

2011 Space +

OPEN ACCESS

Two big themes punctuated the Smithsonian Libraries' year ending in September 2011: space and open access. We are engaged in several major renovation projects. All of the Director's Office and central services departments in the Natural History Museum moved to "swing" space on the museum's 4th floor in October 2010, to make way for a complete overhaul of our first floor space. Aptly named "cubicle city," the swing space is mostly furnished with spacious cubicles and a few offices. We have learned to live in these quarters quite comfortably, although choosing our new furniture and fabrics has whetted our appetites to return to our new quarters.



The Smithsonian clearly still values its libraries and the spaces they afford for study, collaborative work, training, meeting, and other communal enterprise. SIL's digital services, which send collections out across the world, is the polar opposite, allowing us to reach people everywhere and spark discovery. We operate in an open access environment, which means that our digital resources are freely available, in some cases for any use, in others for noncommercial and educational uses. The Libraries led a Smithsonian-wide discussion late in the year as to whether the Institution should sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, a document that outlines concrete steps to promote the Internet as a medium for disseminating global knowledge. I attended the Berlin 9 conference in Washington in November 2011 and was pleased to be able to announce that the Smithsonian had signed the Declaration, which commits us to working toward the principles of open, unfettered access to digitized scholarly works. As an example, the Biodiversity Heritage Library, a digitized collection of over 100,000 volumes of biodiversity publications, can be used or repurposed by anyone in the world. And use it receives! More than 3,000 visitors a day from all over the world, such as the botanist, who said "...being based in a small town in Africa made accessing literature especially difficult, but I no longer feel so disadvantaged...."

Our Smithsonian Research Online web site, where one can access scholarly publications produced by Smithsonian staff, is another example of complete open access. In February 2011 we celebrated the 10,000th publication to be contributed to the site. And you can also help us if you go to our Galaxy of Images website (<http://www.sil.si.edu/imagegalaxy/>) and add descriptive "tags" to the images there that you like!

The Libraries' staff went well outside the routine this year when our two conservators, Vanessa Smith and Katie Wagner, flew to Haiti to help with the rescue efforts of the National Library. They cleaned, documented, and re-boxed 1,458 monographs and trained Haitian staff to carry on the work. Meanwhile, Biodiversity Heritage Librarians Grace Costantino, Bianca Crowley and Erin Thomas, along with Rebecca Morin of the California Academy of Sciences, went to Puerto Rico to pick up the De Gruyter Saur International Federation of Library Associations Research Paper Award for 2011.

Our donors in FY 2011 most generously allowed us to purchase valuable items for the collection, such as Galileo's most extensive and significant 1638 work on physics, which is considered the first modern textbook on the physical sciences. They also helped to provide excellent training for our staff, to preserve valuable rare books, and to bring paper engineers and pop-up book historians to lecture to the public. Our first Margaret Henry Dabney Penick Fellow came from James Madison University to join other young scholars using our collections to forward their research.

This report celebrates our donors – you know who you are, and now others do, too! We could not succeed without you.

Nancy E. Gwinn, Director



As leaves were falling, the main Natural History Museum Library moved its collection and staff to the library's extraordinary new space on two floors of the museum's East Court Building. Problems with the collection move slowed the pace, but in March 2011, library and museum staff and guests watched as the Smithsonian's Secretary, Under Secretary for Science, and Deputy Under Secretary for Collections and Interdisciplinary Support helped to cut the ribbon. In addition to spacious offices and workrooms, the library now sports two high-tech training rooms, already in high demand, and a coffee bar..

An earthquake in August toppled several shelving ranges in the Botany Library and loosened bolts holding wall shelving in the Anthropology Library, but these were quickly replaced or repaired and services were hardly disrupted. Toward the end of the year, staff at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Library in New York were preparing for its move from the former Carnegie Mansion into new quarters in the adjacent Fox-Miller townhouses, where there will be two reading rooms and, for the first time, a climate-controlled vault for the library's splendid collection of rare and valuable works.



Staff on the Move

Promoted

Ninette Axelson-Dean
Administrative Services
Bill Baxter
Research Services
Jennifer Cohlman
National Design Museum Library
Chris Cottrill
National Air and Space Museum Library
Claudia Edge
Director's Office
Mike Hardy
Smithsonian Libraries Research Annex
Kathy Hill
Administrative Services

Martin Kalfatovic
Digital Services
Polly Khater
Discovery Services
Eva Preiss
Discovery Services
Joel Richard
Web Services & Digital Library
Jim Roan
National Museum of American History Library
Erin Rushing
Digital Services
Mike Smith
Freer and Sackler Galleries Library

Joined

Gilbert Borrego
Web Services
Katrina Brown
National Museum of American History Library
Alex Edezhath
Discovery Services
Sue Graves
Discovery Services
Harriet Gray
Discovery Services
Stefaan Hurts
Digital Services
Tina Muracco
Director's Office

David Opkins
Administrative Services
Dawn Pavao
Discovery Services
Maria Veazey
National Museum of American History Library
Katharine Wagner
Preservation Services
Mary Wassum
Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery Library
Basil Wilder
Anacostia Library

Retired

Marcia Adams
Discovery Services
Lynne Altstatt
National Museum of the American Indian Library
Vicki Avera
Discovery Services
Claire Catron
Interlibrary Loan Services
Carmen Eyzaguirre
Anthropology Library
Eric French
Museum Studies Reference Library

Angela Haggins
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Library
Lu Rossignol
Research Services
Courtney Shaw
Natural History Main Library
Maryann Wilson
National Museum of American History Library

Departed

Willetta Carter
Discovery Services
Dawn Pavao
Discovery Services
Elizabeth Periale
Director's Office



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2011 Statistics

20 Branch Libraries

ONE
HUNDRED
NINE
Staff Members

11,375 Gifts Added to the Collection

3,198 Books & articles lent to other libraries

1,916,287 Total Items in Collection

1,552 Virtual reference questions answered

3,153,360 Virtual Visits to Library Catalog

5,894 Books and articles borrowed by the Libraries to support Smithsonian research

5,344 Electronic serials and databases available to users

35,559 Reference questions answered

93,498 Total collection images on website

1,636,597 Number of Website Visitor Sessions

68,543 Page views on the Smithsonian Libraries blog as of 1/11/12

7,000+ Followers on Twitter as of 1/11/12

4,000+ Facebook fans as of 1/11/12

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2011

SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES
Annual Report

