

Arts and Humanities Council Meeting of February 4, 2021

10:00-11:30

Attendees: Jeremy Ott (Chair), Marjorie Bryer, Lynn Cunningham, Beth Dupuis, Susan Edwards, Vaughn Egge, Manuel Erviti, Natalia Estrada, David Faulds, Frank Ferko, Erin Foster, Sheehan Grant, Lynne Grigsby, Heidi Hallett, Mohamed Hamed, Marlene Harmon, Jianye He, Salwa Ismail, Debbie Jan, Jenna Kreiss-Winterberger, Monique Macaulay, Adnan Malik, Toshie Marra, Chris McDonald, Shannon Monroe, Scott Peterson, Claude Potts, Abby Scheel, Patrick Shannon, John Shepard, Virginia Shih, Naomi Shiraishi, Elliot Smith, Nour Soufi, Richard Vance, Tim Vollmer, Susan Xue

Minutes: Lynn Cunningham

1. "Humanities Research in the Age of Covid", a guest panel featuring Bernardo S. Hinojosa (Ph.D. Candidate, English), Alessandra Jones (Ph.D. Candidate, Music), Aneka Lenssen (Associate Professor, History of Art), and Susan Maslan (Associate Professor, French). Organized by an ad hoc committee consisting of council members Lynn Cunningham, Mohamed Hamed (chair), Jeremy Ott, Claude Potts, and Stacy Reardon (60 min.)

Panel moderator: Mohamed Hamed

Panelists:

Susan Maslan (Professor in Department of French)

Aneka Lenssen (Associate Professor in Art History)

Bernardo Hinojosa (PhD candidate in English and Medieval Studies)

Alessandra Jones (PhD candidate in Musicology)

What have you been working on during the pandemic? How have your research practices changed as a result of the Covid-19 closures?

Alessandra Jones:

- Working on a dissertation on Italy, sound and environment in 19th c. Venice
- Her area of research has been the center of the global pandemic, therefore many of her research habits have had to change, and drastically
- She works with a lot of newspapers, books, and musical scores for her research
- Research is also in Italian archives – which she has had little to no access this year aside
- Has been limited to Google books over the past year
- Her personal research network is based in Lombardy – which has been one of the hardest hit and closed down
- She has tried to finish new chapter during the closure
- Italian resources not centralized – they are very regional and have done little digitizing
- Italy fanatical about cultural patrimony, so it can be difficult or expensive to get copies of rare materials

- Secondary sources have been a lifesaver during this time when one can't travel to archives
- She laments not having access to the music libraries holdings and ILL over the past year
- Had to purchase items herself to revise article
- Those dependent on specialist libraries have been left behind during the pandemic

Anneka Lenssen:

- Works on Syria and the Middle East – she has always operated under presumption she will never get to go back and that institutions would not be able to share materials
- Current projects include: an article on 1940s-era drawing practices in Iraq at the confluence of British servicemen, Polish refugees and Iraqi artists; it is archivally driven and she had collected the Iraqi material long ago
- Because of the pandemic, she is pivoting back to projects with previously gathered materials
- Her research has been impacted by a lack of access to secondary sources, particularly most recent ones
- Loves Hathitrust – has been a great resource for her when researching journal articles in Arabic from the 1960s-70s
- Loves the keyword search in Hathitrust – can search keywords in Arabic in the full-text of articles
- In a way she is able to do much deeper research than before because of the full-text search capability
- Conversely, she can't see recent scholarship without purchasing the books herself
- Also working on Getty-funded 'connecting art histories' project, intended to be a collaborative project with researchers on the ground in Arab countries, but this project is mostly on hold aside from the use of the Almandumah database
- She can't assess other scholars' work, so is hesitant to publish

Bernardo Hinojosa:

- Thanks the library and Stacy Reardon!
- He has been working on two things over past year: an article (currently under review) working with mostly quantitative data that he could crunch from his apartment; and his dissertation, which has changed, moving away from archival research
- He emptied out most of medieval lit section of library when he saw the SIP order coming
- Hathitrust has been essential to his research on intellectual history of biblical exodus from 4th-13th C. – the books are heavily used so he would have had to wait a long time to check them out in print, and he found the full-text search invaluable
- Working on Chaucer chapter because they are in single edition, which he owns
- Prioritizing the things he **can** work on with the limited access

Susan Maslan:

- She was about to embark on a trip to British Library and Paris archive as final trip for her research when pandemic hit

- She is in last-stage of her book project, so she has a lot of materials
- But much of her research relies on archives, so she is at a disadvantage
- She feels the loss, but is refocusing on canonical sources that are in published form
- She bought some out-of-print journals and had them sent from France
- She has made great use of Gallica, the digital library of French national library (centralized)
- Can get 18th c. printed books from Gallica, but not archival material
- Works with Governmental archival material
- Used Hathitrust, but mostly in teaching than with her own research
- Used to love serendipity in finding books in stacks, so she has tried to be open to new possibilities
- She emphasized the need to keep services equitable for those who cannot take in-person risks

Q1) What has been your experience with remote access to resources, for example access to online books and journal articles through the Library, HathiTrust ETAS or other online resources in your area/s of interest?

Anneka:

- HathiTrust ETS has been most exciting discovery of online resources
- Has used Ereserves for teaching and research – incredibly functional, welcomed service
- Ereserves made it possible to teach at the graduate level given the number of readings assigned
- Almandumah database is another important resource
- She had some problems getting access to moving image media – a lot she couldn't teach from because they were not digitized, but she needs rare art films
- ILL – worked great for articles – thank you to ILL

Alessandra:

- Everything takes longer
- Hathitrust dissenter – difficult to use and searching didn't work well.
- Search algorithm doesn't work well – it works fine to find a specific source, but with keyword search relevance results are poor when searching the full-text option, so she starts elsewhere
- Journal database access has been amazing

Q2) For your research, how are you utilizing other access or service arrangements such as Oski Xpress or special research appointments at The Bancroft Library?

Anneka:

- Has been in Chicago for the duration
- She can't use Oski Xpress but her students do

- Is grateful for Bancroft appointments (2 of her honors thesis students are using them)
- The honors theses are like dissertations in that they are expected to do original research, so the Bancroft appointments have been essential to them
- One student is working on Ted Jones, the Black surrealist poet and musician, other working with Latin American collections in Bancroft
- Her students report that it is wonderful to have archival access

Alessandra:

- The musical library is an amazing collection but she hasn't had access to it
- She needed a critical volume that was incorrectly cataloged as non-circ
- Her request for digitization was denied because she didn't have deadline
- She does not have access to scanner for her ILL books

Q3) How has your experience teaching during Covid been, and what role have the library and its resources played?

Bernardo:

- He was not teaching in transition semester & he had summer to prepare for his semester
- Most difficult part: lack of access to scanner
- Library got his most key texts with Ereserves service and he was impressed with the service
- He only assigned things with access via the library so that his students did not have to purchase anything
- Most impressed with film and media resources via Lumiere. They were able to get most everything he needed, but he was teaching very mainstream content

Susan:

- She has taught 4 classes throughout the pandemic – 3 upper division & 1 grad seminar
- Most difficult was the grad seminar because she used a lot of out-of-print resources
- She bought docucam to show things she owned at home
- Used Hathitrust a lot to get French texts that the students couldn't find elsewhere
- It was a little difficult for her students to use HathiTrust because the texts aren't downloadable
- Ereserves was a lifesaver – thank you!
- Used Lumiere but disappointing, couldn't get 17th c French plays

Q4) Are you planning to continue any of your newly adopted research practices into the future? What has worked well for you that you would like to continue?

Bernardo:

- Pandemic made us look at library in new way
- He came to a greater realization of what is out there and what isn't

- He developed stronger relationship with his subject librarian, Stacy Reardon
- He will miss Hathitrust but will be excited to use library again
- His discipline is print-based and he finds it impossible to read a book cover-to-cover on Hathitrust
- He worries that transition period will leave people behind if the services are inequitable – we have to remember those who may not be able to come in physically (he noted the current recalls return policy as an example)

Susan:

- She realizes more so the power of online databases
- She is grateful for NRLF article delivery service
- She has gotten better at using databases and refining searches
- Archival travel will need to continue in the future
- She does not think her practices will transform necessarily, but she has become a better user of digital collections
- She used to bring students to library and Bancroft and looks forward to doing that again in the future
- She is eager to get back to these traditional library services

Chat questions:

How did you learn about the services and resources you spoke about today?

Anneka:

- An additional comment: For those studying in Fine Arts disciplines, the scans reproduced in Hathitrust are ‘horrendous’ It is hard to work from the images in Hathitrust. The lavishly reproduced images in print books are inaccessible in the Art History/Classics library.
- As for learning about the services, she heard about them from communications from her librarians, Mohamed and Lynn

Bernardo:

- Through Stacy’s direct communications and communications with the department

Susan:

- One effect of the emails is that it has reminded us of who is out there in the library community

Have your departments been flexible on timelines for your research?

Alessandra:

- She is far along, so she is technically out of funding
- The grad division is allowing them to extend 1 year of ‘normative’ time

Bernardo:

- They get 5 years of funding, and then they rely on teaching stipend
- The grad division has extended the number of years they can teach

2. Council meeting Announcements (5 min.)

- Lunch poems today at noon (Scott)
- Townsend center is having talk today at 4:00 “(Re)making Sense: The Humanities and Pandemic Culture” (Claude)
- Art + Feminism edit-a-thon March 10th, 1-5 – save the date (Lynn)

3. Around the table, “I Know What You Did Last Semester” edition: All are welcome to tell us in one minute or less something that they did in Fall 2020 that we might not otherwise know about (20 min.)

Mohamed:

He connected with the Arab Federation for Library and Information Science with an ischool professor. The professor was invited as a keynote speaker at their conference and Mohamed helped him translate his talk

Claude:

Got new bike (Torino model)
May not buy new bus pass in the future

Lynn:

Helped organize an anti-racism half-day workshop with Northern and Southern California ARLIS chapters

Frank:

Attended lots of webinars on metadata and linked data

John:

Purchased a music manuscript by Charles Koechlin to add to our collection of 139 manuscripts by him.

Susan:

She has been participating in a special collection project with all other EAL librarians to collect covid information coming from China. The goal of the project is to facilitate the

storage, search, and discovery of the archive on the open web. The team has saved over 3000 items to date.

Virginia:

Working with others to administer a grant-funded national survey on Southeast Asian librarianship in the US

Abby:

Kicked off AH/C advisory committee last fall

Worked on securing new service for AH/C appointments in Moffitt

Adnan:

Attended many zoom South-Asian related conferences and meetings

Active on CRL project for South Asian materials -- South Asia Open Archive

Jianye:

Worked with a professor to organize a virtual international conference in Japan.

Presented a paper on 1871 San Francisco industrial exports.

Finished translating book "Chinese pleasure book".

Manuel:

Book review editor for the quarterly journal for the Music Library Association, 'Notes'

First issue just published in September, currently working on December issue

Naomi:

Cataloging from scan images

Organized a cataloging workshop for an upcoming conference of the Council for East Asian Libraries (working from Japan)

Salwa:

Working with library IT to implement the digitization service -- Ereserves

Digitized over 650 books for Ereserves

Worked to have UC Berkeley included in the membership of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance

Scott:

Attended conferences on critical librarianship and now on LAUC-B conference for 2021 committee with the same theme

Worked on a BIDS Hack-a-thon with a data set on police misconduct and associated policy issues.

Sheehan:

Removes obstructions!

Co-Chairing library task force for racial justice. They are currently working on writing a committee report.

Toshie:

Working on a CRL-funded Japanese historical maps digitization project.

Supplying file descriptions/labels and reviewing MARC records. Images upload last fall.

Vaughn:

Conducted Springshare libapps trainings

Worked on South & Southeast Asia library exhibit

Took trip up California coast last summer

Jeremy:

Working on German-North American Resources Partnership (CRL) project to digitize

German serials as chair of that organization's Collection Development Working Group.

Has identified public domain serials that are not yet available as open access.