Digital at a Distance:
Continuity of DH Research Services During a Pandemic

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In a wing similar to that occupied by Linonia and Brothers on the opposite side of the main entrance is the Reserve Book Room, equipped with its own stacks. The books in these stacks are partially supplied by the various departments of the University for collateral reading in conjunction with their courses. The books in the open shelves around the room number 10,000.

Inasmuch as the Reserve Book Room is really a work room where students go for study, its architectural treatment is more restrained than that of Linonia and Brothers. The windows, which have no particular significance pictorially, are similar in form to those in Linonia and show a masterful handling of lead and glass.
What we’ve continued
(and what we’ve changed)

What we’ve stopped

What we’ll restart
Virtual Consultations & Training

Hiring and training student workers has continued

Fully-staffed ‘drop-in’ hours via Zoom

Hot topics: Digital collaboration (Zotero, Tropy, Dropbox...)
Virtual Outreach & Global Engagement

Yale Young Global Scholars
Session on data visualization best practices

Global audience: Necessary reminder that GitHub, Google Maps etc. not universally available everywhere
Room Layout: After
Digital Signage converted to COVID-19 info
Access to Vendor ‘raw data’ for Text & Data Mining

No longer possible to copy data to a client’s hard drive from RAID. Solutions: Enterprise cloud storage (Box); DHLab web server
Specialized Digitization

Temporarily moved Microfilm Scanner to basement microfilm room
Over 20,000 pages scanned from dozens of reels
Huge shift in focus: from text-mining projects only to general access
AI & Deep Learning processing
Music composition by ‘flocking’ algorithm
Every Car on the Sunset Strip
Generative Networks & Ed Ruscha’s photography
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

[Urfé, Wilhelm] Two versions by different editors, one with a woodcut frontispiece and one without.


A GROUP OF 134 volumes, first editions of English and American literature, mostly in sets preceding Great Expectations. From Professor Norman Holmes Pearson.

Andouilh, Jean. A collection of his works in contemporary binding, including Die reise des teufel (Leipzig, 1658), the first edition of this novel with 125 plates, dated 1831 and retained; dawson nouveau (Berlin, 1846), a novel with 125 plates; Cric-ren des mor (Paris, 1883), a tale in fairy-tale verse, illustrated with 19 engraved plates; Cricen (Paris, 1893), an English translation by Fielding and Faur, with a folding map; Cricden affre livre de Belgique (Paris, 1836), a novel, illustrated with engraved plates; Tunis (2 August 1837), with fifty plates, also by Fielding and Faur. In this edition he gives an introduction. Purchased on the Douglas Moffat Fund.


Bentley, Thomas. An address in which he begins his lecture with the famous verse verse Selections from Horace, then proceeds to repeat the same poem several more times, this time with an instrument in his hand, as if to indicate to himself whether he has heard this poem before.

He then asks, "Am I deceived?" While still in his infante stance, he asks several questions that require his identification before he can do so. Purchased on the Herman W. Liebert Fund.

BoCCACCIO. A manuscript on paper, with corrections, of his De la vida a rumo, beginning with a smallish figure of a lion, and containing with human figures, including a lion masquerading as a chicken, a lion dressed as horseback, a lion dressed as a dog, a lion dressed as a wolf, and a lion as eagle, painted on paper and stamped letter; a chest and a cage cat, with lion head and tailpiece. From Thomas E. Marston, 1927.

BoCCACCIO. Aines cartouche bagpietel, e warragoni Arithmetica equinoctio, primo Organo & Organo aerono or instrumentum materia follow-up.

Couni, Marc. Autograph letter, signed, to an unidentified correspondent, concerning an article on Couni and Marial, dated 23 November 1879. Purchased on the Chemney Brentmor Tinkler Fund.


Ely Family. The other files of the estate of the late Theresa Ely Ely, kgl of Kingswods Life in the Age of Popery, Essex (1861), confiscated by her son Richard Elyhurst, Duke of Saxony and scarcest provincial province in Canada until Cornwall. They include letters, family papers, and photographs relating to Theresa Ely and her family, her diary (1981-83), and family letters and subject files on her father, Michael Elyhurst's, Edgar Hills Elyhurst, and Thomas Elyhurst, Duke of Saxony, 1879-95. The papers in this group, containing photographs, marriage anniversaries and manuscripts, customs scrolls, newspaper clippings, household journals, and erotic. Levat, Edward. Persicus (London, 1628). Third edition of this novel. Purchased on the Milton Fund.

Fifty-three 78 r.p.m. records, roll call, 1962-65. From Mrs. William Mason.

Freeman, J. C. The young gentleman drawn to the gallows (London, 1776). Printed for his nephew, the poet Jeremiah Day. This copy has been misspelled on each of the three pages, presumably to correct a gap in the Ralph Barton-Flagg edition. Purchased on the Herman W. Liebert Fund.

Herbert, Sir William. A Treatise on the Occasion of... Three Hundred and One Idol [Boston: Printed by Benjamin Scott, about 1775]. Folio. Goff S-251. A clay ale, with imprint of G, indicating that it was made in Venice. Purchased on the Beinecke funds.

Keller, Albert S., 1889. The papers of Albert Keller, including manuscripts of his writings, writings by his books as political scientists, and letters to him from James Keller, Sylvia Plath, Ying-Hwan Kim, and Pavel Tchelitchew. From Mrs. Isabel Woolley.


Sachs, Hans. Copies of his De censurae principes (Amsterdam, 1668), bound together in contemporary calf gilt, and his Logica contemplativa... alias censura nova... Directions to directors (London, 1688). Purchased on the Charles J. Rosenblum Fund.

Seventy-three volumes on general history, economics, and sociology; 72 pamphlets, edited by Frieda Wel, chiefly about sociology; 7,500 pieces of postcard, probably sent by Columbus voyeurs to Pennsylvania.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. A collection of manuscript letters, photographs, and writings by Robert Louis Stevenson, amounting to about forty items. From Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson.


Tocqueville, Alexis de. An autograph letter signed to a colleague (Francoise) of Tocqueville, without date, and accompanied with a manuscript letter signed to him from him, Paris [1750]. Purchased on the Frederick W. Hilds Fund.

Consequences / Effects

**Space**
- Much lower room capacity (& fixed)
- Removal of in-room staff support
- No shared computers or VR equipment

**Information**
- All brochures/worksheets/support material removed
- DH signage alternates with safety info

**Services**
- No in-person consultations (not just DH)
- No in-person workshops
  - Asynchronous / on-demand now possible
- No in-person access to raw data
Restarting In-Person Services

Bulk Digitization

Timeline: Fall/Spring
Training: Working splitting task between para-professional & professional activities
Equity / Access issues: integrate with catalog request system?
Restarting In-Person Services

Raw Data Access for TDM

Timeline: Unknown
User-provided hard drives through mail, after quarantine period?
Restarting In-Person Services

Consultations & Training

Timeline: Unknown
Student Worker Hiring: Sorted
Equity / Access issues: maintain virtual option?
Restarting In-Person Services

Return to Staff Offices

Timeline: Unknown
Larger-scale changes in work patterns?
But proximity of staff = key part of vision
Thank You & Questions