

NEWS *from* FONDREN

A LIBRARY NEWSLETTER TO THE RICE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

LIBRARY LAUNCHES ITS DIGITAL ARCHIVES

On January 12, 2005, Fondren Library launched its online digital archives, the Fondren Digital Collections (FDC). “The FDC supports the research needs of the Rice community and beyond by providing high-quality digital content of rare or unique materials held by Fondren Library. It is home to digital files of original photographs, letters, drawings, rare publications, and other physical formats, all of which can be accessed on the web,” says Amanda Focke, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Fondren.

With the opening of the FDC, what was once available only in paper form in the library now becomes instantly accessible to many users in many locations. Historical and fragile materials can no longer be lost or damaged, and users worldwide may access the material at any time, even when the library is closed.



Architect William Ward Watkin examines a test on a cloister slab for the Administration Building (now Lovett Hall).

INSIDE *this* ISSUE

Alumna Helps Create Archives pg. 2
Did you Know? pg. 3
Woodson Director Named pg. 4
Renovation Plans Move Forward . . . pg. 4
New Technologies for Education . . . pg. 5
Preservation Librarian pg. 6
Saving Content of Brittle Books . . . pg. 7
Materials Transfer in Second Stage . pg. 8

The Fondren Digital Resources Steering Committee has the ongoing responsibility for the selection of materials for the FDC. The first collections published in the FDC are the William Ward Watkin Architecture Collection, the Illuminated Sacred Music Manuscript Collection, and the Schumann Collection. William Ward Watkin was the first supervising architect of the Rice Institute and the first chairman of Rice’s Architecture Department. The Watkin collection

includes over six hundred architectural drawings, photographs, correspondence, articles, speeches, and other materials dating from 1903-1956.

The Illuminated Sacred Music Manuscript Collection includes rare fifteenth- and sixteenth-century southern European music manuscripts with hymns and songs in Latin, while the Schumann

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Collection contains original materials related to nineteenth-century German composer and music critic Robert Schumann. According to Focke, “both are underrepresented ‘gems’ that haven’t been used much because many people are unaware of their existence.” Both music collections will provide rich research material for Shepherd School students and musicologists all over the world.

The FDC site design was done by Focke, Catalog Librarian Susan Leister, and Fondren’s Head of Cataloging, Jiun Kuo. Rice’s Web Services provided the stylized graphics. Focke, Leister, and Kuo also provided rich contextual helpers to allow easy navigation of the FDC.

All three collections currently exhibited by the FDC are powered by Hyperion, the Sirsi Corporation’s digital archiving software. Hyperion stores digital images and descriptive information about the image (known as metadata), in much the same way that the library’s online catalog, WebCat, stores information about books in the library’s collection. Hyperion goes beyond the traditional online catalog by offering full-text searching of selected digital objects. This searching, also known as content searching, provides users with the ability to find documents based on the textual information within the digitized documents. Users can submit natural language queries and quickly be shown a list of matching terms and concepts from the text of the document.

To visit the FDC, go to <http://www.rice.edu/fondren/hyperion>. User suggestions or requests can be directed to fondren-digital@rice.edu.

Karen Oster
Senior SIRSI Database Administrator
blurose@rice.edu

ALUMNA PLAYS LARGE ROLE IN CREATION OF NEW ONLINE ARCHIVES

Barbara Shreffler, a Rice alumna and former Fondren Library staff member, undertook the digitization and description of two of the library’s manuscript collections as part of the course work needed to earn her Master of Science in Information Science degree from the University of North Texas. Her background in music—a B.A. in music performance from Illinois State University and a Master of Music from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice—made her eager to work with these collections. She chronicles some of the process below.

Special challenges and revelations were presented in the preparation of each of two digital image collections—the Schumann/Wortmann Collection and the Illuminated Sacred Music Manuscript Collection—that now form part of Fondren’s digital archives.

SCHUMANN/WORTMANN COLLECTION

The Schumann/Wortmann Collection was acquired by Fondren Library in 2003 from a Sotheby’s auction. It consists of a fifty-three-page report, letters that refer to the report, photographs, and other Schumanalia associated with the German composer Robert Schumann and his wife Clara. For instance, one item of interest is a visiting card illustrated with a likeness of Clara Schumann, with a note in her own hand on the verso.

The fifty-three-page report, one of only two existing copies, was written by Wilhelm Wortmann, the vice-mayor of Düsseldorf, where Robert Schumann was conductor of the choir and orchestra from 1850 to 1854. It chronicles a series of events



Profile of Clara and Robert Schumann.

which eventually led to Schumann’s dismissal in 1854. Details in the report describe Schumann’s impatience with amateur musicians in the choir and orchestra, including various negative interactions between Schumann and Wortmann himself. Besides being vice-mayor of Düsseldorf, Wortmann was also the second oboist in the orchestra and, apparently, an amateur. The quibbles Wortmann mentions in his report sound very much like a typical rehearsal with a particularly demanding and visionary conductor. Then, as now, it was clearly advisable to show up prepared in both attitude and technique.

Following the initial steps in organizing and detailing the contents of the collection, Simon Obert, a Ph.D. candidate in Basel, Switzerland, was

contacted for assistance. Mr. Obert's area of specialization is nineteenth-century music, with native fluency in German. With his help, a detailed description for each item was created.

ILLUMINATED SACRED MUSIC MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

The Illuminated Sacred Music Manuscript collection holds twenty-three images, grouped into thirteen distinct pages. They have been either purchased or presented as gifts to Fondren Library over a number of years. All of the pages were originally created for religious service and worship.

The provenance of one of the items given to the library is particularly interesting. The donor, Stanley S. Slotkin of Los Angeles (then president of Abbey Rents, a chain of furniture manufacturers), discovered the pages in Spain, where he had been sent by the U.S. State Department to assist in the country's economic recovery



Manuscript of possible Mexican origin, titled "Hodie Christus natus est."

in the late 1940s. He was directing the modernization of a chair factory when a workman digging a hole broke through into a long-forgotten underground room. There two choir books in mint condition were found. As a token of appreciation to Mr. Slotkin for his assistance, he was presented with one eighty-page choir book. Not realizing the value of the book, he had it shipped back to the United States wrapped in his dirty laundry. After appraising the documents and realizing their true value, he decided to donate the individual pages to colleges and libraries in the thirty-two cities where Abbey Rents had offices.

This collection presented a different set of challenges. Since the items had already been photographed, it was a relatively simple task to edit the images to meet the needs of our database. It was a greater task to identify experts who would be able to assist with description. Eventually, I was led to Dr. John Snyder at the University of Houston, who is recognized by the Houston music community as an authority on these kinds of materials and the period represented. Dr. Snyder provided guidance to reference materials that would unlock the secrets of the manuscripts. He also alerted me to a paleography workshop that was held at the University of Houston in December 2004. Dr. Michel Gelting, archivist and senior researcher at the Danish National Archives, was the featured expert at the event.

Dr. Gelting and Dr. Snyder visited Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center to view the manuscripts, and their observations were critical to the description of these items. Of particular interest was Dr. Gelting's conclusion that one of the pieces might have been created in Mexico, since the lettering was unlike anything he'd seen in European manuscripts.

Both collections have been organized and digitized with the assistance of Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Amanda Focke, Music Cataloger Keith Chapman, Music

Librarian Mary Du Mont, and Catalog Librarian Susan Leister. Special thanks go to Dr. Snyder and Dr. Gelting for their assistance with the illuminated manuscripts and to Simon Obert for his expertise regarding the Schumann/Wortmann collection. Through the focus of the digitization and description of these two collections, the fellowship of experts available to us at Fondren Library has been expanded beyond the boundaries of average collaboration.

DID you KNOW?

The three most widely owned titles among the world's libraries (as represented by the OCLC WorldCat database) are: U.S. Census (various editions), Bible, and Mother Goose.



The three most frequently banned books from the world's libraries (as recorded in *Banned Books: Censorship Histories of World Literature*) are: Bible (#2 on complete list), Huckleberry Finn (#7 on complete list), and Don Quixote (#12 on complete list).



The OCLC Top 1000 list is available online at <http://www.oclc.org/research/top1000/complete.htm>, with links to books commonly filmed, books commonly banned, and subject-based subsets of the complete list.

WOODSON DIRECTOR NAMED

Lee Pecht was recently named Director of Special Collections in the Woodson Research Center (WRC). A third-generation Houstonian, Lee is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School. He holds degrees in both English and journalism from the University of Houston and a certificate from the Georgia Archives Institute. Lee brings to his new position fifteen years of prior experience in Fondren Library, all of them in the WRC.



Lee Pecht

Lee is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Academy of Certified Archivists, a board member and treasurer of the Association of Houston Archivists, and a key contact representative for the Membership Committee of the Society of Southwest Archivists. Lee currently serves as chair of the Fondren Library Exhibits Committee and the Disaster Recovery Team. He is frequently called upon to give talks to campus and community groups.

Lee assisted former WRC Director Nancy Boothe in setting up the archives for the Houston Grand Opera, one of only four opera archives in the country, and continues to serve on the opera's Archival Advisory Council. Lee is a board member and secretary of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

His interests and hobbies include genealogy, antiquing, and restoring antique furniture. Lee is an avid reader of biographies and history, particularly works on the Old South and the Civil War. He travels extensively through the state, enjoys learning about Texas history, and has done extensive research on Houston history.

Sometimes his Sheltie, Carson, gets to join him in his travels.

Lee's future plans for the WRC include the upcoming renovation, the processing of all WRC collections, and more digitization projects. A joint project with Southern Methodist University's Fondren Library on the Fondren family papers is in the works. In 2004 the WRC acquired the Julian and Juliette Huxley photographic collection from their son, Francis Huxley; this collection is currently being processed. Also acquired in 2004 were the family papers of Ray Watkin Strange, the daughter of William Ward Watkin. These papers include material on her mother's family, the Townsends, who were pioneers in early Texas.

Lee will continue to pursue local historical collections, including the South Main Association records,

encompassing Rice University, the Medical Center, and Hermann Park; the Jack Burke, Jr./Champions Golf Club papers; former Mayor Lee Brown's professional papers; and the papers of Anderson Todd, a prominent Houston architect and former director of the Rice University School of Architecture. Ann Holmes, currently writing a book on the history of the arts in Houston, will donate her research papers to Woodson when the book is completed.

In 2004 Lee received an award from the Board of Trustees for his exemplary service to the students, faculty, and staff of Rice University. While he is proud of this recognition, he is equally proud of the red-bordered sign above his desk, "Keeper of All Knowledge," a gift from his co-workers to acknowledge his "encyclopedic knowledge of the archives."

Shirley Wetzel
Database Management Librarian
wetzel@rice.edu

RENOVATION PLANS MOVE FORWARD

The renovation of the library building is moving ahead, with many behind-the-scenes discussions taking place on a daily basis. Architects, librarians, and construction people are reviewing final budgets and schedules, with book movers set to begin shifting and consolidating soon. A detailed outline of where books are to be moved is discussed in the fall 2004 issue of *News from Fondren*.

The Electronic Resources Center, under construction in its new Herring Hall location since mid-December, is expected to open in March with new furniture and computers. The space, originally designed by Cesar Pelli, features high ceilings and light, open spaces.

In order to share information about the renovation project with the Rice community, a renovation blog will be linked to the Fondren Library's web site. The blog will be updated frequently and will give users information about the status of construction, the current locations of various call numbers, and advice regarding quiet places to study. Signs will also be posted at the front door and throughout the building containing the same information.

TECHWATCH: NEW TECHNOLOGIES HOLD PROMISE FOR EDUCATION

What technologies hold the most promise for education, and how can they be integrated into teaching and learning? Rice is addressing these questions by co-hosting a focus session on emerging learning technologies with the National Learning Infrastructure Initiative (NLII). This March 2005 workshop draws upon the 2005 Horizon Report, a document prepared by the NLII & New Media Consortium that discusses six major trends in educational technology.

1. Extended Learning: By using interactive technologies such as online bulletin boards, web-based resources, and instant messaging, teachers are augmenting traditional instruction. With round-the-clock access to classroom materials and to fellow class members, students have a more flexible learning environment. Examples of extended learning tools include (a) audience response systems that enable instructors to gauge student learning through instant quizzes and polls and (b) blogs (web logs) that allow students to collaborate on projects or exchange ideas with peers. Classes at Rice meeting in the Herzstein Hall auditorium have made use of audience response systems to encourage input from students, and blogging is also available on campus now (see <http://blogs.rice.edu/blogs>).

2. Ubiquitous Wireless: As cafes and even cities embrace wireless networks, students increasingly expect to have seamless access to the Internet, whether they are in their dorm rooms, classrooms, or under a tree. Through wireless, students working in the field can upload data that almost instantaneously become accessible to peers or search online for answers to questions that come up during class discussions. Wireless is available in many locations

at Rice, including the commons of residential colleges, the first floor of the library, and many academic buildings (see <http://www.rice.edu/it/network/campusnet/wireless/>).

3. Intelligent Searching: As digital information proliferates, people need ways both to find it and to manage it. Intelligent searching enables users to search across multiple repositories or use “intelligent agents” that can continually seek relevant information and push it to the user based upon a set of criteria that she has supplied. For instance, A9.com’s search tool searches across Google, Amazon’s “search inside a book” feature, the Internet Movie Database, and other sources, remembers what you’ve found, and enables you to keep a diary of links. Courses at Rice such as Dr. Christopher Kelty and Dr. Kristen Kulinowski’s “Nanotechnology: Content and Context” use RSS (RDF Site Summary) to distribute class information (<http://kelty.rice.edu/235/>). If a student subscribes to the RSS news feed for the class, new information will automatically be loaded into an RSS reader or web page.

4. Educational Gaming: Recent research has indicated that games can make learning more engaging and interactive. Several classes at Rice focus on games, including Dr. Patricia Seed’s World History through Games (<http://www.owl.net.rice.edu/~hist269/>) and Dr. Joe Warren’s computer gaming class (<http://www.cs.rice.edu/~jwarren/papers/comp460.pdf>). In addition, Rice’s Computer and Information Technology Institute (CITI) recently provided funding for Gaming @ Rice, a project that explores the viability and applicability of gaming



Multi-Media Specialist Jane Zhao can help with the use of educational technologies in the Electronic Resources Center.

to education and research. Rice’s Center for Technology in Teaching and Learning (CTTL) recently received funding from the NIH to continue development of MedMyst, which enables middle-school students to learn about medicine through a series of computer-based adventures (<http://medmyst.rice.edu>).

5. Social Networks & Knowledge Webs: Social network technologies support collaboration and the building of knowledge by enabling people to connect with each other and share information. At Rice, for instance, the NSF-funded VIGRE project is an online community that provides an integrated set of tools for research and communication (<http://vigre.rice.edu/>), such as a web-based library of articles and online discussion boards.

6. Context-Aware Computing/ Augmented Reality: Rather than users feeding a system data and commands, context-aware computing automatically adjusts to their needs and the conditions of the environment. For example, museums have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

NEW PRESERVATION LIBRARIAN JOINS STAFF

used sensors to set up interactive exhibits, such as a virtual geological “dig” through different layers of the earth that provides feedback to the user. Augmented reality systems act as a sort of virtual tour guide, providing additional information about an environment that a person is navigating. At Arizona State University, for instance, visitors can use handheld computers and GPS (Global Positioning System) devices to tour the campus and receive additional information via the computer, depending on their location. In 2004, Rice hosted Ted Selker of MIT to discuss context-aware computing; the video from that speech is at <http://webcast.rice.edu/speeches/20040205selker.html>.

This is by no means an exhaustive analysis of new technologies for education; for more information, see the Horizon Report (<http://www.nmc.org/horizon/index.shtml>), the web site for the spring focus session (<https://www.educause.edu/NLII052>), and LESTER, the Learning Science and Technology Repository (<http://lester.rice.edu>).

These technologies promise to promote play and flexibility as they expand the user’s ability to navigate and manage the information environment. Of course, it is not yet clear what kind of impact they may have on education. Integrating them successfully into teaching and learning will require funding, training, and support, as well as careful thinking about how they can be used to meet instructional objectives. In the end, the focus should not be on the tools (no matter how “cool” they may seem), but on what they can help us achieve.

Lisa Spiro
*Director, Electronic Resources Center
& Educational Technology Research
and Assessment Center*
lspiro@rice.edu



Andrew Damico

Andrew Damico, the new Preservation Librarian at Fondren Library, is a former Houstonian who looks forward to enjoying the big-city amenities that Houston offers. Andy lived in Houston from 1977 to 1982 and attended Spring Woods High School while his father, James Damico, was Fondren’s Associate Director for Public Services.

Andy may hold the record at Fondren for having lived in the largest number of states. In addition to Houston, Andy spent parts of his childhood in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Rhode Island—all excellent preparation for a stint in the Navy, during which he lived in Connecticut, Georgia, and Florida. After his discharge from the Navy, he moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where his parents resided. He next moved to Mobile, Alabama, where he earned a B.A. in history and English from the University of South Alabama in 1991. In 1996, he graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Master of Library and Information Science degree and a Certificate of Specialization in Preservation and Conservation Studies. His professional library career took Andy to Delaware and Louisiana and then back to Houston.

After graduate school Andy worked as a project archivist for the Ann Richards Personal Papers Collection at the University of Texas Center for American History. In 1998 he became the Preservation Officer for the University of Delaware’s Morris Library, where he supervised preservation, conservation, bindery preparation, and shelf preparation units.

Immediately prior to accepting the position at Rice, Andy headed the Preservation Department at Tulane University. While at Tulane he created a brittle books program, provided preservation education and training for both staff and library users, and created a disaster plan. Andy formed the Preservation Interest Group for the Louisiana Library Association and headed the Preservation Committee for LALINC, a consortium of Louisiana academic libraries. Recently Andy began a consultation job providing preservation and archiving advice to a non-profit organization in New Iberia, Louisiana.

Andy and his wife, Kathleen, have an eight-year old daughter, Courtney, and six-year-old twins, Ryan and Kristen, and an energetic dog (half Pomeranian, half rat terrier). They moved to Houston from New Orleans in January. Andy enjoys cooking and playing computer games. He cites life near water, especially the time spent near the Navy base in Newport, Rhode Island, as the reason for his longtime interest in naval history. Because of this interest, he volunteered to develop the military science and ROTC collections while at Tulane.

Esther Crawford
*Head of Government Publications and
Microforms*
crawford@rice.edu

CONTENT OF OF BRITTLE BOOKS CAN BE SAVED

The problem of brittle books is one that plagues all academic and research libraries. The older and larger the collection, the greater is the number of affected books. At Fondren Library we are encountering increasing numbers as we go through the stacks for inventory and selection of materials for off-site shelving.

When we label a book "brittle," we are actually referring to the paper in the book. A common test to identify brittle paper is to fold the corner of a page one way and then back the other way. If the paper breaks, it is too brittle for the book to be rebound. The problem is not necessarily correlated with the age of the book: paper manufactured in 1840 is usually more durable than that manufactured in 1940, for example.

As paper ages, it turns brown and loses strength and flexibility.

Ultimately, paper can become so weak and inflexible that it will literally crack out of books and crumble to tiny pieces. When paper gets to this point, the book is unusable. However, many books with sound flexible bindings and less brittle paper can withstand years of use and can remain safely on the shelves in a cool and dry environment, such as that provided in the new Library Service Center.

What makes the paper become brittle? Making paper from wood requires the use of strong chemicals to separate the wood fibers suffi-

ciently to produce pulp. In the past, the chemicals used in the process left an acidic residue in the papers. These acids react with moisture and oxygen in the air and, over time, break down the paper fibers and the chemical bonds that hold these fibers together. The more acidic the paper, the faster it becomes embrittled.

From about 1850 to the 1980s, nearly all paper produced in the world was "acidic" and destined to become brittle. Beginning in the 1980s many publishers became con-



A preservation photocopy brings new life to texts that are crumbling.

scious of the instability of acidic paper and began printing on acid-free paper. (One reason for the change was the advocacy of librarians.) Nowadays books of a scholarly nature are generally printed on acid-free paper, except in "third-world" countries, where many publishers continue to use the less expensive acidic paper.

No treatment is available to reverse the effects of acid degradation in paper. "Deacidification" can slow the deterioration, but once paper has become brittle there is no

way to strengthen it again. The only way to preserve access to the information in brittle books is to reformat them onto microfilm or paper. While microfilm is an effective reformatting option for serials and newspapers, the result may not be as satisfying for monographs. A bound, xerographic facsimile produced on acid-free paper is an alternative that results in a beautiful, long-lasting copy of the original.

Because of the cost involved, this process cannot be used for every brittle book encountered.

However, if a book is highly valuable in content or receives a lot of use, the book can be submitted to the Preservation Librarian for preservation photocopying. Such books are usually old enough that copyright is not a consideration.

To have a facsimile made, books will be sent to Heckman Bindery in Indiana, which can reproduce colored, as well as black-and-white, pic-

tures and text. Normally the original volume is discarded and only the photocopy retained. However, it is possible to make a photocopy without disbanding the original volume if the original is considered to have artifactual value. The whole process takes about two months.

If you find a book that you would like to recommend for preservation photocopying, please take it to one of the library staff members working at the Reference Desk.

Rita Marsales
Former Preservation Librarian

NEWS *from* FONDREN
Volume 14, Number 2, Spring 2005

Editor
Elizabeth Baber
baber@rice.edu

Newsletter Committee
Esther Crawford
Kerry Keck
Karen Oster
Alice Rhoades
Jane Segal
Shirley Wetzel

Graphic Design
Print and Web Publications

Photographer
Jeff Fitlow
(unless otherwise noted)

Proofing
Joe Hatfield

For information, contact
Elizabeth Baber
Rice University
Fondren Library—MS 44
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892
713-348-3749

© 2005 Rice University

TRANSFER OF MATERIALS TO OFF-SITE SHELVING FACILITY ENTERS SECOND STAGE

The renovation of Fondren Library will require temporary or, in some cases, permanent relocation of significant portions of the library's print collections. These relocated collections will fit into the available alternate locations only because of the past year's work of transferring lower-use materials to the off-site Library Service Center (LSC). At the end of December 2004, a total of 306,332 volumes had been transferred from Fondren Library to the LSC. During 2004 library staff retrieved 2,099 volumes from the LSC, or 0.69% of the collection housed there.

Beginning in late December, library staff turned their attention from the Fondren Library open stacks collections to the materials previously transferred into the closed-stack Stadium Storage facility. This collection of lower-use material has been housed outside the library since development of the Stadium Storage facility in the early 1980s; it contains approximately 225,000 volumes. At the beginning of January 2005 the process of transferring these collections to the newer off-site facility (LSC), where environmental conditions and inventory control are more ideal, was begun. We estimate that the transfer of all fully processed collections will require a minimum of five months, with additional time needed for those collections requiring additional cataloging (primarily 1950s-era Atomic Energy Commission reports).



RICE

Rice University
Fondren Library—MS 44
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892
