



Nota Bene

Yale Library Annual Report

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Front and back cover images: Details from the Gates Classroom,
Manuscripts and Archives, Sterling Memorial Library. Photos:
Mara Lavitt

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Yale UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

In 2016–17, we continued to move on multiple paths toward our singular goal: outstanding support for teaching, learning, and research. This common purpose knit together all of our investments in physical spaces, collections, technology, and staff—setting the stage for further progress.

Changing Spaces We began the year celebrating the reopening of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library after its sixteen-month renovation. A few months later, the top-to-bottom renovation of the Manuscripts and Archives Department in Sterling Memorial Library began. As the photos on pages 4–5 show, this iconic space, reopened in February 2018, is now equally beautiful and functional.

In between those milestones, we renovated the lower level of the Center for Science and Social Science Information (CSSSI) to create new study space, a map room, a new seminar room, an audiovisual studio, and a video wall for digital exhibits. We also finished reconfiguring the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library with new seminar rooms, comfortable reading areas, and additional large study tables in the main reference room.

Planning for the Future At the same time, we continued planning future projects to ensure optimal conditions for our collections and to meet the changing needs of students, faculty, staff, and researchers. Within Sterling, a re-imagined Franke Family Reading Room will provide a new home for work in digital humanities (pages 8–9). A major renovation of the second and third floors of Sterling will begin in January 2019, to upgrade the lighting and data network, install air conditioning, and replace the antiquated steam heating system.

Beginning in July 2018, the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library will be renovated to better support the Yale School of Medicine curriculum. The project will add new classroom space within the library's current footprint and should finish in spring 2019. Finally, a renovation of the Ann T. and Robert M. Bass Library is scheduled for summer 2019 to expand study space for the growing undergraduate population.



Teaching with Collections As President Peter Salovey has said, the myriad opportunities for students to learn from the University's extraordinary art, science, and library collections help to make a Yale education distinctive. Since the opening of new classrooms in the Beinecke and in Manuscripts and Archives, more faculty are working with us to give their students the transformative experience of engaging with original archival materials. Beinecke staff continued their collaboration with Directed Studies, in which students engage with rare manuscripts of their assigned texts. Across all disciplines, librarians continued training students in the sophisticated research skills needed to take full advantage of the library's vast digital holdings. Through the library's active exhibit program (page 12), faculty, staff, and librarians mentor students to present their research in exhibit form.

Access and Acquisitions In 2016–17, we spent \$42.6 million building our physical and digital collections, including licensing a wide range of information resources. Acquisitions ranged from Toshiyuki Takamiya's extraordinary collection of Middle English manuscripts at the Beinecke Library to detailed census, demographic, and international trade datasets purchased by CSSSI. The Haas Family Arts Library announced the acquisition of the

archives of Artspace, New Haven's vibrant 30-year-old non-profit organization for contemporary art. The Cushing-Whitney Medical Historical Library expanded its archives program, with, among others, the papers of Martha Roper, M.D., epidemiologist and global expert in maternal and neonatal tetanus. The Divinity Library prepared to incorporate special collections and archival material from the Andover Newton Theological School.

Digital Leadership Overall, we remain at the forefront of preserving born-digital research, data, and creative works that are at high risk of loss. The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies expanded outreach and remote access to a new generation of scholars (page 3). In another area, the Music Library received a grant from the Grammy Foundation to digitize audio recordings featuring the music of Charles Ives. Grants from the Sloan Foundation and Mellon Foundation are supporting an innovative digital preservation initiative (pages 7–8).

Gratitude and Appreciation Reviewing the year, I am, as always, profoundly grateful to the library's many donors and friends. The library's ongoing evolution would be impossible without their vision and generosity.

The death in July of Stephen F. Gates '68, a devoted member of the University Library Council (ULC), was a deeply felt loss to our community. Steve's extraordinary support of the library over

many years is recalled on page 6. I will always be grateful for the friendship of Steve and his wife, Laura, and I am honored to serve as the inaugural Stephen F. Gates '68 University Librarian.

Finally, this past October, we celebrated the myriad contributions of William H. Wright II '82, the ULC's distinguished Founding Chair, and we welcomed Nancy M. Better '84, a council member since 2014, as the new chair. I thank Billy for his tireless service and support, and I look forward to working closely with Nancy to continue advancing the library's critical mission.



Susan Gibbons
Stephen F. Gates '68 University Librarian
Deputy Provost, Collections & Scholarly
Communication

Nota Bene is published during the academic year to acquaint the Yale community and others with the resources of the Yale University Library.

Please direct comments and questions to Patricia Carey, Director of Communications, Yale University Library (patricia.carey@yale.edu).

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

University Librarian
Susan Gibbons

Editor
Patricia M. Carey

Copy Editor
Christa Sammons

Publication Design
Rebecca Martz, Anton Sovetov
Office of the University Printer

Proofreaders
Nancy King
Christa Sammons

Contributors
Patricia Carey (PC)
Michael Cummings (MC)
Basie Bales Gitlin '10 (BBG)
Amanda Patrick (AP)

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The Council provides support and strategic advice to advance the mission of Yale University Library.

RENOVATION EXPANDS ACCESS TO HISTORIC ARCHIVES

A major renovation has transformed the Manuscripts and Archives department's dim and drafty space in Sterling Memorial Library into a warm, inviting center for students and scholars doing archival research on America's political, legal, diplomatic, social, and cultural history.

Work began in December 2016 to modernize the soaring James Gamble Rogers-designed space with air conditioning, environmental controls, improved lighting, and enhanced security. The space now includes a new classroom to support the university's increased emphasis on teaching with archival materials.

The department's vast holdings encompass the handwritten words of figures as diverse as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Charles Lindbergh, heart-wrenching letters and diaries of soldiers from the American Revolution onward, 12,000 hours of searing Holocaust testimonies from the Fortunoff Archive,



At left, guests at the Feb. 2 re-opening event perused a sampling of Manuscripts and Archives materials in the new Gates Classroom. Photo: Harold Shapiro

Below, a view of the renovated reading room, looking toward the classroom. Photo: Mara Lavitt





Project supporters with Yale President Peter Salovey (left to right): Lynn Hanke; William S. Reese '77; Susan Gibbons; David Alan Richards '67, '72 J.D.; President Salovey, Elai Katz '92; Laura Gates; Nancy M. Better '84; and John Robinson Block '77. Photo: Harold Shapiro

the Yale University Archives, and records of organizations and individuals who advocated for the rights of the LGBTQ community. “These are unique and important materials,” Gibbons said. “This project enhances our ability to share them with students, scholars, and the public.”

In the renovated space, improved lighting draws attention to long obscured details, such as the reference area’s elaborately painted ceiling. A new stairway in the Cowles Reference Center leads to the Marx Mezzanine – previously accessible only to library staff– now transformed into a meeting space with a view of the main floor through carved wooden archways.

The reading room’s layout has been altered to improve sight lines and enhance security. Security cameras have been upgraded, and public access staff now use desktop screens to help monitor the reading room. A glass entrance lets visitors see the reading room without having to negotiate registration protocols. Just off the reading room, a glass-walled consultation room provides a space for patrons and library staff to confer.

A distinctive feature is the new Gates Classroom in the stone-vaulted space that held Yale’s Gutenberg Bible until the Beinecke Library opened in 1963. Students enter the new classroom from the Linonia



and Brothers Reading Room, so that class sessions will not disrupt the reading room.

Last year, Manuscripts and Archives staff provided original source materials for 66 class sessions with more than 1,100 participants, transporting the material for use in Bass Library classrooms. The new classroom simplifies the process and is already making it easier for faculty to incorporate archival material into their teaching. MC

History Professor Jay Gitlin and students in his “Yale and America” seminar work with original materials from the Manuscripts and Archives collections. Photo: Basie Bales Gitlin '10



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PO Box 208240, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8240

