WHERE NO LIBRARY HAS GONE BEFORE

THE TELEVISION NEWS ARCHIVE
BOLDLY STEPS INTO THE DIGITAL AGE ON ITS 35TH BIRTHDAY

Over the centuries, the role of libraries has evolved along with everything else in civilization. Ancient libraries were depositories for handwritten manuscripts, both copies and unique originals. By the late 1400s, royal and ecclesiastical libraries housed printed books—which often were chained to prevent theft. Later technological improvements helped create the great 19th-century drive for public access to information and the arts, which resulted in yet another information revolution: the free public libraries that nowadays we take for granted.

U
iversities and libraries are organizations that are dedicated to furthering the public good. Universities educate individuals, create new knowledge through research and scholarship, and offer public service. Libraries allow individuals to educate themselves and organize, store, and preserve society’s cumulative knowledge and culture, often saving unique documents from loss and extinction. One such effort began at Vanderbilt 35 years ago and continues today at the Vanderbilt Television News Archive. Paul Simpson, the founder of the Archive, saw a need to capture and preserve nightly news broadcasts. He realized that in our modern world these newscasts increasingly influence our thinking and perception of the world around us. Today the Archive stands as the only publicly accessible, comprehensive collection of U.S. network news in the world.

The Television News Archive chronicles our American heritage, mirrors our society, and has been the basis of hundreds of scholarly articles about politics, religion, crime, and the broadcast industry. Over the past 35 years, Vanderbilt and the Jean and Alexander Heard Library have made a substantial financial and intellectual contribution to keeping the Archive alive and vital to many scholars and individuals. I am very proud of the Archive staff for their tireless work in maintaining the Archive over these many years, and I am very pleased that the Library is again its rightful home.

The past two years have been very rewarding for us, as we have worked to move the Archive to a new financial and technical footing to assure that its work will continue in even more accessible and important ways. Over 30 university libraries have joined us in sponsoring the Archive; the National Science Foundation and a local foundation have funded our exploration of new technology; and one network has agreed to allow us to deliver their news broadcasts via the Internet to academic users. I expect that the Archive will only grow stronger and more important to our society in the years ahead, and it will be one of the more important legacies of Vanderbilt University and the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

—Paul M. Gherman

1974, when Jean Heard founded the Friends of the Library at what was then called the Joint University Libraries, no one realized that her vision would enable this organization to raise Vanderbilt’s library system to a new level among research universities. Strengthening the libraries’ collections and initiating programs at the heart of Jean Heard’s dream, and the Friends who joined her in that first year, led by president pro tem Jesse E. Wills, shared her foresight.

Over the years, speakers from an amazing range of disciplines and professions have shared their wit and knowledge in addressing the Vanderbilt and Nashville community. Fred Friendly, known for his work in developing the Edward R. Murrow broadcasts, was the first, followed in subsequent years by Bill Moyers, then a senior news analyst for CBS; renowned writers Peter Taylor, Eudora Welty, Reynolds Price, Lee Smith, and Babbie Ann Mason; and critics Cleanth Brooks and Edwin Way Teale. Alumni such as film director Delbert Mann and current U.S. senator Lamar Alexander also have graced the Friends podium.

Friends of the Library have celebrated 30 years of support for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

Pears of Wisdom:
Friends celebrate 30 years of support for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library

In 1974, when Jean Heard founded the Friends of the Library at what was then called the Joint University Libraries, no one realized that her vision would enable this organization to raise Vanderbilt’s library system to a new level among research universities. Strengthening the libraries’ collections and initiating programs which would reach out to the Nashville community were at the heart of Jean Heard’s dream, and the Friends who joined her in that first year, led by president pro tem Jesse E. Wills, shared her foresight. Visit us on the Web at http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu or http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/jeanalex/online.html

Vanderbilt University is committed to providing equal opportunity and affirmative action to all.
If you go to the networks for a broadcast... they will send you to us.”

Universities are not static institutions, and their libraries cannot afford to be either. Like their public counterpart, university libraries must continually revise their procedures to keep up with technological innovations. New technology may either require new kinds of collections or provide new storage methods for older collections. Vanderbilt’s Jean and Alexander Heard Library constantly faces the effects of such change. For example, just as printed books demanded new procedures, so did recorded sound add another category to which libraries had to attend.

On August 5, 2003, the Vanderbilt Television News Archive both celebrated an anniversary and inaugurated a new era. The date was the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Archive. Like newspapers and magazines, television news broadcasts are reports from the trenches—history as it arrives on a day-by-day basis. Unfortunately, the networks did not realize this importance early in the history of its fledgling technology. Each network kept raw footage, but not its final broadcast.

This historic loss was forestalled in August 1968, when the Vanderbilt Television News Archive began recording and cataloging American news programs. Thanks to the foresight of archive founder Paul C. Simpson, JF’73, a Nashville insurance executive, and of Frank Grisham, director of the Joint University Libraries, the Archive has been recording news broadcasts by the major networks ever since. Later Nightline, CNN, and other regular sources were added. Nowadays, “If you go to the networks for a broadcast,” says John Lynch, the director of the Archive, “they will send you to us.” Vanderbilt’s archivists were watching—and their videotape machines were whirring—during the 1968 presidential campaign, the Watergate hearings, the Clinton impeachment hearings, and the terrorist attacks in 2001. John Lynch smiles: “We’re just getting old enough for history.”

August 5 was also the day on which the Archive launched a new direction, toward what Marshall Breeding, library technology officer and a 19-year veteran of the library system, describes as a “digital archive, as opposed to a videotape archive.” As is becoming apparent, videotape is quickly going the way of the rotary telephone. “We may make videotape back-ups until we verify that the digital copies are all okay,” says Breeding, “but the primary products of the Archive now are digital files.” Of course, there are still a few wrinkles to work out, and most of the task of digitizing the rest of the collections lies ahead. Over 1,000 hours of material has been digitized already, but the collection holds almost 40,000 hours. The accumulation of digitized material grows every day as new programs are recorded and videotapes are converted.

The digital revolution in Vanderbilt’s Television News Archive exemplifies the larger revolution in information storage and retrieval that is taking place around the world and across disciplines. In a digital archive, more copies of each item are available in a greater variety of ways; they are more easily searched and cataloged; and they take up less storage space. “Once a broadcast is in digital form, you can put thousands of them on a server,” says Breeding. Digital format simplifies the question of redundancy, the need for copies of a broadcast in case the original is somehow damaged or lost. Multiple digital copies will exist: a preservation copy for the Library of Congress (LC) and a working copy on DVD. The LC’s own storage system will provide further copies. (The LC, whose mission now includes collecting television broadcasts, has long been a partner with the Vanderbilt Television News Archive. Most of their records of news broadcasts came from Vanderbilt.)

One perennial demand on the News Archive is for thematic compilations of material from news programs. Often researchers want to see a variety of stories anthropologized onto a single videotape or DVD that they can consult. Such targeted research tools, created by Archive staff and tailored to the needs of the individual researcher, will remain necessary for the foreseeable future. Copyright issues prevent the Archive from making live streaming video of all broadcasts available to the general public, but major research universities can purchase bulk access. The Archive sells its digital content to a very select group of institutions. The LC is one of these, as is the Library of Congress, which is releasing its collection online. Vanderbilt created its own distribution system in 2001. The Archive has close to 500,000 hours of material on DVD, from which users can构造 their own compilations. The Archive’s technology team produces both high-quality MPEG versions of the video content to serve preservational needs as a digital master, and lighter-weight versions in a real-media streaming format. These files require only a tenth of the storage capacity required for an MPEG of the same broadcast. The maneuverability of the lighter format will permit a live server for use by the staff in the Archive and by on-site visitors.

To maintain its historically important work, of course, the Archive requires extensive funding. In October 2002, it received a one-year grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate digital technologies for off-air recording and also for conversion of the existing collection. A recent grant from a local foundation that prefers to remain anonymous provided funds for new digital equipment. The National Endowment for the Humanities is considering a grant proposal from the Archive that will allow them to hire staff to complete wholesale digitization of the collection within two years.

Currently access to the TV News Archive is free to the general public. Not surprisingly, despite modest fees, it has been operating at a loss. University coffers cannot subsidize the Archive indefinitely. To become self-sustaining, it plans to offer subscriptions, mostly to universities, which will pay access on behalf of their own patrons. Fees for academic institutions will depend upon the size of the university. Personal subscriptions to patrons not affiliated with universities may be available for as little as $20/year.

“It’s important that the Archive survive into the future.”
In late July, Special Collections put the striking new collection of rare old books on display in its reception hallway. Dating from the 1600s through the 1800s and ranging in size from pocket bibelots to weighty tomes, the books have no obvious connection to Vanderbilt. Their titles—sometimes gilt-stamped in jagged German Gothic script or handwritten in fading ink on the books’ white velum covers and spines—are in German and Latin; representative works (translated) include The Development of German Eloquence by Theodor Heinius, The Art of Speech and Lectures by Karl Skraup, Instructions for Spiritual Eloquence by Ignaz Wurz.

The 269 books now on display in Special Collections represent perhaps the world’s most complete collection of literature on German rhetoric, homiletics, and epistolary writing published between 1600 and 1900. The Heard Library acquired the collection with funds from the Heard Society this spring in a purchase from Joachim Dyck, a really big step towards confirming Vanderbilt’s position within the top research institutions as being a source for rare books.

This collection represents a newfound strength in German holdings.

“Nobody has collected this type of book,” explains Dyck, “because these books are pure theory.”

Dyck’s focused collection consists principally of educational handbooks on rhetoric, homiletics, and epistolary writing. Like most western European countries, Germany’s tradition of erudition was based upon a classical model that included prescribed methods for making proper speeches and sermons, writing effective letters, and composing well-made essays and poems. All of these modes of expression had rules that had been handed down and refined since the days of Aristotle and Cicero. The handbooks that Dyck collected represent the final flowering of this discipline in thought and writing in Germany.

“Rhetoric is the art of thinking clearly and presenting your ideas, your argu-

We already had a couple of [German] collections here which are quite good,” adds McCarthy. “We have the Heinrich Meyer Collection, which spans the 19th and early 20th centuries, and it contains a number of rare popular plays and novels. In addition, a couple of years ago we were able to get the Ernst Waldinger Collection of first imprints of anthologies of poems from the turn of the century. With the Dyck Collection, we now have three focused collections.”

It was through McCarthy that Vanderbilt was able to make its latest German acquisition. McCarthy and Dyck became acquainted years ago at academic conferences. That relationship was further strengthened in October 1999 when Dyck attended a Vanderbilt symposium on noted 18th-century German thinker and rhetorician Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. The conference made a favorable impression on Professor Dyck, and in the spring of 2002 he agreed to return to Vanderbilt as a visiting professor for the spring 2003 semester.

As McCarthy and Dyck discussed his visiting professorship, Dyck also mentioned that he had a collection of rare books for sale. Dyck was hoping that his collection would go to a library that had an interest in rhetorical studies and that would keep it intact. Also—all things being equal—Dyck hoped his collection would go to a library in the United States. “I love the United States,” Dyck said during an interview this past April in his Furman Hall office. “I had possibilities to leave this collection with a German library, but it’s a part of myself which will now always be in the United States, and I’m glad about that.”

Dyck’s fondness for America stems from his formative years in academia. His first academic appointment as an assistant professor was at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1965. And it was there that he began assembling his one-of-a-kind collection in earnest. Not long after settling in Seattle, Dyck noticed that the exchange rate was very favorable for buying German goods. He soon began collecting German books on rhetoric, homiletics, and epistolary (letter) writing, focusing on the period between the 1600s and the 1800s. Later, back in Germany, he served for many years as professor of literature and rhetoric at Carl Von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, Germany, where he continued to expand his collection, building it into an incomparable mini-library on German rhetorical traditions. "Nobody has collected this type of book," explains Dyck, “because these books are pure theory.”

The Joachim Dyck Collection of books on German rhetoric finds a new home in Special Collections

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The Joachim Dyck Collection of books on German rhetoric finds a new home in Special Collections
Simon Collier's Legacy: A Passion for the Tango

Professor Simon Collier, who taught at Vanderbilt from 1991 until his death earlier this year, was an internationally known historian of Latin America with a passion for the tango. His private library is both unique and extensive, with perhaps the most distinctive items being several thousand recordings. Professor Collier served as a consultant for several European recording companies and was instrumental in creating over 20 tango history recordings. He passed away in February of this year leaving Vanderbilt his library and papers. As a result of his bequest, Vanderbilt will have one of the finest and most complete collections of original tango music recordings in the world.

In addition to about 4,000 tango recordings, he left over 5,000 books and journals. They are a testament to his diverse reading interests, ranging from country music to Chinese history. Of special note is the collection of 19th-century Chiloean and Latin American history, which further enhances our Latin American collection, a major strength of the Library's. His correspondence, research, memoirs, and tango memorabilia will be housed in Special Collections.

The Central Library will receive his Latin American collection and the Music Library, his tango recordings and related materials. Professor Collier's roots were a long way from the Argentine tango. He was born in Hertfordshire, England, served in the RAF, and studied history at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He taught history at the University of Essex for 26 years. He spent substantial periods of time in Chile and Argentina throughout his career. In 1991 he was lured to Vanderbilt, where he served as director of the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies and chair of the Department of History. He was best known for his books on Chilean history and the Argentine tango, including Tango which has appeared in four languages. Professor Collier was editor of the Cambridge Latin American Studies series, the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean, and author of acclaimed biographies of the tango singer Carlos Gardel and the tango composer, Astor Piazzolla. He received the Ordes Andres Bello from the Republic of Venezuela and a knighthood of the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins from Chile. Students and faculty appreciated his intellect, verbal elegance, wit and humor, and his warmth. Memorials were held at Essex and Cambridge, England, after his death, as well as in Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Vanderbilt.

A bronze plaque in his honor was recently unveiled on what would have been his 65th birthday, on a square in Buenos Aires, accompanied by the music of the bandoneones. His co-author, Maria Susana Azzi, wrote:

"Simon loved Argentina and the tango very dearly. [He] was the first foreigner to open a wide door to the research and writing of our urban popular music: the Argentine tango. His opinions, his work, his study of the roots of old and modern tango, his insight into the history and culture of our own urban popular music and dance were very well known and respected in Argentina and Chile. We Argentines and porteños are grateful to his legacy. We, his friends, shall miss his visits to Buenos Aires. We shall miss him forever."

And so shall we at Vanderbilt. His legacy will live on at Vanderbilt through the fond memories of students and colleagues and, through his bequest, to future scholars, faculty, and other researchers at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

-Paula Covington, Latin American and Iberian bibliographer and senior lecturer in Latin American studies

Shaping the Future...
News from the Divisional Libraries

Interlibrary Loan System Now Online

The libraries’ three interlibrary loan (ILL) and document delivery services (DDS) launched a new online request system on August 11. Using any standard Web browser, users now log into a secure personal account to place ILL/DDS requests, track order status, ask for renewals, and record service preferences. An upcoming enhancement will provide desktop delivery of electronic documents to the same user account. The Heard Library Interlibrary Loan Service, Biomedical Document Delivery Service, and Law Interlibrary Services are cooperating to implement the new system, which uses OCLC ILLiad software.

Stevenson Library Undergoes Renovations

The Sarah Shannon Stevenson Science and Engineering Library underwent a substantial renovation of its service areas during the summer. Among the major changes are a complete shift of the book and periodicals collections, a new consolidated circulation and reference desk, new computer and study furniture, new flat screen LCD monitors, new carpet, and more wired ports for laptop tops. The library also has a completely new classroom located at the back of the library, with new video and computer equipment, accommodating up to 20 people at 15 easily reconfigurable tables. It is available to be reserved for instructional purposes by all members of the Vanderbilt community.

Once again this fall, the Science and Engineering Library remains open for 24 hours, from noon on Sundays to 10 PM on Fridays for user convenience.

All Things Electronic at EBL

To increase the overall availability of electronic resources to the Medical Center, The Annette and Erwin Eiskind Bio-medical Library (EBL) decided that part of the collection will be available only in digital formats to allow for reallocation of funds toward new purchases. Moving to electronic versions of titles allows EBL, to focus on ensuring consistent and reliable access to full-text articles from any location for the Medical Center’s primary users.

Starting August 1, EBL began increasing the number of journals available only electronically. For these titles, current print issues no longer are shelved and users are directed to access them via the EBL Digital Library (http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/digitlib). To further increase easy access to resources, EBL also returned 1970-1974 high-use journal issues from storage. A list of titles that are changing to electronic only may be found at http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/ health/electronic.html.

New functional enhancements to EBL’s Digital Library include a new search mechanism enabling retrieval based on resource descriptions contained in the digital library records (for example, typing in “DNA Sequence” will retrieve several genetics resources that contain this text in the description field); the addition of a sidebar button offering quick access to evidence-based medical (EBM) resources such as EBM Solutions, UpToDate, or Cochrane; and the addition of a new special focused/customized digital library—the Consumer Health Digital Library—targeted for VUMC patients and clinicians seeking patient education materials.

EBL is also working on facilitating the viewing of government and association Web-casts of relevant information to the Medical Center as they become available online. Medical Center personnel soon may use a special Web-cast area located on the first floor of the library.

Fisk, Vanderbilt Arrange Cooperative Access

In an agreement harking back to the days of the Joint University Library, Fisk University and Vanderbilt University agreed in April to provide library access and borrowing privileges to each institution’s faculty and students. Privileges are granted one semester at a time and are initially established at the student or faculty member’s home library. The privileges approximate those for undergraduate students at each institution. Each institution will hold its own students and faculty accountable for obligations to the other institution, as if these obligations were to the home library itself.

The agreement began last January during a trial period to establish and finalize procedures. Both institutions anticipate that this mutually beneficial arrangement will continue indefinitely.

Peabody Library Adds JAWS and ZoomTEXT

Deborah Sommer, director of the Walker Management Library, and Celia Walker, library public relations and development officer, joined the Heard Library staff this summer. Deborah Sommer, new director of the Walker Management Library, has over 20 years of experience in academic and special libraries. Most recently she worked on contract with the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, while based at the University of Missouri-Columbia where she is pursuing a degree in educational leadership and policy analysis. Sommer spent eight years with the USDA Forest Service as administrative librarian responsible for shared automation and database projects for 10 agency libraries nationwide. She directed one of the agency libraries that served researchers and policy makers in a 13 state region and a fee-based information service that served the forest products industry internationally. She received a BS in business from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, and held her first job in business with a Nashville corporation. During that time she decided to pursue a master’s degree in library and information science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She joined the Walker Management Library in August.

Celia Walker, who joined the Office of the University Librarian in June, had served as senior curator of American art at Cheekwood Museum of Women in the Arts, organizing and implementing a series of juried exhibitions titled From the Mountains to the Mississippi. She is currently enrolled in the distance education master’s degree program of the Graduate School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Peabody Library Adds JAWS and ZoomTEXT

Deborah Sommer and Celia Walker

JAWS and ZoomTEXT software were added to the publicly available PC in Room 302 of the Peabody Library. ZoomTEXT software allows users with low vision to read magnified text by doubling the magnification to approximately 24-point type, depending on the original font size and the size of the monitor. JAWS reads text to users who are visually impaired or have low vision, providing speech technology that works with the computer operating system to access popular software applications and the Internet.

What’s All the Ruckus About?

A Century of Progress: 20th-Century Painting in Tennessee

She is the author of From the Mountains to the Mississippi: 100 Years of Women in the Arts Resources and Technical Services in Nashville. She also served as project officer, joined the Heard Library staff this summer. Deborah Sommer, director of the Walker Management Library, and Celia Walker, library public relations and development officer, joined the Heard Library staff this summer. Deborah Sommer, new director of the Walker Management Library, has over 20 years of experience in academic and special libraries. Most recently she worked on contract with the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, while based at the University of Missouri-Columbia where she is pursuing a degree in educational leadership and policy analysis. Sommer spent eight years with the USDA Forest Service as administrative librarian responsible for shared automation and database projects for 10 agency libraries nationwide. She directed one of the agency libraries that served researchers and policy makers in a 13 state region and a fee-based information service that served the forest products industry internationally. She received a BS in business from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, and held her first job in business with a Nashville corporation. During that time she decided to pursue a master’s degree in library and information science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She joined the Walker Management Library in August.

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Deborah Sommer and Celia Walker
Don’t miss these exhibits from Special Collections

Pieces of the Past: Vanderbilt Sports offers students, faculty and visitors a casual look at Vanderbilt athletics over the past 120 years. All of the items featured in the exhibit are called from Special Collections and the Photographic Archives. Spotlighed items include team uniforms, photos, game programs, and fan ephemera. The exhibit, which is located on the fourth floor of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, runs from now through December.

Recent Acquisitions from the Fugitive and Agrarian Collections is the fall exhibit featured in the main Special Collections gallery. The exhibit features items recently purchased from the collection of Walter Sullivan, professor of English, emeritus, as well as a number of purchases from the Jesse E. Wills Fund.