



The Owl

"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." —Hegel

Preservation Management in the Libraries An Interview with Susan Knoer

By Delinda Stephens Buie, Special Collections

Special Collections Reference Assistant Susan Knoer spent a week last fall at the Preservation Management Institute (PMI) offered by Rutgers University with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In April she returns to Rutgers for the second of three sessions in the year-long program. In the meantime, she talks to Owl readers...

When did you become interested in preservation?

Years ago – in 1976, actually - I did some contract work on exhibitions for the Museum of Natural History and Science in Grand Rapids. In attempting to renovate a 1930s exhibit of an Inuit hunter, we found that the fur coat had dried into a concrete-like block, so we had to put the mannequin – coat and all – into storage while the curators called and wrote all over the world to find a solution. They weren't willing to implement the best suggestion – I think maybe it came from the University of Michigan – that they fly in an aged indigenous woman to chew on the skin and soften it. As far as I know the coat is still on the mannequin in that storage room. But that experience left me fascinated with the potential for expertise in, what seemed to be then, such an esoteric field.

And since?

Working with photographs and special collections here has made me keenly aware of preservation issues. We are constantly working to make sure our unique materials don't end up unusable – like that Inuit jacket. So I had already registered for the Library Preservation course in my UK library school program, when I saw a notice for the program at Rutgers. UofL submitted a proposal for an NEH grant for my tuition and some of the expenses – which we won.

So what does the Preservation Management Institute entail?

Well, preservation isn't just about special collections. And it's not just about the highly skilled work of a

conservator piecing together a rare manuscript or restoring a book. "Conservation" means the technical skills to save things that are fragile or deteriorated. "Preservation" refers to management and education used to prevent library or archival materials from deteriorating.

At Rutgers I am learning how to assess collections, develop recommendations for improvements, draft a disaster plan, and put together components of a preservation plan. All of us are involved with preservation whether we know it or not. One of our goals for preservation at UofL Libraries is to make sure we *all* know it.

Didn't we just do disaster plans here?

Yes, and in that regard we are at the top of the curve for the PMI. Participants come from all over the country, and from all types of institutions, but at UofL we already have some expertise, and we have disaster plans. But this gives us the opportunity to have a top person in the field look at the work we've already done, and make suggestions for us to take from this point. By the end of the Institute we'll have additional plans ready to be implemented.

When will that be?

The Preservation Management Institute includes three full-week sessions at Rutgers over the course of a year, running from October 2002 through November 2003. In between, participants have plenty of hands-on homework.

We've noticed you prowling around with a clipboard...

I'm taking readings on temperature, light, and humidity—all of which take a toll on the durability of paper. Next I'll be doing a collection survey. And for fun I've been identifying the elusive Pennsylvania Wood Roach – one of which met an untimely end in the Special Collections reading room recently – and stalking the dreaded *Mus Musculus*.

Thanks for sharing! What is Rutgers like?



The destructive (but well educated) Mus Libris, or Book Mouse, wreaks havoc in the stacks.

The actual Institute occurs in a conference center. But we've had terrific speakers: one full day on HVAC; another on Integrated Pest Management. That guy's visual aids were great. He even brought in a cookie tin of cockroach frass.

And the field trips are wonderful. In the first session, we went to Preservation Resources, OCLC's reformatting division, to see their very impressive layout for microfilming and scanning. We also did a walk-through of Rutgers' main library, which made me proud of our stacks maintenance. I saw fore-edge shelving (horrors!), duct tape repairs (gasp), and folios literally draping over the side of the shelves (I feel faint). In April we'll go to the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia, and next fall — during the final session — to Columbia University.

You've mentioned what this program will do for UofL. What about for you?

I hope to see a play when we are in New York next fall. One of my friends is sound director on Baz Luhrmann's "La Boheme" on Broadway. Professionally, I finish my library degree at University of Kentucky this spring and intend to focus my career in archives, specifically in photographs. In accepting the funding from NEH, though, I agreed to stay at UofL for the term of the Preservation Management Institute. So, for the time being, I'll be here, working with preservation-minded folks — and helping raise consciousness so that everyone associated with the Libraries — staff and users alike — become preservation-minded folks.

And what, exactly, is cockroach frass?

(Ahem!) "The excrement of larvæ; also, the refuse left behind by boring insects." (*OED Online*, second edition, 1989).



Taking a light reading in the stacks. Light and heat embrittle paper.

DARE TO SAY THANK YOU!

I would like to say thank you to Catherine Lavalée-Welch and Devin Wilson for designing a great new web site for Kersey Library and promptly getting up all the text I've been sending them the past few weeks. Looks great — thanks!

—Carol S. Brinkman

Thank you to Calvin, Sheila, Mioshi, and Kathy who helped the ISI ResearchSoft vendor get her laptop set up and connected for the citation manager demonstration on January 15! You guys are great!

Thank you to Latisha for her work in scheduling the CLC

and Room 254 during these busy first weeks of the semester. It is a tedious balancing act to do this, and Latisha is great at trying to find solutions for everyone. You're doing a super job, Latisha! —Anna Marie Johnson

—Anna Marie Johnson

I would like to thank Margo Smith, Alice Abbott-Moore, Karen Hild, Jill Sherman, Susan Knoer, Martha Parry, and Mildred Franks for their support, encouragement and occasional good laughs as they urge me down the library science path. Margo gets extra credit for listening patiently to my incessant whining about the dreaded and dreadful commute to Lexington.

—Vicki Niehaus

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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

Deadline for publication is the 21st of each month.



From the Dean of Libraries . . .

New Wing News

We have received the *Facilities Program* for the libraries on the Belknap campus from our consultants, Woollen, Molzan and Partners, Inc. It is on reserve in Ekstrom Library. The document summarizes our space needs and provides suggestions and plans to address them. Sometime in March we will finalize a contract with an architectural firm and begin the actual planning of the addition.

FSCOL

The Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries (FSCOL) has recently addressed our need to obtain the faculty's monograph publications for the collection. We will place some information in that regard in the next Faculty Newsletter. In the fall we plan to have exhibits of faculty publications in each library and an event to honor contributing faculty members.

KYVL

The Steering Committee of the Kentucky Virtual Library met in January and the new Director of the KYVL, Enid Wohlstein, was introduced. It was also announced that Thomas Layzell from the Higher Education commission in Mississippi will be the next President of the Council on Postsecondary Education. His tenure begins in April. Miko Pattie was honored for her many contributions and leadership as former Director of the KYVL. Miko is now the Chief Information Officer of the Kentucky Virtual University. Database budgets for the next year were discussed in view of impending statewide budget cuts. Use of databases is continually increasing. An assessment of database use is in process at this time. The Lanter Courier Service was discussed in terms of price increases and how to deal with them.

Library Associates

The Library Associates had its second board meeting. There are now more than 130 members who provided approximately \$20,600 in donations, double the amount given in the previous year. The Board finalized its annual luncheon event, to be held on April 8. Any staff member can become a member of the Library Associates. The annual membership fee is \$25. The Library Associates will work on the next book sale.

ALA Midwinter

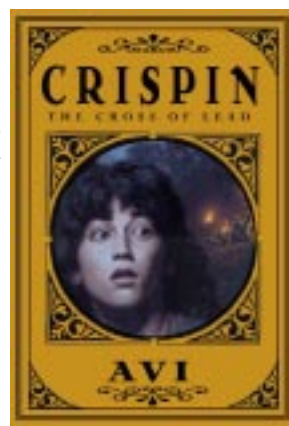
From January 24-28, I attended the Midwinter meeting of the American Library Association in the very cold city of Philadelphia. This annual event concentrates on



committee meetings but is also the event during which many winners of awards are announced. ALA news is summarized at www.ala.org

Many discussions took place including a rally to "Save American Libraries" due to the current economic environment.

Other meeting topics included increasing librarians' salaries. One highlight of the gathering was the ALA book awards, the most famous of which is the Newberry Medal for the best children's book. This year the award went to Avi for his book *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*. The award for best picture book went to Eric Rohman for *My Friend Rabbit*.



As co-chair of the National ARL/ACRL Task Force on Recruitment, I attended several important meetings related to recruitment, job placement, and professional education. Many libraries, state and regional, as well as ALA and ACRL, have been working on bringing new people to the



profession to ensure that there will be enough professionals available as many librarians retire. ACRL has a major initiative in place to market academic and research libraries using the @your library logo from ALA. ACRL's 11th National Conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina and Dr. John Shumaker, UoFL's former president, is one of the invited speakers.

As a member of the editorial board of *Reference Services Review*, I was glad to discover the many good manuscripts being submitted, ensuring valuable selections for the next several issues.

As usual, the exhibits were extensive and informative. I gathered much information on virtual reference, Endeavor's new initiatives with ENCompass, Emerald's new full-text expansions, and OCLC's multiple initiatives.

I also enjoyed an informative dinner with several of UoFL's alumni who live in the Philadelphia area. It was my privilege to inform them about the Libraries' many accomplishments.

ALA's annual conference will be a joint conference with the Canadian Library Association in Toronto, Canada from June 19-25.

—Hannelore Rader, Dean of University Libraries

Library Dept. & Team News

Art Library

The Newly Converted

As the few remaining unconverted titles in the Art Library are re-cataloged (thanks to Tyler), some treasures are popping up. Two beautiful Japanese portfolios with wonderful color illustrations of kimonos are now reflected in WorldCat. A good thing too, since only one other library owns them.

Best Place to Stay in NYC?

Next time you are in Manhattan, consider staying at the Library Hotel where each floor is devoted to a different Dewey Decimal category and each of the 60 rooms is filled with books and art related to a particular topic. Interested in botany? Stay in 500.004. Prefer photography instead? Ask for 700.005. The lobby has book-filled mahogany shelves and a faux card catalog behind the reception desk.

The hotel is located at 41st and Madison Avenue, appropriately near the New York Public Library and the Pierpont Morgan Library.

Ekstrom Library

Content Access

Content Access was pleased to receive several donations for the collection from academic and public libraries around the state in the past few months. The University of Kentucky sent 935 items, all of which have been processed. Eastern Kentucky University has donated 1131 items, and 95% of these items have been processed. McCreary County Public Library gave us 41 items and Pulaski County Public Library gave 126 items, which have been unpacked and processed by the Preprocessing Section.

Stacks Maintenance is still working away at its shelving and shifting (great upper body work-out if anybody is interested!). We thought the beginning of the semester would be easier, but the returning books just haven't seemed to slow down a bit. And Ben's group continues to bless us with new arrivals each day!

Vicki survived her first library science class at UK and is definitely enjoying her current one here at Ekstrom.

Dean's Office

Welcome to New Staff and Faculty Members

Destiny Minton joined the Kornhauser Library staff on December 23, 2003 as Library Technician at Kornhauser Library. Destiny was previously employed at Brescia Library

in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Susan Szasz Palmer, Public Outreach Librarian, joined Ekstrom Library Special Collections on January 2, 2002. Suzy was previously Head of Public Services, Division of Rare & Manuscript Collections at Cornell University.

New Teams

Library Liaison Team

Team Leader: Mary Barbosa-Jerez

Mission: University of Louisville Library Liaisons, selected from among the libraries' faculty and staff, will:

- Serve as a point of coordinated contact and communication between academic departments and the libraries;
 - Promote library initiatives and services;
 - Create a presence for the libraries at the academic department level in order to foster a spirit of collegiality and cooperation.
- Membership will be finalized in 2003.
An action plan will be available in 2003.

Marketing Team

Team Leaders: Elizabeth Smigielski, Mary Barbosa-Jerez

Members: Karen Hild, Terri Holtze, Vickie Niehaus

Objective: Develop a comprehensive marketing plan for the libraries.

Training and Development Team

Team Leaders: Gail Gilbert, Melissa Laning

Members: Alice Abbott-Moore, Gwendline Chenault, Bettie Lewis, Weiling Liu, Neal Nixon, Kathy Rogers.

Objective: Develop a plan for group training for staff and faculty based on identified needs from surveys, various libraries and departments.

Kersey Library

Farewell, Student Assistants

Heiman Ng has been with us so long it's hard to say goodbye. She is on co-op this semester and will be graduating in May. Tan Karunanont was given a fellowship award for a PhD program in Engineering. We will see him in the library but he will not be able to work for us. Rebekah Thompson is on co-op and will no longer be working with us. We wish them all the best.

New Students

We have two new students this semester. Ching-Kwan (Joanne) Lau is Heiman's cousin and was recommended by Heiman to work for us since she was leaving. It's "all in the family!" Joanne is a Business major. Joseph A. Harper (no relation to Dr. Harper in Chemistry) came to us through a recommendation. He is an Engineering major (ECE) with lots of library experience. Kersey Library is proud to have them aboard!

Music Library

Julia Graepel, assistant director of the Music Library, will be

AN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY EXHIBIT



Russell Lee. Negro barbershop. Southside of Chicago, 1941. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs, FSA Collection.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BARBERSHOP FROM THE ERA OF “JIM CROW” TO DESEGREGATION

By

Doris Wilkinson, Director
Project on the African American Heritage
University of Kentucky

With the assistance of Carolyn Wilkinson Baker, MSW

January 27 – February 28, 2003

University of Louisville
Ekstrom Library Lobby

This public humanities event is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for the Humanities