibrary loan currently offered by seven of the Ivy League library systems. Originally designed by librarians and programmers from Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University, collectively known as CoPY, the pilot service was launched on November 29, 1999. Several years later the libraries at Brown, Dartmouth, and Princeton joined the original partners.

The service allows any current faculty, student, or staff member from any of the participating institutions to locate and request a known titled monograph online. Within four days or less the book is retrieved and shipped for pick-up at the requestor’s home library. A survey of readers a few years ago identified several perceived advantages of this service over other interlibrary loan systems. Most important to readers has been the ability to request any circulating monograph that is not available for use at their home institutions, including items currently charged out to others as well as materials not owned by their library. Borrowers also appreciate that the service is fast, highly reliable, free, and easy to use. In the 2008–09 fiscal year, Yale readers requested over 30,000 items through Borrow Direct, while Yale filled just over 27,000 loans for readers elsewhere. —DAN

President Levin lauded Prochaska for enhancing global outreach at the library and providing leadership in local outreach programs, including a strengthening network of relationships with schools, colleges, and public libraries in the New Haven area and throughout Connecticut. She has also partnered with Local 34 members of staff to improve labor relations and promote diversity in the workplace, and led technical advances that included digitizing significant parts of the library’s own collections. During her tenure she also oversaw the advances in development and improvements in the library system, ranging from the renovation of the Lewis Walpole Library in Farmington and the Bass Library to an expansion of the Library Shelving Facility in Hamden, among other projects.

Prochaska will take a semester’s leave starting in January 2010. She plans to use some of Yale’s collections in her own research on the topic of the history of cultural restitution and claims for repatriation of cultural materials in the 20th century. —GL
Three doctoral candidates were recently awarded fellowships to attend the annual meeting of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement and Non-Western Christianity and conduct research at the Yale Divinity Library. The fellowships were supported by the David M. Stowe Fund for Mission Research.

The 2009 Stowe Fellows were Daniel Ahn, Joanna Baradziej, and Emily Manktelow. Ahn is a student at the Centre for the Study of World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh. His research focuses on the “Term Controversy” in the translation of the Bible into Chinese and Korean. Baradziej studies at the University of Gdansk in Poland and is looking at female missionaries in Manchuria from the United Free Church of Scotland, the Lutheran Church of Denmark, and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Manktelow is doing her doctoral work at King’s College, London, and is focusing on missionary families and the London Missionary Society, 1795–1895.

Yale Library Studies, a new series from the Library, will be published in December 2009. It succeeds the Yale University Library Gazette, which was published in 82 volumes from 1926 to 2008 and edited by a series of distinguished scholar-librarians, including Donald C. Gallup, Patricia C. Willis, and Stephen Parks.

Each volume of Yale Library Studies, which will appear annually, will explore a different theme and will contain articles by Yale faculty, library staff, experts in that particular field, and invited authors. The inaugural volume, Library Architecture at Yale, features articles by Robert A.M. Stern, Danuta A. Nitecki, the late Charles Gwathmey, and the late Marjorie G. Wynne. The second and third issues will explore collections and the collectors who built them, and teaching and learning with collections.

The first issue will be available for $50 plus tax and shipping and handling. Yale Library Associates will receive separate details on how they will receive the series. To be alerted when the first issue is published and to register your interest, e-mail Jason Helms (jason.helms@yale.edu) in Library Administrative Services. Please note that given the holiday mail, some subscribers may not receive their copy until early in the New Year.

The Yale-Edinburgh Group was formed in 1992 under the leadership of Lamin Sanneh, D. Willis James Professor of World Christianity at Yale, and Andrew Walls of the University of Edinburgh to facilitate discussion and exchange of information about historical aspects of the missionary movement and the development of world Christianity.

The three Stowe fellows were thrilled to be able to take advantage of the Yale Divinity Library’s world-renowned collections documenting the history of the missionary movement and world Christianity.

More than sixty professors, graduate students, archivists, and independent scholars from throughout the world, including the United Kingdom, India, Korea, Myanmar, Poland, and Switzerland, attended this year’s Yale-Edinburgh Group. The meeting’s theme was “Missions, Law, and Custom.” Dr. Brian Stanley, Director of the Centre for the Study of World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh, presented the Day Associates Lecture on July 3 on the topic “‘From the ‘Poor Heathen’ to ‘the Glory and Honour of all Nations’: Vocabularies of Race and Custom in Protestant Missions, 1844–1928.”

The Yale-Edinburgh Group is hosted in alternate years by the University of Edinburgh and Yale Divinity School.
Carnegie Hall Concert and Lecture to Mark OHAM Anniversary

In 1969, music historian Vivian Perlis, then a part-time reference librarian at Yale’s Music Library, conducted an interview with the former business partner of composer Charles Ives. That nearly spontaneous act was the seminal event in creating what is today Oral History of American Music (OHAM), the preeminent project dedicated to the collection and preservation of oral and video memoirs of creative musicians. This year, OHAM celebrates its 40th anniversary with events that include a lecture by Perlis, OHAM’s Founder and Director, along with Associate Director Libby Van Cleve, on November 3 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sterling Memorial Library lecture hall (128 Wall St). The lecture will also feature engaging audio excerpts from the collection.

OHAM’s anniversary will culminate in “Voices of American Music: A Tribute to the Oral History of American Music Project at Yale.” This multi-media concert, performed by Yale School of Music faculty and students, will take place on April 6, 2010 in Yale’s Sprague Hall as part of Yale’s Chamber Music Society concert series, and on April 8 in New York City in Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall’s black-box theater, as part of the “Yale in New York” series. Works by composers including Charles Ives, Duke Ellington, Eubie Blake, John Cage, Aaron Copland, Steve Reich, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, will be interspersed with related audio and video footage from OHAM interviews. The Carnegie Hall performance is free and open to the public and members of the Yale community are invited to participate in the celebration of this special collection. –AR

Yale’s E-books Go Mobile

E-book collections in Yale University Library increased from approximately 475,000 titles in 2005 to over 1 million titles in 2009. Concurrently, the demand for mobile access to information and e-books in libraries has grown, fueled by technological developments and by the expanding number of digitized and born digital e-books now available to consumers.

A recent study, conducted by Lisa Carlucci Thomas, Digital Collections Librarian, examined mobile access to Yale’s e-book collections using four devices: the Amazon Kindle 2, Sony Reader PRS-500, iRex iLiad (second edition), and the Apple iPod Touch (which uses the same firmware as the iPhone). Study findings indicate that 84% of Yale’s e-book collections can be accessed using an Apple iPod Touch or iPhone, and 24% can be accessed using the Sony Reader, iRex iLiad, and Amazon Kindle 2.o.

As readers increasingly employ new mobile methods of accessing library collections, studies such as this one establish a critical baseline for the development of future services. This is one of several endeavors at the Yale Library to expand knowledge about the mobile information environment, adapt and enhance library services using mobile devices, and promote mobile access to scholarly resources. –LCT

New Library Initiative Provides Support to Study Abroad

After two surveys conducted in spring 2009 of the library and information needs of Yale undergraduates studying abroad, the Yale Library launched a new initiative to support the growing number of students who take courses or conduct research overseas.

The new program, designed in collaboration with the Yale College Center for International Experience (CIE) and the Yale Center for Language Study (CLS), initially focused on two categories of students: those enrolled in one of approximately 30 Yale Summer Session (YSS) Study Abroad courses offered in 20 locations overseas, and students who travel to pursue a research project on their own.

The Library Support to Study and Research Abroad program included a series of drop-in orientation sessions offered over two weeks in late April to ensure that all students going abroad were aware of the possibility to access Library resources remotely, to help them install or test VPN software, and to assist them with Library-related questions and issues pertaining to their travel abroad. Subject specialist Field Librarians were also assigned to each of the 370 study abroad students based on courses and destinations abroad. Field Librarians advised students and their teachers on specific Library resources pertaining to their destination countries, as well as on the best way to access these resources.

A dedicated online research guide was also created, featuring extensive information on off-campus access, Library resources and services to students going abroad, practical advice, and country- or course-related information. –GK
Medical Library Exhibit Showcased Soviet Sexual Health Posters

This spring a large audience of students, Library staff, and Yale Medical School alumni gathered for a tour of A Soviet Poster Campaign Against Venereal Disease, 1928, an exhibit on display in the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library rotunda from April 23 to May 28, 2009. Prepared by Alexander Kazberouk, Class of 2010, and Curator of Prints and Drawings Susan Wheeler, the exhibit introduced a recent Medical Library acquisition: Venereal Diseases and the Fight Against Them.

The portfolio of forty posters for exhibition and use in public lectures, accompanied by detailed instructions for their use, was distributed throughout the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (the largest and most populous of the fifteen Soviet republics of the Soviet Union) in 1928 by the People’s Commissariat on Health. “The Soviet government is waging a relentless battle against venereal diseases” the first poster of the series announced. “Participation in this battle is everyone’s duty,” cried another. The complete set of posters with English translation was also available for viewing in the rotunda using an onsite computer.

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Yale University Library lost a dear friend and colleague with the death of Marjorie G. Wynne on April 5, 2009.

Known as “Miss Wynne” to librarians around the world and to generations of Yale students and faculty, she joined the staff of the Yale University Library’s Rare Book Room in 1942 after studying at Duke University and the School of Librarianship at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1963, she moved the rare book collections from Sterling Memorial Library to the newly opened Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and was named the Edwin J. Beinecke Research Librarian. She retired in 1987.

Wynne was one of the founders and the moving spirit behind the Rare Book and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer. At the 2007 meeting of RBMS in Los Angeles, it was announced that Yale had set up a scholarship in her name to enable an early-career librarian to attend the section conference each year. Wynne also established a fellowship in her name at the Beinecke Library for a visiting scholar to visit and study the collections for a period each year.

Miss Wynne was also active in the International Association of Bibliophiles, the Bibliographical Society of America, the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Grolier Club of New York, the Yale Library Associates, and Yale’s Elizabetian Club.

Gifts in her memory can be made to the Marjorie G. Wynne Fellowship, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, P.O. Box 208240, New Haven, CT 06520-8240. –NFL & GL
The papers of William F. Buckley, Jr. ’50 are now part of the permanent collection of the Department of Manuscripts and Archives thanks to the generosity of his son, Christopher T. Buckley ’75. Credited with launching the modern conservative movement in America, the elder Buckley deposited more than seven tons of unpublished material in Manuscripts and Archives prior to his death in February 2008, with the intent that it eventually be donated to the University. The papers have been part of the department since the mid-1960s where they have been accessible to scholars and students for over 40 years. Christopher Buckley also donated his correspondence with his father that will be a separate manuscript collection in Manuscripts and Archives.

The William F. Buckley, Jr. Papers span more than 65 years, beginning with personal correspondence from Buckley’s time at Millbrook Preparatory School. The collection also holds material from his days at Yale, including photos, awards, commendations and editorials from his tenure as chair of the Yale Daily News. The largest section is Buckley’s correspondence written during the time he served as editor-in-chief of the National Review. Documents from his 1965 New York City mayoral campaign also provide insight into the rise of conservatism, and manuscripts of his books are also a highlight of the collection.

A cultural and political icon, Buckley first gained national attention in 1951, when he published God and Man at Yale: The Superstitions of “Academic Freedom”. Following this first success, Buckley...
This past May, the Library’s Emergency Plan Task Force unveiled the new “Emergency Preparation and Response Training Guide.” This is the first time that the Library has had a comprehensive emergency recovery plan for collections.

Preservation Department staff will work to create tailored and specific emergency preparation and response plans for each Library unit and will also assign preservation managers. Some of the following areas to be addressed are prioritization of collections for recovery; preparation of emergency evacuation route maps; receipt and maintenance of emergency supplies (with kits to be delivered by the Preservation Department); orientation on using supplies; and the creation and maintenance of emergency contact phone lists.

Preservation managers are meeting with collection contacts or curators over the coming months. The Divinity Library was the first department to go through this new planning process and they have successfully prioritized their collections, created evacuation maps, and have a fully up-to-date emergency response plan.

Emergency preparation is an important and necessary responsibility for all libraries and departments and ensures the safety of collections and staff. The Emergency Plan Task Force is composed of staff members Sarah Burge, Renee Cawley, and Tara Kennedy. —TK

Emergency Preparation and Response Guide Launched

Founded in 1930 by an eminent group of bibliophiles, the Yale Library Associates provide support and visibility for Yale’s libraries. Their forty-member Board of Trustees includes Lynn Hanke, the focus of this Trustee’s Corner.

Lynn Hanke is a producer, archivist and “otherwise general catalyst” for a number of theatre and film productions, including the 2008 independent film *Gilbert and George*, a documentary on the famous British contemporary artists that premiered at the Yale Center for British Art. Lynn’s firm, Polaris Arts, Ltd., a New York-based media production company, was co-founded in 1989 by Lynn and her husband, G. F. Robert (Rob) Hanke, Yale ’60. Lynn and Rob are generous contributors to Yale, supporting the Library, the visual and dramatic arts, the Class of 1960, various Yale sports, and they are members of the Friends of British Art at the British Art Center. Lynn’s career followed an education that included the Chapin School in New York, Franklin College in Switzerland, The New School University in New York, and NYU’s Tisch School for the Arts. Lynn served as Assistant to the Director for the Acquavella Galleries in New York, and now collaborates with international artists, actors, writers and sports figures. —AJP & KH
Please see [http://calendar.yale.edu](http://calendar.yale.edu) for a list of events and exhibitions across the University.