

# UPDATE

SPRING 2005

## University Librarian's Message

We are hurtling toward the end of the semester here in Ithaca, that time of the year when the campus abounds with visiting lecturers. This spring Cornell University Library (CUL) hosted a variety of talks, each of which highlights a different way in which we are responding to our users' needs.

In March Peter Suber, professor of philosophy at Earlham College in Indiana and an internationally known advocate of "open access," spoke to a large crowd of faculty and library staff members about the movement to make peer-reviewed scholarship freely available on the Internet. Suber and others promote the development of institutional repositories where researchers can deposit copies of their publications and readers worldwide can access the information free of copyright restrictions.

Currently there is strong momentum to provide the public with free access to federally funded research and other scholarly literature. You may have heard recent reports in the media about the National Institutes of Health new policy calling on scientists to submit publications from research supported by NIH to a Web-based archive that will be free and open to the public. This launched a major debate in the non-profit publishing sector, and between librarians and faculty members at research universities. Although biomedical associations claim that NIH will severely undercut non-profit publishers, who rely heavily on journal subscription revenues and advertising to support their publications and professional activities, the Medical Library Association and many academic research libraries have weighed in with strong support for the new archive.

We at Cornell Library support open access and are presently developing an open source publication management system that provides authors and publishers with a more affordable way to publish scholarly research on the Internet (see the story about DPubS on page 6). Nonetheless, we recognize that these are very complex issues. If you'd like to learn more about this topic, please visit our Web page on scholarly communication at [www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm](http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm).

Another speaker this spring reminded us not to be seduced by the pull of the technology in a way that obscures meaning. Paul Duguid is a research specialist in social and cultural studies in education at the University of California, Berkeley. He and co-author John Seely Brown were at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center when they wrote *The Social Life of Information* in 2000. Their book examines the social context in which information exists, which is an ideal starting point for the challenge that President Jeffrey Lehman identified in his State of the University address last fall: finding wisdom in the digital age.

Duguid and Brown describe the issue of information glut—our struggle to organize, manage, and preserve the flood of information we encounter each day. To aid our patrons in dealing with information glut, we are integrating disparate electronic resources and preserving digital publications. We are also initiating new programs and services to help students achieve information fluency—that is, to find and use productively a wide range of resources, whether they

*continued on page 2*



In June 2004 University Librarian Sarah Thomas formally accepted the transfer to Cornell of the Huntington Free Library's renowned Native American Collection (see page 4).

are books or manuscripts, journals or archival photographs, microforms or online databases. (For example, see Reference Service at the "Point of Thought" on page 7.)

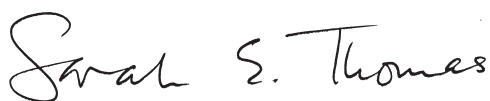
As librarians redefine their role in the digital age, the library itself continues to be a source of inspiration for users. Consider this email message, recently forwarded to me, in which a graduate student commented on Olin Library:

"Very friendly reference staff. Open wireless network. Direct access to 20,000 electronic journals ... from my laptop ... which means I can download the PDFs of the articles instead of copying them in the stacks. I'm sitting in the library café drinking a good latte by a window looking out over the arts quad. This is what a research library should be."

Our modern interpretation of the library may be caffeinated and wired but those amenities pale in comparison to the vast array of information and scholarship on offer at CUL.

All libraries depend on the passion of scholars to produce new knowledge and, in turn, the generosity of donors to help acquire and preserve that information. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued interest in Cornell University Library and ask you to give us your support. Whether you make an annual gift, give us a treasure from your own collection, or include the library in your estate plan, you can enrich our collections, fund innovations in service, and help renew our spaces so they are inviting and productive for our students. Please return the enclosed pledge card with your gift or make a gift online at [alumni.library.cornell.edu/giving](http://alumni.library.cornell.edu/giving).

I encourage you to join us at our lectures, visit our exhibitions (library events are listed online at [www.library.cornell.edu/events](http://www.library.cornell.edu/events)), or tour our digital holdings at [alumni.library.cornell.edu](http://alumni.library.cornell.edu). And, as always, please let us know what you think!



Sarah E. Thomas  
Carl A. Kroch University Librarian



## Re-live Your Student Years Online

Cornell University Library and the *Cornell Daily Sun* are collaborating on an ambitious new digitization project to provide online access to the student newspaper's historical files. All of the original papers—from the first issue published in September 1880 through 1989–90 when the *Sun* also began producing an electronic version—will be scanned and made available on a Web site maintained by the library. The contents of each issue will be indexed so that alumni can search the archive by subject, writer, or date.

For 125 years, the *Sun* has provided news, information, and entertainment to the Cornell community. Accounts of campus events and activities, sports reporting, and editorial commentary all contribute to make the *Sun* one of the most important sources of information on the history of the university.

The cost to digitize one academic year's issues is \$5,000 for papers produced through the early 1970s. Because the size of the *Sun* increased in the mid-70s and through the 1980s, digitizing those volumes will cost \$7,500–\$10,000. This includes scanning the original newspapers to produce digital images, indexing the text and creating the database to allow full-text searches, and putting the images and data on the Web.

For more information about this project, including ways in which gifts may be made to support it, go to [cdsun.library.cornell.edu](http://cdsun.library.cornell.edu) or contact the library development office at (607) 255-9868.

# Facilities: *Growth and Renewal*



## **A Bold New Presence for the Africana Library**

Expanding the John Henrik Clarke Africana Library was a major component of the university's 2004–05 project to renovate the Africana Studies and Research Center. Completed in January, the new Africana Library is approximately 1,000 square feet larger than the previous facility. The design of the new building incorporates African cultural and aesthetic elements inside and out through the creative use of structural textures and colors.



The first floor of the Engineering Library was updated with new furniture, shelving, and carpeting. The renovations made space for a new periodicals alcove and more computer workstations, as well as new group study rooms with plasma screens.



## **First Library Computing Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary**

In April 1984 the first library-affiliated computing center at Cornell opened in Mann Library. The Stone Computing Center's anniversary offered an opportunity for the library to showcase its new Assistive Technology workstation, which features ADA-compliant software fully customizable to the individual user. Some unique features include the options to have screen text read to the user, to recognize and convert speech into text, and to scan text and have it read to the user. The workstation is also equipped with a scanner that can convert text to Braille so that it can be printed on a Braille Embosser.



# Notable Acquisitions



## Huntington Free Library Native American Collection

In June 2004 the Huntington Free Library (Bronx, NY) officially transferred its Native American Collection to Cornell. Valued at more than \$8.3 million, this outstanding collection contains more than 40,000 volumes on the archaeology, ethnology, and history of the native peoples of the Americas from the colonial period to the present. Among its highlights are early printed books that contain descriptions of encounters with native peoples; field notes by nineteenth-century ethnographers and records of archaeological expeditions; rare dictionaries of native languages; an album of original drawings of American Indians by George Catlin; and a 1765 manuscript peace treaty between Britain's superintendent of Indian affairs and the Delaware Nation.

The transfer of the Huntington collection to Cornell University Library ensured that this important resource will remain in New York, and provided closure to a fifteen-year legal battle over ownership of the collection. In 1930 the Museum of the American Indian, then located in New York City, transferred its library collection to the Huntington Free Library, a public library in the Bronx. When the American Indian museum was absorbed in 1990 by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the

"Crow Chief on Horseback," ca. 1863,  
from an original sketchbook of draw-  
ings by George Catlin (1796–1872)

American Indian, the Smithsonian assumed that the library materials would accompany the artifacts collections.

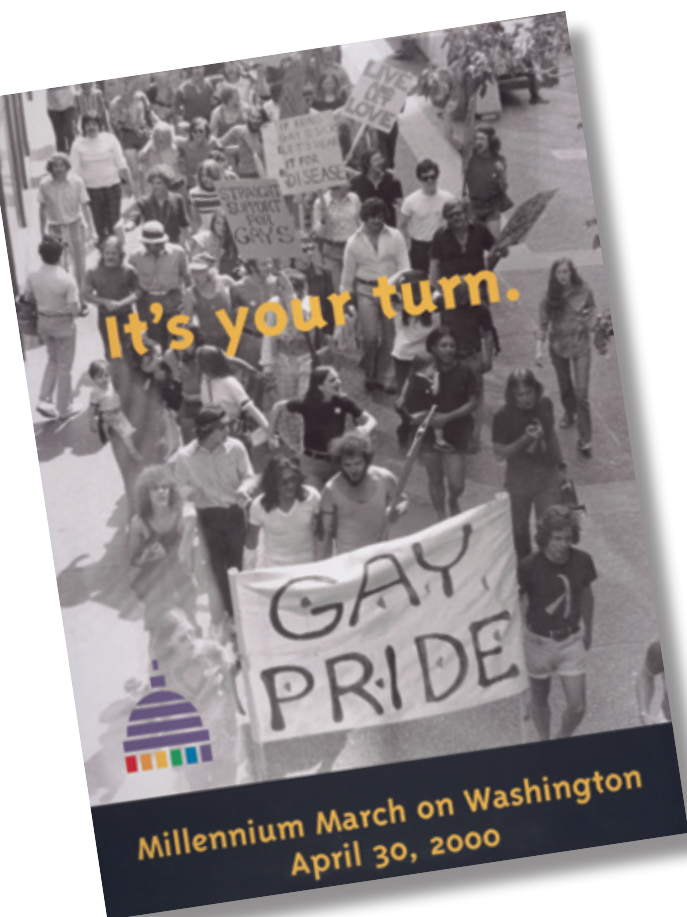
A lawsuit followed, during which the Huntington Free Library fought to protect its ownership of the collection and other rights to it. Although the library ultimately won all key New York and federal court decisions, the litigation nearly ruined the organization financially. The transfer of the collection to Cornell not only helped remedy those losses but also has enabled the Huntington Free Library to return to its primary mission of service to the local community.

The Huntington titles both complement and significantly augment CUL's Native American holdings. Cornell's expertise in preservation, collections management, and digitization, coupled with the university's long history of outreach and collaboration with local Native American communities and the eagerness of faculty members and students to work with the collection, were key factors in Huntington's decision to entrust the collection to Cornell. Library staff members are presently cataloging the collection and making plans to digitize a significant portion of its manuscript holdings and rare books. An exhibition drawn from the collection will go on view in the Hirshland Gallery in Kroch Library in October 2005.

## Estate Gift Enriches Architecture and Historic Preservation Collections

When Elizabeth Gibson Holohan, an authority on the restoration of period interiors and a leading preservationist, historian, and scholar, died last year, she left her extensive collection of more than 3,400 rare books to the Rochester (NY) Area Community Foundation. In October 2004 the foundation gave CUL 386 titles on interior design, decorative arts, and architecture from the Holohan collection. Valued at more than \$195,000, the gift includes many historically significant titles, such as *Architecture de Philibert de l'Orme* (1626), Johann Fischer's *Architectural History* (1721) printed in both French and German, Jean Mariette's four-volume *French Architecture with Elevation Plans* (1727), and James Gibbs's *A Book of Architecture Containing Designs of Buildings and Ornaments* (1728).

David Corson (left), curator of CUL's History of Science Collection, holds a gold medal awarded in 1792 to Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, while Fred McLafferty, emeritus professor of chemistry, displays the Lavoisier Medal he was awarded last year by the Société Française de Chimie, the highest honor bestowed by the French chemical society.



### Records of the Human Rights Campaign

Last year the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest national organization in the United States advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights, selected Cornell's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections as the repository for its historical records, which are now part of the library's unique Human Sexuality Collection.

Established in 1988 with a broad mandate to record and preserve the cultural and political aspects of sexuality, CUL's Human Sexuality Collection has become the primary repository for the records of national gay rights organizations. HRC's archives will be housed with the records of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association.

### Lavoisier Collection

CUL acquired its world-renowned Lavoisier Collection in 1962 with the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas H. Noyes and Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin. Earlier this year, with a gift from members of the Noyes family in memory of Marguerite and Nicholas Noyes, Cornell purchased the largest private collection remaining in the world of manuscripts by and about the eighteenth-century French scientist known as "the father of modern chemistry."

Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier (1743–1794) developed the basic nomenclature and theoretical structure of chemistry as we know it today. After he was executed at the height of the French Revolution, his widow spent years assembling and preserving material related to his life and work. When she died in 1836 that collection was passed down through her brother's family. In 1956 what remained from Madame Lavoisier's legacy was sold at public auction in Paris. The bulk of the material dispersed in that sale, including hundreds of manuscripts and more than 600 volumes from Lavoisier's personal library, became the nucleus of the collection Cornell purchased in 1962.

The material CUL has just acquired is the other part of Madame Lavoisier's collection that was dispersed at the 1956 auction. Among these historic manuscripts are numerous autograph letters to and from Lavoisier, many of which have never been published. The collection is also rich in material relating to the dissemination and acceptance by others of Lavoisier's revolutionary ideas, as well as social and political commentary about the period of unrest surrounding the French Revolution.



# New Programs & Services

## DPubS: Open Access to Scholarly Research

“DPubS,” Cornell University Library’s innovative digital publishing software, provides authors and publishers with a more affordable way to publish scholarly research on the Web. In making its DPubS software available to libraries, university presses, and other independent publishers, CUL is expanding opportunities for creative communication among scholars around the world.

Cornell originally created the DPubS software for Project Euclid ([projecteuclid.org](http://projecteuclid.org)), which has aided independent publishers of mathematics and statistics journals in making the transition from print to electronic publishing. With a \$670,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, librarians and information technology specialists at Cornell have re-engineered DPubS as a general-purpose platform for electronic publishing of scholarly literature in diverse fields. The software supports peer review and provides interoperability with other open source repository systems such as Fedora™ and DSpace.

Cornell is collaborating with the University Libraries and the University Press at Pennsylvania State University to test and refine DPubS. The journal *Indonesia*, published by Cornell’s Southeast Asia Program, and *Pennsylvania History*, the official journal of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, are the first titles to make the transition to electronic publishing with the new DPubS software.

## Preservation Internships for Native American Librarians

With a \$269,000 grant from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services, CUL’s preservation department is developing a two-year internship program to train Native American librarians to establish and maintain programs to preserve cultural heritage materials at tribal colleges and universities.

Native American colleges and universities typically serve as a central, unifying presence in their community. By focusing on a “train-the-trainers” model, the internship program will enable more tribal institutions to assume direct responsibility for preserving their collections of indigenous materials, such as historic artifacts, manuscripts, and photographs. The interns will receive hands-on skill training in both traditional conservation and cutting-edge digital preservation techniques, as well as instruction and guidance on how to establish and manage preservation programs and how to train others in the basics of library preservation.



## Preserving Iraq’s Cultural Heritage

CUL’s Department of Preservation and Collection Maintenance is helping to preserve Iraq’s cultural heritage by creating an online preservation tutorial for Iraqi librarians and archivists. Cornell received a \$97,554 grant for this project from the National Endowment for the Humanities—one of the first two grants awarded under a special initiative to help rebuild libraries and archives in Iraq.

The tutorial is offered in both English and Arabic, which is the fourth most-widely spoken language in the world (after Chinese, Spanish, and English). Although intended specifically for Iraq, the information is also applicable to other areas of the Arabic-speaking world, including Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Syria. The Web site provides practical answers to a wide variety of questions and covers all aspects of library preservation, including program management as well as the treatment and care of books, manuscripts, parchment and papyrus documents, clay tablets, photographs, and audio collections.



### The Research Connection@Duffield—Reference Service at the “Point of Thought”

Reference librarians from the Engineering Library are now available four days a week in Duffield Hall, Cornell’s new nanotechnology research and education building, to help students and faculty members find the resources they need for class assignments or specialized research. Most of the questions they get from students are related to finding and evaluating Web-based information, such as data on patents and information from technical reports.

Duffield Hall is one of the first facilities in the world wholly designed for interdisciplinary teaching and research in nanotechnology. Its most commanding feature is a series of three atriums designed as an intellectual commons for students and researchers who spend most of their time studying ways to produce new materials and devices atom by atom, or molecule by molecule. Located in the north atrium, the Research Connection@Duffield is the perfect place for librarians to reach out to students and faculty members where they meet and work, and provide “information at the point of thought.”

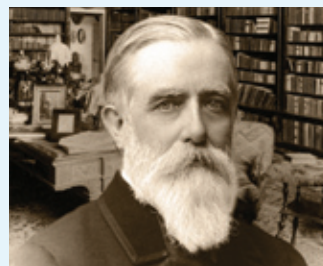
## New Online Exhibitions & Digital Collections

These and many other online exhibitions and digital library collections are open 24/7 free of charge at Cornell Library’s Alumni and Friends Access site: [alumni.library.cornell.edu](http://alumni.library.cornell.edu).



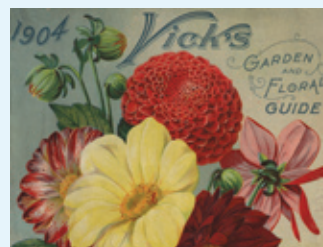
### KMODDL—Kinetic Models for Design Digital Library

A multimedia resource about kinematics—the geometry of motion—and the history and theory of machines. This digital collection is designed for use by teachers and researchers, as well as students at a range of educational levels and other learners, young and adult. The core of KMODDL is the Reuleaux Collection of Mechanisms and Machines, more than 200 nineteenth-century cast iron and brass machine models held by Cornell’s School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.



### The Passionate Collector: Willard Fiske and His Libraries

Willard Fiske was Cornell’s first librarian and one of the most fascinating and important figures in the early history of the university. An avid bibliophile, he not only acquired many important collections for the library but also bequeathed to the university his own extensive collections on Iceland, Dante, Petrarch, and Rhaeto-Romance languages.



### Mail Order Gardens

Seed catalogs have stoked gardeners’ passions for generations. Seen from a historical perspective, these publications also reflect cultural and social values, alterations in language, demographics, and changing technologies, both in agriculture and printing. This exhibition highlights Cornell’s extensive seed catalog collection, the core of which was assembled by Liberty Hyde Bailey, the first dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

## Library Publishes Alumnus's Poetry

In December 2004 Cornell Library published *A Bend in the Road*, a collection of poems by Eamon McEneaney '77, a Cornell alumnus who lost his life in the September 11 World Trade Center terrorist attack.

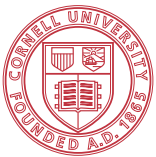
"When you touch a book, you touch a man, and this is certainly true in this powerful collection of Eamon McEneaney's lyrics," writes Kenneth McClane, the W.E.B. DuBois Professor of Literature at Cornell, in the foreword of the book. "These poems are wide-ranging and passionate: there are love lyrics, elegies, and celebrations of the occasional. And, most importantly, these poems are big-hearted, full of trenchancy and life."

McEneaney was a three-time All-American lacrosse player who led the Cornell team to undefeated seasons and national titles in 1976 and 1977. He was inducted into the Cornell Athletic Hall of Fame and the Long Island Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

To date, more than 2,400 copies of the book have been sold. Proceeds from the book's sales will support the library and the Eamon McEneaney Visiting Irish Writer's Series at Cornell. *A Bend in the Road* is available from the Book Clearing House, online at [www.book-clearinghouse.com](http://www.book-clearinghouse.com) or by calling (800) 431-1579.



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