The Libraries in 2008

20—Branch Libraries
100—Libraries staff members
124,907—Items added to collection
1,354,810—Total items in collection
4,929—Serial Titles (purchases & gifts)
12,801—Gift volumes added to the collection
1,229,903—Library records in SIRIS
238,051—Total collection images on website
3,014—Electronic journals and databases available to users
54,132—Reference questions answered
5,621—Interlibrary loans of books and articles
6,149—Books and articles borrowed
79,105—Images added to Galaxy of Knowledge website

Staff on the Move

Promoted
- Lynne Altstatt, National Museum of the American Indian Library
- Elizabeth Broman, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library
- Alice Clarke, Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library
- Jennifer Cohman, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library
- Phil Edwards, National Air & Space Museum Library
- Melanie Hall, Acquisitions Department
- Keri Thompson, New Media Office

Joined
- Jennifer Gray, National Museum of American History Library
- Rachelle Hardy, Development Office
- Alexa MacClain, National Museum of American History Library
- Kamran Mahadevan, stay-in-school student for Research Services
- Cassie Manier, National Museum of American History Library

Retired
- Willard Dillard, Acquisitions Department
- Carolyn Hamilton, Cataloging
- Geoffrey Reid, Cataloging

Image Credits

Cover

Inside, center panel
- Guests enjoy the Libraries’ 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala at the Reynolds Center.
- Back, center panel

Inside, right panel
- Author David Baldacci entertains the crowd at the Ruby Gala.

Back, left panel

Back, left panel

Designer: Elizabeth Periale
From the Director

It’s great pleasure to introduce the annual report for FY 2008, because that year was our Ruby Anniversary, the 40th year since the Libraries was founded by Secretary. So, let me give you a little context.

In 1968, the Smithsonian Libraries launched our book conservation laboratory. We started with a few thousand books, but today we have over 6 million volumes in our collection. Our mission is to provide access to information for all our stakeholders—scientists, students, and the public at large.

We have a staff of over 200, who work tirelessly to ensure that our collections are preserved and made available to the public. And we’re always looking for new ways to engage with our communities—whether through special events, online exhibits, or partnerships with other organizations.

In this report, we’ll highlight some of the highlights from the past year, including our collaborations with other institutions, our contributions to the National Digital Library, and our ongoing efforts to digitize our collections.

Let’s take a closer look at some of the key events and initiatives from FY 2008.

John, the Libraries hosts the Washington premiere of the film “The Curiosity Man: Catesby” and a symposium, “Mark Catesby in America,” featuring the life and influence of the famous naturalist. The Libraries contributes 144 portraits of scientists and inventors to the first Smithsonian flickr site for public viewing.

The Libraries’ Galaxy of Knowledge website opens with new design. The Libraries contributes catalog records for James Smithson’s personal library and Bern Dibner’s Heralds of Science.

The Libraries hosts “Paint the Town REaD!”—the 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala, in the Kogod Courtyard of the Smithsonian’s Donald W. Reynolds Center.

The Libraries partners with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center’s Kindergarten Program to introduce young students to artists and rare books in the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History.

The Libraries launches the Smithsonian Research Bibliography, a web site to capture the research output of Smithsonian scientists, curators, and other researchers. Aquilea Publishing publishes Botanicals, a 300-page volume featuring more than two centuries of natural-history illustrations from Libraries collections.

The staff of the Libraries thanks the Board for their gifts of time and resources.

The Libraries Board of Regents is comprised of members from across the United States appointed by the Smithsonian’s Board of Regents. The mission of the board is to help the Libraries provide information in all forms to scientists, curators, scholars, students, and the public at large. The staff of the Libraries thanks the Board for their gifts of time and resources.

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Please contact the Development Office at 202.633.2875 with any questions regarding this report.