

Nota Bene *News from the Yale Library*

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YALE LIBRARY HONORED FOR INTERNSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Yale University Library received the first annual Ivy Award from New Haven Promise, a program that provides scholarships and career development support to graduates of New Haven schools. The award, presented on August 16, recognizes the library's strong support of the group's career launch and civic engagement initiatives.

"In the last year, Yale University Library has strengthened its commitment by hiring eleven paid interns in 2018," noted New Haven Promise President Patricia Melton. Melton also praised the library's public outreach, with special mention of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. "Because of your involvement and dedication, our organization, our internship program, and the greater New Haven community have prospered and continued to flourish," she concluded.

The eleven Yale University Library interns worked in Library Information Technology, the Center for Science and Social Science Information, the Stat Lab, User Experience and Assessment, and the Beinecke Library. Two more Promise interns worked in the reference library of the Yale Center for British Art and one in the Lillian Goldman Law Library. All together,



Yale libraries hosted fourteen of the ninety-eight Promise interns at Yale last summer. (See related article, pp. 8-9.)

"We are honored by this award, which reflects the commitment of many library staff to serve as supervisors, mentors, and colleagues to the interns," said Susan Gibbons, the Stephen F. Gates '68 University Librarian, who recently hosted the students for breakfast. "This program is a priority for the library because we want to give back to New Haven, but I also hope that some of the interns may become interested in library careers through this experience and become our librarian colleagues in the not-too-distant future."

Melton noted that the internships are particularly valuable because they introduce students to the many technologies that are foundational to the library's work. "They can and are applying these skills back in college, which sets them apart from their peers," she said.

Yale University Library is the first recipient of New Haven Promise's Ivy Award. Photo: Cristina Anastase

Associate University Librarian for Science, Social Science and Medicine Jill Parchuk (center), pictured with New Haven Promise President Patricia Melton and Yale President Peter Salovey, accepted the award on behalf of the library. Photo: Arnold Gold

Even when many students and faculty are away from campus, the work of the university's libraries continues unabated. Here are a few projects and initiatives from summer 2018.

Archives at Yale A team led by Information Technology Portfolio Manager Melissa Wisner completed the 18-month development of Archives at Yale (archives.yale.edu), a powerful new software tool that lets users search more precisely through more than 5,000 collections in the archives and special collections of ten Yale libraries and other repositories. Development of the new system, which went live in September, included extensive user testing to make the search process more intuitive and accessible for faculty, students, and researchers. Collection finding aids — written descriptions of collection contents — have been enhanced and standardized to address elements like inconsistent date formats that can trip up search tools and prevent relevant items from showing up in a search.

Another innovation: Archives at Yale searches can be limited to a specific date range, to help screen out irrelevant results. Additionally, when material on a research topic is spread across multiple collections, Archives at Yale will lead users to specific folders within collections, rather than just the collections. “Doing archival research can be a bit of a treasure hunt, when materials are buried in big collections with lengthy finding aids,” said Ève Bourbeau-Allard, processing archivist at the Beinecke Library. “This saves a lot of time and makes the results less opaque, like lifting a veil.”

Archives at Yale is a major milestone in a university-wide initiative to unify the experience of working in archives and special collections across campus. “The culmination of this project is a modern technical platform for archives and special collections that will not only improve discovery and use of Yale’s rich collections, but will also bring forward additional service integrations and comprehensive collections management for our culture heritage,” Wisner said.

Architects, project managers, and construction workers worked through the summer to transform the historic Franke Family Reading Room in Sterling Memorial Library into a new campus hub for applying advanced computing to humanities-related data. The Franke Family Digital Humanities Laboratory (seen here, mid-construction, in July) will officially open in October.



Promise Interns at Work Fourteen New Haven Promise interns (related story on p. 1) worked on a wide range of projects at libraries across campus.

Shirley-Ann Feliciano and Sam Smith interned with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Librarian Miriam Olivares in the library’s Center for Science and Social Science Information. The two students created and updated instructional videos used to teach GIS, sophisticated data mapping software that can be used to analyze, manipulate, and present any geographical data.

Smith, a pre-med student majoring in math and chemistry at the University of Miami, had never heard of GIS before this summer. Now he sees the enormous potential for applications, such as analyzing and predicting the spread of disease. The internship “has opened up a whole new world of possibilities,” he said.



The Preservation Department was one of five conservation labs nationwide providing internships to students from historically black colleges and universities, part of a pilot program to foster diversity in the preservation profession. Intern Erin Matthews, a rising sophomore from Hampton University, is pictured in the Gates Conservation Laboratory, assisting with a paper mending project.



At the Beinecke Library, communications interns Dante Haughton and Tubyez Cropper helped organize a July 5 public reading of the Declaration of Independence and Frederick Douglass's 1852 oration, now known as "What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?" "It made my day to see so many people take interest in such a historic event in our nation's timeline," said Cropper, who declaimed the opening passages of the Douglass oration.

In Beinecke technical services, Promise intern Claudia Schatz, a French studies major at Wesleyan University, used her language skills to sort and process the correspondence of French avant-garde artist Maurice Bismuth-Lemaître, who died in early July at the age of 92. "Since he can no longer speak for himself, his collection and this work we are doing will have to speak for him," she said. "That makes archival processing feel urgent and important."

Under Construction Two other libraries ramped up for renovations in the year ahead. At the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, construction began on a ten-month project to create a large, flexible, team-based-learning classroom and eight small classrooms in the library. To alleviate impact, library staff have added additional seating to the Morse Reading Room and the Medical Historical Library – and stocked up on earplugs.

In Farmington, the Lewis Walpole Library began an interior refurbishment of the 1784 Major General Solomon Cowles House, purchased in 1926 by the library's founder, Wilmarth S. Lewis. The refurbished house will accommodate a small conference

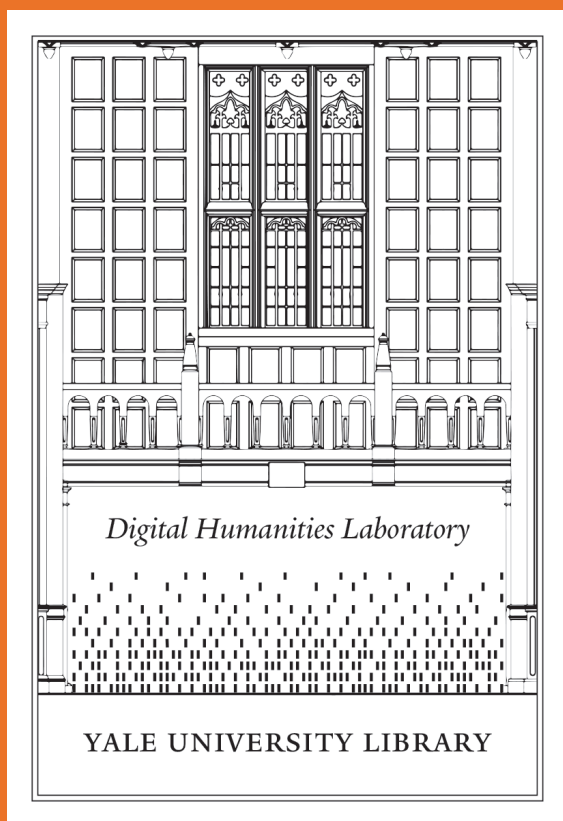
room, two scholars' studies, and space for small group gatherings. Archivist Sandra Markham spent a year inventorying and preparing the contents of the house, including Lewis-era furnishings, decorative arts, and numerous sets of fine china, for removal to temporary storage. She is also processing the extensive professional and personal papers of Lewis and his wife, Annie Burr Auchincloss Lewis. The Lewis archives will open for research in the coming months, and the house will reopen in fall 2019, in time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the bequest of the Lewis Walpole Library to Yale.



Last year's renovation of the Manuscripts and Archives space in Sterling Memorial Library got a vivid finishing touch with the August installation in the Gates Classroom of *Chords: Text (After Gutenberg)* by Richard Townsend Rose, Yale College lecturer, critic in the School of Art, and master printer in the Jonathan Edwards College Press. Rose (pictured with the work) was inspired by the library's Gothic architecture, the room's origins as a repository for Yale's Gutenberg Bible, and Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the earliest form of movable type.

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The dramatically reimagined Franke Family Digital Humanities Laboratory, opening in October, in Sterling Memorial Library combines original carved woodwork, soaring ceiling, and stained glass with high-definition monitors and other high-powered digital technology. The room's bookshelves, alternating with wall-mounted screens, will house books about topics related to digital scholarship and digital humanities. Monica Ong Reed, the DHLab's user experience designer, created this new bookplate for the book collection. Starting from traditional architectural drawings, the design also depicts one of the room's most distinctively modern features—a huge glass cube that will serve as a workspace for specialized digital humanities projects.

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