



RENAISSANCE TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GELMAN LIBRARY SYSTEM AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Volume XV, Issue 23

July 18, 2000

GELMAN NEWS

Georgetown Current article on Home Base: The Neighbors and Neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. exhibit

by Erica Aungst
Administration

See **Attachment A** to read the *Georgetown Current* article about the *Home Base: The Neighbors and Neighborhoods of Washington, D.C.* exhibit.

Proclamation Notes to Scott Stebelman

by Jack Siggins
Administration

Attached as **attachment B**: A letter and copy of the proclamation notes sent to Scott Stebelman by the Literatures in English of the Association of College and Research Libraries expressing gratitude on his profession.

GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES

VACANCY LISTING

Please see **Attachment C** for Gelman's Vacancy Listing.

CONFERENCE

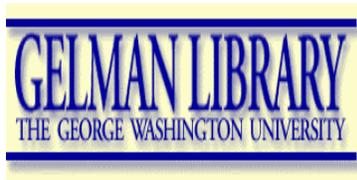
American Library Association Annual Conference 2000 Report

by Teena Bedola
Administration

Attachment D contains Mary Faith Pankin's report on the American Library Association Annual Conference 2000 that she attended in Chicago, July 6 through 12.

ANDREA'S SCHEDULE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

Monday, July 17, 2000	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, July 18, 2000	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Wednesday, July 19, 2000	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Thursday, July 20, 2000	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Friday, July 21, 2000	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm



⇒ **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

2	New Phone Number for IT Services
2	Workstation Tip of the Week
3	This Week in Literary History

CAMPUS NEWS

New Phone Number for IT Services Training

by **Alicia Miller**
Administration

Something from Ann McCarthy, IT Services Technical Training Coordinator, regarding the new telephone number for enrolling in an IT Services Short Course and other offerings:

“Effective immediately, there is a new phone number to call when you want to enroll in an IT Services Short Course or inquire about our offerings.

Old Number: (202) 994-1570

New Number: (202) 785-4851

Please update your records as appropriate.”



BOOK QUOTE

“What do we, as a nation, care about books? How much do you think we spend altogether on our libraries, public or private, as compared with what we spend on our horses?”

-- JOHN RUSKIN--
SESAME AND LILIES (1865)



Workstation Tip of the Week

July 18, 2000

by **Alicia Miller**
Management Information Systems

DELETING GROUPWISE MESSAGES

This question was submitted by a GroupWise user in the Circulation Department: *When I am deleting old mail, and come across one I want to save, I click close, and get kicked back to the list of mail. Is there anything I can do to stay on the “delete” track after I close a message?*

You could delete messages without opening them. Just **RIGHT – CLICK** on any message appearing in the list and select delete.

You could also use the blue “previous” (<|) and “next” (>|) buttons appearing at the top of your message screen. These buttons allow you to move backwards and forwards through your messages without closing them. Just click the next button if you want to save the message you are currently reading.



THE EINSTEIN CORNER

“ I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times, the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right.”

THIS WEEK IN LITERARY HISTORY

July 17, 1951	J.D. Salinger's <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> published by Little, Brown
July 18, 1811	William Thackeray born in Calcutta, India
July 18, 1817	Jane Austin dies in Winchester
July 18, 1899	Horatio Alger dies in Natick, Massachusetts
July 18, 1906	Clifford Odets born in Philadelphia
July 18, 1933	Yevgeny Yevtushenko (<i>Babi Yar</i>) born in Zima Station, Irkutsk, U.S.S.R.
July 19, 1374	Petrarch dies in Tuscany
July 19, 1898	Emile Zola flees France following his trial for libel
July 20, 1304	Petrarch born in Arezzo, Tuscany
July 21, 1899	Hart Crane born in Garrettsville, Ohio
July 21, 1899	Ernest Hemingway born in Oak Park, Illinois
July 21, 1933	John Gardner born in Batavia, New York
July 22, 1967	Carl Sandburg dies in Flat Rock, North Carolina

GELMAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	EVENT
<i>Home Base: The Neighbors and Neighborhoods of Washington, D.C.</i> Exhibit Showing	American Library Association Annual Conference 2000 "Brown" Bag Discussion
<u>DATE</u> June 23, 2000 through Sept. 14, 2000	<u>DATE</u> July 26, 2000
<u>PLACE</u> Room 207	<u>PLACE</u> Room 202
<u>TIME</u> Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<u>TIME</u> 12 noon through 1:30 p.m.

"I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn't park anywhere near the place."

- Steven Wright -

RENAISSANCE TIMES

Renaissance Times (RT) is the official weekly newsletter of the Melvin Gelman Library at The George Washington University. *R.T.* is proofread by **Karen Greisman** and is published every Tuesday by **Teena Bedola** in conjunction with Photocopy Services. Submissions, comments, and questions should be directed to:

Erica Aungst, Editor
Andrea W. Stewart, Co-Editor
The Melvin Gelman Library
2130 H Street, NW - Room 201
Washington, DC 20052

Voice: (202) 994-6455
Fax: (202) 463-6205
Data: astewart@gwu.edu
Data: aungst@gwu.edu

Food for Thought

To limit casual visitors, never display food near your work area. Candy dishes and doughnuts draw people like magnets. And nibblers linger once they're there. After all, no one wants to pilfer your goods and run – how rude. They feel obligated to engage you in conversation.

Source:
Accounts Payable Workshop, by the
American Management Association

ATTACHMENT

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Preconference

by **Mary Faith Pankin**
Collection Management

I attended the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Preconference, “Beyond Words: Visual Information in Special Collections.” I will describe some sessions of most general interest. The interpretation of visual information was broad and included prints, still photographs, films, videos, web sites, artists’ books, maps, poster, sheet music covers, and digitized versions of these. We also attended receptions at the Newberry Library, Chicago Historical Society (which had a Beatles exhibit), and the Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts.

The opening plenary session was “Beside Words: the Impact of Things Unseen on American Lives,” presented by George Roeder, Jr. of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His theme was the ignorance of or usually politically motivated suppression of visual information. The results have sometimes been to cover up injustice or unpleasant realities of American society. His research is on “missing” visual images, 1839-2000, some of which he has “found” and showed to us.

During World War II the American government censored unpleasant, socially unacceptable, or ambiguous images. Examples were images of: the destruction of Hiroshima and conventionally bombed sites, African-American soldiers with European women, career army officers of Japanese ancestry being taken to relocation camps, or American soldiers having battle-related mental breakdowns. Lack of this information influenced public opinion. For example, almost a quarter of those surveyed at the end of the war thought the Allies should have totally leveled all of Japan.

Painful images of 20th century lynchings in the U.S. southern states were unexpectedly not suppressed by some participants. In fact, as reprehensible as it seems now, they were sometimes not ashamed of their participation and had post cards made to distribute to others with pride. Other countries also concealed images. A well known example is the Soviet Union’s practice of excising images of executed or out of favor political figures from photographs. Librarians do socially important work by collecting, preserving, and promoting access to previously unacknowledged images.

Later that day there were two presentations on artists’ books. Marcia Reed of the Getty Library defined these as books with works by artists, sometimes including poetry or other text as well as artistic works. Often members of the avant-garde such as Matisse used these to make artistic statements. They are important for the study of both art and culture. There are generally no well-defined collection policies for these items. Ad hoc strategies may include: standing orders with individual artists or with the few specialty publishers, individual or collection gifts, and using bibliographies, journals, and library catalogs. Some criteria are: all works by certain artists, titles illustrating trends, significant works which influenced others, titles by well known artists, those within a price range, and faculty requests.

Sandra Kroupa of the University of Washington echoed many of these themes. She said that her upper limit of \$60 a title has not prevented her from assembling a large and meaningful collection. She is truly dedicated; she often buys titles herself and donates them to the library. She also publicizes them through many user education sessions, often spending half her time in a week presenting three-hour seminars to art, English or foreign literature classes. She emphasizes local and regional artists, and has developed

personal relationships with many; 95% of her purchases are from the artists themselves. Sometimes she commissions works directly from the artists, and in return they may give a discount and document their work methods, thus adding to the use of the works. Additionally she will buy slightly imperfect copies.

Representatives of several library schools (or schools of information science as some are now called) gave presentations about revised educational programs, especially for special collections work (University of North Carolina, University of Texas, University of Wisconsin, University of California at Los Angeles). All said that their enrollments are up, some as much as 50% from the mid-1980s. The Internet and the growing importance of information literacy have contributed to this trend. Some schools that were killed are now attempting to restart (e.g. the University of Denver). Some schools could accept even more students if they could hire enough qualified faculty to teach all the courses and sections. To compound the problem, the faculty is aging, and soon many will retire. The University of Texas is adding staff and courses such as Management of Corporate Archives, Advanced Archives Management, and digitization courses. UCLA now requires at least one computer-programming course for acceptance into the program. Many are now two-year programs to encompass all the added needed skills. All programs now have several courses on web design, especially as applied to the presentation of archives and rare books.

Thomas Hickerson of Cornell University was the commentator. He reported on his analysis of recent special collections librarian job ads. Although some were “entry level,” all required experience! Desired skills included: hands-on archival experience, foreign languages, multiple technology skills (e.g. digitization, EAD, HTML, MARC, SGML, Access), management experience, and fundraising and grant proposal writing. He concluded with saying that from now on change will be relentless and unending.

Several speakers in seminars or plenary sessions discussed specific visual materials cataloging or indexing practice. These were especially interesting to me since they have direct relevance to my work. However, much of the detail is not of general interest, so I will briefly mention the speakers and topics. I have some handouts if anyone wants more information. Greg Marcangelo of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division showed examples of catalog records for posters, a specific kind of image, of which LC has over 100,000! Helena Zinkham (also of the Prints and Photographs Division) discussed “best practices” for cataloging prints, drawings, and photographs. LC uses MARC cataloging using Graphic Materials: Rules for Describing Original Items and Historical Collections, by Elizabeth Betz, and its update, along with LC subject headings and The Thesaurus for Graphic Materials. She stressed the importance of access to subject information about the images, whether the cataloger uses the Thesaurus or LCSH. She demonstrated several catalogs of visual records, including LC’s Prints and Photographs online catalog (<http://lweb.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>) – with 250,000 mostly MARC records for five million pictures, cataloged by collection, group, or individual item – and those from the Minnesota Historical Society, New York Public Library, and the University of California at Berkeley. I have these URLs if anyone is interested (or you can use a search engine).

Christian Dupont of the University Notre Dame demonstrated his owner bookplate database using Oracle software. Bookplates, both pictorial and heraldic, are important provenance evidence. It is searchable on fields such as owner, artist, pictorial/heraldic devices (e.g. birds, lions), and there are links to the catalog record for individual books where the bookplates reside.

At the closing session Susan M. Allen of the Getty Research Library summarized the plenary sessions and cautiously predicted future trends. She prefaced her remarks by mentioning three myths widely held by students, educators, and the public – which we should combat:

1. We live in a paperless society.
2. Everything is on the web.
3. Everything on the web is free.

Her predictions about visual information included:

1. Access will improve with better intelligent library systems, especially with the coming integration of MARC, EAD, and better linking capabilities.
2. Collection development will be enhanced by increased cooperation between librarians, dealers, and donors.
3. For the foreseeable future, continuous migration is the only assured preservation method.
4. Large financial resources are required for preservation and collection of visual resources. Young librarians should get themselves into management positions so that they can influence the flow of money into special collections.