

Among Friends

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The Newsletter of the Friends of the Library of Brown University

Sciences Library Offers Traditional and Cutting-Edge Resources

Affectionately called the “SciLi” by students and faculty alike, the Sciences Library is a center of learning at Brown.

Unmistakable on the Brown University skyline, the Sciences Library towers above campus, featuring 14 floors of research materials and services for Brown faculty and students. Although some have lamented the building’s height in contrast to those around it, others have noted the design is a metaphor for a “ladder of learning.”

Affectionately called the “SciLi” by students and faculty alike, the Sciences Library is a center of learning at Brown. It holds materials that support study and research in the fields of medicine, psychology, neuroscience, environmental science, biology, chemistry, geology, physics, engineering, computer science, and pure and applied mathematics. While almost all of these collections are housed in the Sciences Library, some of the oldest and rarest materials are kept at the John Hay Library, which is equipped to handle more delicate and fragile materials.

The Sciences Library houses an interesting blend of materials in old and new formats. Much of the scholarship in the sciences relies on the very latest research, and thus faculty and students delve into findings published in journals, more and more of

which are offered in electronic form. On the other hand, mathematics is a field that relies equally on historical information to test past theories and solve mathematical problems. Thus, a seminal book on mathematics published in 1939 is as relevant as a new book or database. These differences in how scholarship is conducted present continuing challenges as the Library strives to serve the diverse needs of Brown scholars.

Developing a comprehensive collection of scientific literature and data is a formidable financial task. For example, there are more than 20,000 medical serials currently being published. Moreover, the prices of science journals have risen over 150 percent over the last decade.

One solution to this dilemma of rising journal costs is open access publishing (OAP), where articles are written, peer reviewed and published online. Because the peer review process can be just as

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A View from the Chair

Dear Friends,

It never ceases to amaze me how deeply our Friends care about the Brown University Library. Brown alumni, students, staff, parents and members of the community do many things to ensure the Library's future will be bright. From donations of books and other research materials, to memorial gifts, to longstanding memberships with the Friends, the Library is made stronger by each act of kindness.

Because our members do so very much to help sustain the Library, we need to add new members to ensure that our foundation becomes ever stronger. While blessed with some Friends who have sustained us for over two decades, we also need new Friends who will continue their good work in the years to come. To recruit new members, we need your help!

As you know, membership in the Friends not only supports the Library, but also affords wonderful social opportunities when the Friends gather for edifying lectures, exhibitions and receptions. We hope you will help spread the word about the Friends and assist us in adding your friends, family and colleagues to our membership. If you would like to invite someone to join the Friends, you may share the membership coupon at the back of this newsletter (after you have finished reading, of course!) or you may contact the Friends office and we will send a letter of invitation.

Another important way you can help the Library is to consider honoring a loved one with a memorial gift. The Friends of the Library gratefully accept memorial gifts to support the Brown University Library's scholarly research and services. Memorial gifts further the Library's ability to provide needed research materials and support to Brown's faculty and students. Whenever possible, the Friends will acknowledge the gift to the family of the person for whom the gift was made. To make a memorial gift to the Friends of the Library, please send a note about whom the gift is to memorialize, that person's Brown class year if applicable, and contact information for the family if possible.

As always, we are indebted to our Friends for your steadfast support.

Sincerely,



Fraser A. Lang, '67, p'04

Mark Your Calendar!

Treasures from the Royal Collection

October 8, 2003, 6:30 p.m.
Providence Athenaeum
251 Benefit Street, Providence

The Providence Athenaeum will be hosting Oliver Everett, Librarian Emeritus of the Royal Library, at Windsor Castle, an official residence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Mr. Everett will deliver an illustrated lecture on the 50 finest items in the Royal Collection, including oil paintings, Old Master drawings, miniature paintings, porcelain, gold and silver objects, Faberge, jewelry, furniture, rare books and manuscripts. Tickets to this event are \$5 for Athenaeum members and \$8 for non-members. For more information, please contact the Athenaeum at (401) 421-6970

CANCELLED

Gathered by Amateurs: 300 Years of Collecting

Due to medical reasons, Dr. Christopher Ridgeway is canceling his lecture tour and will not be able to deliver his lecture that had been scheduled for October 17th. We hope to reschedule his visit when his health allows.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY CURATOR ROBERT EMLÉN.

Cut in Stone: The Extraordinary Hand- Carved Plaques of the Brown Campus

October 18, 2003 – 2:00 p.m.
John Hay Library, Lownes Room
20 Prospect Street, Providence

University Curator Robert Emlen will speak about the many beautiful stone carvings on campus edifices, a great number of which were done over the centuries by the John Stevens Shop of Newport. The shop was founded in 1705 and is one of the oldest continuously operating business establishments in the United States. If weather permits, the talk will include a walk around campus to see some examples of the hand-carved inscriptions.

Please save the dates for upcoming Friends of the Library events! Please e-mail Christy_Law_Blanchard@Brown.edu or call (401) 863-1518 for more information. All Friends of the Library events are open to the public, so feel free to bring a guest and allow us to introduce them to the Friends.

Alcohol, Addiction and Public Health

November 19, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.
John Hay Library, Lownes Room
20 Prospect Street, Providence

Dr. David Lewis, Professor of Medicine and Community Health and the Donald G. Millar Distinguished Professor of Alcohol and Addiction Studies, will be our guest speaker for an event about alcohol and addiction studies. Dr. Lewis is also the project director of Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy, and will speak about addiction and public health. Coinciding with this talk, Medical Librarian Tovah Reis will mount an exhibit of historical medical instruments in the John Hay Library. This event is co-sponsored with the Brown Medical School.

Association of Research Libraries Endorses Importance of Special Collections

“Special collections represent not only the heart of an ARL library’s mission, but also one of the critical identifiers of a research library.”

For the many of us who think fondly of the John Hay Library and the many treasures it contains, the value of special collections seems self-evident. However, many of the rare and delicate items housed there come at considerable cost, both in terms of purchase and preservation. In times of tight budgets, it becomes quite challenging for the Brown University Library to maintain its longstanding commitment to special collections. However, it is central to our mission of providing primary resources to scholars at Brown.

In February 2003, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Board of Directors endorsed a statement supporting a commitment by research libraries to special collections. This statement was developed by the Association’s Task Force on Special Collections, on which Brown’s Joukowsky Family University Librarian Merrily Taylor and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections Samuel Streit served.

“We were very excited to have participated on this task force,” explained Taylor. “Not only do Brown scholars make tremendous use of the University’s special collections, but also scholars from around the world come to use our materials. We are fortunate that our forebears had the vision to preserve so

many primary resources for future generations.”

In sharing the statement with Association members, Joe Hewitt, University Librarian for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Chair of the ARL Task Force on Special Collections, wrote: “As this statement makes manifest, special collections lie at the heart of the mission of research libraries and the institutions they serve. As ARL libraries, it is our obligation to steward these unique resources appropriately and to maximize their value as a public good by ensuring and encouraging broad access to them. Doing so is, in fact, one of the distinguishing characteristics of a research library. Even in times of fiscal pressures, and perhaps especially then, it is important that this obligation be remembered.”

Brown’s Associate University Librarian for Special Collections, Sam Streit, concurs. “At the heart of the ARL Special Collections initiative is the stated proposition that special collections units are central, not peripheral, to the existence of each member library in ARL. This places an obligation upon member libraries to adequately support their special collections in terms of acquiring materials, making them available to users, and preserving them for future generations. This obligation means a continuing commitment to adequate funding.”

One of the more interesting aspects of the ARL statement is its definition of what special collections are and what they mean to our heritage. “Manuscripts or printed books, other artifacts or objects ‘born digital’ are tangible marks of prior cultures, literary growth and development and turning points in history. They are the means by which scholars document, investigate and interpret all our histories and cultures . . . Special collections extend beyond paper

to other formats of cultural significance, for example photographs, moving pictures, architectural drawings and digital archives.” For users of the John Hay Library, many of us think about the delicate tomes and manuscripts, but not necessarily items that are digital. In fact, there are already several thousand items in Brown’s special collections that are in digital format, many of which may be accessed online, and the Library has invested in an ongoing effort to digitize more.

The ARL statement notes that, “Special collections are also significant for their focused assemblages of published materials so comprehensive as to constitute unparalleled opportunities for scholarship. The development, preservation, support, stewardship and dissemination of major special collections thus becomes both a characteristic of the true research library and an obligation assumed by all members of the ARL. Special collections represent not only the heart of an ARL library’s mission, but also one of the critical identifiers of a research library.”

“Brown is very fortunate, especially for a library of its size, that it has large and varied special collections that are heavily used, not only by advanced scholars but also by undergraduates—in fact, the largest group of users at the John Hay, by a large margin, are undergraduates,” said Streit. “This does not mean, however, that we can rest on our laurels. To remain vital as a research library, continued support for special collections is as essential as any other component of the Brown University Library, a fact that brings ARL’s expectations for its member libraries close to home.”

For more information about the Brown University Library’s special collections, please contact Samuel Streit via e-mail at Samuel_Streit@brown.edu or by telephone at (401) 863-2146.



Library Collection Annex Update

A view of the high bay storage space at the Annex before renovation.

Thanks to the Corporation’s approval of the project in May 2003, the Library will soon be able to utilize a new storage facility to ease overcrowding in the Library stacks. The facility is located at 10 Park Lane in Providence, a 10-minute drive from campus.

The building will provide high-density storage for approximately 1.5 to 2 million volumes, as well as processing facilities, loading space, a reading room and office space for five staff and student employees. The material stored there also will have the best conditions of climate control, which will substantially lengthen the life of each item. With services that will include twice-daily delivery for user requests, document delivery for articles to users desks via mail or e-mail, and a reading room for users who wish to view materials at the facility, the Library Collections Annex will be much more than a storage facility. It will be a dynamic part of the Brown University Library.

Currently, the Library is storing 300,000 volumes at the Harvard Book Depository in Southboro, MA. In addition to being expensive for the University, this also causes delays for users who need items in storage. At the new Brown Annex, we will be able to dramatically increase turnaround times for stored item requests, which now take about a week.

Once the Annex is fully operational, the Library will retrieve its material from the Harvard storage facility and move it into the Annex. The Library also will start the process of moving additional low-use volumes from on-campus libraries to the Annex. Librarians are already working with faculty to make sure that items selected for the Annex are those infrequently consulted by our users.

In addition to housing the Library Collection Annex, 10 Park Lane is now the home of a Graphic Services production facility, which is already operational. The building also will provide storage for archived records of campus departments as well as general University storage. The target completion date for the renovation is October 2004, barring any unforeseen construction delays.

Recent Gifts to the Library

A gift of \$25,000 was made to enable the Library to subscribe to UpToDate. This web-based information system is designed to answer clinical questions that arise in daily medical practice and to do so quickly and easily so that it can be used right at the point of care.

Gift of Paula Murray McNamara '84 and the Murray Family Foundation

1,585 first day covers, spanning the years 1948-1982, from the donor's father, Edgar Blumstein. 4 titles (5 vols.) and 12 small-reel 16mm films. *Essentials of Algebra* by Webster Wells, 1897.

Gift of Sheila Blumstein, ADE77 hon., Brown University Professor of Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences

300 volumes in the field of Judaic studies. Books belonged to the donor's father from rabbinical school.

Gift of Aaron Schatz, '96

105 compact discs of Latin American popular music.

Gift of Frank Camarda

The Brown University Library gratefully acknowledges the many gifts that add to the scholarly resources available to Brown students and faculty. While it is not possible to list every gift here, we have selected a small sampling to share with our readers.

8 cartons of sheet music (approximately 1,000 pieces) given in memory of the donor's mother, Margaret R. Cranmer, Pembroke Class of 1939.

Gift of Dr. David John Cranmer, '67

Framed rubbing of an alphabet stone by John R. Hegnauer (Signed, limited edition, no. 3 of 7, 1999), given in memory of David Alan Alexander. The rubbing complements Hegnauer papers in the John Hay Library.

Gift of Erik Bradford Stocker

1 box of toy soldiers (U.S. Navy, c.1898), 1 box of toy soldiers (U.S. Army, c. 1898), 27 paper soldiers and sailors in a black metal frame (French) for the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection. This is the

foremost American collection of material devoted to the history and iconography of soldiers and soldiering, and is one of the world's largest collections devoted to the study of military and naval uniforms.

Gift of Charles A. Edwards, Presiding Trustee of the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection

395 volumes, including classics, English literature and French language material.

Gift of Rabbi Saul Leeman

Items belonging to donor's grandfather, Harlem Renaissance writer and physician Rudolph Fisher, '19. 3 scrapbooks of his clippings, stories, letters, 7 books by or about him or including his work, 2 framed covers of his books, 5 photographs.

Gift of Laurel Fisher

Stay in Better Touch with the Library!

The Friends of the Library has instituted a member e-mail program this spring. We send an update once a month to our members to share the latest news from the Library and remind everyone of upcoming events. These e-mails are an unofficial supplement to *Among Friends*, and allow us to keep you better informed.

Because we respect our members' privacy, we never share member e-mails with other organizations. And of course, you may unsubscribe at any time.

If you would like to begin receiving Friends of the Library member e-mails, and do not already do so, please send an e-mail to

Christy_Law_Blanchard@brown.edu with your name and e-mail address so we can add you to our e-mail list and keep you in the loop!

rigorous as that of a traditional journal, many libraries, including Brown University Library, are supporting OAP. With OAP, the Library has free access and authors may retain the copyright to their own work.

“Open access publishing is something we want to encourage,” said Janet Crager, a reference librarian for medicine at the Brown University Library. “It does require a cultural shift, however. Some faculty are used to going to the established printed journals, but once they realize the many benefits of open access publishing, they are really quite supportive.”

Another resource to combat the escalating prices of journals is the Northeast Research Libraries (NERL), which negotiates with publishers on the terms for accessing a publisher’s electronic journals. “Some of the deals that NERL negotiates with publishers enable Brown users to have direct electronic access to journals that Brown does not own, but are owned within the consortium,” said Frank Kellerman, Brown’s reference librarian for biology, psychology and neuroscience. “A potential downside of this arrangement is that these deals are time-specific, so the Library will have to renegotiate this access down the road. But at present, it is a big help.”

Electronic access can be very important to Brown students and faculty. “A lot of our users spend a good deal of time in the field, and therefore do a great deal of research off campus,” said Lori Jargo, Brown’s reference librarian for chemistry, geology and environmental science. “By subscribing to electronic journals, abstracts and databases, Brown’s scholars are never out of touch with the latest findings.”

While scholarship in the sciences is focused on the latest research, often in electronic formats, mathematics continues to rely heavily on the study of past work in printed form. Thus, certain classic books are very heavily used, and some rare items are in great demand. “We scour used book

Interested in a Particular Sciences Library Collection?

The Brown University Library is blessed with a knowledgeable staff of reference librarians with strong backgrounds in their fields of expertise. One of the best ways to get in-depth help with your research is to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a reference librarian. If you would like more information about Brown’s resources in a particular field, the best place to start is with the reference librarian most knowledgeable in your subject area:



Biology, Psychology and Neuroscience – are covered by Frank Kellerman, who may be reached by e-mail at **Frank_Kellerman@brown.edu**



Medicine is handled by Janet Crager, who may be reached by e-mail at **Janet_Crager@brown.edu**



Environmental Science, Geology and Chemistry are covered by Lori Jargo, who may be reached via e-mail at **Lori_Jargo@brown.edu**



Pure and Applied Mathematics is handled by Mark Shelton, who may be reached at **Mark_Shelton@brown.edu**

General questions pertaining to the sciences or inquiries about topics not easily assigned to a field listed above may be directed to sciences@brown.edu or asked by calling the reference desk at 401-863-3333. Gifts to the Brown University Library are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in making a gift to the Library, please contact Patricia Putney via e-mail at **Patricia_Putney@brown.edu** or by telephone at (401) 863-2954.

sites for copies of rare items that we need,” said Mark Shelton, a reference librarian for mathematics. “We also look at the reference lists in important works and try to obtain copies of the items referenced. Because mathematics scholarship relies so heavily on reviewing and reworking past problems, this collection is the most heavily circulated collection among faculty and graduate students.”

Since many books are used so intensively, they can literally wear out. Thus, the Library often purchases reprints of classic texts to ensure no holes develop in the collection. The faculty help too. If they find a book they’d like the University to purchase, they’ll let the Library know. It is through this collaborative effort spanning decades that Brown University has one of

the premier collections of mathematics materials in the world.

Brown’s noted collection in mathematics also benefits from a close association with the American Mathematical Society. Based in Providence, the Society was founded in 1888 to further mathematical scholarship and research. Brown is the repository for the Society’s archives, and acquires all its publications.

The Library’s purchase of multiple copies of classic mathematics texts and increasing reliance on electronic journals and databases in the sciences reflects a critical mission for the Library. By providing research materials in the formats preferred by the scholars in each field, the Library ensures that learning, teaching and research can flourish at Brown.

Among Friends

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Please help Friends of the Library expand the resources of the Brown University Library.

- | | | |
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