The Libraries Mission Statement

The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries are fundamental to the university’s goal of advancing scholarship and learning. We collect, preserve and make accessible a wide variety of resources, we partner with faculty and students to shape research, and we encourage the development of informed scholars and engaged citizens.

RESEARCH

Tichi’s Latest Research is ‘How-To Manual’ For Gilded Age Socialites

Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English and professor of American Studies at Vanderbilt University Cecelia Tichi related the many “do’s” and “don’ts” of Mrs. William Astor’s rules of manners in her latest book, What Would Mrs. Astor Do? The Essential Guide to the Manners and Mores of the Gilded Age (New York: NYU Press, 2018). During her talk and book signing in Special Collections, Professor Tichi recognized our library staff for their help in her research. https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/03/04/tichis-latest-research-is-how-to-manual-for-gilded-age-socialites/

Photo: Leanna Myers

Oldest Objects in Libraries

Vanderbilt’s Divinity Library tablets have been brought to light by Dr. Andrea Seri, professor at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, with the assistance of Dr. Annalisa Azzoni at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. Based on the results of Dr. Seri’s research, two tablets featured in the Divinity Library’s Cultures in Clay exhibit date to the Sumerian Third Dynasty of Ur, which makes them about four thousand years of age and thus the oldest objects in the Vanderbilt Libraries.

Buchanan Library Fellows Open Our Crowd Exhibit

Peabody College traces its roots to the University of Nashville and its predecessors, Cumberland College and Davidson Academy. It is a rich history which the Buchanan Library Fellows have been exploring this semester using the University of Nashville Collections housed in Special Collections. The student-curated exhibit explores what life was like for students in 19th-century Nashville. https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/03/15/our-crowd-student-life-at-the-university-of-nashville-opens-march-27/
Podcast Series with Morton Dean

The TV News Archive's *News Knowledge* podcast episodes for January, February and March feature a three-part conversation with former CBS/ABC TV news correspondent Morton Dean. Dean comments about the Archive, "One of the great things about you and Vanderbilt and the other folks there is you're creating something that will last forever .... I hope more people will learn that it's there so they can go find out more about...what their family members did when they served during [the Vietnam War]." [http://www.newsknowledge.today](http://www.newsknowledge.today)

History of Medicine and Surgery Society

In January, the History of Medicine Collections hosted the first meeting of the Vanderbilt Medical School’s newly formed History of Medicine and Surgery Society. Library staff collaborated with medical student organizers and faculty advisors to engage attendees with highlights from the collection, including rare books, photographs and artifacts about the history of medicine, surgery and Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Photo: Shervin Etemad

Pictured Left to Right: Dr. Sunil Geevarghese, Thomas Day (VMS II), Christopher Ryland, Jim Thweatt, Clark Stallings (VMS III)

TEACHING & LEARNING

Students Compete in Design Challenge

 Twelve undergraduate, graduate and professional students participated in the second annual Vanderbilt Libraries Design Challenge, using principles of human-centered design to pitch ideas for making the libraries more accessible and meaningful for students. The winning team members (Kobin Kempe, sophomore, computer science; Chris Webster, junior, Next Steps program; and Marcela Aguilar, Humphrey Fellow, Peabody College) focused on building library partnerships with student organizations, recommending such strategies as hosting student club activities in the libraries, encouraging librarians to collaborate with club faculty advisors, and creating incentives for students to discover how the libraries support their co-curricular interests. The Design Challenge was co-sponsored by the Wond'ry, DIVE, and Design for America. [https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/02/library-design-challenge-pitch-and-awards-event/](https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/02/library-design-challenge-pitch-and-awards-event/)

Photo: Melissa Mallon
Additional Educational Programs and Workshops

Internet Privacy Skills
https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/scholarly/privacy

Digital Pedagogy: Engaging Students through Open Education
https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/scholarly/openedweek

Curator Talks
https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/01/curator-talks-spring-2019/

Digital Scholarship Workshops and Boot Camps
https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/scholarly/workshops.php

Spring Celebration of Music: Featuring the Theremin
https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/03/spring-celebration-of-music-featuring-the-theremin-2/

Resources Spotlight

RIPM Retrospective Index to Music Periodicals - https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/02/full-text-content-now-available-in-ripm/
Data Planet - https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/02/new-database-data-planet/

EXPERT SERVICES

Rahn Huber, librarian for business; senior lecturer in management, was one of three conveners for the first annual Southern Academic Business Librarians’ Conference to be held at the University of Georgia in March. Huber has also been a Wond’ry Mentor this spring semester.

Philip Walker, director of Eskind Biomedical Library, was invited on behalf of the Meharry Medical College Library to discuss the library’s role in evidence-based medicine for the Clinical Research Capstone. The title of the talk was "Information Mastery and Clinical Decision Making." Walker also presented at the weekly Department of Biomedical Informatics Seminar. His presentation, “Change in and Changing the Information Landscape,” provided a brief glimpse into some of the projects and research activities currently underway by the Eskind Biomedical Library staff.

As part of a partnership with the All of Us Research Program, the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeast Chapter awarded a professional development award to Rachel Lane Walden, health sciences informationist. The award funded attendance to the American Library Association Midwinter Conference and Preconference.

Bobby Smiley, associate director of the Divinity Library and Keegan Osinski, librarian for public services, along with the Divinity School writing tutor, team-taught a semester-long zero-
credit course for Master of Theological Studies students writing their thesis. The course provided instruction on research questions, thesis statements, outlines, and citation management, as well as moral support and encouragement in the writing process.


Leslie Foutch, librarian for Human and Organizational Development, and Sara Manus, librarian for music education and outreach have been selected to serve as faculty VUceptors for the Vanderbilt Visions program in the fall of 2019. They will each work with a group of 18 first-year students and a student VUceptor to help the class of 2023 make the transition to undergraduate life at Vanderbilt.

Prepare to Practice, an annual lecture and workshop series sponsored by the Alyne Queener Massey Law Library, prepares students for the professional challenges of legal practice by highlighting and discussing the latest trends and hot topics in legal practice. The 2019 Prepare to Practice program featured six lunchtime events, addressing everything from legal chatbots to e-discovery.

https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/law/students/preparetopractice/preparetopracticehome.php

New Library Staff:
Mariah Ford, research services librarian, Massey Law Library
Dajin Sun, director of Metadata Services, Cataloging & Metadata

New Roles for Library Staff:
Kashif Graham, librarian for Religion and Theology, Divinity Library
Marymae Jansson, copyright clearance coordinator, Digital Scholarship & Scholarly Communications
Caleb McLoud, collections maintenance coordinator, Central Library
Will Stringfellow, library associate, Government Documents, Central Library

CAMPUS COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Censors at Work: How States Shaped Literature Lecture
Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and emeritus director of the University Library at Harvard University, spoke to a large crowd this spring on his efforts to define censorship through historical research and interviews. The lecture was sponsored by the Wild Bunch Lecture Fund of the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries, the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, the Department of French & Italian, and the Department of History at Vanderbilt University. The archived video of the lecture is available on the libraries’ YouTube channel. https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/01/23/cultural-historian-robert-darnton-to-speak-on-censorship-and-literature-feb-7/

Photo: Anne Rayner
Vanderbilt Libraries’ Exhibit Spotlights Two Trailblazing Alumnae in Creative Arts
The pioneer roles of two Vanderbilt alumnae in the music and publishing fields are highlighted in two exhibitions, *The Iconoclastic Marshall Chapman* and *Haunted Hills of Mildred Haun*. Marshall Chapman, BA’71, and Mildred Haun, BA’35 and MA’37, both of whom broke barriers in the creative arts, were celebrated at a reception, a feature of the libraries’ activities around Women’s History Month. [https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/03/19/vanderbilt-library-spotlights-two-pioneering-alumnae-in-creative-arts/](https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/03/19/vanderbilt-library-spotlights-two-pioneering-alumnae-in-creative-arts/)

Christian Hebraism and Bible Translation Exhibit
Distinguished Professor of Hebrew Bible Choon-leong Seow curated the *Christian Hebraism and Bible Translation* exhibit, which highlights the contributions of Christian Hebraists and their influence on early modern Bible translations in the sixteenth century. This is the fifth in a series of collaborative exhibits hosted by the Divinity Library designed to publicize the strength of the collections. This exhibit is on view through May 12, 2019.

Puppy Love @ Vanderbilt Libraries
For Valentine's Day, the Student Outreach and Engagement Committee brought seven adorable canines to the Stevenson Science & Engineering, Central, Peabody, Eskind Biomedical and Wilson Music Libraries to help us all de-stress in advance of mid-terms. Over 400 students, faculty and staff dropped by to meet and greet the seven pooches, who enjoyed the attention. Hot chocolate and tail wags were enjoyed by all. [https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/02/puppy-love-in-the-libraries/](https://newsonline.library.vanderbilt.edu/2019/02/puppy-love-in-the-libraries/)

Exhibits at the Fine Arts Gallery
**Then & Now: Five Centuries of Woodcuts**
[https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/01/02/then-now-five-centuries-of-woodcuts-opens-at-fine-arts-gallery-jan-10/](https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2019/01/02/then-now-five-centuries-of-woodcuts-opens-at-fine-arts-gallery-jan-10/)

**Embodied: Mosaic Arts International**