The Libraries' International Reach

The Libraries receives some 3,100 journal titles without cost from its exchange partners in 145 countries, from Indonesia, Russia, and South Africa to Scotland, China; and Brazil. Each year over half the scientific journal titles in the Libraries’ collections are received on exchange in its Gift and Exchange (G&E) program, bringing considerable financial savings. In return, many of the 4,635 exchange partners in research centers and universities receive copies of the Smithsonian Contributions series, published and distributed by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Gifts donated to the Libraries comprise a large part of yearly acquisitions. Generous donors send both rare and new books, adding depth to the Libraries’ collections. The G&E effort today brings in over 6,000 gift books annually from the international museum and academic communities and individuals—an important addition to the collections. Director Nancy E. Gwinn notes, “one of the principal ways the G&E section saves the Libraries a significant amount of money is by paying attention to the gifts that come in, and if we’ve already placed an order for the item, canceling it. By being so alert and active, G&E saved the Libraries $1,845 in FY 1999. Congratulations to G&E staff!”

G&E staff John Dick, Melanie Hall, Dana Feil, and Yalçın Baykan maintain the lists of exchange partners, checking in journal issues in diverse disciplines as they arrive, and forwarding them to destinations within the Libraries’ 19-branch system. In subject matter, there is a heavy concentration in the biological and physical sciences and anthropology. Typical titles of journals received include The Kuwait Bulletin of Marine Science, Acta paleontologica Sinica (Beijing),

continued on p. 3 See G&E
Featuring...

Ruby Hamilton (Hopi) was appointed Librarian of the new National Museum of the American Indian Branch (NMAI) at the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland. Ms. Hamilton will develop the branch library's collection and acquaint NMAI staff with SIL's collections. She has developed collections in Native American Studies at the New York Public Library's Mid-Manhattan branch, the Tribal College of D-Q University in Davis, California, and as Curator of the Seminole Tribe of Florida archives at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Big Cypress Reservation. She has a B.A. in political science from Sonoma State University and an M.L.S. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ms. Hamilton is teaching her granddaughter, who lives in California, the Hopi language and Hopi ways.

Letter from the Director

When I suggested that this issue should highlight our international activities, even I had no idea how extensive they would be. Of course I knew about our exchange program, which brings in scientific and cultural journals, critical to Smithsonian staff research, from all over the world. The Institution began to participate in global communication over 150 years ago. Indeed, it was one of founding Secretary Joseph Henry's first priorities. Henry recognized that science and the arts have no national boundaries, that for humankind to understand nature and the power of culture, men and women must pool their discoveries and build on each other's work. Today, book and journal publishing continues to grow, far beyond the capacity of this or any library's budget to keep pace without the mutual sustenance of fellow libraries and scholarly societies. The Internet may add speed to global communication, but it has not replaced the older forms of information exchange.

Note that Libraries staff participate actively in international professional associations, contributing their time and energy to furthering the work of building, maintaining, and improving libraries and furthering the cause of access to information for all. Mirroring the Smithsonian's planetary perspective, the Libraries provides valuable work experiences for foreign librarians, assists Smithsonian scholars to have significant foreign scientific treatises translated into English, and supplies the information needs of scientists in their field work in Indonesia, Africa, Central and South America, and other parts of the world. Information and scholarship know no boundaries, and neither does the Smithsonian Libraries.

New System for SIRIS

On December 15, 1999, the Smithsonian Library Catalog, part of the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS), moved to a new system, Horizon, after months of intensive work by staff of the Libraries and the Office of Information Technology. The catalog includes the holdings of the Libraries' 19 branch libraries and of the National Museum of American Art and National Portrait Gallery Library. The new SIRIS is an integrated system supporting cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, and public access to library holdings. A software product of "epixtech, inc." Horizon offers great flexibility to meet changing information needs.
Foreign Embassies Accept Surplus Materials

The embassies of Romania, Argentina, the Russian Federation, Australia, France, Finland, Guatemala, Poland, and Belgium are among the recipients of some 3,700 volumes that were stored in the Libraries’ Annex. Duplicates and out-of-print materials shared shelf space at the Annex with volumes from the collections of individual museum libraries acquired prior to the 1968 establishment of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries by Secretary S. Dillon Ripley. Foreign language books and journals in the fields of technology and science marked for removal were from a variety of sources, including gifts and exchanges with other institutions.

The surplussed materials are written in German, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Hungarian, Hebrew, English, and other languages. Before deciding to dispose of the materials, branch librarians conducted a final review to confirm that there was no immediate or anticipated use for the materials in the Libraries’ collections.

Central Research Services Department head Martin Smith hired Carmen Ezyaguirre in 1997 to consolidate and discard more than 7,000 books and journals accumulated in the Annex at the Smithsonian Service Center at 1111 N. Capitol Street. Fluent in Spanish, German, Italian, and French, and using her imagination and resourceful skills, she identified many appreciative recipients of these volumes. Gifted at networking, Ms. Ezyaguirre successfully found good homes for 3,700 volumes in foreign and American libraries, associations, and societies, including the Mexican Cultural Institute and the Middle East Institute. The Bulletin de L’Académie Polonaise Des Sciences was given to the Embassy of Poland and the Italian Department at Georgetown University accepted Società Geografica della Società Italiana.

During her search to find recipients for the Libraries’ surplussed volumes, Ms. Ezyaguirre learned that many foreign embassies were happy to accept runs of journals in their native languages for their libraries. After donating over 280 French-language serial volumes, the French Ambassador and Cultural Attaché reciprocated by inviting her to lunch at the Embassy.

The much needed space at the Libraries’ Annex created by the success of this project will soon be filled with materials from overflowing shelves of the 19 branch libraries.

Global Service Via Interlibrary Loan

From Singapore to the Ukraine, South Africa, and Norway, libraries in 17 countries were recipients of books and copies of journal articles supplied via interlibrary loans. Extending its benefits into this “digital age,” interlibrary lending is one of the most important services the Libraries offers. Resource sharing will continue to be an integral part of the Libraries’ services, adhering to the Smithsonian commitment to “increase and diffuse knowledge” to the world.

The Libraries has a rich collection of historically important scientific materials from the 19th and early 20th centuries. These “heritage collections” are very much in demand by researchers around the world, and interlibrary loan is one significant way the Libraries shares its resources.

Martin A. Smith
Head, Central Research Services Department

G&E
continued from p. 1

and Revisita chileno de antropología (Santiago).

The G&E program at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Branch in Panama received 240 issues of journals on exchange and 558 gift books last year. Vielka Chang-Yau, STRI Branch Librarian, reports that the branch has exchange agreements with 92 institutions in Central, South, and North America, Asia, and Europe.

Stephen Van Dyk, Librarian at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Branch notes that Edie MacGuire, a volunteer, maintains an exchange program with 12 foreign and 16 U.S. museums.

The Libraries’ Translation Publishing Program has published and distributed English-language translations of almost 300 books and scores of articles since the 1960s. Mainly contributions to taxonomic studies, the books are needed by Smithsonian staff and scientists and libraries in 60 countries. Copies are available through National Technical Information Service. For details, see www.sil.si.edu under Translations Program.

Lucien Rossignol, head, Acquisitions Services Department and John Dick, G&E
Baird Society

The Spencer Baird Society, the Libraries' premiere annual giving and donor recognition society, was officially launched in July, and the Society now recognizes 64 members. Charter Members have provided unrestricted support, funds for acquisitions in specific library branches, additions to existing Libraries' endowments, and support for special projects. Several planned-gift donors and donors of significant book collections have also joined. Many Baird Society members attended a tour of the Libraries' newest branch at the Cultural Resources Center, National Museum of the American Indian, and a "Meet the Curators" preview of the Libraries' exhibition, Make the Dirt Fly! Building the Panama Canal.

For the list of Spencer Baird Society Charter Members, see FY 1999 report in this newsletter.

Development Watch

Completion of Getty-Funded African Art Project

In 1999, the Libraries completed a multi-year project funded by the Getty Grant Program, creating approximately 25,000 online bibliographic records relating to the literature of African art and culture. National Museum of African Art Branch Librarian Janet Stanley, author of the bibliographic index and principal investigator for the grant, began to compile the information in 1979 and she will continue adding records as new literature on African art is published. Beginning in 1996, the Libraries has made the African art bibliographic index available online in the Libraries' catalog. Since that time, public inquiries to the branch library for reference questions and interlibrary loan requests have more than tripled. This escalation illustrates graphically the ability of the Libraries to reach an increasingly wider audience — nationally and worldwide — though its online information services.

One of the index's most important features is the African Art and Culture Thesaurus. Developed by Ms. Stanley in close collaboration with Libraries' catalogers and National Museum of African Art curators, the thesaurus consists of fully documented and precise terms for African artists' names, institutions, artifact types, archaeological sites, and related subjects. The Libraries recently purchased computer software (Lexico) designed to make the African Art and Culture Thesaurus available in searchable form on the world wide web. The software program displays broad, narrow, and related-term relationships. When the conversion to Lexico is completed, Internet users around the world, including collectors, scholars, and members of the public, will be able to navigate within this large, subject-specific thesaurus and gain an overview of the entire discipline of African art and culture.

The African Art and Culture Thesaurus project provides the basis for a long-term collaboration with the National Museum of African Art. The goal is to link the thesaurus with the three separate databases, the Libraries' bibliographic index and two databases from the National Museum of African Art, one of museum objects and a second of the museum's Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives. Once the two museum databases have been further developed and all three have been linked and brought together in the searchable thesaurus format, students, experts, and laymen will be able to search across all three databases from any desktop computer.

Ms. Stanley, through her work on the African Art index, has contributed hundreds of new subject terms relating to African art and culture to the Getty Research Institute's Art and Architecture Thesaurus. Under her guidance, the Libraries has also proposed over 100 new African-art-related subject headings to the Library of Congress which are used in library cataloging worldwide.

From left, Tom Garrett with Spencer Baird Society Charter Members John B. Henry, Ann Crittenden, and Elizabeth T. Sanders at the exhibition preview, held in the Dibner Library of the Science of History and Technology.
Special Collections

World's Fairs Collection

To complement the Libraries' distinguished collection of more than 2,000 world's fairs guidebooks, pamphlets, government reports, photograph albums, and other books and documents, Cathy Serafica updated the 1994 published bibliography on world's fairs and international expositions. In addition, Ms. Serafica, a UCLA library school student, added annotated references to a number of Internet sites, online databases and bibliographic catalogs while serving an internship supervised by Rhoda Ratner at the National Museum of American History Branch Library. Ms. Serafica commented, "With the world wide web and the Internet playing such prominent roles in research and the exchange of information in today's world, there was a need to enlarge the bibliography to include Internet web sites that focus specifically on world's fairs. The updated version includes non-English-language materials."

International Interns and Visiting Librarians

Librarians from Poland, Kenya, Australia, and Italy came to the Libraries this year to receive specialized training or to conduct studies. In previous years, the Libraries has welcomed librarians from Malaysia, France, Bolivia, and many other countries.

Ashah Owano, Head Librarian from the National Museums of Kenya, participated in Libraries' operations in the National Museum of Natural History Branch Library and observed cataloging, acquisitions, and systems activities in those departments.

Christine Winkler, a graduate student at the University of Giessen, Germany, inventoried over 800 pieces of sewing machine trade literature in the National Museum of American History Branch Library and other Smithsonian collections under the direction of Suzanne Pilsk and Martin Kalfatovic during an internship with the Libraries.

Agnieska B. Koszowska, Librarian of the Biblioteka Slaska, Katowice, Poland, received training with Lucien Rossignol and staff of the Acquisitions Services Department during her Soros Foundation fellowship with the Library of Congress.

Janin Hadlaw, a Smithsonian Fellow from University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, reviewed communications materials, and Camilla Arcangiolii, a librarian from Rome, Italy, worked in the archive collections at the Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum Branch working with Stephen Van Dyk, Branch Librarian.

Roxanne Missingham, National Library of Australia, arranged a study visit with the help of Ann Junceau, Natural and Physical Sciences Department head, to include the Smithsonian Libraries as part of her project to identify the best practices in the delivery of digital materials to the desktops of scientists.

Visitors this year came from the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, and museums, universities, and professional associations in twenty-four countries.

Czech Collection

The Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Branch received a splendid gift of approximately 100 beautifully designed books and book covers principally published in Czechoslovakia and Germany in the 1920s and 1930s, thanks to the generosity of Emma L. Dana and James H. Fraser. Also donated were rare back issues of RED, published in Prague, 1927-1930, and associated scholarly materials.

Nejmenší dům (The Smallest House). Edited by Oldřich Starý and Ladislav Sutnar, Prague, 1931

The donation significantly strengthens the Library's resources in early 20th century Eastern European graphic design, a period of intense political and social unrest and an area of increasing research interest. In addition to their scholarly value, many of the book covers and periodicals are of very high aesthetic caliber, making them desirable for exhibitions.

Gwen Leighy
Development Officer
Featuring...

Mario Ascencio was awarded a post-graduate residency in Library and Information Sciences funded by the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives to serve as Librarian for Latino Research. Mr. Ascencio received an M.L.I.S. from UCLA, and a B.A. from California State University, Northridge.

As co-president of the American Library Association Student Chapter at UCLA, Mr. Ascencio served as the liaison between the Department of Information Studies and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking. He has completed internships at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and worked at the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities.

To develop Libraries' materials related to Latino studies, he will review collection development practices and interview researchers on Latino-related issues. Rhoda Ratner, History, Technology and Art Department head, is supervising Mr. Ascencio.

For the National Museum of American History Branch, Mr. Ascencio has created and distributed lists of new Latino-related holdings, and he is evaluating academic links that pertain to Latino issues for possible addition to the Libraries' Home Page.

Panama Canal Exhibition Opens

The major engineering project that led to the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914 is featured in the Libraries' year-long exhibition "Make the Dirt Fly! Building the Panama Canal" that opened on November 20 in the Libraries' Exhibition Gallery (located in the National Museum of American History).

Panamanian Ambassador Guillermo Ford and Director Nancy E. Gwinn spoke to the assembled guests at a reception for 260 people.

"Make the dirt fly!" was President Theodore Roosevelt's exhortation in March 1904 as he was determined to complete the greatest engineering effort undertaken to date. Under the direction of Chief Engineer George W. Goethals, the 10-year project to build the canal was finished six months ahead of schedule and $23 million below budget. A Bucyrus steam shovel dipper (5 cubic feet) stationed at the gallery entrance shows the type of equipment used to dig the canal. Other exhibits on display are construction from the Libraries' collections, Isthmian Canal Commission materials, a 1915 model of an earth grader, and a photograph of President Roosevelt on a Bucyrus steam shovel in Panama in 1906. An illustrated bilingual English-Spanish brochure with a Suggested Readings list, a large print guide, and a braille guide are available in the gallery for visitors.

William E. Worthington Jr. and Jeffrey Stine, both of National Museum of American History staff, served as guest curators of Make the Dirt Fly.

The exhibition remains open through January 5, 2001.

Afro-Latino literature for distribution at the keynote event for Hispanic Heritage Month sponsored by the Center. He continues to be active in REFORMA projects.

He will receive training throughout the year in each of the Libraries' departments (in systems, acquisitions, preservation, cataloging, and management services) in order to gain a broad knowledge of research library procedures.
SIL News Digest

Staff International Activities

The Libraries and its staff members participate in programs and hold memberships in a number of international organizations, including ICOM (International Council of Museums), IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), and the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative.

Service to scientists and students in the Republic of Panama and other Central American countries is an on-going activity at the Libraries’ branch at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute where STRI Branch Librarian Vielka Chang-Yau and her staff serve 750 to 1,000 visitors monthly.

Vielka Chang-Yau represented STRI at the 7th Symposium of the Network of Laboratories in the Biological Sciences for Latin America (RELAB) in Panama.

SIL Director Nancy E. Gwinn attended the IFLA meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. She represents the American Library Association on the IFLA Standing Committee on Preservation.

Sherry Kelley participated in the 7th Dublin Core International Workshop in Frankfurt, Germany, where participants made progress in developing a qualified Dublin Core Metadata Element set.

Leslie Overstreet went to England to do research on Mark Catesby’s works and attend meetings of the Society for the History of Natural History as the North American Representative. Ruth Schallert and Courtney Shaw also attended the meetings.

Margaret R. Dittemore spoke at a program on “Moving Librarianship into the Global Village” for the International Relations Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

William E. Baxter chaired a seminar on the use of rare books at the 1999 Rare Books and Manuscripts Pre-conference (American Library Association) in Montreal, Canada, with Ron Brashear, Janice S. Ellis, and Leslie Overstreet participating.

Rhoda Ratner chaired a meeting in London of the Museum Libraries and Information Centres working group of the Documentation Committee of ICOM.


Jean Chandler Smith, 1913-1999

Jean Chandler Smith, author and twice acting director of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, died of cancer on December 21, 1999. Ms. Smith’s extensive research into the writings of the French naturalist Baron Georges Cuvier (1769-1832) was published as Georges Cuvier: An Annotated Bibliography of His Published Works (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992) with an introduction by Stephen Jay Gould. She joined the Smithsonian Libraries staff in 1965 and she served as special assistant to the director for collection development of biological science programs, as assistant director of reader services and of bureau services, and as acting director (1972-1977-1979). After her retirement in 1981, she continued as a research associate of SIL. Ms. Smith worked in libraries over 40 years, in the District of Columbia public libraries, in Hawaii, at Yale University, and at the National Institutes of Health. Smith received an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College, an M.S. in zoology from Yale University, and an M.L.S. from Catholic University of America.

Our condolences to her family and many friends.

Photography Credits

We thank the following photographers from the Smithsonian Office of Imaging, Printing and Photographic Services: Don Hurlbert for acquisitions staff (p. 1), Jeff Tinsley for SIRIS (p. 2), Hugh Talman for Hamilton (p. 2), Esyguirre (p. 3), Batzr Socetity members (p. 4), and Panama reception (p. 6), Richard Strauss for Ascendic and Ratner (p. 8). We also thank Jon Goell for African Art branch photo (p. 4), Martin Kalafatovic for interns photo (p. 5), Matt Flynn for Czech book (p. 5), Vija Karklins for Jean Chandler Smith (p. 7). Gwinn photo (p. 2) is by Brooks/Clogan Photographers.
Calendar

Smithsonian Institution Libraries Exhibition Gallery
National Museum of American History, first floor, west wing
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. daily (except December 25)

Through January 5, 2001
“Make the Dirt Fly!” Building the Panama Canal
William Worthington and Jeffrey Stine, Guest Curators

Online Exhibitions
Visit at www.sil.si.edu/Exhibitions

On view now
“Make the Dirt Fly!” Building the Panama Canal
From Smithsonian to Smithsonian: The Birth of an Institution
Science and the Artist’s Book

A Spencer Baird Society Event
March 27, 2000
At the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, New York City

Lecture
May 2, 2000
The 2000 Dibner Library Lecture
“Extraterrestrial Life and Our World View at the Turn of the Millennium”
by Steven J. Dick, Historian of Science, U.S. Naval Observatory
Reception Suite, National Museum of American History, at 4:00 pm
Supported by The Dibner Fund

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