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Mia Farrow’s Humanitarian Advocacy in Africa Documented at Dodd Research Center

“...I first visited Darfur in 2004, during the peak of the slaughter of the civilian population and the rampant destruction of their homes.... By 2006 80-90 percent of Darfur’s villages were ashes. Two and a half million people had fled into wretched camps across Darfur and eastern Chad.”

—Actress and humanitarian Mia Farrow

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UConn Libraries Join HathiTrust Digital Library

The UConn Libraries have become the newest member of HathiTrust Digital Library, a partnership of major academic and research libraries collaborating to compile a massive digital library of published scholarship.

HathiTrust includes material from the Google Books Library Project, an effort by Google to scan and make searchable the collections of several major research libraries, as well as material from the Internet Archive, a non-profit that offers free online access to historical digital collections, in which UConn has been an active participant since 2008.

“Membership in the HathiTrust takes full advantage of what the Internet Archive and Google Books have done and places that information within a context specifically tailored for our teaching and research community,” says Vice Provost for UConn Libraries Brinley Franklin. “Joining forces with the other institutions in this important initiative maximizes our financial resources, enhances the depth of our collections, and offers new support to UConn’s teaching and learning.”

HathiTrust allows users to do full-text searches of all the books in the repository as well as download all material in the public domain. In addition, members of the community who are visually impaired will be able to download the full text of material that is in copyright for use with assistive technology.

HathiTrust was launched in 2008 by the then 12-university consortium, known as the Committee on Institutional Cooperation and the University of California system. It has grown to...
FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Exciting Times

These are exciting times at the University of Connecticut. The University inaugurated its 15th (and first woman) President, Susan Herbst, in September. The State of Connecticut is investing millions of dollars in a technology park in Storrs and in BioScience Connecticut in Farmington. Our men’s basketball team is the reigning NCAA champion and the University was named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 20 national public research universities in the country this fall.

These are exciting times at the UConn Libraries as well. Our Libraries were rank ordered 20th among U.S. public universities in the most recent Association of Research Libraries Investment Index, and our users rated library services higher than ever in our most recent LibQUAL+® Survey. The fifth Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights was awarded to the Center for Justice and International Law in October and the Connecticut Children’s Book Fair celebrated its 20th anniversary with one of its most successful events yet in November.

The Libraries have recently added several significant collections in human rights and children’s literature as well as the papers of former U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd. We continue to digitize our unique collections and make them accessible to researchers well beyond Storrs. We have hired a new Director of Archives & Special Collections, Greg Colati, who is making plans to enhance our virtual presence even further by upgrading our ability to deliver and preserve digital objects and collections, including both born-digital and physical materials that have been digitally reformatted.

Our Map and Geographic Information Center now hosts the Connecticut State Data Center and we deliver U.S. Census and other Connecticut-related data to a wide audience of users. We have upgraded our ability to incorporate the Libraries’ electronic course reserve materials into the University’s course management system, are borrowing more materials than ever for our users through interlibrary loan, and offer virtual reference services to library users through “chat” services, enabling students and others to have their library-related questions answered wherever they are located. We have also introduced a virtual PC or “cloud” capability that enables UConn users to access software offered on library computers using their PC’s, Macs, or mobile devices anytime, anywhere in the world where there is Internet access.

In addition to our enhancements related to digital library services and collections, more users are visiting the UConn Libraries in person than ever before. We continue to update library spaces that support contemporary students as they learn together in small groups and work in new technology-enabled ways. Building on the success of the Learning Commons in Storrs, Learning Commons are now offered at all five of our regional campus libraries. At the same time, in response to student requests, we have designated additional quiet study spaces within the library.

Our campuses and our libraries are buzzing with excitement and we hope you will continue to be part of the exciting times that UConn is currently experiencing. With your continuing support, we will continue to do great things and keep the excitement alive!

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University of Connecticut Libraries is published twice a year to provide current information about the Libraries’ collections, services, and activities. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please contact Ann Galonska at ann.galonska@uconn.edu or 860-486-6882.

Editor: Suzanne Zack
Contributors: Susanna Cowan, Brinley Franklin, Kate Fuller, Terri Goldich, Tom Hurlbut, Meg Malmborg, Jean Nelson, Brian Perchal, Jane Recchio, Kena Sosa, and Norman Stevens.

Mia Farrow
Continued from page 1

efforts in Africa, primarily regarding Darfur and Sudan, Chad, Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The collection includes speeches, writings and op-ed pieces, field notes, and travel documents. The collection also includes 205 digital photographs taken by Farrow documenting humanitarian crises in Africa and Haiti. The collection does not contain information about Farrow’s acting career or personal life.

Today, Farrow lectures extensively at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada on the genocide in Darfur and the plight of refugees in neighboring countries, and also contributes regular op-ed pieces to the Wall Street Journal and other newspapers. She is currently undertaking a project known as the “Darfur Archives” to help preserve the vanishing culture and traditions of the Darfuri people.

To hear Farrow describe her efforts to preserve Darfur culture, click on: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AN0CNcxF4LDQ

Farrow’s papers may be found at: http://sudan.uconn.edu/farrow.htm
Braving the elements to use a public computer equipped with Minitab, SPSS, or other specialized software in the Library or at a computer lab in either the School of Business or School of Engineering may soon be a distant memory. UConn has launched a new Virtual PC service (vpc.uconn.edu), which enables students, faculty, and staff to use their Net ID to access the software resources of the UConn Libraries and the Schools of Business and Engineering — anywhere there is Internet access — whether by a desktop, laptop, or mobile phone.

Through the use of cutting-edge technology, this collaborative venture between the three departments eliminates the need for students to purchase the often expensive software, and simultaneously minimizes dependence on the computers themselves, thus reducing staff time required to support their use, the cost of maintenance, and the need for additional computers, according to Tony Molloy, IT Team Leader for the University Libraries.

Molloy notes that he would often hear students say that there weren’t enough computers equipped with the programs they needed, especially during finals. The new resource addresses that need, which is usually only apparent during time of highest use, Molloy says. Purchasing more computers wasn’t viable or necessary, he says.

“Faculty love it too,” Molloy says of the new resource. At the request of one faculty member, ITS was able to install statistical software required for his class within a matter of days, Molloy notes. He says another faculty member happily observed, “This is the biggest technological leap since the library’s card catalogue was computerized!”

Help Goes Online!

Susanna Cowan and Kate Fuller

Virtual research and informational help is booming at the UConn Libraries. Over the past few months, research assistance at the Libraries has made the transition to a chat-based/on-call system. Librarians respond to incoming questions via chat software and are available for in-person help on an on-call basis. On one hand this shift includes the elimination of the physically staffed reference desk, a familiar library service, but on the other hand, the new system allows librarians to offer help more hours during the week than were previously possible. Chat/on-call assistance is available Mondays–Thursdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

So far the numbers are impressive. In September, librarians responded to 425 chat questions and close to 200 on-call requests for in-person help. Together, this represents a 16% increase in research assistance from September last year—and an 80% increase in chat service! One of the best things about the Ask a Librarian “box” is that it can be embedded inside heavily used research tools such as databases and the catalog, allowing students and faculty to ask questions at the point they need additional help doing research. This helps achieve an ongoing Libraries goal to offer help at the place and time it’s needed.

Susanna Cowan, Undergraduate Education Team Leader
Kate Fuller, Undergraduate Education & Research Librarian

HathiTrust Continued from page 1

more than 50 partners including Columbia, Princeton, Yale, Duke, and Johns Hopkins. UConn is the first public research university in New England to become a member.

“As a prominent public research university, the University of Connecticut brings a valuable perspective on public service and community connection to HathiTrust,” according to John Wilkin, Executive Director of HathiTrust and Associate University Librarian for Library Information Technology at the University of Michigan, which is one of the primary administrators of the Trust.

In the past two years, HathiTrust’s partners have contributed more than 9 million volumes to the digital library, digitized from their library collections. More than 2 million of the contributed volumes are in the public domain and freely available on the Web.

HathiTrust serves as a secure repository, guaranteeing the long term preservation of the material while providing expert care and consistent access to research libraries. It also acts as a bridge between partners and the public, offering access to the digital collections which includes viewing, downloading, and searching.

HathiTrust was derived from hathi, the Hindu word for elephant, and evokes their qualities of memory, wisdom, longevity, and strength.
Billie M. Levy was awarded the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection’s (NCLC) Distinguished Service Award at the 20th Annual Connecticut Children’s Book Fair in November, 2011. Ms. Levy, or “Miss Billie” as she is known, is one of the founders of the Connecticut Children’s Book Fair, the Connecticut chapter of the American Book Collectors of Children’s Literature, and the Friends of the West Hartford Library.

As well as her many other accomplishments, Miss Billie served on the Advisory Council for the Connecticut Center for the Book at the Hartford Public Library in addition to serving on the Advisory Council of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut. Along with Susan Aller, Miss Billie co-chaired a capital campaign which raised more than $300,000 for the NCLC Endowment Fund. She has been honored with several awards for achievement, including the Charter Oak State College Alumni Citation for Outstanding Accomplishments and Loyalty to the College, and the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Hartford Section, for “Women Who Dare to Make a Difference.” Miss Billie’s donations to the NCLC now amount to approximately 14,000 cataloged books, over 400 greeting cards, posters, and realia, with the goal to have every American illustrator of note represented in her collection.

Born in Vicksburg, MS, Levy began collecting children’s books at an early age. She married local lawyer Nathan Levy, Jr., in 1949 and the couple moved to Connecticut in 1956. Nathan received his J.S.D. from Yale University and became a Professor of Law at UConn’s School of Law where he taught for 35 years. After his death in 1994, Miss Billie remained in West Hartford near her friends and children and where she could develop her interests in children’s literature. Her older daughter, Diane Levy, is a book designer in Newton, MA, the mother of twins and wife of Dr. Igor Tepermeister. Her younger daughter, Pamela Levy, of Belmont, MA is a children’s book illustrator, a ballet and ballroom dance teacher and master gardener, and wife of Alex Nelson. Her son, Dr. David Levy, is a molecular biologist who heads an AIDS research laboratory in the Dental School of New York University in New York City.

She is a perspicacious collector who is as generous with her time as she is with her tireless support of the collections held at the Dodd Research Center. The NCLC is indeed fortunate to have reaped the benefits of her energy, knowledge, and the fact that she knows simply everyone connected to children’s literature. Thank you, Miss Billie, and I hope we may have the benefit of your generosity for many years to come.

“From loving comic books as a child to enjoying Maurice Sendak as an adult, along the way I have developed an eclectic taste for the illustrations in children’s books. My interests led me to acquire an MLS and to work in various kinds of libraries from Mississippi to Yale University to the University of Connecticut. As my life-long collecting continued, I gave the first 8,000 books to Special Collections, now the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection (NCLC) in the Dodd Research Center and have continued through the years to add to the Billie M. Levy Collection of Illustrated Children’s Books. I’m proud that there is a Levy Research and Travel Grant which enables researchers to use the Collection.”

—Billie Levy

Sights captured at the 20th Annual Connecticut Children’s Book Fair include: left to right, attendees peruse books; author and illustrator Tomie dePaola reads to a group of children; author Walter Wick autographs a book for a fan.
David Avery
Aiming for Success in the Library and on the Archery Range

As a former UConn history major, David Avery is well versed in the myriad struggles man has faced and surmounted over the course of time. Now, the veteran UConn Libraries staff member, academic mentor, and athletic coach, is determined to provide the proper tools and guidance to members of UConn’s community — whether in the library or on the archery range — so they can overcome obstacles that prevent them from succeeding.

Avery started his career with the UConn Libraries in 1985 as a student working in the microfilm area and recalls a time when the library had two coin-operated word processors that allowed students to pay 10 cents to type their papers for 30 minutes. After graduating in 1989 and considering positions with publisher Prentice Hall and Aetna, he became a full-time library staff member, applying his talents to the then 40,000-volume reference collection, Connecticut State documents, and the former “Info Desk,” steering users to the resources they needed. In 2003, he formalized his years of library experience and received his M.L.S. from Southern Connecticut State University.

Over the course of close to a quarter of a century, Avery has witnessed a sea change in the library’s operations, and now as emerging technologies librarian, he is instrumental in implementing many of the new services visible today including the loan of laptop computers, iPads, Kindles, digital video-cameras, and audio recorders as well as providing the physical spaces in the building, including the popular collaboratively-focused Learning Commons, which help today’s users do their best work. He also instituted the very popular weekly “Babbidge Tea Time,” where students can enjoy a free cup of tea and the occasional cookie.

“The changes are just incredible,” he simply says.

Not content to merely help library users with their questions at the iDesk, over the past few years he has extended a helping hand to students having difficulty adjusting to academic life by becoming a mentor in the “UConn Connects” program. In it, he meets with advisees once a week reviewing their progress and potential issues, helping them focus and stay on track.

This year, he received the office’s “Facilitator of the Year” award.

“I was floored,” he says.

Frank Acquanita, a sophomore from Brookfield, CT, who hopes to follow in his father’s footsteps and attend UConn’s business school, worked with Avery last semester and nominated him for the award.

“I met with David weekly and during these meetings we would go over my week and see what classes I needed to spend more time on how to time manage,” Acquanita says. “This helped me throughout the semester in keeping on track and doing well. What helped me the most was that David set up a meeting with one of his friends who had worked in the School of Business. This meeting showed me what I needed to do in order to get into the school. I cannot thank David enough for that. That was the first time at UConn I knew that someone really cared about my well-being. It felt great! It made me want to do better.”

As a former high school soccer player and runner himself and now, the father of two sons who are involved in athletics, Jack, 15, and Ethan, 18, he knows first-hand how they benefited from the time he spent coaching soccer though the Town of Mansfield’s program and now as coach of UConn’s Archery Team, of which Ethan is a member. As coach, he has learned the fine points of archery, and the importance of form and focus when aiming an arrow at a target. “It’s very Zen,” he observes. Last year, the team scored seventh in the country in overall collegiate competition and succeeded in sending a member to an international competition in China, the Collegiate World Games.

Coaching sports is analogous to life, Avery says. “The best thing is seeing students improve and excel. Nothing beats it. It’s awesome,” he says with a smile.
Disseminating Knowledge Through Open Access

UConn marked the celebration of Open Access Week (Oct. 24-30) with the launch of a new fund through the University Libraries that will support UConn authors publishing in open access journals.

Open access makes scholarly articles freely available to anyone, anywhere, via the Internet. Open Access Week is a global event that seeks to inform the international academic community of the benefits of open access.

“The UConn Libraries has long been an advocate of open access, starting with the development of our institutional repository DigitalCommons@UConn in 2005, which archives and makes accessible the University’s scholarly output,” says Brinley Franklin, vice provost for university libraries.

“Open access (OA) journals are another viable alternative venue for scholarly articles,” adds Franklin. “They offer the same services as traditional journals — peer review, production, and distribution — but are freely available to anyone, anywhere.” A number of UConn faculty are also actively involved in open access publishing initiatives.

To support free, immediate, online access to scholarly research, UConn Libraries, together with the UConn Health Center Library and UConn’s Vice President for Research, have started a fund that will provide support for the publication of scholarly articles in peer-reviewed, fully open access journals.

Introduced during Open Access Week, the $35,000 UConn Open Access Author’s Fund will provide up to $1,250 for each scholarly article written by any UConn faculty member, post-doctoral researcher, staff member, or graduate student, once they exhaust other funding avenues.

The fund requires that the applicant’s published article be placed in DigitalCommons@UConn, that the article indicate the applicant’s UConn affiliation, and that the applicant be the corresponding author. Specifics about the fund may also be found at: http://uchc.libguides.com/OA_AuthorFund, or by emailing Carolyn Mills, sciences team leader at carolyn.mills@uconn.edu.

In existence for six years, DigitalCommons@UConn currently holds 7,961 papers, which have been downloaded a total of 309,588 times over the past year.

Signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access

In addition to the new fund, UConn is one of about 300 research institutions, libraries, archives, museums, funding agencies, and governments from around the world that have signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

Issued in 2003, the Declaration is considered one of the milestones of the open access movement. It outlines concrete steps to promote the Internet as a vehicle for disseminating global knowledge, encouraging researchers, and making cultural heritage materials openly available.

To date, the Berlin Declaration has garnered signatures from the leaders of organizations ranging from the Max Planck Society to the Chinese Academy of Sciences, to Academia Europaea. Most recently, both Harvard University and the International Federation of Library Associations added their names to the roster.

Gifts of Note at Music & Dramatic Arts Library

Anna Kijas

Between January 2010 and August 2011, the Music & Dramatic Arts Library (M&DAL) received more than 2,300 in-kind gifts, which include books, scores, audio/visual recordings, and playscripts. Among the materials donated are audio and visual recordings representing a variety of musical genres (choral, jazz, opera), periods (early to 20th century music), and repertoires (solo piano to symphonic).

One item of particular note is Vorbei: Dokumentation jüdischen Musikebens in Berlin, 1933-1938 [Beyond Recall: A Record of Jewish Musical Life in Nazi Berlin, 1933-1938], shown below, which includes a book in both German and English text, 11 audio CDs, and one DVD. This is a monumental collection, because it has preserved rare recordings and documents the musical contributions of the Jüdischer Kulturbund, an organization that offered employment to Jewish artists during the Nazi regime in Germany.

The majority of these gifts were made by or on behalf of persons affiliated with UConn, including the late Frank Ballard (1929-2010), professor of dramatic arts who established the National Puppetry Institute; the late Bruce Bellingham (1939-2010), professor emeritus of music, Nafe Katter, professor emeritus of dramatic arts; Neal Larrabee, professor emeritus of piano; Richard Schmelpfeng, first director of the library’s special collections department; and Tim Page, Pulitzer Prize-winning music critic.

All of these materials will complement the current collection at the M&DAL and provide greater diversity in the literature, performances, and repertoire available to our patrons, faculty, and students in the departments of music and dramatic arts.

Anna E. Kijas, Music & Dramatic Arts Librarian
Researcher Views *Kindertransport* through Survivors’ Eyes and Dodd Center’s Archives & Special Collections

Kena Sosa

In 2010, I came across a documentary on a subject I had never heard of before, the *Kindertransport*, or rescue of nearly 10,000 predominantly Jewish children just prior to the outbreak of World War II to the safety of British foster homes, hostels, and farms. I wished to know more and found the Billie M. Levy Travel and Research grant at UConn. The University had a number of books with first-hand accounts of the *Kindertransport*, so I submitted a proposal which was accepted in late 2010 for research in early 2011.

Not only would I be able to have my questions answered in the Archives at the Dodd Research Center, but the helpful staff had also managed to locate a few *Kindertransport* survivors who were willing to speak with me. I interviewed Mrs. Eva Greenwood in person and Mrs. Rita Kaplan by phone. Both also allowed their interviews to be turned into transcripts for oral histories available for others to study and learn from. These are available from the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection’s web site at http://nclc.uconn.

The experiences of the children varied. Some were intimidated by Nazis en route, while others were excited about their journey. From Berlin, Czechoslovakia, and Austria, they travelled to Holland and then by sea to England where some were lucky enough to live with a host family. Those who were not were placed in day camps until they were chosen or put to work.

At the end of my research I gave a public presentation in the Dodd Center. Not only would Billie Levy herself be there, but so would members of the ABCs and anyone else who had an interest. The room was full and one of the *Kindertransport* survivors had graciously decided to attend the presentation. I was so honored to meet her, but so afraid to not live up to her expectations.

How wrong I was to worry! Mrs. Greenwood not only seemed very pleased with it, but also agreed to answer questions from the rest of the attendees.

My presentation covered the birth of the idea, the process, my plans and how I could make a children’s picture book come from such a serious event that was so tragic for many. I say that what children can understand may not be an event as largely horrific as the Holocaust but they can understand the story of a child going on a journey. The story of those who generously extended their help to the Jewish children and rescued them is one that should be shared.

Kena Sosa of Grand Prairie, TX, is the fourth recipient of a Billie M. Levy Travel and Research Grant awarded by the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection. She is a school librarian and teacher with a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Bilingual Education with emphasis on teaching the gifted and talented.
Top, left, clockwise: Char Booth, Instruction Services Manager & E-Learning Librarian at the Claremont Colleges Library and a 2008 Library Journal Mover & Shaker, guest speaker at the Libraries’ Fall Forum, discussed the changes ahead for libraries; members of the Libraries’ Diversity Team with the directors of the campus Cultural Centers, left to right: Anna Kijas, Richard Bleiler, Steven Fairfield, Kathleen Holgerson, Director of the Women’s Center, Willena Price, Director of the African American Cultural Center, Fleurette King, Director of the Rainbow Center, Angela Rola, Director of the Asian American Cultural Center, Brian Coleman, and Beth Rumery; Brinley Franklin with new UConn President Susan Herbst met with staff during the president’s visit; Suzan Scott stands in front of her paintings for her Weather Project exhibit; artist John Magnan views original artwork by Salley Mavor at an exhibit opening at the Dodd Center; a fall book sale proved very popular and raised $2,700 for the Leisure Reading Collection and the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection and generated incalculable amounts of community goodwill; Skyler Marinoff, one of the EcoHusky students involved with the bike share program; Sheung-Yi Wong, a senior math/statistics major, looks at a book flagged with a bookmark in Babbidge Library, signaling that the book is on the banned list during the Libraries’ observance of Banned Book Week in September; Library Director Emeritus Norman Stevens speaks about his collection of hand-carved wooden spoons exhibited in Babbidge Library this fall.
Dodd Prize Awarded to Human Rights Litigation Experts

The fifth biennial Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights was awarded to the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization dedicated to the defense and promotion of human rights in the Americas on Oct. 3 at the UConn Law School in Hartford.

The award was presented by former U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd and was accepted by Viviana Krsticevic, CEJIL’s executive director.

CEJIL, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, is currently litigating more than 200 cases before the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights, representing some 13,000 victims. These cases cover more than 30 different issues, including massacres, violence against women, indigenous rights, children’s rights, forced disappearances, freedom of expression, and labor rights.

Dodd is the son of the prize’s namesake, the late U.S. Senator and Nuremberg prosecutor of Nazi war crimes, Thomas J. Dodd Sr.

“My father’s life was defined and shaped by the pursuit of justice,” Dodd observed. “He would be very proud to have his name associated with CEJIL.”

The Dodd Prize recognizes individuals or groups who have made significant efforts to advance the cause of international justice and global human rights.

Andrea Gisela Ortiz Perea, right, wears a photo of her brother who was among several people kidnapped, tortured and murdered by troops of the Peruvian Army in 1992. She, along with staff members of the Center for Justice and International Law, center, discussed the work the Center does during a panel discussion in the Dodd Center.

Below: CEJIL members celebrate their recognition.
Staff News

Staff Anniversaries

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Stephen Bustamante
Borrowing Services Specialist

Alice Fairfield
Liaison to Computer Science, Math, Geosciences, Statistics & Physics

Shelley Goldstein
Director
Waterbury Library

Erika McNeil
Document Delivery & Interlibrary Loan Team Leader

Richard O’Toole
Public Workstation Coordinator

Suzanne T. Zack
Marketing & Communication Specialist

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Brian Q. Coleman
Library Security Guard

Shelley Cudiner
Business Librarian

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sandra L. Gallup
Team Leader

William P. Miller
Map Library Manager

Jane B. Recchio
Exhibits and Publications Specialist

Freddie H. Rick
Binding & Shelf Preparation Coordinator

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Norma Holinquist
Access Services

Sheila Lafferty
Director
Torrington Library

New Staff

Galadriel Chilton has joined the UConn Libraries as Electronic Resources Management Librarian. Previously, she served as Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Wisconsin – Las Crosse, Technology and Outreach Librarian at Viterbo University, and Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian at Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca, N.Y.

She holds a B.A. degree in English from Berea College, a Master’s in Library Science from Indiana University and a Master’s in Educational Technology from San Diego State University.

Greg Colati has joined the UConn Libraries as Director of University Archives & Special Collections. For the last five years, he served as the Digital Initiatives Coordinator at the University of Denver’s Penrose Library, and prior to that was the Head of Special Collections and University Archives at George Washington University, and the Director of Digital Collections and Archives at Tufts University.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree from Colby College, a Master’s degree in History from Trinity College, and a Master’s degree in Library Science from Simmons College.

Jennifer Eustis has joined the UConn Libraries as Catalog/Metadata Librarian. Prior to coming to UConn, she served as a Metadata Librarian at Northeastern University, and held several internships or special projects at Northeastern, Boston Public Library and at Brown University where she was an ARL Fellowship Intern.

She holds a B.A. in French with a minor in mathematics from University of San Diego, a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Simmons College, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from le Collège Dominicain de Philosophie et de Théologie in Ottawa. She is a bilingual speaker of French and has more than 10 years of teaching experience.

Jennifer Lanzing has joined the UConn Libraries as Liaison Librarian to History. Prior to coming to UConn, she served as Tribal Archivist/Librarian for the Mohegan Indian Tribe.

She earned a Bachelor’s degree in History from Vassar College and a Master’s degree in Public History, with a focus on Archives Administration and a Master of Library Information and Science degree, both from Florida State University. While earning her graduate degree, she worked for the State Archives of Florida, and later as Acquisitions Assistant at the Beinecke Library at Yale University.

Jennifer Lanming has joined the UConn Libraries as its first Undergraduate User Experience & Media Technologies Librarian. Prior to UConn, she was an Associate Librarian for Library Teaching and Learning at Bowling Green State University. She worked as a graduate practicum student in Kent State’s Special Collections and Archives, a graduate assistant with Kent State’s Project SAILS, and a graduate reference assistant at the Kent State Main Library. In addition, she worked as a graduate desk assistant at Kent’s Mohler Fashion Library, and spent two years after college as a language teacher in Aomori, Japan.

She holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Georgia, with a minor in Japanese.

Jennifer Lanzing
Liaison Librarian to History

Khara Leon has joined the UConn Libraries as Administrative Services team leader. Previously, she served as a program assistant in the Center for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos (CEDHDL) at UConn, office coordinator at the Albany Institute for Research in Education, and manager of program operations at the SUNY Training Strategies Group.

She holds a B.A. degree in history and sociology from UConn.

Joelle Thomas has joined the UConn Libraries as a student一个个 in Undergraduate User Experience & Media Technologies Librarian. Prior to UConn, she was an Associate Librarian for Library Teaching and Learning at Bowling Green State University. She worked as a graduate practicum student in Kent State’s Special Collections and Archives, a graduate assistant with Kent State’s Project SAILS, and a graduate reference assistant at the Kent State Main Library. In addition, she worked as a graduate desk assistant at Kent’s Mohler Fashion Library, and spent two years after college as a language teacher in Aomori, Japan.

She holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Georgia, with a minor in Japanese.

Greg Colati
Director of University Archives & Special Collections
A Preservationist Remembered
Jan Merrill-Oldham — The UConn Years (1965-1995)

Norman D. Stevens

Jan Merrill-Oldham came to UConn as an undergraduate in the turbulent times of the mid 1960s and was hired as a student assistant in the library’s bindery unit. Following graduation in 1969, she was employed as a full-time paraprofessional staff member in the bindery. Other than what she had learned as a student employee, Jan had no special training in the care and treatment of library materials. But it was an opportune time for the library to devote greater attention to the conservation of our collections, and Jan’s capacity for learning—and then leading—allowed her to rise to the challenge.

I joined the administrative staff of the University Libraries in 1968 during the presidency of Homer D. Babbidge, Jr. (1962-1972), who was an enthusiastic supporter of increased resources for both library acquisitions and library staff. Then Director of University Libraries John P. McDonald had played a major role in the passage of the Higher Education Act of 1965 that, ultimately, brought substantial funding to the library for the acquisition of library materials.

At the time, our collections, like those of all academic libraries, consisted of printed materials—books, bound and unbound journals, government documents—and microforms in a variety of formats. The infusion of federal money, in particular, allowed us to purchase a number of valuable special collections. The work of the bindery unit consisted of binding journals, protecting pamphlets, and making minor repairs to other printed items. With support from the Council of Library Resources, libraries were focused on the potential disastrous loss of information resulting from the long-time use of acidic paper in scholarly books and journals.

During her years at UConn, Jan’s extraordinary talent as an author, teacher, consultant and mentor allowed her to become widely recognized in the United States and abroad as one of the leaders of her profession.

One of Jan’s remarkable qualities was her insatiable curiosity and capacity for learning. She soon developed a driving ambition to acquire the knowledge and skills she needed to deal with our collections and to participate in the national and international conversations then taking place regarding preservation. Recognizing Jan’s special capabilities, the library administration encouraged and supported her efforts. In 1979 a National Endowment in the Humanities Fellowship allowed her to spend a year in the Yale University Libraries Preservation Department and, subsequently, she earned her graduate library science degree from the University of Rhode Island.

Jan was the founder of the University of Connecticut Libraries Preservation Department and the moving force in the development of our strong conservation and preservation program. She hired and trained a capable staff, developed a well-equipped conservation lab, created an awareness among all staff of the vital importance of conservation of library materials, identified many ways in which library facilities, services, policies, and procedures could contribute to preservation of the collections, and helped to plan for the special preservation requirements of archives and special collections during the construction of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

During her years at UConn, Jan’s extraordinary talent as an author, teacher, consultant and mentor allowed her to become widely recognized in the United States and abroad as one of the leaders of her profession. In 1995, she left UConn to become the Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian at Harvard University, where she created and directed Harvard’s Weissman Preservation Center, and managed the Preservation & Imaging Services Department in the Harvard College Library until illness forced her retirement in February 2010. She died in October 2011.

Jan’s legacy at UConn is a strong and continuing program that has adapted to the dramatic changes that have taken place since the advent of computer systems for the storage and delivery of vast amounts of information. Still, the need for the care and protection of printed materials, especially rare and valuable materials, remains. Those who wish to assist this work are invited to honor Jan’s contributions to the UConn Libraries by making a donation to the Homer Babbidge Unrestricted Fund in the UConn Foundation, noting that the donation is in her honor and is for the purchase of special papers used to conserve special items in the collections.

Norman D. Stevens, Director of University Libraries, Emeritus
Exhibits January 3 – March 2, 2012

**SHAPED BY BOOKS: THE 42-LETTER NAME**

*A print folio and its sources by Robert Kirschbaum*

**ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY: THE WORK OF SYNTAX**

*A group of nine Connecticut mixed media artists.*