What's New in Preservation at Musselman Library: Student Workers and the Beauty of the Book

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Abstract
Musselman Library's Special Collections and College Archives at Gettysburg College involves student workers and interns in our preservation and conservation efforts. The recent addition to the staff of a half-time conservator position has opened up new avenues for training. This has also resulted in additional access points for our students, faculty and other researchers to interact with our collections. This presentation discusses our preservation activities and our new digital collection The Beauty of the Book. It also illustrates how we have engaged student workers in conservation and enhanced cataloging description projects giving them a deeper appreciation for and understanding of our archival and rare book collections.

Keywords
book conservation, archives, historic preservation, public history, archival collection, cataloging, collection management, preservation

Disciplines
Archival Science | Cataloging and Metadata | Collection Development and Management | Higher Education | History | Library and Information Science | Public History

Comments
This presentation was part the ACLCP 2015 Fall Conference for the Associated College Libraries of Central Pennsylvania as part of the 50th Anniversary and Member Showcase featuring Access, Collaboration, Learning, Community, Preservation in Harrisburg, PA on October 23, 2015.

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What’s New in Preservation at Musselman Library

Student Workers and the Beauty of the Book

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ACLCP 2015 Fall Conference – October 23, 2015
Special Collections and College Archives – 4th Floor Musselman Library

- Staff
  - Director of SC & CA
  - College Archivist
  - Digital Projects Manager
  - Digital Scholarship Assistant
  - Conservator
  - Special Collections Assistants
  - Interns/Student workers

- Collections including 14,000 books (5,000 identified as rare)

- New opportunity: Conservation student workers
Conservation Space

- Alumni donation
- Equipment
- Conservator
- Student Workers
Preservation Activities

Installation of perforated shelving to improve air flow

Book cleaning using Nilfisk vacuum cleaner

Encapsulation of posters, maps, photos, and documents

Making custom boxes
Student binding repair projects
Conservation Activities

**Gray’s Anatomy, 1st American Edition, 1859**

Before treatment

Pages were washed, mended, resewn.

Volume was rebound into its original covers

Volume was collated and vacuumed to remove mold spores

Student Allie Ward, class of 2014, with alumni donors
Researchers, Class visits, and Exhibit Support

• Researchers visiting the Special Collections Reading Room

• Class visits (on average 33 customized sessions per year)
  o Many request rare books for students to see as learning objects
    ➢ ENG 214 – 17th Century English Drama
    ➢ ENG 221 – Survey of English Literature: 17th and 18th century
    ➢ FYS 181-3 – A Whale of a Tale: Moby Dick in American History and Culture
    ➢ HIST 230 – Native American-European Encounter America
    ➢ THA 214 – Survey of Dramatic Literature

• Exhibits featuring books as artifacts
Binding Description Project

- Form
- Enhanced cataloging
- Beauty of the Book

GettDigital Collection
Cataloging Notes: Bindings and Bookplates

- Rachel Hammer, class of 2015
  - Student cataloger
  - Now works for Folger Shakespeare Library

- Cataloging (in MUSCAT library catalog)
  - MARC tag 561 for bookplates, inscriptions, and marginalia
  - MARC tag 563 for binding description

- Scanning/Photography
  - Covers
  - Notable features

- Metadata (CONTENTdm)
  - Book as artifact
  - The Beauty of the Book GettDigital Collection
The Beauty of the Book GettDigital Collection

Visit [http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital](http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital) and click The Beauty of the Book

About this collection
Special Collections and College Archives houses approximately 5000 books in their Rare Book Collection. This digital collection is a celebration of a small sampling of notable bindings from that collection as selected by our conservator, Mary Wootton and Rachel Hammer, Class of 2013. This collection highlights our books as artifacts demonstrating the history of bookbinding. Each item contains binding descriptions of features such as cover, fore-edge, spine, and binder's tickets.

Browse All Bindings
Each MARC670 cataloging record for these titles has been enhanced with the provenance and binding description identified through this project.

Special Collections • Conservation (video)
Each school year two Special Collections student workers assist our conservator in a variety of conservation projects involving rare books, posters, photographs, and artifacts.

Binding Description Form
This sample form is used by the cataloging staff to record binding details for titles selected for the Beauty of the Book project.
Please contact us:

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