

Where Are We Now? Updates from CBHL Members Adjusting to a “New Normal” in the Face of COVID

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From empty reading rooms and Zoom meetings to re-imagined programs and new projects, CBHL members update us on how their lives have pivoted and adapted to the challenges and opportunities of work in a pandemic world.



COVID Update: Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Kathy Crosby
Head Librarian
Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The library has been in a state of soft opening for staff since last summer, but only open to the public via email, phone, and mail. The garden is planning a soft opening of its conservatories in the beginning of August, and inside mask restrictions are being lifted for inhouse staff at that time. I suspect the library will not be far behind, so maybe we will open in September in a limited capacity kind of way? Not sure.

We have a backlog of physical projects—dating back to even before I was hired. Having initially been onsite for only a few days didn't help, but there were aspects of this work that we were able to do at home. We were not able to manage curbside as many libraries were. We were able to teach, give talks, do research, do reference, accomplish writing tasks, update data, catalog, check in serials, process special collections and archives, prepare records management items for storage, take care of budgetary and accounting matters, and participate in intradepartmental projects.

We missed people coming into the library, but delighted with quiet time to pursue projects both at work and remotely. There was somehow more time for self-learning, but also less time of learning from patrons; for me, at least.

Calling back archives boxes from storage was easy; arranging for a bigger shipment back is more of a challenge!



Work continues at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. (Top left) Books in the rotunda being sent to storage for later offering, sale, staff gifts, or retention. (Top right) Equipment on the library table for some paper and book projects; Kathy is doing this work at home as well.



Brooklyn Botanic Garden's exhibit, *The Plant Cure*, opened the first week of March last year. The exhibit features the work of artists in residency inspired by the garden and hidden collections of the library. Among the pieces exhibited are textile work of Amanda Thackray (left), the book arts work of Desirée Alvarez and others (bottom left), and, current model work of Agnes Murray and historic work of Louis Auzoux (bottom right).



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COVID Update: Lessons Pondered While Presenting a Zoom Webinar

Brian Thompson

Manager and Curator of Horticultural Literature
Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington
Botanic Gardens

For several weeks now, I've been working on this PowerPoint file. Carefully massaging and editing, adding numerous photos, an occasional whimsical touch. I know it by heart.

Tonight is different. Tonight it is my shared screen for a presentation to the Northwest Horticultural Society. Tonight there are 135 people, invisible to me, on the other side of that screen who paid good money to watch and listen to me.

Will they listen? Will they laugh at my humor? Will they stay awake? Will they prefer looking at their phones instead of me?

I am fascinated by my topic: women plant explorers at the turn of the 20th century. Will they share my fascination? Are they interested to hear more stories?

I can see my garden through the window beyond my laptop. Would they notice if I left them and went to my garden? I really want to leave and go into my garden...

I dedicated my presentation to my great-grandmother (Heléna) and my grandmother (Muriel). Shown in this 1960 photo, they were wise and pioneering women who lived next door during my adolescence. And Tippy - a wise woman in her own way.



COVID Update: Elisabeth C. Miller Library

Rebecca Alexander

Manager of Reference and Technical Services
Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington
Botanic Gardens

In March of 2020, just before the official declaration of a pandemic, an artist whose work centers on pollinators, had crossed the border from Canada to install a major exhibit in the library. Installation took several days, with floor-to-ceiling images in graphite on rice paper coated in beeswax, a display of Washington State native bees, and prints illustrating plants and their pollen color filling the entire library space. A few





days later, we went into lockdown. The artist barely made it home before the border closed, and I spent the last few days before we switched to working from home in a library empty of borrowers, with only the warm, sweet aroma of beeswax for company. It took months before friends of the artist (on the U.S. side of the border) received permission from the university to come and uninstall the show.

Elsewhere, the border between work and home life grew thin as a gossamer thread: the dog's bark seemed amplified when I was ed-



Jasna Guy's exhibit in the Elisabeth C. Miller Library opened days before the state went into lockdown. (Previous page) Bombus nevadensis, a bumblebee native to North America, by Jasna Guy. (Top left) Display in exhibition celebrating the varied hues of pollen, by Jasna Guy, photograph by Brian Thompson. (Left) Graphite on rice paper coated in beeswax by Jasna Guy, photograph by Brian Thompson. (Right) Detail of Harvester by Jasna Guy.

iting a web page, cataloging (a complicated process with several stages of quarantine for newly acquired books), answering reference questions, or attending a Zoom meeting. The room we call 'The Studio' became 'The Office of Pain.' Months later, staff were allowed back in the library on a limited basis, two at a time. It was heartening to have this reunion with the resources, each other, and especially the public, who may now request books and schedule times to pick them up. Throughout the past year, we have been in steady contact with the gardening public through email reference (which saw a notable surge), virtual exhibits and story times, and through our Facebook presence. I have missed the chance encounters with fellow plant enthusiasts that being open to the public affords, and look forward to a time when it is not a strange thing to see a library buzzing with human activity again.



COVID Update: Miller Library Virtual Story Time Program

Laura Blumhagen

Youth Collections and Outreach Librarian

Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington

Botanic Gardens

One change to our Story Time program caused by the pandemic is positive. There will be July and August programs this year. We usually take a July and August break, since the library isn't open on Saturdays in those months. This year, since our building will be closed throughout the summer and we still don't know when live programs or in-person visits will be able to start, it's nice to offer virtual programming. We're hoping a peek at some new books will tempt more families to use our no-contact lending service. Here is a still image from one of the June programs, and a link to the whole season on our website: <https://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/events/story-time/>



Story Time goes virtual!
(Top) Laura introduces readers to Carme Lemniscates' *Seeds* in an April 2021 Story Time video. (Bottom) El teaches Wren and Hattie to make thimbleberry baskets from leaves in Alison Farrell's *The Hike*.

COVID Update: Arboretum Library, Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Susan Eubank
Arboretum Librarian
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

I opened the doors of the Library to all customers on April 20, 2021, so I've been at it awhile. In June 2020 I returned to work and in July the Library was open by appointment to staff, and other customers could do curbside pick-up. I have required masking all that time and now the County of Los Angeles has finally come back to my thinking, so being the Mask Police has lightened in the last few days, although being the mask reminder has not.

When COVID started we were about to change out the inclusive, participatory art exhibit in the Library and bring in a sculpture exhibit. During COVID the "Snapshot" exhibit went online <https://www.flickr.com/photos/laarboretum/albums/72157713705550923> (Be sure to hunt down the postcard from my dad). My art exhibit colleague and I finally initiated the sculpture exhibit installation beginning in May 2021. We decided we wouldn't be too hard on ourselves, the artists, and the curator and just be accepting of what we could manage to have in the show. For me, I'm thoroughly enjoying having a collection of 14 tea pots from art deco to mid-century displayed on the current periodical rack near my desk. Don't ask how a collection of tea pots is a sculpture. Just accept. They are beautiful!!!



(Top) Evidence of use in the Children's Library. (Bottom) Strategically placed book fort to keep customers socially distanced from my desk.



Since the time I have returned to the Library, we've circulated 2,505 physical items and the e-book consortia (including the Arboretum Library) circulated 3,587 items since March 17, 2020 when I went home. Not too shabby.

The positives:
Watching my first few physical customers caress the book shelves and delight in being in a Library as well as watching the kids return to the

children's area.

Reading the very grateful replies to the Arboretum Library monthly newsletter as well as the clicks of adoration, I guess, on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/arboretumlibrary/>. I am also grateful to Victoria Bernal, the person who manages our Instagram (I call her "Marty" in homage to Martin Scorsese, because she directs my Instagram poses that get the adulation. O.k., I haven't gone viral yet...) Feeling proud that I have managed to still engage the Library customers and some of the volunteers.

Not so positives:

The ~10 hours a week person who did many things, including expanding the Library hours to a steady 6 days a week and who had just started cataloging the institution's massive photograph collection, has not been brought back yet.

Most of my volunteers have not come back yet and thus I'm awash with tasks and I seriously miss all their stories and antics.

There is no budget for periodicals as of yet.



Paul Knoll's Dancing Teapots in the Arboretum Library.

COVID Update: The COVID Diaries

Robin Everly

Botany and Horticulture Librarian

Botany and Horticulture Library, Smithsonian
Libraries and Archives

Here's a report from our 53rd annual meeting host: I reported back to the library on July 6, 2021, for two days a week during the Smithsonian's Phase 3 plan. Coming back during Phase 3 is voluntary. Five Natural History library staff (including myself) volunteered to come back. Phase 3 is a phased approach (with sections called A, B, and C), each lettered-with-in phase will bring back certain branches over the summer. Hopefully, all branches will have some sort of in-house presence by Labor Day. However, it does depend on staff's comfort levels coming back to work and Covid-19 cases in the Washington D.C. area. The majority of library staff, about 120 employees, are still teleworking full time.



The Department of Botany staff is also in Phase 3, but their plan differs a bit than the Libraries and Archives.

The public side of the museum is opening up on yet another schedule and right now, the museum has ended timed tickets and mask requirements. Like, many places, if you go without a mask you are sup-

posed to be vaccinated. The museum is also opened 5 days a week, closed Mondays and Tuesdays for now.

The library, which is adjacent to the Department of Botany, is closed to staff and we are using our interlibrary loan system in a unique way to track book and scanned article requests from the researchers. Before I got back, book collections checks were being done by one library staffer, so I knew my collection was in good shape. However, getting my electronic equipment, copiers, scanners, wifi drops, and lights working, has been another matter. I set up a contactless pick up for books outside the library in the herbarium and still do a lot of communication via email.



(Top) Robin at her desk in the Library under the photograph of former Smithsonian Botany/Horticulture Branch Librarian and CBHL Long Award recipient Ruth Schallert. (Bottom) The view of Constitution Avenue from my window at evening rush hour.

Currently, my days at work look very different than before. It is filling book and article requests and checking in with the other staffers in the Natural History building working the same day as me. Between us, we have about ten library locations to cover. We check in and see which locations need materials pulled and any problems that need to be solved. You are required to wear a mask indoors at all times. It's been great seeing the few museum staff who have ventured back and talking to them about their experience during the pandemic and how their families and friends are doing.



It's been nice being back in the library and just shelving books. It feels like such a sense of accomplishment. There is a lot of collection work that needs to be done but because things are still so uncertain, I'm taking each in-person day I have, one day at a time.

The city of Washington D.C. is slowly coming back to life too. Each week, a few more tourists, a few non-locals on the Metro subway, a few more scooters, and a few more examples of before times are happening. But the city is still sparse, so I hope to take advantage of that and visit some museums before it becomes the tourist mecca it was before.

Working Towards a More Representative Library: Report on the 2021 Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Conference

Kathryn Downing

Librarian and Independent Researcher

Thanks to the generosity of the CBHL Board in granting my request for funding through the Conference Collaboration Grant Program, I was able to attend this year's annual conference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the American Library Association (ALA). In my previous position at the Helen Fowler Library, caring for the rare book collection was but one part of my job; funding directly from the institution for professional development in such a specific area was therefore limited (the situation around COVID-19 certainly did not help). Yet the required knowledge to care for these texts – bound in a variety of materials and formats and representing a broad range of dates and geographic places – is highly varied and constantly evolving. New trends in environmental management during the ongoing climate crisis¹, evolving databases providing more ways to identify provenance for inclusion in bibliographic records², and the increasingly virtual nature of engagement allowing for cross-institutional collaborations³ all point to the importance of staying engaged in the broader field. The RBMS annual is one of the largest gatherings of North American professionals in the world of rare books and special collections, making it one of the best settings to check in on the latest happenings. I would therefore like to re-iterate my gratitude for being awarded a CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant and encourage others to take advantage of such a wonderful – and incredibly necessary – program.



¹ RBMS has recently approved a Climate Readiness Task Force, charged with investigating efforts in cultural heritage communities to document and mitigate the impact of climate change on library and archival collections. The Image Permanence Institute has also been conducting research on more sustainable HVAC practices and their effect on rare books and archival documents.

² “Book Owners Online: a new online resource for book historians,” University College London, Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), August 18, 2020, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/institute-of-advanced-studies/news/2020/aug/book-owners-online-new-online-resource-book-historians>

³ “International Kelmscott Press Day,” The William Morris Society in the United States, accessed July 7, 2021, <https://morrisociety.org/wmsus/events/international-kelmscott-press-day/>

With a theme focusing on power, resistance, and leadership, this year's RBMS conference was designed to examine critically the systemic structures of power that have shaped professional practices surrounding rare books, special collections, and archives. While this topic has been raised in smaller settings, I have yet to see it being addressed on such a scale among the rare book community – though it is certainly overdue for more widespread scrutiny. This year's conference, with its virtual setting allowing for greater accessibility, was the perfect opportunity to begin a more comprehensive discussion: out of over 700 registrants roughly a third were attending for the first time, myself included. Engagement levels throughout the conference suggested to me that attendees will continue thinking about and discussing some of the topics raised well beyond our year-long access to the conference session recordings.

The opening plenary set both the stage and tone that persisted through the sessions. Four panelists – Jesse Erikson, Dorothy Berry, Terry Baxter, and Athena Jackson – broadly addressed the future of leadership in the profession. Dr. Erikson started by discussing how important it is to dispel the idea that books are neutral vessels of information and to encourage a shift towards more critical assessments of print culture and libraries. Leaders should be focused on inspiring a diverse range of voices to bring their thoughts to the table and, channeling Toni Morrison, to write the stories that we want to read but are sorely missing. Ms. Berry brought up the relationship between leadership and power. Although they are not one in the same, both power and leadership are often spoken of as if they are inseparable. Her advice is to resist this leadership/power dynamic, instead to “move powerfully in softness” and avoid the often-performative actions of anti-racism that fail to start with an assessment of an institution's own status and existing policies. Mr. Baxter expressed the importance of archives to community; much like gas, they are useless on their own. He suggests that the work of an archivist needs to be done in solidarity of all humanity; as the field stands there is much of humanity being left behind. Ms. Jackson closed the presentation portion of the opening plenary by discussing just how far RBMS itself has come in her time alone – expressing how there is more freedom to be yourself now than ever. As it takes collective power to enact change, RBMS's future will be brighter when a diverse range of voices feel comfortable being themselves and working together to drive the field in the direction we want (and need) it to go.



Opening plenary panel: (clockwise from top left) Jesse Erikson, Dorothy Berry, Terry Baxter, and Athena Jackson.

There was so much more in the opening plenary than my own summary can represent. The discussions introduced there spilled over into a variety of sessions, more than a single person could attend in real time! Knowing I would be able to return to recorded sessions at a later date, I focused on attending live the presentations devoted to reparative metadata.

The idea of reparative metadata can take a variety of forms. For the purposes of this article the phrase is being used to describe acts of archival re-description and the review of bibliographic records in library catalogs with a thought to whose perspectives are being truly represented, as well as how the choice in terminology affects an online catalog's ability to return relevant materials in a search performed by modern patrons. My interest in this topic specifically stemmed from my own project at the Helen Fowler Library through which I sought to rectify some of the un-representative terminology (Library of Congress subject headings, LCSH, specifically) used to tag items in the library's circulating collections related to Indigenous peoples and cultures of North America.⁴ Two sessions and one poster presentation were particularly helpful in assessing and reflecting on the decisions I made as I designed and implemented – and revised – my process. Although the conference and its sessions revolved around metadata in archives and special collections, I used insights gained to reflect on the work I did with the Helen Fowler Library's circulating collections and believe that my experience can be useful to anyone overseeing a collections database, especially if that database uses LCSH or is designed for the public to use to search institutional holdings.

“Diversifying the Narrative in Special Collections: From Inventories to Metadata (and Everything In Between),” a participant-driven session presented by Regan Brumagen (Corning Museum of Glass), Jessica BrodeFrank (Adler Planetarium), Beth Shoemaker (Emory University), Phoenix Alexander (University of Liverpool), and Ron McColl (West Chester University Libraries)

In this session participants selected break-out rooms on specific topics to enable more intimate discussions of ongoing projects, after which the group came back together for discussion summaries and a larger conversation. The break-out room I chose to attend was on the topic of community metadata, and leading the discussion was Jessica BrodeFrank of the Adler Planetarium. They are running a large-scale tagging project through Zooniverse.org in which they ask participants to review images of items in their collections and assign tags based on what they see; the tags are then reviewed and approved by curators before being attached to the collection item in order to make it more searchable by the public.

This type of crowdsourcing for metadata is an approach I tried on a much smaller scale upon embarking on my own project. When the pandemic initially forced employees to work from home, there were members of the Education Department at Denver Botanic Gardens that had limited capacity to continue their own projects, and graciously agreed to help the library with mine. Similar to the Adler Planetarium's call for non-expert volunteers to participate in their project for which there were “no wrong answers,” I asked non-library employees to review a list of titles⁵ I had pulled from the catalog and research three

4 It is outside the scope of this report to detail exactly why this project was (and is) necessary, but the following resource (openly accessible online) is a wonderful introduction to the topic and provides additional resources for exploring further some of the issues raised: Kelly Webster and Ann Doyle, “Don't Class Me in Antiquities! Giving Voice to Native American Materials,” in *Radical Cataloging: Essays at the Front*, ed. K.R. Robert (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2008), 189-197.

5 This list included 134 titles pulled from a subject search for “Indians of North America,” the approved LCSH for items concerning Native American and First Nations peoples. As will be made apparent farther along in this article, this initial list did not represent every title related to Indigenous peoples and cultures held by the library nor did it represent a comprehensive list of all the items in the circulating collection requiring reparative metadata work. It was, however, a decent place to start.

Title, Statement	Author	Edition	Is the author a Native American?	Specific Native American tribe(s) discussed	Genre(s)	Keywords/phrases
Gardens in the dunes : a novel / Leslie Marmon Silko.	Silko, Leslie Marmon, 1948-		Yes (Laguna Pueblo tribe)	The main character is a member of a fictional tribe (Sand Lizard People)	historical fiction	fiction, southwest, Native American, heritage, assimilation, cultural identity, imperialism, travel, coming of age, feminist
Woodflower / Cynthia Kadohata.	Kadohata, Cynthia.	Aladdin Paperbacks ed.	No	Mojave (minor character, protagonist's confidant)	children's literature, historical fiction	World War II, Japanese-Americans, United States, internment camps, racism, California, immigrants, prison camps, Arizona, gardening
Notes on the plants used by the Klamath Indians of Oregon. By Frederick V. Coville.	Coville, Frederick V. Frederick		No	Klamath (unclear if it's the tribe or the nation)	reference	Pacific Northwest gardening, ethnobotany
Aboriginal peoples and forest lands in Canada [electronic resource] / edited by D.B. Tindall, Ronald I. Tropser, and Pamela Fennault.			includes works/opinions from aboriginal people			forestry, conservation, resource management, environmental politics, aboriginal peoples, traditional knowledge
Aboriginal plant use in Canada's northwest boreal forest [electronic resource] / Robin J. Marles... [et al.]			Researchers included seven First Nation trainees and five Métis trainees		handbook, reference	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada, Aboriginal peoples, ethnobotany, traditional knowledge
American Indians and the national forests / Theodore Catton ; foreword by Joel D. Holtrop.	Catton, Theodore, author.		No	Nes Perce tribe, possibly more	history	US Forest Service, conservation, federal public land, US government, forestry, tribal relations
American Indians of the Northeast and Southeast [electronic resource] / edited by Kathleen Kuiper.		3rd ed.	No	Ho-Chunk, Iroquois Confederacy, Wampanoag, Abenaki, Algonquin, Conoy, Delaware, Mehikwihug (Fox), Illinois, Kickapoo,	history, reference	Native American history, native languages, rituals
Ancient pathways, ancestral knowledge : ethnobotany and ecological wisdom of indigenous peoples of northwestern North America / Nancy Turner.	Turner, Nancy, author.		No		history, science, anthropology	ethnobotany, ethnoscology, plant traditions, plants in technology, herbal medicine traditions, harvests, management, sustainability
The boy who made dragonfly : a Zuni myth / retold by Tony Hillerman ; illustrated by Janet Grado.	Hillerman, Tony, author.		No	Zuni	myth, legend, children's literature	myth, legend, children's stories, fable
Cedar [electronic resource] : tree of life to the Northwest Coast Indians / Hilary Stewart ; with drawings by the author.	Stewart, Hilary, 1924-		No		reference, anthropology, history	botany, legends, technology, construction, ceremonies, crafts, tools, spirituality, rituals

Screenshot of a portion of completed volunteer data for the reparative metadata project at the Helen Fowler Library.

things (with no expectation to meet all criteria for every title): does the author identify as a member of a Native American or First Nations community,⁶ what are the specific tribes or Nations represented in the book, and what are three (or more) keywords you would use to describe the contents of the book. I also requested that they not look at library catalogs for summaries or information about a book's contents and provided other avenues for finding that sort of information like Goodreads or bookstore blurbs. As the titles were ones from the library's own collection, I also mentioned they could skip any books about which there was little information available online as those could be consulted on-site once it was safe to return.

While I was initially excited for this project route and grateful for the willingness of non-library employees to help, some obstacles became apparent once the work went underway that were related to the discussion topics raised by the planetarium's project. Relying on volunteer researchers meant that the demographic providing most of the tagging was more representative of Zooniverse.org users and existing patronage of the planetarium, mostly those 50 years and older located in the US or UK. There were also "super-users" that had the potential to skew data according to their own perspectives by providing a disproportionate number of tags; a curator reviewing all volunteer-suggested tags was therefore an essential part of the process. For my own project, I knew the volunteer sample was incredibly limited (those in the department that did not have work-from-home projects already lined up) and never intended to rely solely on that research – I planned to use their information as a way of informing additional research I was pursuing. It was, however, still a rather tall order for those volunteering time outside their own field. While the planetarium's project simply required volunteers to look at an image and provide tags, my project required non-librarians to research Indigenous peoples and cultures that are often inadequately represented in more mainstream sources. That lack of obvious information coupled with the fact that there was much more adapting and re-prioritizing due to the unpredictable situation around COVID-19 meant that my volunteers were not able to spend the amount of time required to move through the full list of titles. I am incredibly grateful for the information they were able to provide but realized that the bulk of my project results were going to have to come from my own research into library standards for description. A different session at the RBMS conference helped me reflect on my revised methodology.

"Implementing Programmatic Anti-Racist (Re)Description at Predominately White Institutions," a session presented by Zoe Dobbs (Yale University), Kelly Bolding (Princeton University Library), Shelby Daniels-Young (University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press), Faith Charlton (Princeton University Library), and Jessica Tai (Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University)

⁶ This bit of research was a way to understand the portion of books on Indigenous peoples in the collection that represent an Indigenous perspective, for my own understanding of the collection rather than for use in reparative metadata work.

The experiences shared in this session were almost exclusively from rather large working groups, whereas Denver Botanic Gardens had only one employee (myself) whose job description required knowledge of library cataloging and standards for bibliographic record description. Still, I was able to compare my own approach to those of the working groups even though I was working on a much smaller scale.

Guiding the Reparative Archival Description Task Force (RAD) at Yale is the concept of cultural humility, understanding how one can never be truly competent in another's culture, and the importance of normalizing not knowing everything. This concept was incredibly important to my own project, especially since I was working with subjects of Indigenous cultures that varied widely and, as stated above, are not always represented in a way that reflects how actual members of a given community identify themselves. My solution involved taking detailed notes and designating a column of my spreadsheet to marking which subjects needed verification from their respective community members before being finalized.

Current LCSH	Use Instead	*need confirmation	NOTES
Indians of North America [x]Ethnobotany	Ethnobotany [z]North America.		
Indians of South America	Indigenous peoples [z]South America.		
Iroquois Indians	Iroquois	*	Haudenosaunee potentially the preferable term? Or, individual Nations the preferable identifier?
Kiowa Indians	Kiowa	*	
Klamath Indians	Klamath	*	
Medicine, Traditional	Traditional medicine		ideally include a geographic subdivision as well: ex. Traditional medicine [z]North America.
Miwok Indians	Coast Miwok	*	more specific term for Miwok (see also: Plains and Sierra Miwok, Lake Miwok, and Bay Miwok)
Mohave Indians	Mohave	*	
Najavo Indians	Navajo	*	
Nanticoke Indians	Nanticoke	*	
Ntlakypamuk Indians	Nlaka'pamux (Thompson)	*	
Ojibwe Indians	Ojibwe (Anishinabe)		
Okanagan Indians	Okanagan	*	Sylix might be the preferred term
Oneida Indians	Oneida	*	
Onondaga Indians	Onondaga	*	

Screenshot of a portion of the documentation for more inclusive cataloging practices, created for the Helen Fowler Library.

In the screenshot of my LCSH revisions used for the Helen Fowler Library's catalog, a small portion of the revised subjects are visible. The majority of the revisions I made were based on the documentation published by a six-year working group through the Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA).⁷ Their project involved consultations with members of First Nations in order to identify preferred terminology; therefore, the only subjects without an asterisk are those documented by that project. For all other tribal or Indigenous community subjects, I dropped "Indians" from the name, asterisked that confirmation is still needed to ensure accurate identification, and added notes where my research suggested a preferred term might differ from that used by the original LCSH. As the AMA project focused exclusively on First Nations communities of Manitoba, there are, admittedly, a limited number of subjects without an asterisk. I felt strongly, however, that making decisions about terminologies without input from those they are intended to represent would simply perpetuate the problems created by the LCSH system; this column serves as a reminder of the importance of cultural humility, and the need to assess and re-assess our terms as cultures and identities continue to evolve.

"Reparative Metadata Work at the University of Houston Libraries," a poster presentation by Julie Grob (University of Houston Libraries) and Gregory Seppi (Brigham Young University)

⁷ For more information about the project and for their official documentation, see: "Indigenous Subject Headings in MAIN," Manitoba Archival Information Network, accessed July 9, 2021, <https://main.lib.umanitoba.ca/indigenous-subject-headings>. See also: Christine Bone and Brett Loughheed, "Library of Congress Subject Headings Related to Indigenous Peoples: Changing LCSH for Use in a Canadian Archival Context," *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* 59, no. 1 (2018), accessed July 9, 2021, <https://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/handle/10680/1321>

The final session I would like to detail held an important lesson I wish I had learned prior to establishing my own process: start small, because this work is not easy!

As Coordinator for Instruction, Julie Grob mentioned having certain archival documents that were re-curringly used for instruction in the University of Houston's Special Collections. These documents were related to the history of slavery, and their metadata centered wealthy enslavers at the expense of the humanity of the enslaved men, women, and children. In order to explore how to rectify those descriptions, the presenters identified 10 digital documents to focus on as a pilot project.

While my own project started by identifying an initial dataset – the rather-lengthy title list supplied to my non-library volunteer researchers mentioned above – the adjustment in methodology and the consequent reliance on the AMA project's list of revised subjects meant that instead of starting with a set of identified records, I started with a set of identified subject headings. As I have often used a program called MarcEdit to edit large sets of bibliographic records, I figured this tool – which had the ability to handle bulk edits as well as allow me control over individual record fields and subfields – would be perfect for identifying and rectifying my chosen subjects. I pulled 242 records based on a search for "Indians of North America" and the keyword "Indigenous." Working with this dataset in MarcEdit, I changed 205 subjects from "Indians of North America" to "Indigenous peoples" with a geographic subdivision of "North America." I also caught eight records tagged with "Indians of South America" and changed it in the same way, but with the geographic subdivision "South America." Of these 242 records, 55 also included subjects for individual tribes or Nations, and they were adjusted according to the AMA project data and my own guidelines – so, if there was AMA documentation then it was adjusted accordingly and for all other subjects the term "Indians" was dropped and the unconfirmed preferred name was added to my spreadsheet with an asterisk. Any and all changes I made to subjects were documented in both a master document for the overall project as well as in a separate spreadsheet to aid in future cataloging.

Something of which I was well aware prior to deciding to take on this project is the legacy of library records. They are often messy in terms of how subjects are recorded, due to the variety of people working on them or practices applied to them throughout the history of the library. Therefore, I knew the 242 records I pulled would have to be individually verified prior to being re-uploaded into the catalog. What I did not anticipate was the search for my initial record set not returning all items with "Indians of North America" as a subject due to errors in the ways that older items were initially cataloged or imported or imperfections in the library catalog's search and return functions. There were also some unexpected changes that came alongside some of the more complicated tasks I ran in MarcEdit on the records that did make it into my initial set (mostly rectified through the final record review, but there is going to be the inevitable human error in an attempt to catch everything!). Overall, it likely would have been better to select a smaller sample of specifically-chosen records and rectify all aspects of them – including updates from AACR2 to RDA standards – with a local, non-public note added to identify that the record has been addressed. Then, I could select a few more at a later date as time allowed and take them through the same process, much like the thought behind the pilot project at the University of Houston.

This realization – that the hours I had put into manipulating records did not seem to remove even the one LCSH "Indians of North America" from the catalog entirely – reinforces two important concepts for cataloging: the need to document standards and, as stated already, constantly review your work. I never intended my own metadata project to be comprehensive or go untouched by future librarians. Instead, I created documentation for using these new, more representative subjects and integrated it into the normal cataloging workflow. As the Helen Fowler Library opens and more patrons use the circulating collection or ask reference questions, there will be additional opportunities to catch and rectify existing records using the documentation as well. The key to solidifying the work I have started, however, lies in the potential for

collaboration with the communities represented in library catalogs. I have spent many hours in front of virtual panels discussing similar metadata projects, and often the presenters express hesitation to release revised subject lists because they do not want to encourage another institution's use of it without reflecting on whose land they reside and whose culture is represented in their own, unique collections. The AMA project spent six years working to rectify subjects based on their own cultural history, but that history is vastly different than the one found in Colorado. The percentage of "new" subjects from my own project that need confirmation before becoming finalized is high, so I submitted my thoughts to an internal IDEA Committee and expressed the desire that a more comprehensive partnership in creating something like a land acknowledgement could also involve a review, where feasible, of certain subjects used in databases.

There is more research, thought, and discussion required before suggesting that the metadata review project I initiated at the Helen Fowler Library is anywhere near something that could be considered "complete." Yet there is a fire clearly burning behind the RBMS conference presenters and attendees that suggests we are all prepared for the so-called long haul. We cannot let that fire die out – I feed mine on a daily basis.

CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program

During the 2010 mid-winter CBHL Board Meeting, the Board established a grant program to encourage CBHL members' participation in other like-minded organizations' conferences. Currently, there is already a wonderful reciprocal relationship with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL). To expand collaboration, this "CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant" will pay up to \$500 towards conference fees (not including accommodations, travel expenses, or meals) for a CBHL member to go to the conferences of GardenComm (of Garden Writers Association), American Public Gardens Association, Special Libraries Association, Internet Librarian, or similar organizations.

The grantee would receive the funds before the meeting (up to \$500) with the agreement the participant would present a report to CBHL (either through the CBHL Newsletter or as a presentation at the Annual Meeting). The report should include useful aspects of the conference that will help other CBHL members. The report is intended as continuing education for the CBHL members. The grantee is also intended to serve as a CBHL ambassador to the conference and is required to register as the CBHL representative.

To receive the grant, the prospective grantee needs to submit a letter addressed to the CBHL Secretary and include:

- Name of conference
- Date of conference
- Amount of grant request
- URL of the conference website
- Reason for choosing the conference, including the benefit to CBHL
- The date when you will submit your report about the conference to either the CBHL Newsletter or as a talk at the CBHL Annual Meeting

Please give the Board one month prior to the registration deadline for the conference to make a decision about the grant. Funding will be awarded based on the amount of funds made available by the Board during that particular fiscal year.

Submission email: CBHL Secretary, Brandy Watts, blwtts@g.ucla.edu.

Book Reviews

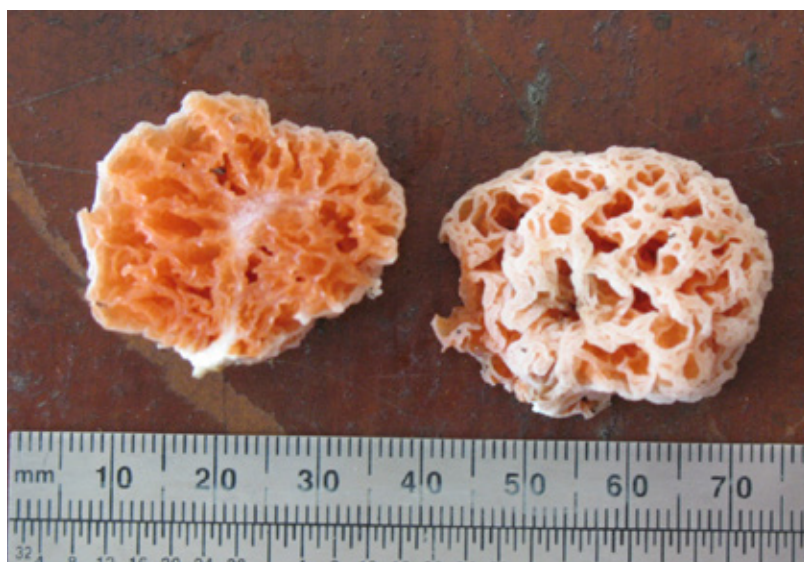
Compiled by Gillian Hayward
Library Manager
Library and Information Services
Longwood Gardens

Fungipedia: A Brief Compendium of Mushroom Lore by Lawrence Millman, illustrations by Amy Jean Porter. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019. 200 pages, illustrated. \$16.95. ISBN: 9780691194721

Reviewed by Janet Evans
Associate Director
McLean Library & Archives
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Originally published on Goodreads.com

Arranged like an encyclopedia, *Fungipedia* has short articles on everything from famous mycologists to kinds of fungi, and even an entry under “Smell” – did you know that chanterelles smell like peaches or apricots and that *Mycena alcalina* smells like Clorox? Under “Common Name” Mill-



Fruit bodies of the bolete fungus *Spongiforma squarepantsii* Desjardin, Peay & Bruns. Specimens collected in Lambir Hills National Park, Borneo, Sarawak, Malaysia. This image was created by user Tom Bruns (pogon) at [Mushroom Observer](#), a source for mycological images. Image Number 151595. CC BY-SA 3.0

man points out that, while fungi have both scientific (Latin) names and common names, the “common names like stinky squid, angel’s wings, earth tongue, jelly baby, jack-o’-lantern, artist’s conk, hedgehog, inky cap, dead man’s fingers and witches butter provide reasonably accurate descriptions of what the fungi in question look like” and are certainly memorable. As is the 2011 discovery of *Spongiforma squarepantsii* named for SpongeBob SquarePants.

Did you know that composer John Cage was a very good amateur mycologist who taught a course in mushroom identification at the New School in NYC? I also loved ethnomycologist Gordon Wasson’s entry. He and his friends “kindled the global interest in magic mushrooms” in the 1950s and 60s. It so happens that I have a bookplate of Gordon Wasson’s

– which is graced by a lovely line drawing of his favorite fungi, *Amanita muscaria* – see Millman’s entry under Fly Agaric. (See also, Berserker Mushroom; see also, Santa Claus). I started off dipping around *Fungi-pedia*, flipping the pages, going from one fascinating nugget to another. But I ended up reading it straight through, from *Agarikon* to *Zygomycetes*. It doesn’t disappoint, and is only 184 pages, so it’s a perfect commuter book. Then I went to [Lawrence Millman’s website](#) to learn more about him. Worth a visit, read about why he dropped out of the Explorers Club. Highly recommended.

The Flowering of Ecology: Maria Sibylla Merian’s Caterpillar Book by Kay Etheridge. With: M. S. Merian’s original texts translated from the original German by Michael Ritterson. (s, volume 3) Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2021. €75.00 / \$91.00. ISBN 9789004284791 (hardback); 978900428480 (e-book).

Reviewed by Charlotte A. Tancin
Librarian
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University

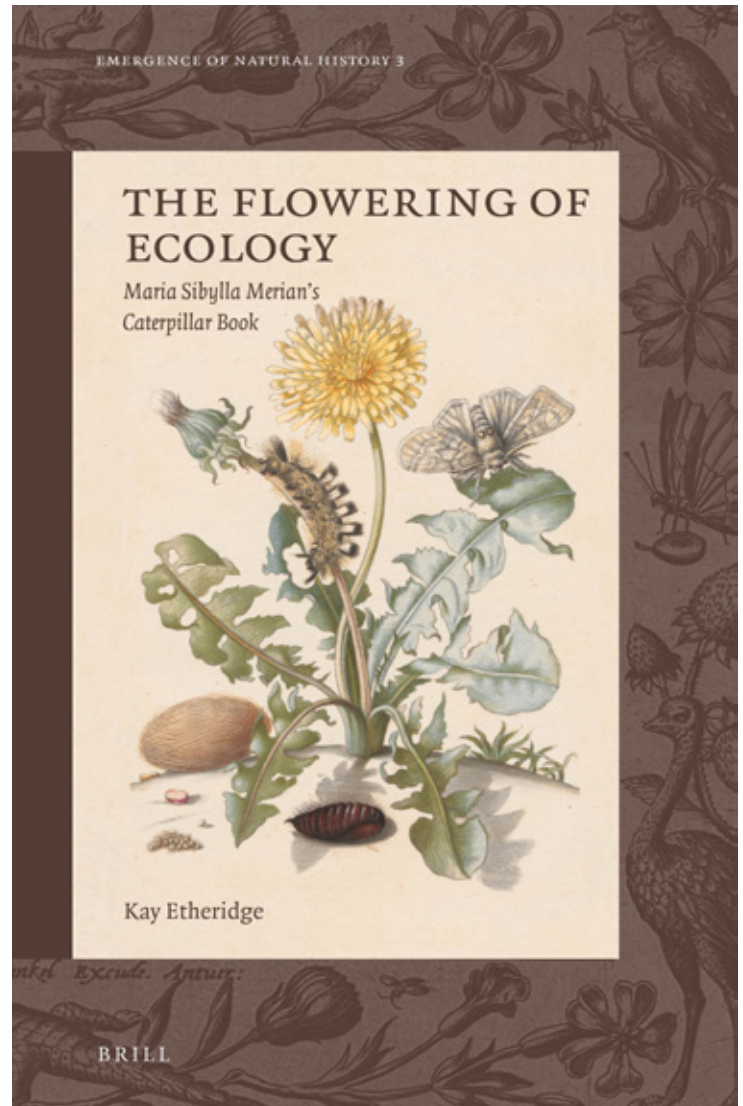
The
Wondrous
Transformation
and Particular
Food Plants
of
Caterpillars.

Wherein,
by means of an entirely new invention
the origin, food, and changes
of caterpillars, worms, butterflies, moths,
flies, and other such small creatures,
together with their time, location, and characteristics,

For the benefit of naturalists, artists, and garden lovers,
are carefully investigated, briefly described,
painted from life, engraved in copper,
and personally published
by

Maria Sibylla Graff,
Daughter of the late Matthaeus Merian the Elder.

To be had in Nuremberg
from Johann Andreas Graff, Painter
in Frankfurt and Leipzig from David Funk
Printed by Andreas Knortz, 1679



That was Merian’s 1679 title page, translated. “For the benefit of naturalists, artists, and garden lovers,” Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717) presented her first book of insect studies: 50 investigations of insect life, with 50 plates. An artist and insect lover from childhood, here she showed beautifully rendered plants, some with holes in their leaves, and all with caterpillars, moths, butterflies and other insects living on them, resting, moving, eating, laying eggs, pupating, emerging transformed, flying nearby, and about to alight. Her text narrated the plates, explaining what she understood about how the insects lived. Her insect books were a glorious combination

of scientific expertise and beauty, containing her direct observations and insights from years of collecting and raising insects that she kept at home in little wooden boxes and fed with their favorite foods gathered continuously from gardens and meadows. Imagine her doing this. She raised them and studied their life cycles, drawing them and making notes, and eventually – using skills gained from being raised in a publishing house family where she learned various aspects of the family trade, including how to make engraved copper plates – she transformed her work into groundbreaking books and pioneered a new way to see and understand insects.

However, in the centuries following her death in 1717 her star dimmed and faded, as less complete and authoritative editions of her books circulated, and scientists who did not know of or understand her work came to belittle and even denounce it as unscientific. In *The Flowering of Ecology* Kay Etheridge has made it her mission to correct this situation, to resurrect Merian's work, to demonstrate its extent and significance, and to garner for Merian the scientific appreciation that she deserves. Etheridge has collaborated with translator Michael Ritterson to explore the first of Merian's four insect books, shining a light on the research it contained, the work that went into its production, and its pioneering importance. She also details the factors that led to a later eclipsing of and lack of appreciation for Merian's work. *The Flowering of Ecology* invites us to enjoy Merian's love of insects, her vision, her methods, her dedication and her understanding. Etheridge's biological background and Ritterson's skillful translations from the German enabled them to bring Merian's work back into the light in a way that has not previously been done. The book includes two parts: a discussion of Merian's life and work; and a full translation of her 1679 text, presented with the 50 illustrations, preface and indexes along with a section-by-section commentary by Etheridge that includes modern scientific names and is enhanced with a number of illustrations from Merian's own study journal.

Part 1 has four chapters. Chapter 1 looks at Merian's precursors and contemporaries in insect research, and at how insects (and plants) were presented in natural history books. This includes some discussion of the confusion around the idea of spontaneous generation, a popularly-held belief that insects were spontaneously generated from meat or cloth, rather than reproducing normally. Merian's dedicated, hands-on work raising and observing insects made it crystal clear that there was no spontaneous generation happening with these insects. Her work was grounded in direct experience. Her readers saw and read about caterpillars interacting with their host plants: feeding on them, sometimes extracting flower nectar, attaching silk threads, rolling leaves as a shelter, living in a plant gall, or burrowing through a rose bud. Readers saw what she saw, and read about how she understood what she and they were seeing.

Chapter 2 presents Merian's life story: growing up in a publishing house family, collecting insects and watching them grow, learning to draw and to make copper plates. She married and moved from Frankfurt to Nuremberg and began to publish her drawings as floral embroidery patterns. She gradually dedicated more of her energies to the insects she loved, and her research life coalesced. She published two books on German insects that undergo the kind of metamorphosis she studied, and she went through various life changes herself, resettled in Amsterdam, and made the trip of a lifetime to Surinam with her youngest daughter. There she studied and collected and drew insects and their host plants. Returning to Amsterdam, she made 60 large paintings of the Surinam insects and plants and published them in large folio format with Dutch and Latin text, those languages enabling her Surinam book to find readers in more countries. Before her death she also prepared a third book on the German insects, published in Dutch posthumously.

Chapter 3 explores Merian's actual work in observing, describing, and illustrating what she learned from raising and observing insects. Etheridge provides a detailed view of Merian's fieldwork, laboratory work, study journal, her other sources of information, and how she created text and images for the 1679 book. The plates show how very different and integrative her work was from that of others in the field. For



FIGURE 79 Merian. Detail from plate 37 in Merian's 1679 *Raupen*. *Biston betularia* (peppered moth) laying eggs

Detail from plate 37 of Merian's 1679 *Raupen*. *Biston betularia* (peppered moth) laying eggs. Spencer Collection, New York Public Library. Photograph by Kay Etheridge.

example, naturalist and artist Johannes Goedaert also raised insects for study, but while in some cases he showed several stages of metamorphosis of a particular species in several images spaced on a blank background, Merian showed the major stages of an insect's whole life cycle ON the plant that was its required or preferred food source. The intimacy of her attention to her subjects can be seen in the cropped image shown here of a peppered moth depositing eggs on a red currant leaf. Etheridge notes that for several species Merian depicted and discussed females depositing eggs, something not illustrated in the work of a number of her predecessors and contemporaries.

Chapter 4 is central to Etheridge's book, because here she meticulously traces the history of Merian's full body of published work to trace her influence on subsequent biological research. After her supply of the first two insect books was depleted, Merian had their text translated into Dutch, and she re-etched some of the plates to add more

insects, also discussing those in the text. However, the text was shortened to brief physical descriptions, noting the timing of metamorphosis and the preferred food plants, but much of the behavioral and ecological detail that added such scientific value to the earlier German caterpillar books was omitted. "It is not known who wrote the revised text, but a strong case may be made for the younger daughter, Dorothea Maria, as the Dutch translator." (p. 113) These and subsequent editions with briefer texts made Merian's work more widely available, but at the steep cost of conveying the impression that her work was less substantial than it actually was. Also, in the later editions the plates were not bound sequentially with their texts, making it harder to view plate and text together. There were many more copies of these later editions made, and they were available in more languages, spreading corrupted versions of her work for those who came after her. Additions made by various publishers to the posthumous editions further tainted her published legacy, and by the 19th century this led to misunderstanding and criticism of her and her work. By the 20th century, she was seen as an artist who made beautiful images of plants and insects. Thus Etheridge and Ritterson have undertaken to revive the first insect book in all of its original vitality, enhanced with Etheridge's commentary.

All of part 1 gives context for the second part of *The Flowering of Ecology*, where the 1679 book is presented anew with plates, translated text and modern commentary (pages 141-356). The "new invention" mentioned on Merian's title page is taken to mean her "original ecological compositions combining insects and their host plants" (p. 131). The 1679 illustrations are represented here by beautifully hand-painted counterproof copies of the plates. They are mirror images of the published uncolored plates, and a copy of Merian's elegant title page is reproduced from an uncolored published copy.

Ritterson worked in consultation with Etheridge to produce an English translation that gives an approximation of Merian's written voice and includes terms that would have been in general use by the late 17th

century, retaining the conversational tone of her text. Etheridge's commentary after each short section highlights Merian's novel observations and adds historical context.

In her preface, Merian established her credentials as a naturalist by describing the laborious and time-consuming nature of her work and the kinds of observations that it made possible. She focused primarily on the larval plant-insect relationship, because establishing the feeding habits of the many different caterpillars was critical to her success in obtaining the complete life cycle of each species. (p. 146)

She enjoyed watching caterpillars that, when touched, would "retreat at once, or lower themselves to the ground by a thread from their mouth, then climb deftly back up the same thread to their house, which consists of small rolled-up leaves" (p. 179), and others that, when they moved, "it draws its hind legs up to the front ones so that its body rises up in the air, and it looks almost comical; then it takes a step the entire length of itself." (p. 199). She made various comparisons between butterflies and moths, and between caterpillars and the flying insects they transformed into; Etheridge suggests that Merian appears to be the first naturalist to publish accounts of striking polymorphisms among larvae of a given species. She also puzzled over what we now know are parasitic insects that, instead of a butterfly or moth, would mysteriously emerge from the bodies of caterpillars. She paid attention to the insects' food requirements or preferences, and also addressed herself to gardeners regarding the damage that some of these insects would inflict on popular garden plants, including exotics. She noted that some species preferred sun to shade, and documented the effects of season, weather and time of day on insects in the field, also documenting behavioral patterns. She found that some insects needed to drink, and so she would supply those with water, assuming that the others found enough moisture in their food. Etheridge points out a number of observations that may have been original to Merian, or at least were not published by others previously.

Following the end of Merian's text, an appendix contains several translated excerpts from her study journal, along with Etheridge's bibliography and index. I can't praise this book enough, both for its aims and for how well it achieves them. Etheridge is to be commended for doing this work on behalf of Merian, and Ritterson for his sensitive translation. I hope that *The Flowering of Ecology* will help to restore Merian to her true identity as a scientist who used both text and beautiful images to share what she learned from insects.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Compiled by Rita M. Hassert
Library Collections Manager
Sterling Morton Library
The Morton Arboretum

October-November 2021
Museum Computer Network (MCN) Conference
Virtual
<http://mcn.edu/>

October 13-15, 2021
27th Annual Meeting & Conference
American Society of Botanical Artists
Virtual
<https://www.asba-art.org/conference/2021-virtual>

October 29-30, 2021
"The Role of Horticulture in Human Well-being and Social Development" - Joint Symposium
Virtual
<https://internationalpeopleplantsymposium.org/registration>

November 1-5, 2021
Charleston Conference
Virtual and in-person in Charleston, SC
<https://www.charleston-hub.com/the-charleston-conference>

November 19-22, 2021
Conference on Landscape Architecture
American Society of Landscape Architects
Nashville, TN
<https://www.asla.org/annualmeetingandexpo.aspx>

Wood Libraries: Knowing with Wood and Word

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School of Information Sciences
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

This article originally appeared in the Caxton Club's Caxtonian, May/June 2021. Reprinted with permission of the author.

A wood library sounds as if it should be a collection of books on the topic of wood. In fact, it is a collection of wood. How can we “know” with wood?

A remarkable wood library was created by Carl Schildbach, who worked as a caretaker on the estates of the Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The library



The “books” in Schildbach’s wood library with their Linnaean classification number, Latin name, and common name. Photo: Peter Mansfeld.



Top edges of the “books” of the Schildbach’s wood library. “Fore-edges” with wood samples and labels affixed.

comprises more than 500 samples of different wood species, each taking the form of a book-shaped box (hereafter referred to as a book). The growth habit of the tree was used to determine the size or format of its book, ranging from a small duodecimo to a large folio. The spine of each book is fashioned from the bark of the species and is labelled with its Linnaean classification number, Latin name, and common name in German. The top edge is made up of cross-sections of young branches to show the tissues of the tree in their early stages of development. The bottom edge is a cross-section of mature heartwood. This cut provides an opportunity to inspect the size and density of vascular elements, which are indicators of the hardness of the wood. The front cover is made of sapwood—the softer more recently formed part of the tree that is lighter in color. The back of the book is an example of the heartwood, cut lengthwise to exhibit the grain. The fore-edge displays the wood in its oldest state; the fungus that might be typically found on the tree is glued to that fore-edge; and a small block of polished wood that shows off the color is affixed. Meanwhile, a cubic zoll (about an inch) of heartwood is accompanied by details of its typical weights according to season. An example of the wood



(Above) Wood library compiled by Carl Schildbach. Kassel, 1771-99. Exhibition cabinet by Mark Dion, 2012. Naturkundemuseum Kassel. (Below) The seeds, a twig with leaves, flowers, and fruits. Photo: Peter Mansfeld.

in its carbonized state is marked with its diminished size and weight, and its calorific values—the heating power produced by burning—are listed in two different temperature scales.

The front cover of each book slides open to reveal a chamber. Inside are specimens that illustrate different points in the tree's lifecycle, marked according to month. These consist of seeds and seed capsules; a complete seedling with its roots and first pair of leaves; a branch with knobs and joints; buds and leaves in different stages of development; young, wilted, and dried flowers; a wax model of the fruit; and a skeleton of the leaf. A slip of

paper pasted inside the front cover carries a handwritten description of the tree's distribution, special properties, prevalent forms of rot, as well as information about its ideal placement in the landscape.



Schildbach drew upon at least two different systems of classification to help organize his wood library: that of the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus, with its emphasis on the male and female parts of the plant, and that of Joseph Pitton de Tournefort, with its emphasis on the structure of the flower and fruit. The Linnaean system uses twenty-four “classes” to identify plants. These groupings are determined by the number of male organs, or stamens, in the flower, and further subdivided by the number of female parts, called pistils. The Linnaean class numbers are prominently displayed on the spines of Schildbach's volumes and provide an ordering schema for the collection.

Schildbach's staging of a “virtual reality” inside each book is built upon Tournefort's theory that plants should be known through the resemblances of their flowers, fruits, and growth pattern. Such features can be seen with the naked eye and include characteristics beyond the number of reproductive organs. Tournefort, a professor of botany at the royal gardens in Paris, described the blossoms and fruits of thousands of plants in a three-volume publication in 1694. He linked his text to matching illustrations, helping the reader see what he was expressing with words.

Schildbach complemented his written descriptions of trees with the opportunity to see, touch, and smell nature—if not in the wild, then at least with the dried plant material and wax models of his wood library. His work attracted the attention of experts and collectors across Europe, but he rebuffed an invitation to take the wood library to Paris and also refused to sell it to Empress Catherine the Great of Russia. Schildbach wrote that he hoped his work would be beneficial to those concerned with nature, forestry, and the management of such resources. In the end, he left the wood library to his patron in exchange for a pension. The collection remains in Kassel and is now housed in the Ottoneum Natural History Museum.



(Above) The different “formats” in a wood library compiled by Candid Huber. Ebersberg, c. 1791. Technische Universität München. Photo: Dietger Grosser. (Below) Huber’s volume featuring *Salix cinerea* or pussy willow. Lilienfeld Abbey. Photo: Harald Schmid.



Although Schildbach produced only one wood library, his approach was imitated widely. These collections came to market from around 1790 to 1810. For example, Candid Huber, a Benedictine monk and contemporary of Schildbach, constructed and sold more than thirty wood libraries by subscription. Among his customers were foresters, forest owners, members of the nobility and clergy, as well as government officials. Huber organized his books according to a system that focused on the use of trees as natural resources and in which plants were categorized into seven classes according to height. Huber followed this schema in the design of his volumes—the tallest of the seven sizes reserved for timber, such as oaks, and the shortest for low-growing shrubs and groundcovers, such as creeping broom. Each item in the library consists of two wooden boards affixed to a central spine of bark with leather straps, permitting it to be opened like a book or clamshell. The name of the species was written around the “margins” in Latin, German, French, and English. The interior of the book was hollowed out to accommodate seedlings, small branches, flowers, fruits, leaves, needles, cones, resin, and sometimes the insects likely to be found on the tree. A small drawer with a pull-knob inside the spine contains seeds and pips. Large seeds or nuts were embedded directly into the surface of the wood.

Instead of using replicas mimicking the look of fresh fruit, Huber employed actual specimens

that had been dried in the manner of a herbarium. This minor difference is a departure from the virtual reality conjured by Schildbach’s combination of nature and artifice. Huber warned that the desiccated fruits in his library should not be eaten or put in the mouth, even as a joke, because they were coated with arsenic to reduce the likelihood of infestation. However, recurring problems with insects and vermin eventually prompted him to replace the fruits with wax imitations. Eleven of Huber’s wood libraries survive. One of the largest is housed in a museum in his hometown of Ebersberg in Bavaria. Other volumes are in Munich, Regensburg, and the library of the Lilienfeld Abbey in Austria.

In the early nineteenth century, Friedrich Alexander von Schlümbach and Johann Goller began producing wood libraries in Nuremberg. These libraries were chiefly marketed to aristocratic collectors. Whereas the particular growth characteristics of the trees had been physically represented by the different sizes of the books made by Schildbach and Huber, the regular ten-inch height of the volumes in these later libraries suggests that the customers were more interested in having a visually coherent collection than learning about the habits of individual species. An example of this generation of wood library, comprising 217 volumes, may be found at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp.

The forests of the German-speaking lands had been greatly damaged by the Seven Years’ War (1756–63),

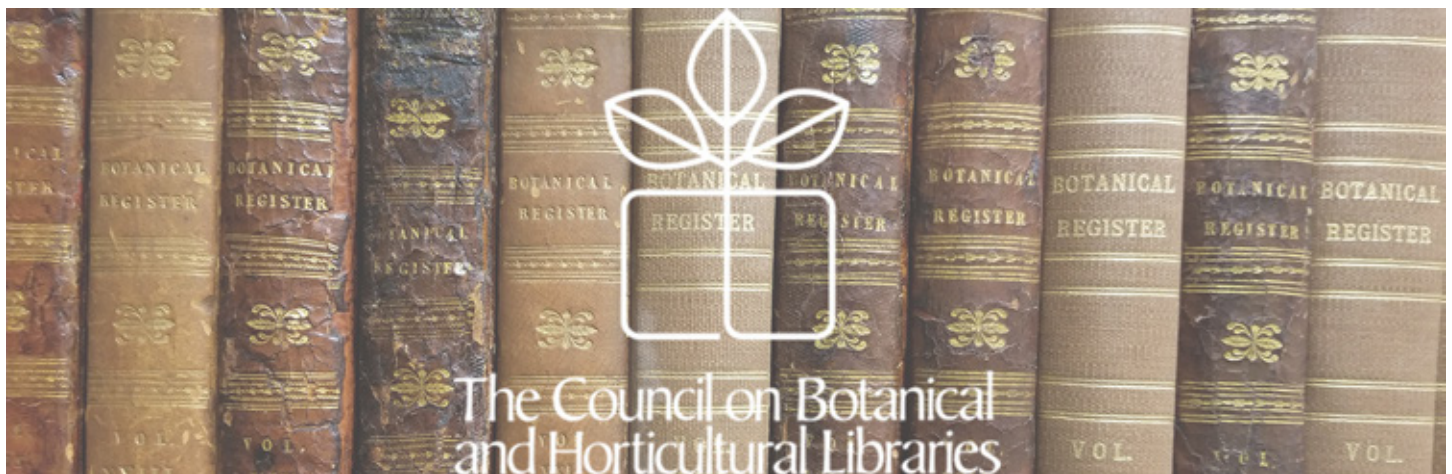
but they were nevertheless considered key to economic recovery. Wood was essential in the construction and heating of the homes needed to support expanding populations. Wood was also necessary in industrial projects such as the production of iron, as well as crafts and trades that included glassmaking and shipbuilding.

Responding to a sense of impending crisis, government officials tried to economize on their dwindling reserves while increasing future supply. To this end, theorists concocted ways to measure forests, and administrators developed tables with rows converting wood into numbers, and numbers into current value. Despite these efforts, the forestry authorities had difficulty reconciling their calculations of wood mass, growth rates, and sustained yield with reality, because there remained some distance between the living forest and their “science” of it.



Wood library compiled by Friedrich Alexander von Schlümbach and Johann Goller. Nuremberg, 1805-1810. Alnarp, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Photo: Mikael Risedal.

Because they are comprehensive collections of wood specimens, wood libraries are of significant use to those with interests in forestry, the wood sciences, and the wood trade. Yet William L. Stern, former curator of wood collections at the Smithsonian and professor of botany, despaired in 1973 that such collections in the United States were in the process of being consolidated. Recent years have witnessed a further devaluation of wood libraries: efforts have been made to separate the “scientific” wood libraries at research institutions—often associated with herbaria and microscope slides—from the more “informal” collections of woodworkers and hobbyists. What may be seen in the wood library, then and now, is a continuing debate about how to know nature. Are trees best understood through words and taxonomic names? Through tables or spreadsheets filled with numbers and genomic data? Or through an experience of nature itself? Standing, as we are, at the precipice of an environmental disaster of global proportions, whatever ways we have come to think nature should be known have proven inadequate. What will be needed to address the current crisis is a richer understanding of our world that is based on more and different ways of knowing.



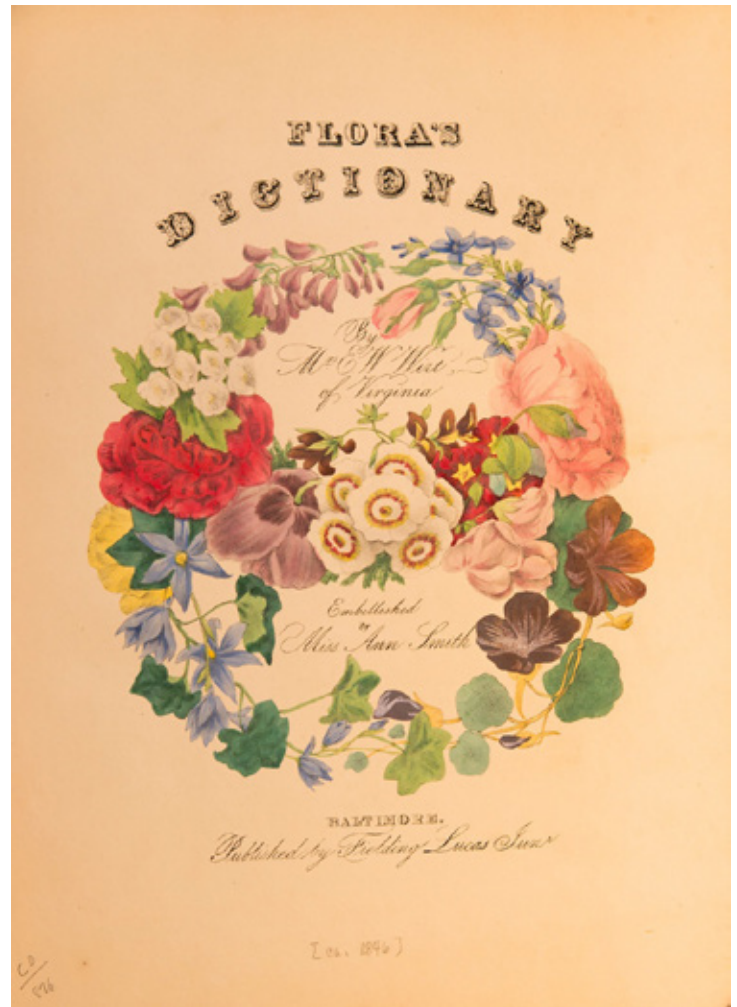
CBHL Members' East News

Compiled by Shelly Kilroy
Librarian, Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Virtual Symposium on Language of Flowers at Lenhardt Library

Leora Siegel
Senior Director
Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden

The Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden hosted a virtual symposium on the Language of Flowers on April 30, 2021. The free program celebrated the language of flowers, which is at the intersection of botany, horticulture, natural history, art, poetry, and women's studies. This 19th century popular literary trend presented the world of botany through dictionaries of flowers and associated meanings and floral poetry and prose, offering a sentimental view of natural history. A properly arranged bouquet was said to convey a "secret message" for the recipient. The "social media" of its day, this Victorian fad led to many editions of works published, with multiple titles by successful authors.



Flora's Dictionary by Elizabeth Washington Gamble Wirt.
Published by Fielding Lucas Junr, Baltimore, 1840s.

Four speakers presented different aspects of the subject. They included *Introducing the Language of Flowers* (Leora Siegel, Senior Director, Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden); Keynote: *Speaking with Flora* (Ann Shteir, Professor Emerita, York University, Toronto, Canada); *Floriography Deconstructed* (Brent Elliott, retired Librarian and Historian, Royal Horticultural Society, London); *Volumes on View* (Stacy Stoldt, Manager, Public Services and Rare Book Specialist, Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden).

Presented in collaboration with the Caxton Club and in partnership with the Biodiversity Heritage Library, this was the capstone event for a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to conserve and digitize language of flower genre editions.

Over 500 registered to attend and you can view the symposium on YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lrEivFkeS8>

New Horticulture Librarian at Schumacher Library

Amy O'Shea

Outgoing Horticultural Librarian

Schumacher Library, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Schumacher Library, at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, is excited to introduce Eva Stefanski as the new Horticulture Librarian. Eva has an extensive background working in libraries, including special collection libraries, and years of direct experience overseeing all aspects of library management. Schumacher Library is what prompted Eva's interest in horticulture librarianship years ago when she was a horticulture intern in the gardens. Eva lives in Milwaukee and Madison, and when she is not reading, she enjoys cycling, traveling, and spending time with her husband and two rescue cats.



Sustainable Gardening Library Adds Libraries & Herbaria Category

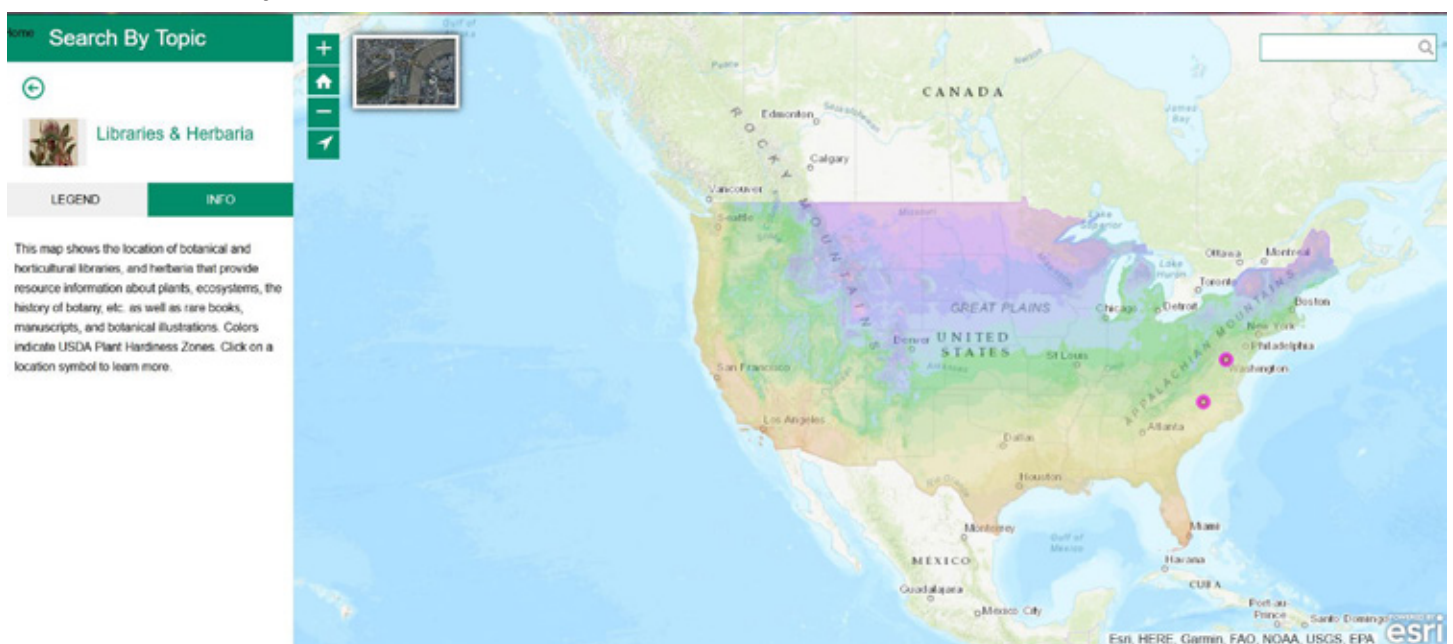
Lois J. deVries

Executive Director

Sustainable Gardening Institute and Library

The Sustainable Gardening Institute would love to list your library and/or herbarium as a resource under the Libraries & Herbaria topic of our online [Sustainable Gardening Library](#), which consolidates cross-disciplinary educational and resource materials on more than 25 topics about how to garden and farm more sustainably.

Our Libraries & Herbaria category is a resource intended to help those of our guests who want to do more in-depth research to quickly link to sources of comprehensive botanical and horticultural reference material, to search your online catalog, request information, or arrange an in-person visit. To make it as easy as possible for you, our outreach assistants will prepare the paperwork and submit it for your approval. There is no cost to you.



Thanks to a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, this year we'll be significantly expanding our hosted content through collaborations with public gardens and arboreta, colleges and universities, and related nonprofit educational organizations. We'd like to do the same for our CBHL colleagues. Our goal is to help promote and circulate these materials to the wider audience of folks who want to incorporate sustainable landscape practices into their professional work, or implement them on their own properties, including garden and environmental journalists, authors, educators, landscape and horticultural professionals, planners and engineers, farm and garden club members, etc.

You can reach me by phone at 973-383-0497 or email at l.devries@sustainablegardeninginstitute.org with questions or to sign on as a resource. We'd love to have you on board!

The U. S. Department of Education recommends our library as a resource for the Green Strides/Green Ribbon Schools program. The Sustainable Gardening Institute is a New Jersey registered charity.



News from the Mertz Library at NYBG

Stephen Sinon

William B. O'Connor Curator of Special Collections, Research and Archives

LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The New York Botanical Garden

News from the Mertz Library at NYBG is that we are beginning to take a limited number of daily research appointments starting in July. The Garden has both a newly elected CEO and a newly appointed Dean of Science. All Library staff will begin working on site in staggered schedules beginning in July. We continue to follow social distancing regulations.

The Garden itself is inundated with numerous visitors flocking to view the installation of artworks by Yayoi Kusama which will continue through the end of October.

Virtual Exhibits and Digitization Projects

Janet Evans

Associate Director

McLean Library, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Generously supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES Grant, PHS McLean Library has mounted two online virtual exhibits, “Two Women, One Garden: Selections from the Castaña Portfolio” and “Early School Gardens in Philadelphia.”

Two Women, One Garden: Selections from the Castaña Portfolio

This exhibit is based on photographs taken by Ida Pritchett (1891-1965) and Clara Sipprell (1885-1975) documenting the gardens and grounds of the Alba B. Johnson Estate, Castaña, in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. Prior to this digitization project, all photographs in this collection were attributed to Philadelphia photographer Ida W. Pritchett. However, as Library staff prepared the collection for digitization, staff discovered that a subset of the photographic prints bore another signature, that of Clara E. Sipprell. This was an exciting discovery because Sipprell is a significant early 20th century photographer, well known for her pictorial landscapes and for portraits of many famous actors, artists, writers, and scientists.



Ida W. Pritchett (1891-1965) Untitled photograph [Garden, Pool, Neptune with Three Hippocamps] Castaña Portfolio. McLean Library and Archives, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Early School Gardens in Philadelphia

Early School Gardens in Philadelphia draws on material from the Perla A. Matthews collection. Perla Anna Killiam Matthews (1879-1978) left behind a truly remarkable collection of photographs documenting her time as teacher-in-charge of the school gardens program at the Edgar Allan Poe School in South Philadelphia (1914-1921). The exhibit puts these photographs into context as part of a nationwide school garden movement in this time period.

In addition to the creation of the two virtual exhibits, the NEH CARES grant allowed for the retention of two staff positions in 2020 at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's McLean Library, to describe and upload 2,000 digitized items that document the history of Philadelphia-area gardens and landscapes between 1900 and 2010

to PA Photos and Documents, the online state digital repository that is on the Islandora platform. See our digital collections and links to the virtual exhibits at <https://pennhort.libguides.com/DigitalCollections>.



Untitled photograph [Group shot of Miss Matthews' students in a school garden] McLean Library and Archives, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.



Jane Gates sitting in front of the wide-plank oak wall of the circa 1818 log cabin that makes up the central room of the Potter farmhouse.

Jane Potter Gates, Former Head Librarian at Helen Crocker Russell Library and CBHL President, Dies at Age 89

Jane Potter Gates of Albion, Illinois, died Saturday, June 12, 2021 at the age of 89 years.

The second of three children, Jane Potter Gates, only daughter of the late Philip and Margaret (Shupe) Potter was born July 11, 1931, on the Potter Farm, 2 miles west of Albion. After moving away briefly, the family came back to Albion where Jane graduated from Albion Grade School and, in 1948, was in the last class to graduate from Albion Community High School (now Edwards County High School).

She attended the University of Illinois for two years, married, and moved to California where she lived for over 30 years. After almost 20 years as a full-time housewife and mother, Jane worked for a brief period at Pacific Bell Telephone Company, at the same time returning to school, earning a bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University and a master's degree in library science from the University of California, Berkeley. For nine years, she was

head librarian at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture in the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

At the age of 59, Jane moved to the East Coast to work at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland. In 2000, the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries presented Jane its top award for her outstanding contribution and meritorious service to the Council and the field of botanical and horticultural libraries and literature at Strybing and at the National Agricultural Library. She served on the Council for many years in several positions, including those of president and secretary.

After retiring in 2000 as head of the Sustainable Farming Information Center at the National Agricultural Library, Jane returned to the Potter Farm, working part-time for several years at the Albion Public Library. In 2008, she was recognized by the Edwards County Soil and Water Conservation District for her outstanding land management practices at the Potter Farm, which has been in her family since 1916.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her older brother Philip Richard (Dick) Potter and younger brother H. David Potter. She is survived by her three children, Philip and his wife Regena, Plain City, Ohio; Paul and his wife Sue, Walnut Creek, California; and Sarah, Pacifica, California; 2 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren, 2 nephews and several cousins, plus many friends across the country.

There will be no visitation. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Albion Public Library, and will be accepted by the Ingram Funeral Home which is in charge of all the arrangements.

It's a Wrap: 53rd Annual Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Virtual Meeting

Robin Everly
Botany and Horticulture Librarian
Botany and Horticulture Library
Smithsonian Libraries and Archives



Smithsonian Libraries and Archives hosted the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) virtually from Wednesday, May 5 to Friday, May 7, 2021. The host committee decided to keep the same theme as the now famously cancelled 2020 in-person meeting due to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic: "What's Next? The 21st Century Botanical & Horticultural Library."

While it may be a few more years before we understand what indeed is next for botanical and horticultural librarianship, this conference did try to address that issue and many others facing our world in the 21st century. As of the writing of this article, August 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting many of us around the world.

Due to the pandemic and its impact on our libraries, the virtual meeting had free registration. Registration was first opened to only current CBHL members and then to other interested parties. Because of the Zoom license, our maximum registration was 95 attendees, which we reached a few days before the meeting. However, only between 55 to 75 registrants joined the virtual conference each session.

The first virtual event took place Wednesday evening. The Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit was awarded to Judy Reed, former Conservation Librarian, The LuEsther T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden, and long-time CBHL member. The award was founded to honor outstanding



Judy Reed with her husband John at the Richmond meeting in 2014. Judy received the 2021 Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit.

contribution meritorious service to CBHL or to the field of botanical and horticultural libraries. A humorous career-spanning presentation was given by Long Award committee member Kathy Crosby. Because of the online environment, Judy's family based in Alaska and New York State were able to join the celebration and program.

Thursday morning began with a greeting and introduction from Smithsonian Library and Archives Interim Library Director and Chief Scientist, Scott Miller, followed by a presentation by Barbara Ferry, Interim Manager, Research Services and Head, Natural and Physical Sciences Department. Barbara showed how the 21-branch Smithsonian Library system has been affected and working through the COVID-19 pandemic to provide information services to Smithsonian researchers. At the time, all reference librarians were still 100% teleworking and having to provide their services from home.

Next, Martin Kalfatovic, Associate Director, Digital Programs and Initiatives, and Program Director of the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) gave us an update on the digital library. Robin Everly presented on the history of the Botany and Horticulture Library. Many CBHLers visited the space when the National Agricultural Library and Smithsonian last hosted in 2000. At the time, Ruth Schallert and Marca Woodhams were the branch librarians for botany and horticulture, respectively. Robin proudly showed how the space was redesigned since the earthquake in August 2011.

The keynote speaker was Dr. John Kress, Co-Chair, Earth BioGenome Project and Visiting Scholar, Dartmouth College and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University/Distinguished Scientist and Curator Emeritus, National Museum of Natural History. Host Robin Everly, who acted as moderator throughout the virtual meeting, teased him and others about the length of their professional titles. Dr. Kress gave a sobering presentation of the state of our natural world and how scientific literature held in our libraries is more important than ever if we are going to solve such problems as climate change, decreasing biodiversity and the loss of nature in our lifetimes.

Member presentations were given over Thursday and Friday by Allaina Wallace, Head Librarian, Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG); Kathryn Downing, then DBG Technical Services Division Librarian; Joyce Connelly, Museum Specialist, Smithsonian Gardens, Archives of American Gardens; Amy O'Shea, then Horticulture Librarian at Olbrich Botanical Garden; Suzi Teghtmeyer, Agriculture and Plant Sciences Librarian, Michigan State University; and Brandy Watts, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

The Thursday evening program was the annual literature award moderated by Brian Thompson and Tracy Mehlin with committee members taking turns presenting the winners and singing their praises. The overall winner of the night was *Rare Plants: Forty of the World's Rarest and Most-Endangered Plants* by Ed Ikin, published by Welbeck in association with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 2020. Six books took specialty

annual literature prizes. All winners and nominees are listed on the CBHL website.

The closing Friday afternoon program was another first. Many European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (EBHL) members joined us from across the pond to discuss how COVID-19 affected their library services and finances.

Our first, but probably not last, CBHL virtual meeting was a success, with the host Robin Everly especially appreciating this comment from Leora Siegel, Senior Director, Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Gardens: “The CBHL annual meeting was a great success! Thank you for all your effort to plan a virtual meeting with all the components of an in-person meeting. I really had a sense of CBHL and our colleagues throughout.”

Many thanks go to the Smithsonian host committee, Barbara Ferry and Leslie Overstreet, and to CBHL members who gave this author tremendous help and allowed me a shoulder to cry on (through Zoom, of course), Betsy Kruthoffer, Suzi Teghtmeyer, Brandy Kuhl and Kathy Crosby. The author also wants to thank all the presenters and all the rehearsals we did to run a smooth program.

Minutes of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

The 53rd Annual Meeting was hosted by Smithsonian Libraries and Archives and held virtually via Zoom.

Part 1; Zoom

Thursday, May 6, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM EDT (part 1)

Call to Order - 3:00 PM

President Brandy Kuhl welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. Board members President Brandy Kuhl, First Vice President Mark Stewart, Second Vice President Allaina Wallace, Past President Anita Kay, Treasurer Betsy Kruthoffer, and Secretary Esther Jackson introduced themselves. Brandy Kuhl noted that the meeting had a quorum (at least 15 members as per bylaws). John Reed agreed to serve as Parliamentarian for the business meeting.

The minutes of the 52nd annual business meeting, hosted virtually by Smithsonian Libraries on May 19 and May 20, 2020, were published in CBHL Newsletter, Number 158, September 2020. Motion to approve the minutes by Leora Siegel, second by Stacy Stoldt, no discussion, motion to approve passed. One addition to the agenda: Brandy Watts to give a report for the 2023 meeting.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report

Esther Jackson noted that for the general election, 37 ballots were received on time through the online voting system. This is a lower response rate than last year's online vote, where 39 members voted. Brandy Watts was elected to the position of Secretary.

Brandy draws on upwards of nine years of experience working in natural history collections, libraries, and archives, which include The William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, The LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The California Botanic Garden Herbarium and Library, and the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden Library. Brandy has been instrumental to a number of National Science Foundation and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded projects such as Global Plants Initiative (NY), The Plants of the Caribbean (NY), and Engaging Our Future to Preserve Our Past; Collections in Support of Biological Research (RSA). Brandy is responsible for overall collection management, assessment, and acquisitions for BRIT Library, including oversight of the special collections and the archive.

As a reminder, all board meeting minutes are shared through the LibGuides in the Members Only section,

here: <https://cbhl.libguides.com/cbhl-board>.

Nominating Committee

Past President Anita Kay thanked Committee members Irene Holiman and Céline Arseneault and noted that this year there was no vote for Second Vice President as that position is being phased out due to the board restructuring. The Secretary's term is now for 3 years.

Treasurer's Report

Betsy Kruthoffer presented the Treasurer's Report. As of December 31, 2020, we had \$48,251.13 in the General Fund, \$8,430.40 in the Founders Fund, \$1,143.81 in the Literature Award Fund, \$8,833.67 in the Long Award Fund, and \$4,561.12 in the Annual Meeting account. Costs for the organization were lower than they have been the past few years, mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the result was \$12,862.17 in net revenue.

https://cbhl.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=61814091

Standing Committee Reports

All committees have provided the membership with a written copy of their report, posted on the listserv. Committee report discussion is included in the next portion of the business meeting. Due to feedback from newer members and first-time conference attendees that they would like to know more about committees, committee chairs were encouraged to say a few words about the purpose of their committees and to give verbal committee reports. Much of CBHL's work is done through committees and all CBHL members are encouraged to participate and join committees.

Annual Literature Award

The CBHL Annual Literature Award Committee consists of Céline Arseneault, Sheila Connor, Susan Eubank, Janet Evans, Rita Hassert, and Brian Thompson (Chair).

The Committee presented the 2020 awards on October 16, 2020.

For 2021, there were 34 nominations of books published in 2019 or 2020. Fifteen different members of CBHL contributed nominations. The selected books were by 29 different publishers.

For this past year, the Committee was pleased that nominators considered how their choices honored diversity, equity and inclusion and how these books reflect the current science of climate change.

The Committee met on April 19, 2021 to consider the nominations, deciding to award two Annual Literature Awards for 2021 and five Awards of Excellence. These winners will be announced at a special program at the 2021 annual meeting on May 6, 2021.

A special challenge this year has been the book raffle, typically a fun, in-person event for all attendees at the annual meetings. Céline has taken on the project of adapting this to our virtual environment in addition to her usual work of maintaining the awards pages on the CBHL website.

Last fall, Sheila produced an annotated list of academic and independent publishers (with websites) that especially honor diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as climate change subjects. This helps identify some new sources of books for our libraries.

Rita writes the press release every year for the award. Sheila will use that to reach out to all the publishers and authors after this year's announcement to encourage future books for the membership to consider for awards.

Charles Robert Long Award Committee

The Charles Robert Long Award Committee consists of Brandy Kuhl (President), Esther Jackson (Secretary), Céline Arseneault, Kathy Crosby, Stacy Stoldt (Chair).

The Charles Robert Long Award Committee recognized Judy Reed for her life-long achievements, outstanding books and articles regarding Preservation, Conservation, and Bookbinding, her role as mentor for so many of us, and her ongoing meritorious service and participation in CBHL. Kathy Crosby created a wonderful presentation to honor her, and we were joined by our colleagues, John and Judy's children John and Maija, as well as a lovely grandchild, for the event.

Communications Committee

Public Relations Report

Rita Hassert, Public Relations Manager

The CBHL social media campaign continues via Facebook (Susan Eubank and Rita Hassert, moderators) and Twitter (Robin Everly, moderator). If you aren't a follower of CBHL on Facebook or Twitter, we'd welcome you to the community!

Press releases were created and distributed for:

- CBHL Annual Literature Awards - 2020 and 2021
- Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit - 2021

Gillian Hayward updated OCLC master records to identify Annual Literature Award nominees and winners. Like Caldecott and Newbery Award winners, CBHL Annual Literature Award nominees and honorees are now visible to a greater audience and are part of the OCLC bibliographic record. These are examples of text added to the master records: "Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) Annual Literature Award - Nominee, 2020" or "Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) Award of Excellence in Gardening & Gardens, 2020." To view these enhanced records, search for "Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries" or "CBHL" AND "award" in WorldCat.

Newsletter Report

Judy Stevenson, Newsletter Editor

In 2020-2021, we published four quarterly newsletters – June 2020 (issue 157), September 2020 (issue 158), December 2020 (issue 159), and March 2021 (issue 160).

Thank you to everyone who contributed content, especially to Beth Brand, Shelly Kilroy, and Gillian Hayward for diligently compiling our member news and book reviews, to Brandy Kuhl and Mark Stewart for their thoughtful From the President pieces, to Kathy Crosby and Chuck Tancin for their wonderful ongoing series on preservation, to Robin Everly for her coverage of the annual meeting and her delightful article on the pets of CBHL, to Judith Taylor for her fantastic essays on historic women in horticulture, and finally to our amazing team of proofreaders – Staci Catron, Jennie Oldfield, Kathy Allen, and Jodi Shippee – I would be lost without you!

All CBHL members are welcome to submit articles, news, essays, etc. to the newsletter. Issues for the upcoming year will be published as follows:

- June 2021 (content due April 15, 2021)
- September 2021 (content due July 15, 2021)
- December 2021 (content due October 15, 2021)
- March 2022 (content due January 15, 2022)

LibGuides Report

Tracy Mehlin, LibGuides Manager

Tracy is stepping down as our LibGuides Manager after the Annual Meeting/the month of May, so we're recruiting for a new LibGuides Manager during the Annual Meeting. Thank you to Tracy for all her hard work as our LibGuides Manager!

CBHL LibGuides Statistics from May 1, 2020, to April 28, 2021

- 93 guides, 15,738 views
- 67 CBHL members have LibGuides accounts
- 35 Guides had zero views; many of these are either unpublished or are not linked from anywhere.

Top 5 Guides:

- Los Angeles County Arboretum Library, 4031 views
- Horticulture Library Consortium E-books (Lenhardt), 1764 views
- Longwood Gardens Library eBook Access and Information, 1455 views
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden Library, 1184 views
- 53rd Annual CBHL 2021 Meeting, 891 views

LibGuides Use Analysis

CBHL user groups who maintain their own guide through CBHL's LibGuides subscription: Los Angeles, BRIT, Mt Cuba, Tower Hill, Toronto, Chicago, Longwood, Olbrich.

- 24% of Guides are "members only" and used as intranet in support of committee work, archives of documents and resources for members.
- 15% of Guides have been updated in 2021.
- 24% of Guides have not been updated since the November 2017 migration.
- 33% (13) of Published Guides had fewer than 20 views in prior 12 months.

Anyone interested in using the CBHL LibGuides description should also see our LibGuides Policy and Ownership Statement, drafted by Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) and approved by the Board in 2018. You can find it on the CBHL Documents page of the CBHL Member Information Center of the CBHL LibGuides.

Listserv Report

Susan Eubank, Listserv Manager

The new version of the listserv management software makes running the listserv a much smoother process -- in particular, the new version is much better at handling spam, so Susan spent less time this year trying to keep spam off the listserv. The listserv now has 199 total users, and the new listserv version also makes it easier to add and delete participants. There are a few users who still need to confirm their email addresses to get access to the listserv.

Webmaster Report

Céline Arseneault, Webmaster

Google analytics for cbhl.net from May 20, 2020, to May 5, 2021

- 6,600 users (44% more)
- 12,000 sessions (93% more)
- Rebound rate: 73% (25% more)

Note: Google analytics will soon be available for the membership directory.

Implementing Table of Contents with Jodie Shippee on CBHL Newsletter page <https://www.cbhl.net/cbhl-newsletter>

- Code has been included to add table of contents (TOC) for each issue along each pdf link. Only 3 last issues' TOCs have been tested and uploaded.

Secure connection has been added to public cbhl.net by the web provider. Invoice will follow.

The Long Award page with all awardees has been restyled after photos of some awardees were added by a former web editor. The plan is to add all awardees' photos in 2021-2022.

A book raffle for the Literature Award will be conducted online through the website during the Zoom meeting of the Literature Award announcement on Thursday, May 6, from 6:00-7:30 pm EDT, replacing the annual book raffle at the annual meeting.

Membership committee asked if we could populate the renewal form automatically from information already in the database - for members already logged in. A tentative request to the web provider came back that it would be possible following approval of a budget by the board. Follow-up will be done in 2021-2022.

Standards for metadata added to the Newsletters pdfs have been established and will be filled by Newsletter editor Judy Stevenson.

Overall Communication Committee (Comm Comm) Activities Report Meg Eastwood, Committee Chair

The Comm Comm is working on two larger projects this year: creating a survey, at the CBHL Board's request, to ask the membership about CBHL's electronic assets/properties; and updating the CBHL Membership brochure.

Surveying the Membership about use of CBHL's electronic properties/assets:

We're asking about the following assets/properties: Website, Membership Directory, Newsletter, Listserv, LibGuides, and Wufoo (registration tool). There was also discussion at our May 5th meeting of whether we should ask questions about the format and structure of future conferences – do we want to continue to offer hybrid conferences in the future? We are talking about this with the Committee on Future Conferences, who said that those questions should either be part of our Comm Comm survey, or part of the post CBHL 2021 survey, since we don't want to inundate the membership with too many surveys.

Questions to ask about all properties:

- On a scale of 1-5 please rate the following regarding [asset]: ease of finding info, usefulness of content, timeliness of content, frequency of use.
- Other types of questions to ask:
- Have you created/contributed content?
- "Did you know" type questions – advertising within survey.

Updating the CBHL Membership Brochure:

We looked at the most recent version of the CBHL Membership Brochure and discussed the broad changes we should make. In terms of choosing which software to use to create the new brochure, we agreed that the more people who can access the file, the better, so we're going to create it in PowerPoint (which can be opened in Google Slides if you don't have Microsoft Office). In terms of content/visual look, we're going to remove the form that asks the member to enter their directory information, and just put a link to the website, where users can join CBHL or renew their membership. In its place, we can put more infor-

mation about CBHL (we can pull information from the Vision & Mission statement). We agreed to find a new graphic. We want the brochure to be easily printable, and we should test to make sure the brochure looks nice regardless of whether it's printed in color or black and white.

Subcommittee details for working on this brochure: Robin (wearing two hats – both a Comm Comm member and also the new chair of the Membership Committee); Rita; Pat; Beth; Suzi, Meg; Judy if needed. In terms of scheduling a meeting, Doodle now charges for use, so Meg is looking into Microsoft FindTime as a replacement.

Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee met on 5/4/2021 with Betsy Kruthoffer, Treasurer; Brian Thompson, Chair; Amy Kasameyer, and Suzi Teghtmeyer.

Betsy presented her draft of the Treasurer's report for the Committee's review. After discussion, the Committee determined the report was accurate and complete. The only suggestions were to add footnotes to:

- Explain the one-time services of an accountant to review the accounts and assist in the migration to QuickBooks
- Annotate the necessary refunds after the cancellation of the in-person component of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

The Committee also recommended a review by the Board of the Long Award restricted fund. The current balance is near the \$8,500 cap indicated by the Procedure's Manual. Questions to consider:

- Is that cap necessary?
- Expenses for the awards and by the Committee are very minimal, no more than a few hundred per year. Does it make fiscal sense to maintain a relatively large balance?
- If not, how could those funds be used otherwise since they are restricted?
- The Committee recommended continuing the practice of transferring the membership fees for life-time members from the Long Award Fund to General Fund each year for surviving recipients.

Founders' Fund

The Founders' Fund Award provides financial support to members interested in attending the annual meeting. The committee members are the current Board of Directors, chaired by the President. Since there were no registration fees or travel costs in 2020 and 2021, there were no Founders' Fund Awards offered.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee recruits and actively welcomes new members to CBHL. The Committee manages member renewals, and the Membership Manager maintains the membership database.

Membership Committee Meeting at the 2021 annual meeting

Wednesday, May 5 at 11 am

Via Zoom/Attendees: Betsy Kruthoffer, Suzi Teghtmeyer, Brandy Kuhl, Janis Shearer, Céline Arseneault, Rita Hassert, Robin Everly and Marina Princz

Interim Chair: Brandy Kuhl

Membership Manager: Janis Shearer

Member Recruitment: Suzi Teghtmeyer

- Robin Everly was voted in as the incoming Membership Committee Chair for 2021-2022.
- There was discussion of offering free memberships for the remainder of 2021 due to COVID and financial status of some institutions? Not sure how this got resolved?

- Brandy asked Céline to look into the cost of the membership directory having a fillable form for those who renew each year with the same information.
- Reaching out to library and i-schools as part of membership recruitment.
- Rita Hassert brought up the membership brochure. The discussion around that is it would need to be able to be printed from a member's printer and the information who to contact would need to be easily changeable or generic.
- Renewal reminders need to go out? Not sure about this item.
- 34 members have not renewed in 2020. Betsy noticed both Arnold Arboretum and Holden didn't renew. Probably should reach out to them and find out why. Robin will do this.

Total Membership (as of 5 May 2021):

- 218 members
- 13 new members

Membership by type:

- Institutional 88 (down 2 from 2019-2020)
- Institutions 44
- Individual 39 (down 11 from 2019-2020)
- Retiree 13 (up 1 from 2019-2020)
- Commercial 9 (down 2 from 2019-2020)
- Lifetime 10 (stable)
- Student 3 (up 2 from 2019-2020)
- EBHL 12

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consisted of Anita Kay, Irene Holiman, and Céline Arseneault. Brandy Watts was nominated for the position of Secretary and elected to this position. The Secretary position is now a three-year position.

Preservation and Access Committee

Hello, all – I'm writing this as a final report from the Preservation and Access Committee (PAC). I have been feeling/thinking that its usefulness may have passed. I got in touch with two other recent past Chairs, Kathy Crosby and Donna Herendeen, and they are in agreement. While it seems important to keep having some kind of forum for conversation and learning about books and library collections and their preservation, maybe that can happen in other ways. Here are comments from Kathy and Donna:

Kathy Crosby: I would still serve on this committee if another CBHL person wanted to Chair. [But] I think too the technical environment has changed so much--so many more ways to provide access, even if somewhat simply by phone from the rare book room. And there are a lot of preservation and archives guidelines as well as the individual experiences of institutions to draw on online. But I do want to continue to promote these topics of discussion!

Donna Herendeen: I think it would be fine to dissolve PAC. It has had a good run. But its function has changed. It would be nice to take what PAC was doing and continue the collections conversations at the meetings. Perhaps there could be a "Collections Forum" or something at meetings to give a space for those kinds of discussions. A committee is probably overkill for that function, maybe just a meeting "feature" similar to the mixer and keynote speakers that the host organizes.

So, unless there are objections or alternative suggestions regarding the PAC, I would like to ask that the Committee be dissolved. Thank you to past chairs Kathy Crosby, Donna Herendeen, and Don Wheeler,

to Committee members over the years, and to everyone who took part in our discussions and activities. Thanks, everyone. – Chuck Tancin

Steering Committee

Annual meeting Wednesday May 5th, 2021 4-5 pm

Committee chair – Stacy Stoldt

In attendance were: Chuck Tancin, Mark Stewart, Suzi Teghtmeyer, Donna Herendeen, Meg Eastwood, Betsy Kruthoffer, Susan Eubank, Robin Everly, Barbara Ferry, Stephen Sinon, Stacy Stoldt, Brandy Kuhl, Brian Thomson, Céline Arsenault, Rita Hassert, Tracy Mehlin.

The Steering Committee shall provide a forum for communication among the Board, committee chairs (both standing and ad hoc), volunteer staff (as outlined in the CBHL Procedures Manual), and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board. The chair of the CBHL Steering Committee is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date roster of all committee chairs, committee members, and liaisons. (The full reports are reflected here).

Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences

Annual meeting Wednesday May 5th, 2021

Committee chair – Stephen Sinon

Fifteen CBHL members attended this Zoom meeting.

In attendance were: Mark Stewart, Suzi Teghtmeyer, Pat Jonas, Donna Herendeen, Beth Brand, Betsy Kruthoffer, Kathy Allen, Brandy Watts, Allaina Wallace, Susan Eubank, Robin Everly, Barbara Ferry, Stacy Stoldt and Brandy Kuhl.

Meeting began at 2PM Eastern time and adjourned at 2:43PM

Meeting dates for Denver are May 24-28, 2022.

Meeting in Fort Worth for 2023 to be held the first week of May. It will be a hybrid conference with a virtual and in-person component offered.

Meeting manual has been brought up-to-date by current host Robin Everly including a newly added section on virtual conference hosting procedures.

Denver has a planning committee of four members including librarian at the Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail as a potential co-host. They have held several meetings already and their next step is selecting a conference hotel.

Fort Worth had no concerns to report. BRIT and Fort Worth Botanical Garden have been combined but remain separate entities which will not affect the conference. Brandy noted she is considering co-hosting with the Dallas Arboretum and that hotel expenses in the area were reasonable. She would consider planning for a hybrid conference if there is a need.

Barbara Ferry texted a comment that hosts should be warned to read the cancellation clauses carefully for any contracts signed.

Suzi is working on a conference in Arkansas next year and also mentioned the non-cancellation clause in contracts was an issue for that.

Susan Eubank asked Allaina to explain how a hybrid conference would proceed.

Allaina said they have priority for reserved spaces at the Garden with a large new auditorium equipped with the latest technology that will accommodate the virtual components and live broadcasting. She said hotels near the garden are expensive but they are looking into downtown campus housing as an option. Mark Stewart reported he had left the Toronto BG and it had staffing layoffs. However, he was hired back as a grant-writing consultant and a new librarian has been hired. Erin Aults in Hamilton, Ontario at the Royal BG notes it is open and none of their staff was let go.

Beth Brand noted the Communications Committee which met earlier in the day mentioned the need to maximize the number attending and thought that offering a virtual platform option going forward would be a good idea.

Pat Jonas noted a need for a member survey to address how people felt about hybrid meetings.

Allaina said the survey question results would certainly be helpful for her planning for next year.

Susan Eubank said it was worth having the membership tell what they want.

Donna Herendeen asked about how the costs would be figured.

Beth Brandt said there could be an option at the time of registration for selecting the virtual option.

Allaina noted they had already done hybrid public programs at Denver but the survey would be helpful for budget planning. Would a fee be charged for virtual attendance?

Barbara noted that costs can be significant and survey results would be helpful for venue planning.

Robin discussed having Friday of the current conference be in person for the day and offering the post conference tour of Oak Spring for members. She mentioned that Meg Eastwood said at the earlier Communications Committee meeting that she was in a meeting that had hired a video producer to run proceedings.

Susan Eubank noted that option would raise costs.

Allaina said the newly constructed Denver facilities were a definite plus for meetings.

Stacy said she thought that post conference tours would be held in person and the cost would fall on the participants.

Beth said we should ask members in the survey question if they know of people who have attended hybrid conferences and how it works.

Pat Jonas noted that in comparison to other professional conferences our costs are low and that attendees should all pay the same registration price whether attending virtually or in person.

Barbara Ferry agreed with charging the same fee for all.

Stephen said he would defer to the Communications Committee to send out a survey question about how members felt about hybrid meetings. He would collate all comments sent to him to present to the Board liaison.

Brandy noted in the past few years post conference surveys had included questions about upcoming conference attendance and that she did not think that budgets for May 2022 were available yet for many institutions.

Pat Jonas said any survey questions should be ready by the end of this conference and that Meg Eastwood was putting together survey questions now.

Susan Eubank said she thought that the focus of Meg's survey was to analyze use of products we currently pay for and questions about hybrid conference preferences would not fit her survey.

Robin said that Allaina should talk to Meg about using the Wufoo registration software or if there is something else Denver prefers to use instead.

Marks said yes, he thought Meg was focused on saving money in her survey.

Beth said we should all poll our colleagues about their hybrid conference experiences and send comments to Stephen to collate.

Robin said she would send ideas for virtual stuff to Allaina and urged her to reach out if she had any need for help, as things appear to be uncertain for the next few years.

Beth suggested the possibility of alternate year virtual meetings.

Stephen wrapped up by saying that the costs of a virtual meeting would certainly encourage more to attend the annual conference and for solo librarians to consider hosting one.

RESULTS:

Agreement to send out the survey poll question to membership about hybrid conferences in light of budget cuts for professional development and travel. Should we offer the virtual option alongside in-person hosting going forward? Should registration costs be the same for either option?

We recommend the question should be appended onto this year's post conference survey.

No new offers for hosting have been received for 2024. Stephen noted that previous offers to host were proffered by Atlanta and Longwood; however, they did not materialize.

Comment on the reports

Discussion about the Preservation and Access Committee's request to be dissolved. John Reed sees another current preservation issue, the issue of digital images. Who in our organization is doing something about this, and who knows where it will be in fifty years. We need a committee that looks at technology, how changes in technology affect our libraries. Leora comments that BHL and ContentDM do take this very seriously and provide backups. Meg Eastwood – a favorite quote about digital assets is that they last forever or five years, whatever comes first. Esther Jackson notes that when the past discussion of removing committees from the bylaws was had, it was determined that the committees themselves would make the decision to be removed, which is what is happening now. Vote to address this in the bylaws. Vote to review the committee's request tabled until tomorrow.

Standing Committee Award reports

Charles Robert Long Award

Stacy Stoldt offered a recap of award presentation the prior evening, when the award was given to Judy

Reed.

Annual Literature Award

Brian Thompson announced that awards will be given later in the meeting with a virtual raffle during awards presentation.

4:00 PM EDT Kathy Crosby motions to adjourn, Stacy Stoldt seconds, motion passes.

CBHL Business Meeting Agenda, Part 2

Friday, May 7, 2021

11:00am Pacific / 2:00pm Eastern / 1:00pm Central / 12:00pm Mountain

Meeting called to order at 2:04 PM EDT; President Brandy Kuhl noted that we had a quorum.

Committee Reports continued

Move by John Reed to review the request of the Preservation and Access Committee and vote to amend the bylaws as needed. John Reed moves, Chuck Tancin seconds. No further discussion, motion adopted.

Update on 2022 Meeting by Allaina Wallace

The plan is to have a hybrid conference (virtual and in-person), and there is a hope that lots of people can come. There is an excellent planning committee of Anna Kongs, Kathryn Downing, Angela Naumov, Meg Eastwood, Gayle Bradbeer, Nanette Kuich. The meeting length is not yet set. We plan to schedule a more traditional meeting including keynote speakers, member presentations, committee meetings, board meeting, business meeting, book award raffle, tours, etc. The theme will be "Elevate Change."

Update on 2023 Meeting by Brandy Watts

Please see Brandy's report in the Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences.

Unfinished Business

Renewal of the Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences. The Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences was formed in 2012 for the purpose of identifying possible future meeting hosts, and to provide general planning and programming support to future hosts. The motion to renew the committee was adopted.

New Business

Ad Hoc Committee on Board Structure

Mark Stewart, Vice President, reviewed the new board structure. The Ad Hoc Committee on Board Structure was formed in 2019 for the purpose of reviewing CBHL board structure to ensure effective board organization. An additional aim was to evaluate board structure in consideration of CBHL's financial resources and budget.

The Committee presented their recommendations to the membership, and in July 2020 the membership voted to amend the bylaws and restructure the board. There is now a new board structure and rebalanced and restructured board tasks.

State of the Industry Survey Results

The State of the Industry Survey Results are available on the Members Only section of the website here. Brandy thanks everyone who answered the survey. Many folks agree that it would be a good idea to do the survey again in a year to find out if the changes from the pandemic are permanent. Many thanks to Brandy for conducting the survey and compiling the results!

General Announcements from the Membership

September 2021

John Reed spoke with Jane Gates. She sends her regards to everyone.

Leora Siegel – last Friday, the library provided a four-hour symposium on the language of flowers – sold out with 500 seats and will share the YouTube link with membership.

Judy Warnement asks what's happening at Holden? People note that great plans that administrators have don't always work out, and Kathy Crosby comments that it tends to haunt your collection forever.

Discussion about the Massachusetts Horticultural Society books. Judy – there was an early duplicate copy that came up for sale... this is from when they were selling their duplicates. The provenance of these items is really important to trace. Their collection is currently in storage and the librarian does not have access to it.

Closing of Annual Meeting

Brandy thanked Robin Everly from the the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives and the host committee for planning and hosting a wonderful virtual meeting. Thank you so much Robin!!! As a thank you from CBHL, a donation has been given to the Smithsonian Botany and Horticulture Library.

Thanks were given to two board members who have completed their terms, Anita Kay as outgoing Past President and Esther Jackson as outgoing Secretary. A welcome was offered to incoming board member, Brandy Watts, Secretary. Welcome Brandy!

Brandy Kuhl passed the gavel to Mark Stewart, new CBHL President. Mark Stewart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Crosby motioned, Céline Arseneault seconded. All in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

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CBHL Newsletter, Issue 162, September 2021

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Submissions Welcome!

Articles may be submitted to Judy Stevenson, Editor, jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org.

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Questions?

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