Message from the Director
Nancy E. Gwinn

Greetings from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries! The cheery color chosen for this report reflects our mood at the end of the fiscal year, September 30. The peak of the year surely was when design awards (four in all) began to roll in for the catalog accompanying our exhibition Odyssey in Print. In fact our Smithsonian colleagues liked it so much that they decided to send it as a gift to over 20,000 of the Contributing Members to the Institution (see page 5 if you want your own.)

Budget reductions forced us to close two of our 22 libraries, but we turned that lemon into lemonade by combining the collections with others to create stronger service points. By year’s end, the museology collection had joined a central reference unit to become the Museum Studies Reference Library with three staff serving the information needs of museums and libraries around the world. The Horticulture Library collection is scheduled to move shortly to the stacks of the Botany Library. Both facilities are located in the National Museum of Natural History. We’re close to opening the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History, our new state-of-the-art rare book library in the Natural History Museum. This library will provide a comfortable, elegant reading room for consulting precious volumes, along with a secure, environmentally controlled vault for their safe-keeping. It is named for our most generous donor, who provided an endowment to support its operations.

With one foot deeply embedded in traditional books and journals, the other stretches to accommodate the digital world. We’re delighted that the new design and navigational tools on our website, Galaxy of Knowledge, caused the numbers of “hits” and visitor sessions to leap upwards and hold steady. More than ever, we are serving the general public outside of Washington, D.C.

The statistics on page 3 hint at the ongoing, splendid work that SIL staff perform daily. On top of that, eleven staff members published a total of 41 books, articles, and reviews, reflecting their professional and subject interests. Kudos to them for making this extra contribution.

Enjoy this report, but watch out! There’s much more to come in 2003.

2002 Notable Acquisitions

◆ With income from the Libraries’ Special Collections Endowment, SIL acquired a complete set of the Acta Eruditorum, one of the earliest scientific journals. It contains an article, written by Gottfriend Wilhelm Leibniz in 1684, to announce the differential calculus, which is one of the remaining Heralds of Science not owned by the Libraries. The Heralds are the 200 most influential classic works of science as identified by Bern Dibner, donor of the magnificent collection for which the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology is named.

◆ To mark the upcoming opening of the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History, the Spencer Baird Society purchased an early 18th century work by Michael Bernhard Valentini, The Museum museorum..., considered one of the most valuable primary sources for the study of Renaissance cabinets of curiosities and the early history of scientific collections. Valentini was a physician and a professor of experimental science and medicine, and this book includes the complete catalog of his collection, as well as a list of over 150 other collections, with full re-prints of many of their catalogs.
The Libraries was one of 164 North American academic and research libraries participating in a web-based survey, LibQUAL+, which was designed to evaluate the range and quality of library services. The survey was sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Texas A&M University and funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education. ARL provided individual results for each participant and aggregated results from all participants for comparison.

- The survey used a technique known as “gap analysis.” Respondents were asked to rate 25 items on a scale that reflected their minimum library service expectations, maximum expectations, and where they perceived the Libraries fell on that spectrum.
- The Libraries received quite positive ratings. Smithsonian Institution respondents told us the Libraries has outstanding staff. They also rated all nine staff service items (from the total of 25) well above their minimum expectations. This is an exceptional result and ranked the Libraries high within the total group.
- The Libraries scored higher on perceived performance than the aggregate of the other participants on all but six items.

As we continue to analyze results and plan for further action, it is important to keep in mind that SIL is the only museum library in this project. We will need to factor in the difference in survey populations (undergraduates, graduates, and faculty) when we compare and evaluate responses. Results are available on Galaxy of Knowledge at

http://www.sil.si.edu/pdf/libqual.pdf

**Moves**

- Nancy Gwinn completed the reorganization of senior staff by promoting Mary Augusta Thomas to the new position of Associate Director for Reader Services and Strategic Planning. She will manage SIL's 20 libraries and guide systemwide planning efforts. Sherry Kelley was promoted to Assistant Director for Technical Services and Administration and will oversee cataloging practice, as well as acquisitions, preservation and other administrative services, such as human resources, contracts and procurement, statistics, and accounting. Tom Garnett's new title of Assistant Director, Digital Library and Information Systems, reflects his broadened responsibility for all aspects of SIL's digital production and website development.
- SIL established the Museum Studies Reference Library by consolidating the collections of the Museum Reference Center and the Central Reference and Loan Services Library, becoming the Libraries' first-line reference resource for information about museums and their operations.
Spencer Baird Society
Resident Scholars 2002

- Regina Blaszczyk, Boston University, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies and Endowed Chair in American Material Culture
  Regina received a Ph.D. in History (1995) from the University of Delaware. She utilized Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum special collections materials to aid in her project, “Color, Design, and Modernism.”

- Sarah Linford, Ph.D. candidate in Art History, joint program with Princeton University and Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand, France
  http://www.sil.si.edu/ResearchIntern/bairdscholars.pdf

Dibner Library Resident Scholars 2002

- Amy K. Ackerberg-Hastings, independent scholar
  Amy received her Ph.D. in History of Technology and Science from Iowa State University in 2000. Dr. Ackerberg-Hastings conducted research on a history of American geometry education from 1750 to 1950.

- Jen E. Boyle, Ph.D. candidate in English with Critical Theory and Feminist Emphases at the University of California, Irvine

- Guido Giglioni, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore
  A well-published scholar, having written a book on the scientist J. B. van Helmont, Guido’s dissertation is an analysis of the work and life of Francis Glisson (1598-1677), English anatomist, physician, and philosopher.

- Neil Franklin Safier, Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore
  Neil is also currently a fellow at the Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. His dissertation is on Charles-Marie de La Condamine (1701-1774) and his scientific expeditions to the Andes and the Amazon.
  http://www.sil.si.edu/Libraries/Dibner/dibnerscholars.htm

The 25th Anniversary of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology

On October 3, 2001, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. Programming focused on the significance of the Dibner Library’s collections to scholarship in the new millennium with a symposium entitled, “Exploring the Past, Shaping the Future: The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology at 25 Years,” featuring noted British rare book dealer and scholar Roger Gaskell. The Smithsonian Libraries’ annual Dibner Library Lecture followed, with guest speaker Owen Gingerich, professor of astronomy and the history of science at Harvard University and senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. His lecture, “Icons of Understanding: Celebrating Bern Dibner’s Heralds of Science,” focused on one of the gems in the Libraries’ collections, the 200 volumes he selected as the “Heralds of Science.”
Public Impact

Print Publications


Exhibitions

An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in the Smithsonian Libraries
May 16, 2002 - December 31, 2003
Smithsonian Libraries Gallery, National Museum of American History, Behring Center

www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/odyssey

This exhibition, which originally debuted last year at Manhattan’s prestigious Grolier Club as Voyages: A Smithsonian Libraries Exhibition, draws from the rich and multifaceted collection of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Divided into three parts and shown over a period of 18 months, this extensive survey features “explorations of the physical world, journeys of the intellect, and flights of the imagination” as they have been recorded in lavishly illustrated books and manuscripts.

The accompanying exhibition catalog received the following awards:
- Best of Show, 2002 Washington Book Publishers Book Design and Effectiveness Awards
- First Place, division of Interiors, Illustrated, 3+ Colors, 2002 Washington Book Publishers Book Design and Effectiveness Awards
- First Place, division of Jackets/Covers, 3+ Colors, 2002 Washington Book Publishers Book Design and Effectiveness Awards
- Honorable Mention, Exhibition Catalogues division of the American Association of Museums design competition 2002

Wonder Bound: Rare Books on Early Museums
May 24, 2002 - October 31, 2002
National Museum of Natural History, Constitution Avenue Lobby, west end

www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/wonderbound

The exhibit, curated by Leslie Overstreet, related the fascinating and complex story behind the development of natural history museums. On display were four centuries of books about natural history collections, ranging in topic from Renaissance “cabinets of curiosities” to today’s National Museum of Natural History.
Biologia Centrali-Americana

The Libraries is collaborating with the office of the Under Secretary for Science and the National Museum of Natural History Department of Systematic Biology on a project to digitize the 63-volume set of the Biologia Centrali-Americana. The digitization is the first phase of a much larger project to improve biological informatics by linking relevant datasets to create new research tools for biologists. Five repositories - the American Museum of Natural History (New York), the Natural History Museum (London), the Royal Gardens at Kew, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and several units of the Smithsonian: National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Smithsonian Libraries - are involved in this ambitious project.

U.S. Exploring Expedition

The Libraries is working with the National Museum of Natural History Anthropology Department to explore joint web outreach efforts related to the 1840s U.S. Exploring Expedition. The Anthropology collections contain a substantial number of artifacts collected by this historically important expedition. Some also served as the founding collections for the U.S. Botanical Gardens, another possible participant. The Libraries is currently scanning the entire set of expedition narratives and scientific volumes.

Scientific Research

Digital Editions

- **Le Garde Meuble**, a 19th century periodical of French interior design
- **The Horse in Blackfoot Indian Culture** by John C. Ewers

The Libraries' digital editions are cover-to-cover, high-resolution digital replications of rare, valuable, or out-of-print books and manuscripts, easily viewed at: [http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/](http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/)

A host of other rare books and valuable studies are available, including François Nicolas Martinet’s *Ornithologie*, 1773-1792 and Tycho Brahe’s *Astronomiæ instauratæ mechanica*, 1602. New digital editions are posted on *Galaxy of Knowledge* on a regular basis.

Online Exhibitions

- **An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in the Smithsonian Libraries**
  [http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/Odyssey/](http://www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/Odyssey/)
- **Wonder Bound: Rare Books on Early Museums**
  [http://www.sil.si.edu/Exhibitions/wonderbound/](http://www.sil.si.edu/Exhibitions/wonderbound/)

SIL on Display

- **Bella C. Landauer Collection of Aeronautical Sheet Music**
  [http://www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/Music/](http://www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/Music/)
- **Seed Catalogs**
  [http://www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/Seeds/](http://www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/Seeds/)

Miscellaneous

- **Museums in the U.S. with African Art Collections**
  [http://www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/africanart/museumswithcollections.htm](http://www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/africanart/museumswithcollections.htm)
- **Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology**
  [http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/Dibner/index.htm](http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/Dibner/index.htm)

August 5, 2002 saw the re-launch of the Libraries’ website, *Galaxy of Knowledge*, [www.si.sil.edu](http://www.si.sil.edu), with new design and information architecture. As a result, September 2002 saw a record high in both website hits (at over 2.6 million) and visitors (over 111,000). The website hits increased over half a million from the Libraries previous high in August 2002, and visitors were up by 25,000 over the previous high in March 2002. The following major website content went live on *Galaxy of Knowledge*:

In 2002 The Libraries created the [New Media Office](http://www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/newmediaoffice.htm), which operates under the Information Systems Division. This office oversees the production and maintenance of the SIL Web site, *Galaxy of Knowledge*, [www.si.sil.edu](http://www.si.sil.edu), and is primarily responsible for the content seen on *Galaxy*, producing digital exhibitions and digital editions of rare and out-of-print books.
Smithsonian Institution Libraries Capital Campaign

The Libraries launched its Partners in Discovery Capital Campaign this fiscal year, with the following goals:

- Enhancing Collections
- Increasing Outreach through Technology
- Preserving and Exhibiting Collections

The Libraries moved closer to the campaign’s goals by raising $616,875.46 in cash and new pledges (not including $594,000 raised for the Biologia Centra-lAmericana digitization project and $17,000 for a scientific conference awarded by the Smithsonian’s Seidell Fund.) These donations included:

- SIL Campaign Pledges: $500,000 for various endowments including preservation, information technology, acquisition/preservation of illustrated books, general acquisitions and unrestricted funds
- Digital Projects: $658,600 (including conference)
- Exhibitions: $20,000
- Other acquisitions endowment: $12,000
- Baird Society: $33,752.20 unrestricted funds (since the Society began, its members have given the Libraries over $165,000 in unrestricted funds.)

The Spencer Baird Society


The Baird Society also gave support to the Libraries’ Galaxy of Knowledge website, www.sil.si.edu by contributing towards the purchase of a new digital imaging workstation. The new workstation is a high-resolution digital camera with many special features for cradling and illuminating delicate and oversized books. This special design allows the Smithsonian Libraries Imaging Center to make the highest quality reproductions without endangering the priceless treasures of the Libraries’ collections. Through the Galaxy of Knowledge many of the Smithsonian’s most precious books are now accessible to the world, and with this new camera, more volumes will be available in a much shorter time.

- The Libraries, with the Smithsonian Institution Contributing Membership, hosted approximately 100 guests at an evening featuring the exhibition An Odyssey in Print, with a book signing by Mary Augusta Thomas and co-essayist Michael Dirda, of the Washington Post. The Contributing Membership program distributed thousands of copies of the exhibition catalog, An Odyssey in Print, as its Fall membership benefit.

- Mary Augusta Thomas and Michael Dirda were also featured at a book signing event at Olsson’s Bookstore in downtown Washington, D.C. on June 24, 2002.
**Donors**

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  - Brian J. & Darlene Heidtke, The Heidtke Foundation
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- **$25,000 to $99,999**
  - David & Frances Dibner, The Dibner Fund
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  - Research Libraries Group
  - Gladys Kriebel Delves Foundation

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  - Seed catalog, Bolgiano’s 100 Years, (Baltimore, 1918).

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