



LHRT NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from the Chair



Tom Glynn, current chair of LHRT.
Image courtesy of Tom Glynn.

Friends and Colleagues,

I am very excited to begin my year as LHRT chair. I was certainly energized, as I sure all of you were, by the all of the LHRT events at the annual conference last June. The round table offered an engaging array of library history programs in a charming and historic city. New Orleans is definitely my favorite venue for the annual conference. This year I particularly enjoyed the 2011 Holley lecture, Sarah Wadworth's "Reading Race in the Woman's Building Library of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893." In addition, both the Invited Speakers Panel and the Research Forum were well

attended and generated lively and interesting discussions. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make New Orleans such a fun and rewarding conference.

The Program Committee is now hard at work preparing for ALA in Anaheim next year. Our vice chair, Mark McCallon, recently circulated a CFP for a Research Forum on "Intellectual Freedom and Libraries in America and Abroad" that promises to attract many interesting proposals. And I am inviting some highly esteemed colleagues to join an Invited Speakers Panel on libraries and civil rights

in the United States. I am very excited about everything that we have planned thus far. If you have any ideas for round table events or activities, please contact me or any other member of the Program Committee. We welcome your suggestions.

As we did last year, we'll hold our next Executive Committee meeting online, sometime during the actual ALA Mid-Winter Meeting in Dallas, January 20-24. This year, instead of Skype, we'll probably use a product called Adobe Connect. Very easy to use and, unlike Skype, there will be no software to download and no need to create an account. In December I will send simple directions and an exact date and time through the LHRT listserv. I encourage all members to attend. One important item on the agenda will be the round table's relationship with Information & Culture: A Journal of History, the new name for Libraries & the Cultural Record. You may recall that the change in title and shift in focus occasioned some concern when it was announced last June. I have appointed a committee, chaired by Joyce Latham, to consider what actions, possibly including the creation of a new journal, we might take in light of these changes. I understand that this has the potential for becoming a rather contentious issue, but I am confident that the round

table will weigh all of our options in a constructive and collegial fashion. Joyce's committee will present a preliminary report at the mid-winter meeting.

We are still seeking a venue for Library History Seminar XIII. Please consider submitting a proposal for your institution to host this important event in 2015. See the call for proposals at <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=177618>. This has always been a stimulating, enjoyable, and well-attended conference and the executive committee is eager to work with interested round table

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Heeding the Call: Washington and Lee University Library's Contributions During World War II

Editor's note: Many LHRT members are familiar with Patti Clayton Becker's Books and Libraries in American Society During World War II: Weapons in the War of Ideas (Routledge, 2005) which describes public librarians' efforts to supply war-related information, conduct victory book drives, and meet evolving local needs with insufficient budgets and staff. In the article below, G.J. Corey Harmon reminds us academic libraries contributed to the war effort, too. A 2005 graduate of Washington and Lee University and a 2009 SILS graduate at University of North-Carolina at Chapel Hill, Harmon wrote a master's paper about the history of libraries at his undergraduate institution. Below is an excerpt from the chapter on Washington and Lee during World War II.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and the United States' entry into World War II, it became necessary to remove important materials from Washington, D.C. Libraries all over the country heeded the call and assisted the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, and other Washington libraries by offering space to temporarily house these important collections.

Only two days after Pearl Harbor, the Washington D.C. Public Library contacted Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia because they were "investigating steps to be taken to protect the library from damage by sabotage or air raid." They requested approximately 300 square feet of space to house a collection of local history and illustrated children's books. Although Washington and Lee had already allocated most of the space to collections from other coastal libraries, Foster E. Mohrhardt, the University Librarian, wrote that it might be possible to accommodate the request.

By January 1942, the Library of Congress also contacted Washington and Lee to house some of its materials. Because of the nature of the materials from this institution, guards were required to protect it and Mohrhardt recommended two local men be hired to assist the man sent from Washington, D.C. In addition the Library of Congress requested that environmental controls be put into place as well as several other requests, which had the added benefit of helping to protect Washington and Lee's collection. Although Washington and Lee obliged

on most, they did not install the fire doors or complete two of the other requests. By June 1942, items from the Library of Congress's fine arts, rare books, Hispanic, and law collections as well as books from the CS, E, F, H, J, Q T, and Z classification numbers had been transferred to the basement of the University's McCormick Library. These materials remained in Lexington until September 26, 1944, when the last of them were returned to Washington.

The Smithsonian Institution library also housed materials at Washington and Lee during the war. It required approximately 250 cubic feet of space, which became available after the Library of Congress decided to house some of its materials elsewhere to avoid increasing the concentration of its materials in Lexington. Although this material was separate from the Library of Congress material, the Library of Congress arranged for its guards at Washington and Lee to inspect the Smithsonian's boxes. On April 22, 1942, the Smithsonian sent three lots consisting of 20 boxes of manuscripts, books and photographs from the Bureau of American Ethnology; 5 boxes of manuscripts and rare books from the Museum Library; and 53 boxes of accession records.

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PUBLISHING STATEMENT

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By the beginning of August 1944, it was deemed safe for the Smithsonian's materials to be returned to Washington, D.C..

In addition to housing materials from other more vulnerable libraries, Washington and Lee and the McCormick Library contributed to the war effort in other ways. In January 1943, four rooms in the basement were "turned over to the U.S. Army School for Special Services Library" and the students of the school were offered full access

to the University's collection. The School for Personnel Services Library also made its home in the McCormick Library during the war and finally left the building during the 1945/46 academic year; this had the advantage of opening up the main reading room to University students. When World War II finally reached the United States its people banded together to support it. The nation's libraries were not exempt from this support. The McCormick

Library at Washington and Lee University as well as many other libraries assisted in protecting the nation's treasures and cultural heritage by offering safe haven for them.

—*G.J. Corey Harmon, Mauney Memorial Library, Kings Mountain, North Carolina*

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Everyday Library History: *An Overdue Book Tale*

At the library, we get lots of stories from people about why their books are overdue. This is the most interesting overdue book story we have ever heard. It also happens to be 100% true.

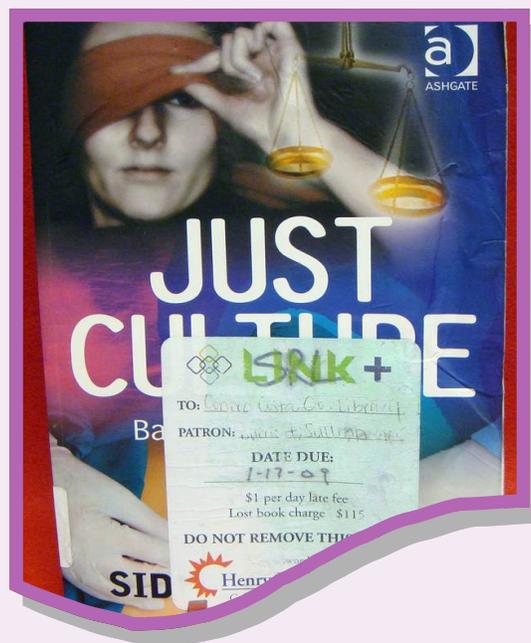
On January 15, 2009, Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger became a national hero when he landed US Airways flight 1549 in the Hudson River. When the engines lost power, he made an instant decision to make a water landing and executed the maneuver perfectly. After landing, Sullenberger walked through the aisles to ensure that everyone made it out safely. Like true captains of lore, he was the last person to leave his plane.

What the world did not know at the time is that Sully is an avid reader. He regularly checks out books from his local public library (the Contra Costa County Library) and he had one with him on this flight. The library book that he had with him, *Just Culture* by Sidney Dekker, had been borrowed from Fresno State through the Link+ resource sharing system.

A few days after the landing, he called his local library to tell them that the book would not be returned on time.

Although all of the people on the plane had escaped without damage, the cargo and luggage did not fare as well. When an airplane lands in water, the luggage has a tendency to get—wet! This is exactly what happened to Sully's bag that contained our book. After being taken to a recovery service in New Jersey, the book was shipped back to Contra Costa and then back to Fresno State. We received it in January 2011, two years after it was due.

Sully's library book is displayed here in the condition that we received it. It obviously has been wet, but is actually in remarkably good condition. Note the Link+ sticker on the cover that still has Sully's name written on it along with the January 17 due date. We have since purchased a replacement copy of the book for the collection. We will keep this version in our Special Collections area as our local connection to this event.



Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's copy of Dekker's *Just Culture*, damaged when flight 1549 landed in the Hudson River. Courtesy of Dave Tyckoson.

To most of us, it is remarkable that Captain Sullenberger was worried about his library book. However, for those who knew him well, it was par for the course. As a man with a strong sense of honor and responsibility, it was natural that he would take the time to contact the library about an overdue library book. That is just how he acts in life.

Sully is dedicated to lifelong learning and he is a big supporter of literacy and libraries. He uses his library to expand his education and thinks everyone should do the same. He also has the best excuse ever for not getting this book back in time.

—*David Tyckoson, Fresno State Library*

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Greetings from the Chair, cont.

members to continue this venerable LHRT tradition.

Finally, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the members who have contributed to the important work of the round table this year. In particular, Bernadette Lear continues to provide invaluable service as our newsletter editor. And our secretary-treasurer elect, Dominique Daniel and the Membership and Outreach Committee, which includes our webmaster Julia Skinner, have some exciting ideas for

enhancing the round table's online presence using various social media sites. Last but certainly not least, I need thank our vice chair and past secretary-treasurer, Mark McCallon, and our past chair, Melanie Kimball. Their support and guidance has made my transition to LHRT chair a relatively painless event.

I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year. Please get in touch if you have any questions about or would like to get involved in LHRT. Have a fun and productive fall.

See you (virtually) at the mid-winter meeting.

—*Tom Glynn, Rutgers University*



Web Site Review: The Public Domain Review

Jonathan Gray and Adam Green, "Public Domain Review," <http://publicdomainreview.org/>, (accessed October 12, 2011).

This morning I was trying to decide what to review when a friend shared [The Public Domain Review](#) with me. I immediately wanted to critique it, both because I like the concept and because I rely heavily on public domain documents for research and entertainment. The goals of the site are to showcase obscure and unusual public domain works in a curated collection, and provide users the ability to download and reuse works at their leisure. It also features a number of articles about public domain works and their curators.

For each format (audio, text, images, film) there is a separate tab at the top of the screen. When a user clicks on a tab, he or she is taken to a collection of works from that category, either shown individually or

organized in collections which can be clicked and browsed. Each collection includes a paragraph or so of historical background on the items or their creator (I was quite fond of [The Spirit Photography of William Hope](#)). For each individual item, there is a digital version. In the case of books, the site provides a high resolution scan that can be viewed using the same page turning technology found on the British Library's [Turning the Pages](#) and other sites. Below the document itself is a historical note, usually containing biographical information about the author and/or the text.

The site is less than a year old, and as a result its collection of materials is still very small. Most are from the 2nd half of the 19th century and the first 2 decades of the 20th. Still, there is quite an array of materials to choose from. Some are humorous and playful (take a look at the 1879 [Letters from a Cat](#)), some are more serious,

but all of them give us a glimpse into a variety of materials that were available to readers throughout history. Most public domain sites have books and some a few pieces of ephemera but little else. The Public Domain Review includes digital copies of print materials, but also audio files, films, and images. There is also a [Resources](#) page which lists other web sources for public domain works (although it does not include Google Books, where I've had great success finding ALA-related documents.) There is also an area for [Submissions](#), where users can suggest public domain materials they would like included in the collection.

The one thing I would change is the current lack of robust and highly visible search

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Member Spotlight: Tanya Finchum

Editor's Note: The "Member Spotlight" section provides interviews with talented but perhaps not-so-well-known members of LHRT. This semester, we feature Tanya Finchum, a current member of LHRT's Justin Winsor Prize committee. I first met Dr. Finchum when she spoke as part of an LHRT conference panel on "Documenting and Celebrating Your Library's History." As she describes below, Dr. Finchum's educational background in gerontology has shaped her approach to librarianship and library history in interesting ways.

BAL: Tell us a little bit about yourself: your town/state, your occupation, your educational background, and other things to introduce yourself.

TF: I have lived in Oklahoma since 1996. I consider Knoxville, Tennessee to be my home town even though I lived the first 12 years of my life in North Carolina. After earning a bachelor's degree in social work, I married, moved to Ohio and then pursued a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling with the intention of working in a retirement facility that had different levels of care. After graduating, I accepted a position with the Department of Human Services in Sevier County, Tennessee and would ultimately work there 10 years with a year break in which I completed a master's in library science from the University of Tennessee. After moving to Stillwater, I accepted a position with the OSU library in the government documents department. I completed a doctorate in 2003 from OSU in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis in gerontology.

When the library was interested in beginning an oral history department in 2006, I volunteered. Today I am a faculty member in the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program.

BAL: Please share a fond, early memory of reading books/magazines or using libraries.

TF: In my elementary school days, I recall the bookmobile stopping in our neighborhood and the thrill of getting to go in and choose a book. Later, in my high school days, on rainy summer days my sister and I would turn the radio on (this was the 1970s) and listen while we read and enjoyed the breeze coming through our bedroom window. We did not have air conditioning so rain was a good thing.

BAL: How and why did you get involved with libraries? If you are a library employee or retiree, where have you worked and what positions have you held over the course of your career?

TF: After working several years with a caseload of around 350 families, I grew tired of my hands being tied due to policy. I knew my husband was making a career change into academia so it was an opportunity for me to change directions as well. Many of the interviewing skills I used daily in social work transferred to the reference interview and finding answers was similar to finding resources for people being served by the Department of Human Services. Helping people was still the center of my work, just in a different environment. Basically, my entire library career has been at the OSU



Caption: Tanya Finchum, oral historian and member of LHRT's Justin Winsor Prize committee. Image courtesy of Tanya Finchum.

Library. In my work in oral history I am able to draw on my all of my educational background. I consider myself lucky.

BAL: How did you become interested in the history of libraries? What areas of library history interest you most? What topics? Which time-periods? Any specific places?

TF: I have always liked old buildings and wished walls could talk. When we moved to Oklahoma, a move away from family and my beloved mountains, I needed something to help with the transition. I quickly chose learning about

— continued, page 6



Public Domain Review, cont.

mechanisms for the site. Currently, one can only browse by format, as previously mentioned. This is less of an issue now, but as materials are added, it will be much more difficult for users to find the items they are seeking without being able to use keywords. All in all I think the site has the potential to be informative and interesting, if not necessarily useful for locating documents for research. I definitely plan on watching to see where it goes in the coming months!

—*Julia Skinner, Florida State University*

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“... JUST START.

PICK A PLACE AND

JUST START.”



Caption: Detail of *Letters from a Cat*, by H. H. (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1879), available through Public Domain Review.

Tanya Finchum, cont.

the Carnegie libraries in Oklahoma and my husband and I used the project to travel to various locations in Oklahoma. This served to acquaint us with some of the geography of the state as well. I also enjoy hearing the stories of early day librarians, which fits in with my oral history interest.

BAL: Have you ever published an article, book, web site, or other publication about library history? If so, what was that experience like for you? What words of advice would you give to novice researchers?

TF: I have actually published two articles both dealing with libraries in Oklahoma. One focuses on the Carnegie libraries and one focuses on the WPA libraries. Next I need to focus on the libraries that were funded by the municipalities or private citizens to complete the picture. A colleague and I also created a website for the Carnegie libraries in Oklahoma several years ago. It hasn't been touched by us since it was created (and I feel bad about

that but there just hasn't been time). The only advice I can offer is to just start. Pick a place and just start. Then after a short time, stop, step back, see what you have, and determine where you are actually going with the information. At first there seems to be an insurmountable amount of information out there, so narrowing your focus will help.

BAL: If you could chat with one famous librarian or literary figure from the past, who would it be and why?

TF: I have actually given this some thought before. I have two I would like to share a meal with ... both at the same time. They are Adelaide Hasse (credited with developing the SuDocs classification system) and Ainsworth Spofford (the librarian of Congress who had the vision to turn the Library of Congress into an “American national library”). They were both in Washington, D.C. during the same time period

and I am sure their paths must have crossed. I think it would be interesting to hear what their conversations would have entailed.

BAL: Someday, when a historian sits down to write an article about libraries in the first years of the 21st century, what do you think he or she will emphasize? Why?

TF: Wow. That's a tough question. Technology for sure, but also human connections and the need to connect face-to-face. They have been saying for years now that the book is going away, yet it hasn't. People like to hold books, feel them, actually turn the pages, smell the printed paper ... and they live to go to physically go to the library. There is just something about that sense of place—that feeling of being surrounded by knowledge whether it is work-related knowledge or leisure-related.

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Research Notes:

Library Projects at the NEH Eurasia Summer Institute

This summer, the National Endowment for the Humanities funded an institute titled "America Engages Eurasia: Studies, Teaching, and Resources." Hosted by Columbia University's Harriman Institute from June 13th through July 1st, the institute brought together 25 scholars who had proposed research projects using Eurasian resources in the New York area. Each day, institute fellows heard guest lectures, participated in working lunches focused on the day's themes, and attended formal discussions. Most of the talks examined the institutional history of Russian and East European Studies in the United States and were designed to stimulate insights relevant to the projects of the fellows. Institute participants used afternoons to pursue research in New York's libraries and archives, and during the last week of the program fellows gave 30-minute progress reports about their projects. Three projects focused on library history, and they are summarized below.

Kevin M. Kain, Lecturer in Humanistic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, is undertaking "Eurasian Collections Development in the U.S. through American-Soviet Literature Exchanges, 1917-1933." This project focuses on exchanges conducted between the New York Public Library and the Russian Central Book Chamber, the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and the American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia (all in the USSR). Kain

conducted his research in the Columbia University Archive, NYPL Manuscripts Division, Wisconsin State Historical Society Archive, and the archive of the State Russian Library (Moscow). He analyzed institutional records and the papers of individuals central to conceiving, managing, and promoting American-Soviet exchanges. In sum, the project aims to highlight the political, social, and economic significance of Eurasian collections in the U.S. during the 1920s and 1930s. It also details the theoretical and practical workings of international exchanges from American and Soviet perspectives at a time when there were no official diplomatic relations between the countries.

The project of John V. Richardson Jr., UCLA Professor of Information Studies, is entitled "Social Networking among Soviet and American Intellectual Workers, 1923-1931: The Role of Liubov' Borisovna Khavkina, Genrietta K. Abele-Derman, Harry Lydenberg, Abraham Yarmolinsky, Harriet G. Eddy, Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya, Anna G. Kravchenko and Others as Librarians." This study uses network analysis to figure out why Soviet libraries are organized the way they are, who made these decisions, what interactions these individuals had, and who influenced who in their thinking. In particular, Richardson's work adopts a leadership and modernization model and focuses on the accomplishments of women in a slighted field of enquiry.

My own project is entitled "Hungarian Studies Programs and Collections in the U.S.: Political, Cultural, and Linguistic Motives since 1900." As a product of Indiana University's Hungarian Studies doctoral program, interim Director of Rutgers' Institute for Hungarian Studies, and a user of Columbia's fine Hungarian collections, I wanted to know why Hungarian Studies arose at these universities and how they, along with NYPL, built strong collections to support them. NYPL was one of many public libraries that acquired Hungarian circulating collections to support immigrant populations, but the academic study of Hungary only established itself in the U.S. after 1956. Sparked by institutional support for international studies and the arrival of important émigré scholars, Indiana and Columbia both developed premier collections and programs while relying to differing degrees on federal grants and collaboration with the Hungarian government. In contrast, Rutgers sought with less success to build upon the strength of New Brunswick's Hungarian community. My research relies largely on Columbia's University Archives, to be supplemented later by materials at Indiana and Rutgers.

—*James P. Niessen, Rutgers University Libraries, with contributions from Kevin Kain and John V. Richardson Jr.*

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THREE LIBRARY
HISTORY PROJECTS
AT "AMERICAN
ENGAGES EURASIA:
STUDIES,
TEACHING, AND
RESOURCES"

Libraries in the Lives of Their Users: A Teacher Describes Her Hometown Library, 1894

While hunting for information for another project, I stumbled upon a delightful description of a library in Wellington, Ohio, written by a teacher who was visiting her hometown. Written by Edith Dickson and first published in the November 22, 1894 issue of *The Independent*, the excerpts below illustrate the reading habits of people in a small Midwestern community. They also point toward class and cultural boundaries between cities and towns, and between education professionals and the general public:

“ST. ELMO,

BEULAH, AND

MACARIA ARE READ

UNTIL THEIR PAGES

... FAIRLY DROP TO

PIECES.”

“Our town library belongs to the public in fact, as well as in name. People roam about the alcoves and overhaul the books as they like. Library school rules, the Dewey system of classification, and all the red tape thought necessary for the administration of well-regulated libraries, are unknown with us. If you want a particular book you look for it until you either find it or give up the quest in despair. The object of your search is quite as likely to be found where it has no right to be as in its natural place.

The librarian, a white-haired woman of sixty, is a great reader of Pansy, Marion Harland, and Edward Garrett. Outside of these authors her knowledge of books is limited, and her classification of a volume seems to be based upon her interpretation of its title. Hence, Henry James’ “Seige of London” has a place among the English histories, Balzac’s “Alchemist” stands on the shelf devoted to chemistry, and “A Little Journey in the World” is in the alcove reserved for works of travel. ...

No one could intimate to Mrs. Brown that a book was out of its proper sphere in the place she had assigned it without giving serious offense. ... The old lady is a strict critic of the morality

of books and strongly disapproves of the addition of any French works to the library, as in her judgment everything emanating from that nationality is demoralizing. She was much distressed at the purchase of “Anna Karenina” but she contrived to render the objectionable volume as harmless as possible by placing it among some musty old biblical commentaries in the department of theology, where there was little danger of it being discovered. ...

The literary preferences of people are oftentimes curiously at variance with their appearance. One afternoon three women near me whose dress, manner, and speech were indications of some cultures were discussing their favorite authors. One of them, with a voice which writers like the Duchess would probably characterize as “low, musical, and trainant” said: “I like Mrs. Southworth better than any one else. You ought to read ‘The Hidden Hand.’” Still more incongruous seemed the choice of an old farmer who, after looking some time for a book, apparently found his wants satisfied by “The Bazaar Book of Decorum.” With a large class or readers in our community Augusta J. Evans retains all of her old-time popularity. “St. Elmo,” “Beulah,” and “Macaria” are read until their pages, redolent of tobacco and that indescribable combination of odors noticeable about old paper money, fairly drop to pieces. The interest in Mrs. Holmes appears to be declining, altho she still has numerous admirers. A young lady took down “Elsie Venner” on day and said: “Is this by Mary J. Holmes?” Upon being told that it was by Oliver Wendell Holmes, she returned it to the shelf, saying “I thought I had never heard of it.”

Readers of the lighter sort of fiction have no hesitation in passing judgment upon any author or book. Having no conception of any other test of literary merit than the ability to please them,

their verdict is instantaneous. Some one has written in “Washington Square,” “A very silly book,” and in the “The Bostonians,” “Trash!” while laudatory comments are profuse in “Rutledge” and “True as Steel.” A common criticism upon Mr. Howells by these judges is that his stories “don’t amount to anything.” ... When we begin to learn that our individual taste ... is not a sure index of merit, life loses something of its happiness. ... Among the frequenters of our library there are as many grades of literary taste as there are social circles, and each feels its superiority to some other. ...

Is it something in the title which invites or repels? That doubtless explains why “A Woman of Forty” is always passed by. The majority of regular novel readers would consider a woman at that age far too old to be interesting. The success of size has more to do with the success of books in a library than is ordinarily supposed. People who can take but one volume at a time want that one to be large enough to last at least over Sunday, so they avoid the small books. ... With us if for any reason a novel is not drawn soon after its arrival its fate is sealed. Its bright new cover becomes a cause for suspicion. The popular reasoning is that a desirable book would have been read and have lost its freshness. A woman with a battered volume in her hand expressed the general sentiment, when she said, “I always choose the worn-out books, for I know they must be good.”

Understanding something of Dickson’s background helps place her comments into context. Born in 1856, she was the daughter of Joseph Homer Dickson, a lawyer, and Mary Manloy Dickson. The family was quite prominent, appearing in various social registries from the 1890s through the 1910s. Although Dickson eventually

became a librarian at Oberlin College's Conservatory of Music, her first career was as a teacher. She graduated from Oberlin in 1881 with a Bachelor of Arts. Her obituary states that she taught mathematics from 1887 to 1890, then served as an English teacher at Oberlin Academy until 1902. Articles from 1880s issues of the *Ohio Educational Monthly* confirm that she taught school.

Perhaps more notable than her library interests, Edith Dickson was a published author and a suffragist. Although she once wrote that "there are no papers written by women in which we feel the attraction of individuality," she herself penned some memorable pieces, including short stories, humorous sketches, and essays. Her work was published in *American Magazine*, *Arthur's Home Magazine*, *The Critic*, *The Dial*, *Godey's Magazine*, *The Interior*, *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*, and the *New York Observer and Chronicle*. Although Dickson apparently never married, "Our Garden" (1895) convincingly describes the "hard" but hilarious time to be had when husband and wife work at cross-purposes in landscaping their property. She wrote other pieces about charitable work, fashion, food and fuel prices, literature, and poetry. Because of Oberlin's support of women's rights, the headquarters of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association moved there in the fall of 1914. Perhaps on account of her way with words, Dickson was elected president the same year. Throughout World War I, the group continued its public awareness efforts with a variety of meetings and parades.

Located in Lorain County, about 9 miles due south of Oberlin, Wellington had been a station in the Underground Railroad and the site of the famous "Oberlin-Wellington Rescue" of a

captured fugitive slave. When Dickson was writing, Wellington was becoming known as the "Cheese Empire of the Nation" for its prolific dairy industry. The town could boast of library associations as early as the 1840s, but the first "public" library was established in 1886. Thus in 1894, Dickson was describing a relatively new institution in her community.

It is unclear whether Dickson's experiences with the Wellington library sparked a later career in librarianship, or whether an active interest in libraries motivated her to revisit the one in her hometown. Judging from U.S. Census records and other sources, she only began work at the conservatory library at some time around the turn of the century, years after "Notes in a Country Library" was written. A letter in Dickson's alumna file at Oberlin College refers to the fact that she helped reorganize the Wellington library, but it does not state when or why.

Despite Dickson's criticisms about the library and staff, it is clear that Wellington residents heavily used and enjoyed it. In fact, when home son-turned Cleveland banker Myron T. Herrick considered ways to give back to the community, he used his fortune to build a new public library. Opened in 1904, the Herrick Memorial Library still serves Wellington residents today.

Further Reading

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- Leonard, John, ed., "Dickson, Edith," pg. 246 in *Woman's Who's Who of America: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporary Women in the United States and Canada*, New York: American Commonwealth Company, 1916.
- "Many Years a Librarian of the Conservatory," *Oberlin News-Tribune*, December 17, 1931, pg. 1.
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—Bernadette A. Lear, Penn State Harrisburg



"PERHAPS MORE NOTABLE THAN HER LIBRARY INTERESTS, EDITH DICKSON WAS A PUBLISHED AUTHOR AND A SUFFRAGIST."

Primary Source Spotlight: 19th Century Mechanics' Institutes and the Ashton Mss. Collection

Early 19th-century mechanics' institutes and their educational component provided a forum for transmitting middle-class values to the Victorian working-class, often through the selected reading materials available in their libraries and through the types of lectures they sponsored. John Laurent, in his 1984 article, "Science, Society and Politics in Late Nineteenth-Century England: A Further Look at Mechanics' Institutes," suggests that rather than a mere vehicle to affect the "working-class character," mechanics' institutes might well be viewed through the eyes of some of the social reformers who hoped that they would serve as a catalyst for the evolution of "a new cultural egalitarianism."

This vision of cultural evolution is reflected in the papers, correspondence, and ephemera of Dr. William Ashton (Ashton mss.), available at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington. In 1828 a young Ashton scribbled on the back of a leaflet announcing the opening of a "Rational Institute, for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Newton" in Preston, Lancashire, his own thoughts on establishing a similar school in Manchester: "The real use of education is to make a boy happy in his youth; a good relative, an intelligent Man of business; and a Wise and Honest member of the State ..." The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge's goal was to distribute what it deemed to be useful information to the English working and middle classes. It strongly supported self-education and the egalitarian sharing of knowledge. Ashton would prove to be a life-long

proponent of these ideals.

William Adolphus Ashton—farmer, artist, salesman, physician, and social reformer—was born in 1803 in England. He immigrated to America in 1834 as a member of the Manchester Social Community Company and established a cooperative farm with five other families in Franklin County, Indiana. His earlier interest in broader philosophical and social issues would slowly come to fruition in America. His vision of the Manchester Social Community Company incorporated what was, for him, an educational component. In 1832 he wrote that "Man is ... the result of internal and external circumstances, created for him, without his knowledge, by Nature, directly or through the medium of his ancestors and existing society. ... The facilities of humanity created by Nature are good, and all of them, under wise direction by society, may be made to promote health, knowledge, goodness and happiness of everyone through life."

Although the Manchester Social Community Company experiment failed in 1836, Ashton was undaunted. He designed and sold oilcloth and window shades before entering the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati in the early 1850's. Familiar with the Manchester Mechanics' Institute, Ashton became a life-long supporter and patron of mechanics' institutes and libraries. His belief in the betterment of society through self-motivated self-improvement is evident in his writings: "The doctrine that men have equal

rights to the use of the earth ... [does not mean] that all shall have like shares of the things which minister to the gratifications of the faculties, but that all shall have like freedom to pursue those things ... this can be accomplished in part through reading and education."

Other papers in the collection of 566 items (1818-1876) relate to various cooperative societies. They include writings and ephemera, such as shareholders cards (1832) for the Manchester Social Community Company, as well as an October 1832 document setting forth its "objects" and containing a constitution of the Hall of Liberty in Mt. Carmel, Indiana. Among the papers is an 1832 manuscript containing the "objects and views" of the Social Cooperative Community of London, England. Other items of interest include an 1818 patent for a water wheel issued to John Edwards and signed by James Monroe and John Quincy Adams; an 1833 paper on passive resistance to assessed taxes; and Ashton's notes on social reform and temperance. The Lilly Library's Ashton manuscript collection offers an intriguing look at one 19th century social reformer and his thoughts on the transformative powers of mechanics' institutes.

Further Reading

- John Laurent, "Science, Society, and Politics in Late Nineteenth-Century England: A Further Look at Mechanics' Institutes," *Social Studies of Science*, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 585-619.
- Lilly Library, Indiana

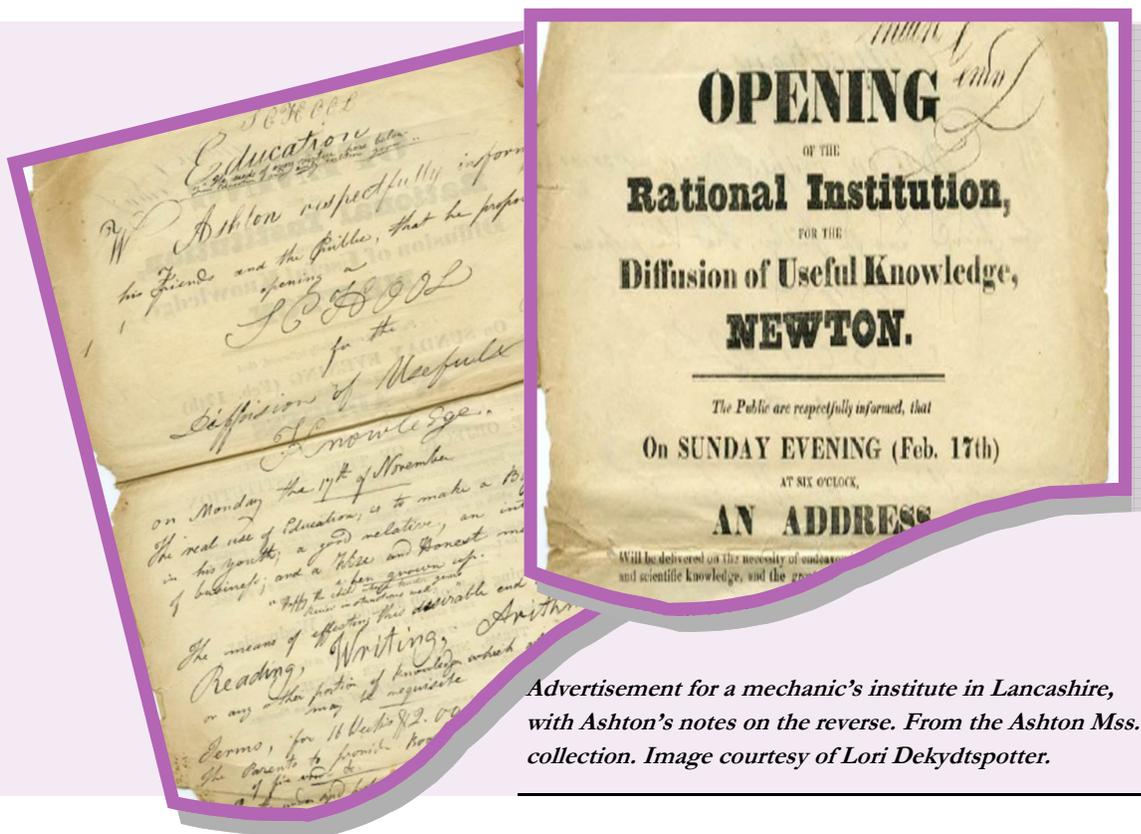
ASHTON, WHO
SOLD WINDOW
SHADES BEFORE
ENTERING MEDICAL
SCHOOL, "BECAME
A LIFE-LONG
SUPPORTER AND
PATRON OF
MECHANICS'
INSTITUTES AND
LIBRARIES"

Ashton Mss., cont.

University, "Ashton Mss.," <http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/lilly/mss/index.php?p=ashton> (accessed October 18, 2011).

—Lori Dekydtspotter,
Lilly Library, Indiana
University

QR



Advertisement for a mechanic's institute in Lancashire, with Ashton's notes on the reverse. From the Ashton Mss. collection. Image courtesy of Lori Dekydtspotter.

LHRT Social Media Update

Are you following LHRT online? If not, you should! As LHRT's "webmaster" I have been posting articles, current events, and resources of interest to LHRT members through Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. The response has been great! As of October 11th, we have 77 followers on Facebook, 89 followers on Twitter, and have been added to 67 people's circles on Google+. Folks on Facebook seem to be a little quieter, but we get quite a few mentions and retweets/shares on Twitter and Google+, meaning that more and more people are learning about library history! I love the positive response we're getting, and I'm looking forward to sharing with more people as our web presence continues to grow.

Want to see what all the buzz is about? Follow us on:

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/LibHistRoundTable>
- Google+: via LHRT's Gmail account at ala.lhrt@gmail.com
- Twitter: @ALA_LHRT

Follow us on whatever platform(s) you use to get updates. If you have something you'd like to share with the LHRT community, be sure to "mention" LHRT so our members can find it. You can also copy it to LHRT's facebook wall. Do you have other thoughts about our social media presence? Please send your ideas via LHRT's social media accounts or via the

LHRT Gmail account (ala.lhrt@gmail.com).

I'll see you online!

—Julia Skinner, Florida
State University

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Call for Papers: LHRT Research Forum, Anaheim, June 2012

LHRT RESEARCH FORUM PROPOSALS

- ◆ Deadline: December 15th, 2011
- ◆ Contact Mark McCallon, mccallonm@acu.edu

Intellectual Freedom and Libraries in America and Abroad: Historical Perspectives

The Library History Round Table (LHRT) of the American Library Association invites submissions of scholarly papers related to the history of intellectual freedom as evidenced in the concerns and actions of libraries, librarians, and library associations. Subjects may include historical studies of events, movements, individuals, or groups (i.e. librarians, library associations, library educators, library supporters) pertaining to censorship, banned books, freedom of information, freedom to read, the Library Bill of Rights, and related topics.

LHRT encourages submissions from researchers of all backgrounds, including students, faculty, and practitioners. Proposals are due on December 15th, 2011. Each proposal must give the proposal title, an abstract (up to 500 words), and

the scholar's one-page vita. Also, please indicate whether the research is in-progress or completed. Proposals should include a problem or thesis, as well as a statement of significance, objectives, methods/primary sources used for research, and conclusions (or tentative conclusions for works in progress).

The LHRT Research Committee will select a number of authors to present their completed works at the LHRT Research Forum to be held on Sunday June 24th, 2012 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. Presentations will be approximately twenty minutes each.

The program will be publicized in January 2012. So that the Forum's facilitator may introduce and react to each author, completed papers are due June 1st, 2012. All presenters must register to attend the conference. For registration options, see ALA's

events and conferences page at <http://www.ala.org>.

Accepted papers will also be collected with permissions of the authors for submission as a future issue of the University of Illinois Occasional Papers.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:
December 15th, 2011

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED PAPERS:
June 1st, 2012

Please submit proposals via e-mail or surface mail and direct inquiries to:

Mark McCallon
LHRT Vice-Chair/Research Committee Chair
221 Brown Library
ACU Box 29208
Abilene, Texas 79699-9208
E-Mail: mccallonm@acu.edu
Telephone: 325-674-2348
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News from Other Organizations

Organization of American Historians

The next annual meeting of the OAH will take place in Milwaukee on April 18th-22nd. The theme is "Frontiers of Capitalism and Democracy." The call for papers is closed, but the program will be posted online. Go to: <http://annualmeeting.oah.org/>.

—*Dominique Daniel, Kresge Library, Oakland University*

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Society of American Archivists

The SAA is offering full text articles, slides, and other presentation documents on its web site. To find items from the 2011 SAA annual meeting, go to <http://www2.archivists.org/conference/2011/chicago>.

There, you will find materials from the research forum, as well as an order form for audio CDs of all the sessions. Book, web site, and other resource reviews are also

available online on SAA's site. To find them, go to The *American Archivist Reviews* online: <http://www2.archivists.org/american-archivist-reviews>. This new feature contains materials that will not be seen in *The American Archivist*, the society's flagship journal. The site includes links to reviews from the journal, a section of briefly noted items that provide quick updates on new resources, and a list of selected new publications from SAA that you can use to find items to add to your library.
—*Dominique Daniel, Kresge Library, Oakland University*
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Calls for Nominations: *2012 Justin Winsor Essay Prize*

The Justin Winsor Prize Essay Award, first presented in 1979, honors the nineteenth-century Harvard librarian and former president of the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Historical Association (AHA). The winning author receives \$100 and a citation. The essay will be considered for publication in *Information & Culture: A Journal of History* (formerly *Libraries & the Cultural Record*).

Essays submitted for consideration must address subjects of significance in the history of libraries and librarianship. Ideally, they should also feature an interdisciplinary connection to print culture and information studies. Submissions may not

have been published previously, submitted for publication, or be under consideration for another award. The winning essay will be well written, based on primary sources, and will reflect original historical research. Essays must conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style* and may not exceed thirty-five pages (exclusive of end-notes and a bibliography). They must also be double-spaced and use 12-point Times New Roman font.

The deadline for submissions is January 31st, 2012. Those wishing to be considered for the prize should include a brief cover letter with contact information and remove the author's name and affiliation

from all other parts of the essay. Send either four hard copies or a Word or PDF e-mail attachment to:

Norman Rose
c/o Office for Research and Statistics
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, Illinois 60611
nrose@ala.org

The ALA Library History Round Table makes the award through its Justin Winsor Prize Essay Committee. The members of the 2012 Justin Winsor Prize Essay Award Committee are: Tanya Finchum, Michael Gorman (chair), and Fred Stielow.

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LHRT AWARDS NOMINATIONS

- ◆ Winsor Deadline:
January 21st, 2012
- ◆ Gleason Deadline:
January 14th, 2013

2013 Eliza Atkins Gleason Book Award

What do the following titles have in common: Louise Robbins' *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown*, Carl Ostrowski's *Books, Maps, and Politics*, and David Allan's *A Nation of Readers*?

All three are recent winners of the Eliza Atkins Gleason Book Award. The award is presented by LHRT every third year to recognize the best book written in English in the field of library history, including the history of libraries, librarianship, and information science. The award bears the name of Eliza Atkins Gleason, the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. Her book, *The Southern Negro and the Public Library* (Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1941), traced the history of library service to African Americans up to that time and laid the foundation for

all other histories of that aspect of library service.

Entries for the 2013 award must have been published during the three previous years (i.e., between January 1st, 2010 and December 31st, 2012). Bibliographies and edited collections will not be considered. Entries are judged on quality of scholarship, clarity of style, depth of research, and ability to place research findings in a broad social, cultural, and political context.

Nominations are welcome from all interested parties and should include one copy of the nominated volume (if possible) and a brief statement explaining why the book is worthy of consideration for the Gleason Book Award. Nominations are due on January 14th, 2013 and should be sent to:

Patti Clayton Becker
Gleason Award Committee Chair
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Library
900 Reserve St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
p2becker@uwsp.edu

Receipt will be confirmed within 3 business days. The Gleason Award Committee, a subcommittee of the Research Committee of the Library History Round Table, serves as jury for the award. The members of the 2013 Gleason committee are Patti Becker (chair), Renate Chancellor, and Steve Sowards. The winner will be announced in a press release on or about June 1st, 2013. Certificates honoring the author and publisher of the Gleason Book Award winner will be presented at an LHRT event during the 2013 ALA conference in Chicago.— **Patti Becker, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Library, Tom Glynn, Rutgers University, and members of the Gleason Book Award Committee**

Contest!

The First (?) Library History Crossword Puzzle

How much do you know about library history? Put yourself to the test! You could win a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble and have your name and photo printed in next semester's issue!

Alternatively, you may e-mail your entry to BAL19@psu.edu.

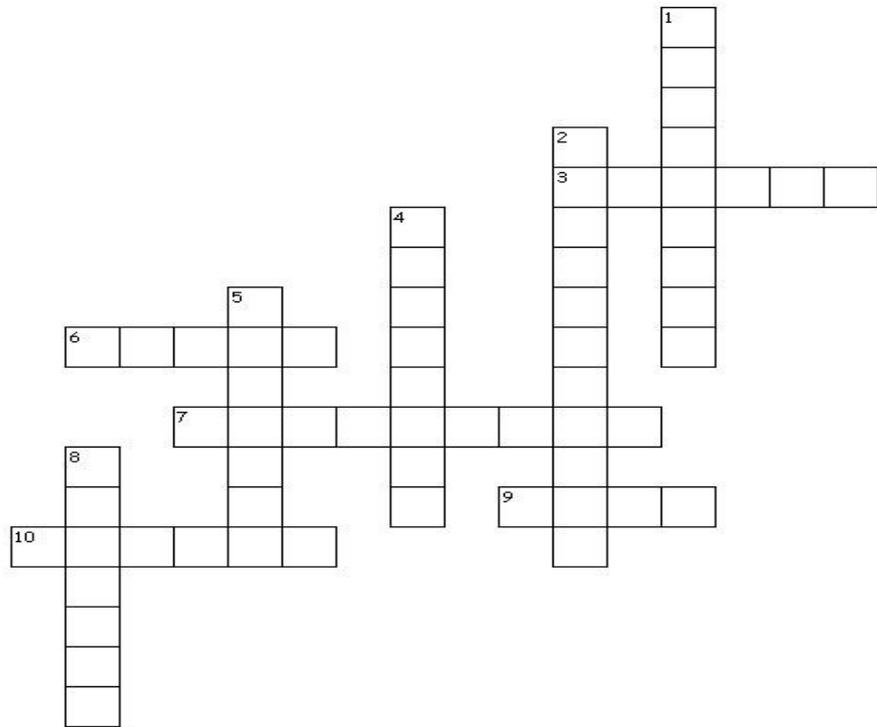
The winner of this semester's contest will be selected at random from all completed entries. Every answer must be correct to qualify for the drawing, and the winner must be a current LHRT member. If no qualifying entries are received, the prize will be added to next semester's contest.

Clues for the Fall 2011 puzzle were derived from George Bobinski's *Libraries and Librarianship: Sixty Years of Challenge and Change*, George Eberhart's *Whole Library Handbook* series, and other published sources. The crossword was developed with Discover Education's Puzzlemaker (<http://puzzlemaker.discovereducation.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.asp>). The prize was donated anonymously.

LHRT CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ◆ Deadline: November 30th, 2011
- ◆ Must be a current LHRT member
- ◆ Contact Bernadette Lear, BAL19@psu.edu

Just print out the crossword puzzle below, fill in your answers, and mail it no later than November 30th, 2011, to Bernadette A. Lear, Penn State Harrisburg Library, 351 Olmsted Dr., Middletown, PA 17057.



Across

3. Founded OIF and FRF
6. Compiler of early periodical index
7. Picture book medal (U.S.)
9. SLA founder
10. Morgan's first librarian

Down

1. Author of the first Library Bill of Rights
2. The library as "growing organism" was one of his laws
4. 1st print-to-speech reading machine
5. 1st African American LIS Ph.D.
8. Carnegie's right hand

Contact Information

Name: _____
 Mailing address (include street, city, state, ZIP): _____

 E-mail: _____

Do You Enjoy Reading?: Others Do, Too—Become a Contributor!

Are you a graduate student, new librarian, or beginning historian who would like to get started in publishing? Are you an established researcher who has interesting “out-takes” to share? If so, please send your material!

The *LHRT Newsletter* seeks brief articles (300-2000 words) pertaining to the history of libraries, librarianship, and reading culture. All kinds of items are interesting to our diverse membership. Possibilities include brief biographies of pathbreaking librarians; short architectural histories of notable library buildings; interviews with “movers and shakers” within LHRT; descriptions of important or unusual primary sources; book and web site reviews; and more. We welcome announcements of awards, events, and other opportunities, too. Although LHRT is a unit within the “American” Library Association, we welcome stories about libraries and librarianship throughout the world.

If you are interested, contact newsletter editor Bernadette A. Lear (BA119@psu.edu). Generally, the deadline is October 1st for the Fall issue, and April 1st for Spring. Earlier submissions are encouraged so the author and editor may work together to shape the article for LHRT’s audience.

We hope to hear from you soon!

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Caption: “Lady Reading,” image 05686 from The Robert Runyon Photograph Collection. Courtesy of The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. Accessible through the Library of Congress American Memory Project, <http://memory.loc.gov>.



LIBRARY HISTORY ROUND TABLE

Executive Board, 2011/2012

Chair	Tom Glynn , Rutgers University glynn@rci.rutgers.edu
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Member-at-Large	Karen Cook , Clarion University kcook.at.clarion@gmail.com

The Library History Round Table (LHRT) was founded in 1947 to commemorate great library leaders of the past and to celebrate the importance of libraries in society. Since then, LHRT members have critically examined libraries and their services in light of class, culture, gender, geography, race, and other perspectives. LHRT is an inclusive and diverse organization that supports anyone who is interested in the history of libraries. LHRT strives to further the study of history of libraries and reading through thought-provoking programs and monetary awards for outstanding research. We encourage library schools to incorporate historical content and methodology in their curricula and to support students who are doing historical research. Through involvement in LHRT we offer members the opportunity to network with colleagues interested in library history. LHRT members include librarians, archivists, curators, and others doing historical research; LIS students with a background or interest in history, faculty in LIS, the humanities, and related disciplines; Administrators, staff, and volunteers working in historic libraries; and retirees.

American Library Association
Office of Research and Statistics
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50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60616

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