

Library news--Spring 2019

Changes to Physical & Virtual Space

- Thanks to the generous support of the class of 2018 and the The James Kirk Bernard Foundation, this year we purchased new soft seating for the library and completed our cafe area. Still to come are large-scale monitors for the seminar rooms and study-break craft kits students can check out.
- This year we completed an upgrade to our cataloging and circulation system which has (among other improvements) brought you a more user-friendly search interface and easier access to your library account via single sign on. We also retooled the Stevenson Library homepage to be more streamlined and user friendly.

Education & Student Support

Our teaching librarians delivered 79 instructional sessions this year. These have included library orientations, course-specific sessions, and optional workshops covering a range of research skills. We introduced several new programs to support seniors, including regular drop-in research clinics and weekly writing sessions with Jane Smith. We're currently planning the third year of running our collaborative research workshop, Immigrants@Bard, for all incoming first-year students. We're always happy to collaborate with faculty to provide course and program-specific support. Contact Jeremy Hall or Alexa Murphy if you'd like to explore options for library support for your course or program.

Campus collaborations

- This year we partnered with the Bard Houses Program to establish the House Librarians program. The House Librarians collaborate with the House Professors to plan programs and events such as our popular Trivia Night, haunted library tours, craft sessions and information literacy instruction. They also offer personal librarian services to students in their house. The house librarians are Alexa Murphy (McWilliams House), Amber Billey (McKenzie House), Jeremy Hall (Yauch House) and Kate Laing (Coulter House).
- The library participated in CCE's Martin Luther King Day of Engagement mini-conference during Citizen Science. Over 30 students attended our workshop **Fake News, Pseudoscience & You**.
- We've been collaborating with the SCALE project to develop a textbook reserves library to help mitigate the cost of expensive textbooks for students.
- We've partnered with the Wellness Office, student government, student activities, and counselling office to provide stress relief and other wellness support in the library.

Professional Development

- Librarians have attended various conferences around the region, including the annual conferences of the Association of College and Research Libraries New England Chapter, American Library Association, New England Technical Services Librarians, and the Southeastern New York Regional Library Council.
- Alexa Murphy, Kate Laing, Jeremy Hall and Amber Billey presented a poster at the Southeastern New York Library Council's annual conference. The poster, entitled "Turning Outward: Two Years of Outreach at the Bard College Library," highlighted our outreach efforts over the past two years.
- Amber Billey gave a lightning talk at the New England Technical Services Annual Meeting on April 5, 2019 entitled "Introducing Open Cataloging Rules: A Freely Available Collaborative Cataloging Code for Practical Library Cataloging." On April 10, she participated in a panel discussion entitled *Accessibility for All: Inclusive Design in Libraries and Academia* at Pratt Institute Library in Brooklyn, NY. She gave a radio interview on July 27, 2018, for the Lost in the Stacks: the Research Library Rock'n'Roll Radio Show on *Uncataloging Neutrality* (<http://lostinthestacks.libsyn.com/episode-392-uncataloging-neutrality>). Billey also published two articles:
 - Billey, Amber, and Emily Drabinski. "Questioning Authority." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*, vol. 6, no. 1, Feb. 2019, pp. 117–23. doi:10.1215/23289252-7253538.
 - Billey, Amber. "Just Because We Can, Doesn't Mean We Should: An Argument for Simplicity and Data Privacy With Name Authority Work in the Linked Data Environment." *Journal of Library Metadata*, Apr. 2019, pp. 1–17. doi:10.1080/19386389.2019.1589684.

Resource Sharing

We continue to expand the network of libraries we share with. We are now in a consortium that includes Dartmouth College, New York Public Library, Columbia University, and others--greatly expanding your access to resources at these institutions. If you've noticed that your ILLiad article requests get processed much faster than they used to, that's because we've automated much of the processing for faster turnaround of requests.

Archives & Special Collections

In the fall of 2018, the Archives was awarded a strategic planning process grant by DHPSNY (Documentary Heritage Preservation Services of New York) and this year is devoted to working toward achieving the goals we have established. Broadly, these include Collection Stewardship, Resource Development and Outreach Access and Use. College Archivist Helene Tieger, assisted by Debbie Klein, is working to implement these goals systematically for the archives, which include the archives of Montgomery Place among its collections.

This spring the Archivist has worked with multiple campus departments and community projects including:

- Admissions Office during Accepted Students Day - led bus tours of families interested in the history of Blithewood and Montgomery Place
- Alumni/ae Office - alumni/ae events and BardCorps, a collaborative oral history project
- Experimental Humanities - met with Krista Caballero and her students to provide archival documentation for their work on “Vultures: a Pop Up Multi-Media Installation”
- ‘Gilsonfest’ exhibit at Historic Red Hook

In addition, the Archives and Special Collections continues to administer the Hannah Arendt Collection in the library, making appointments for fellows of the Hannah Arendt Center and independent researchers who wish to access the library of Hannah Arendt and her husband Heinrich Bluecher. Through the efforts of Shirra Rockwood and Jeremy Hall, the Arendt marginalia project continues as well, creating digital access to marginalia from this collection.

Visual Resources

This year the Visual Resources Center was formally brought into the Bard Libraries Program, enabling them to better integrate their services and provide support for digital projects, special collections and exhibits.

The Visual Resources Center continues to focus on instructional support for the use of images in teaching. This past year they provided a range of support services including digitization, image cataloging, orientations, and tutorials on best practices for image research.

In addition to administering the [Visual Resources Collection](#), the VRC assisted faculty in the creation of unique image collections to be shared with the public through the Artstor Digital Library. Recent projects include the [Violetta Delafield Mushroom Drawings](#), a collaboration between the Visual Resource Center, the Digital History Lab and Montgomery Place and [Textiles that Talk](#), Professor John Ryle’s collection of East African kanga cloths.

The VRC continues to support course-based projects created with Omeka. This past year they supported digital exhibits in Africana Studies, Art History, Experimental Humanities and Historical Studies including: [Three Cities: An Urban History of Lagos, Nairobi, and Johannesburg](#); [US-Russian Relations from Tehran to Yalta and Beyond](#) and [The Mushroom Drawings of Violetta Delafield](#).

The Visual Resources Center is now providing support to Montgomery Place, including management of their *Embark* database along with 5,000+ digital assets from the Montgomery Place Collections. This past year they provided research assistance to faculty, staff and potential donors; managed permissions and image reproduction requests; and worked as part of the MP inventory team to update location and inventory records.