BOOK PROSPECTUS

Constructing the Heritage of Cultures
A World History of Modern Librarianship

Edited by

Pam Spence Richards (in memoriam)

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1. Scope and Purpose
Our collection aims to present the history of world librarianship in the context of modern developments of the library institution, professionalization of librarianship, and innovation through information technology. Combining documentary history and a critical examination of the impact of Anglo-American culture and librarianship around the world, each of the contributing essays will also examine critical points related to the practice and theory of modern librarianship. It is our goal to outline and feature the core tensions of modern librarianship in local and regional traditions of North, South and Central America and Western Europe, as well as Africa, the Middle East, and South, East and Southeast Asia. We divided the world in terms of cultural geography of librarianship that was organic to our theme, and the available expertise. Such organization extends the common national or regional histories of librarianship and respects our focus on an intellectual and cultural history.

This comparative history of world librarianship has a conceptual focus and unity because all contributors will explore tensions around professional neutrality in the provision of public access to information and knowledge in a democratic society; tensions around the cultural role of libraries and role of information in shaping modern society and scientific progress are played out in specific contexts. We also focus on colonial, post-colonial and neoliberal dimensions as they relate to librarianship and library institutions in these spheres. We are committed to exploring comparatively tensions visible in the American tradition of librarianship as they may be mirrored and articulated within specific regional contexts, and especially examining the problems of adaptation in the regions they study within the distinct cultural, socio-economic and political make-up and institutional interpretations.
**Scope of coverage:** This collection will address a widely recognized and embedded international impact of Anglo-American and its continuing influence for over a century. Because we focus on institutions, professions, and civic life, our collection is far broader in scope than library histories or histories of professions, and tackles issues in international librarianship that are historical and contemporary. Area experts are commissioned to prepare essays of varying lengths, with conceptual frameworks presented in the editorial introductions and the concluding historiography chapter.

**Audience:** The primary audience for this work will be librarians, library students, and the educators in the information science and library programs. It will serve as a reader and textbook in “foundations” courses in English-speaking universities around the world regularly offered in departments of Library & Information Studies (e.g., History and Foundations of LIS; History of the Book, and Community Informatics - all offered at the University of Illinois in Fall 2010; History of Libraries, Libraries Info and Society; Library Cooperation & Networks; and Knowledge Structures & the Information Professions - all offered at Rutgers University School of Communication and Information in Fall, 2010; and The History of Books, Records, Documents in Print and Digital Environments - last offered at Rutgers in Spring 2010). It will also serve as reader for Information Policy and International Librarianship courses at the graduate level in English-language universities (e.g., Loughborough University course modules on Information Services and Libraries, and in the Gender and Information course). Additionally, we see a market for this book in Canada and other Commonwealth English-language universities (e.g., New Zealand’s Victoria University of Wellington’s School of Information Management in 500-level courses such as Information and Society and the 100-level courses such as Introduction to Communications and Information Management). Finally, this book will also be useful for courses in Media Studies and Communication, American Studies in the US on intellectual policy and history, and especially for courses in the emerging scholarly area of book history. For all of these reasons, *Constructing the Heritage of Cultures* will secure a place in an international market.

This pedagogical role is complemented by a steady-seller potential for this book, which we think could become a classic because of its global scope. At the time when libraries are experiencing a crisis cutback, professionals and the general public will be interested to examine the history of the profession. The international and comparative scope of the collection will increase market potential.

Our secondary audience will be an increasing number of scholars and the public interested in the history of organized information, knowledge, libraries, archives, and in how technological, conceptual and institutional frameworks are framing that development in modernity and especially from the twentieth century and during the most recent information age. We see this as part of a general trend that an informed general audience may seek to engage with intellectual dimensions of librarianship in a critical world-systems perspective. Finally, the different styles of presentation (extensive analyses, as well as historiography and visualization) will provide diverse engaging perspectives for multiple uses of this work.

Because of the inclusive scope of coverage, this will be the definitive text on world library history for at least a generation. We think that it will be featured as a reference book in all medium-sized library collections around the world, and all academic and large public libraries.
with interest in world history, library history and history of information management, as well as communication. The conferences organized by Library History Round Table (LHRT), Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP), and Modern Language Association (MLA), American History Association (AHA) and The Modernist Studies Association (MSA), as well as regional conferences and symposia such as the Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA), feature scholarship on the history of information in modernity.

**Timeline for completion:** Our contributors have all agreed to meet the January 1, 2012 deadline for their first draft of the essay. We plan to send the manuscripts to reviewers and finish editing in January 2013.

**2. Outline**
This multiauthor edited volume contains contributions of varying lengths, as deemed relevant to the central concept. Apart from the Introduction by the Editors Wayne Wiegand and Marija Dalbello we will also feature Pam Spence Richards’ text composed at the time when this project was launched (ca. 1500 words).

**OUTLINE**

Introduction to *Constructing the Heritage of Cultures, A World History of Modern Librarianship* (Editors) (25 pp.)

Wayne Wiegand  
*North America* (125 pp.)

Rosa Maria Fernandez de Zamora (with Manuel J. Rojas Villarreal)  
*Latin America* (100 pp.)

Peter Hoare  
*Western Europe* (125 pp.)

Anthony Olden  
*Africa* (75 pp.)

Shmuel Sever  
*Middle East* (50 pp.)

Jagtar Singh  
*South Asia* (50 pp.)

Priscilla C. Yu  
*East and Southeast Asia* (75 pp.)

Ross Harvey  
*Australasia* (50 pp.)

Marija Dalbello  
*Historiography of Comparative, Cultural and Intellectual History of World Librarianship* (25 pp.)
3. Length
Based on the page length assigned for each of the contributors, we calculated the length of the manuscript to 725 pages or 181,250 words (without collective bibliography and index), based on calculation of 250 words per double-spaced normal 8 ½ x11 page. Front matter and back matter in relation to body of text are specified in the outline. We do not have a sense of how large the index will be at this point.

4. Methodology and Presentation
The experts commissioned to write the individual chapters will prepare their contributions according to standards of scholarship in library history and in many cases they will base their interpretive analyses on secondary sources and published histories, as well as archival research. We asked contributors to identify primary source materials for this area as a special requirement, and to make transparent their research methods. Each of the finished contributions will be sent to an independent peer-reviewer to ensure quality. Therefore, we ask for $2,000 to be divided up among the editors we will solicit to read the manuscripts. We think this would be in the best interest of the publisher as it will increase the impact of the collection early on, and it will help advertise the book and ensure solid endorsements. Editors will ensure that the conceptual focus presented earlier is maintained in all contributions, although we will allow for distinct presentation in each of the essays. We will not enforce an encyclopedic style as each essay is also interpretive, but we will address variability in the editorial Introductions.

This collection is original because it weaves together essays that are theoretical and rooted in interpretive essays accessible to non-experts. The collection will have implications for pedagogy within several fields in the social sciences, and the humanities.

Because we want this to be a usable handbook with solid theoretical objectives, we will feature a timeline and some visualizations for the factographies presented in the essays as part of the editorial analysis and the historiography chapter (Marija Dalbello). We will feature a common bibliography for all essays that will present comparatively the areas based on the essays.

5. Sample Section
Please find enclosed a sample chapter on North America, by Wayne Wiegand, which can demonstrate the organization, content, writing style (as a combination of documentary and interpretive critical library history), and scholarly apparatus. The chapter is formatted according to a preliminary form of our notes for contributors.
6. Similar or Related Works
While there are no books on the same topic, here are some major books on similar or related
topics, including collections and encyclopedic projects such as national history of the book
projects in Canada, France, and the United States. Some of these titles are listed here:

Bates, Marcia J. and Mary Niles Maack, eds. *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*. 3rd
ed. (Taylor & Francis 2009)

Commonplace cultural history of libraries, broad periodization (including burning of Alexandria,
battle of books, etc.)

Beyer, Kurt W. *Grace Hopper and the Invention of the Information Age* (MIT, 2009)

Burke, P. A. *Social History of Knowledge: From Gutenberg to Diderot* (Blackwell, 2000)
A socio-cultural approach to historical forms of organizing knowledge, knowledge representation,
and information in Europe (15th-18th century), including history of libraries.

Carpenter, Kenneth E., ed. *Books and Society in History (Papers of the Association of College and
Research Libraries rare books and manuscripts preconference, 24-28 June, 1980, Boston,
Massachusetts)* (R.R. Bowker, 1983)

Carpenter, Kenneth E., and Thomas Augst, eds. *Institutions of Reading: The Social life of Libraries
in the United States* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007)

Standard history of libraries from the ancient world to the middle ages

A pamphlet (blog-like in tone) covering current polemics and favorite topics on information,
libraries, ebooks, open access, including the reprint of a famous essay *What is the History of Books?*

Diringer, David. *The Book Before Printing: Ancient, Medieval and Oriental* (Dover Publications,
1982)

Single-volume.

Febvre, Lucien, and Henri-Jean Martin. *The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing 1450-
1800* (Verso, 1997)
Classic work in the Annales tradition on the advent of printing and the booktrade in Western
Europe (and the new world); limited coverage of Central and Eastern Europe and the world.

Textbook and reader covering the major arguments and survey of history of books and printing
scholarship; incidental though limited coverage of libraries and librarianship.

(University of Wisconsin Press, 2003)
Standard work on the American history of librarianship during the Progressive Era; close treatment of the rise of professionalism.

Hall, David D. *Cultures of Print: Essays in the History of the Book* (University of Massachusetts, 1996)
Books and reading in New England, early American to 18th century.

Harris, Michael H. *History of Libraries in the Western World* (Reed Business Information, Inc., 1995)
Development of libraries within the context of Western civilization, from the Ancient World, medieval period, and modern period, with a revised edition presenting an account of the “information revolution” since the 1945 and the political movements in Europe in 1886.

Hoven, Jeroen van den, and John Weckert, eds. *Information Technology and Moral Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
Essays cover the history of information ethics for the emerging technology and the transformation of the public sphere, communicative freedom, and internet publics, social epistemology.

Popular didactic history divided in the progressing ages of the book in terms of human life-cycles (infancy, adulthood during the early modern era, maturity, and future)

Revision of Svend Dahl’s overview of the history of the book.

*Library Trends*, Vol. 55, Number 3, Winter 2007 (Guest editors: W. Boyd Rayward and Christine Jenkins)
Special Issue: Libraries in times of war, revolution, and social change.

Popular historical overview of reading, libraries, a popular version of much scholarship in this field (such as represented by work of Roger Chartier and Guglielmo Cavallo’s, *A History of Reading in the West* as well as book on the history of books and reading by Paul Steinberg, Lucien Febvre, etc.)


Murray, Stuart A. P. *The Library: An Illustrated History* (Skyhorse Pub. & ALA, 2009)
Focus is on libraries and library history from the ancient libraries, European medieval libraries, Asia and Islam and the modern history including the colonial North America to date; coverage of libraries and librarianship, pictorial.

History of librarianship “from below” - taking on a gender perspective, similar to studies by Louise Robbins, Mary Niles Maack and other American library history scholars.

Pearson, David. *Books as History: the importance of books beyond their texts.* (The British Library & Oak Knoll Press, 2008)

Encyclopedic compilation of essays by library historians on various types of libraries and library institutions


Wright, Alex. *Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages* (Joseph Henry Press, 2007)

History of information organization and information management, the history of knowledge from information and library work perspective and information storage and retrieval, unlike similar work by Anne Blair, Lucia Dahome, Peter Burke, and others from the humanities perspective.

National histories of the book (selection):


This history of the book and publishing in France includes histories of libraries.


V: *The Enduring Book: Print Culture in Postwar America*. Eds. David Paul Nord, Joan Shelley Rubin, Michael Schudson and David D. Hall.

This synoptic history of the book in America includes the history of libraries.


I: *Beginnings to 1840*. Eds. Patricia Lockhart Fleming, Gilles Gallichan, and Yvan Lamonde.

II: *1840-1918*. Eds. Yvan Lamonde, Patricia Lockhart Fleming, and Fiona A. Black.


This multi-editor and multi-author history of the book in Canada across the provinces includes essays and histories of libraries in Upper Canada and the provinces and modern Canada.

These works together demonstrate the vitality of the field internationally, and show that there is a niche for addressing cross-disciplinary approaches to the visible dimensions of writing. The main scholarly presses are already engaged with the topic of library history and
increasingly those relative to information work in the information age. Current historical literature explores the historical dimensions of librarianship in terms of institutional histories, or individual histories, dividing works that deal with the present and those of the past (relegated to histories of books, reading, and publishing). In classic historical works the periodization predictably presents a genealogical growth of libraries, distinguishing libraries in the Ancient world, following up with medieval, early modern (Renaissance) libraries, to date. The “information revolution” is considered in the general framework of modernity and often in an addendum to those historical treatments. Our concept places the history of the profession at the core of expertise and institutional activities of library and information work, and bridges that classic duality of the past and the present. Modern history of librarianship is not part of the history of libraries, reading and the book trade. In our broad and comprehensive coverage for the proposed volume – presenting a world history, paired with a critical analysis inherent in the intellectual history approach – promises to extend beyond a Eurocentric focus of most existing works. An absence of historical consideration of the role of individual figures and library associations in a comparative perspective but again without a comparative dimension that we hope to achieve with the proposed volume. We see that there is a gap in coverage and the special approach that we will bring to this subject.

7. Resumes

We engaged area experts for each of the contributions, and will seek peer-reviews for each of the essays. We want to keep uniformly high scholarly standards among these widely ranging fields. The contributors will treat the concept and history of world librarianship by examining a range of relationships and contradictions involved in this complex area of study, together with the theoretical perspective.

The editors will bring their complementary backgrounds in library history as well as history of information and comparative cultural scholarship on libraries, professions, and information technologies.


Marija Dalbello has published extensively in the area of print culture and visual epistemology, digital library development and digital textuality, and social history of media and information. She co-edited Print Culture in Croatia: The Canon and the Borderlands (2006) with Tinka Katic, and Visible Writings: Cultures, Forms, Readings (2011) co-edited with Mary Shaw. She is an associate professor of information studies at Rutgers University, where she teaches courses on book history, social epistemology, and social history of knowledge, information, and the cultural record.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Marija Dalbello

Marija Dalbello is an associate professor of information science at Rutgers University. Her research, teaching and publications focus on visual genres and visual epistemologies, digital heritage, the history of knowledge, documents, and collections, and history of the book. She served on several international book awards juries, chairing the 2011 Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) De Long Prize in 2011. She co-edited Print Culture in Croatia: The Canon and the Borderlands (2006) with Tinka Katić and Visible Writings: Cultures, Forms, Readings (2011) with Mary Shaw. She is currently working on a book on ceremonies of information in the Habsburg sphere. She co-directs the Rutgers Seminar in the History of the Book.
Rosa María Fernández de Zamora
Rosa María Fernández de Zamora is professor and researcher at the Nacional Autonoma de Mexico Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecologicas (CUIB-UNAM). Her main research interest is in library history, Mexican book and printing history and documentary heritage. She collaborates with national and international associations including AMBAC, IFLA, and UNESCO. She is also Chairperson of the Memory of the World National Committee.

Ross Harvey
Ross Harvey is Visiting Professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston. Before joining Simmons he held positions at universities in Australia, Singapore, and New Zealand. His research and teaching focus are the history of the book and the stewardship of materials in libraries and archives, particularly digital materials. He has extensive experience in research projects in Australia and the U.K. He has published widely in the fields of library history, newspaper history, history of the book, bibliographic organization, library education, and the preservation of library and archival material, most recently a book on Digital Curation (2010).

Peter Hoare
Peter Hoare was University Librarian at the University of Nottingham for fifteen years before retiring to work on historic libraries and the history of libraries, with publications on Germany, Italy, Russia and other European countries as well as the British Isles. In 1967 he founded the journal "Library History" (now “Library & Information History”) and is a former chair of the Library History Group. He was the general editor of the “Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland” (3 volumes, 2006) and co-editor with Alistair Black of the third volume, covering the period 1850-2000.

Anthony Olden
Anthony Olden is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Professional Studies School of Computing and Technology, Thames Valley University, London. He teaches in information management and corporate communication graduate programs. His research and publications are on information and education in the developing world and in particular in Africa and the information world of refugees, focusing on public library service in Tanzania, and most recently on case studies involving Somalia and Eritrea. He published in a range of research and professional journals, including The Library Quarterly, Alexandria, History of Education, and Aslib Proceedings.

Manuel J. Rojas Villarreal
Manuel J. Rojas Villarreal is currently teaching at Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) in the master of library and information science online program. He also works in the Mexico City Iberoamerican University Press as Copyright Manager and as legal representative of the Universidad Iberoamericana Mexico, in the Mexican Copyright Office (INDAUTOR). His bachelor’s degree is in History for the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH). His dissertation and primary research interests are the history of copyright and the book circulation in the late 18th century in New Spain, which later led him to study a Master in Library and Information Science at the National Autonomous
University of México (UNAM). There he studied the history and recent development of the Mexican first Library Association (AMBAC).

**Shmuel Sever**

Shmuel Sever is Professor Emeritus of Graduate Library School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He held Visiting Professor positions at various library schools including Indiana University, University of Oklahoma, University of Chicago, and Columbia University. He participated in many prominent national and international projects, lecture series, and consulted on topics ranging from academic libraries, library management, and scientific information to library automation. His research on the social aspects of librarianship, as well as comparative and international librarianship, reading, and library education resulted in multiple publications, including two editions of his *The Library in Society in Israel* (1990, 2nd edition 1996).

**Jagtar Singh**

Jagtar Singh is professor and Head of Department of Library and Information Science at the Punjabi University. More at: [http://www.punjabiuniversity.ac.in/](http://www.punjabiuniversity.ac.in/)

**Priscilla C. Yu**

Priscilla C. Yu is Professor Emerita of Library Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA. Her research interests include international librarianship, library history, collection development, and administration and management. She has published widely on the history of modern librarianship in East Asia and the Chinese library collections during the Cold War and presented multiple papers at international conferences and meetings. Her publications include a monograph, *Chinese Academic Libraries: Acquisitions, Collections and Organizations* (1997), and an entry on “China: Libraries, Archives and Museums” (with TzeHuey Chiou-Peng), in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, edited by Marcia J. Bates and Mary N. Maack (2010).

**Wayne Wiegand**

Wayne A. Wiegand is F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies Emeritus at Florida State University, and currently Senior Scholar-in-Residence at FSU’s PALM Center. He also serves as Director of the Florida Book Awards. As author and editor of many books (including *Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey*) and over one hundred scholarly articles, he is often referred to as the “Dean of American library historians.” In 2008-9 he was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow to support research on his forthcoming book, *This Hallowed Place: A People’s History of the American Public Library.*
Although heritage, culture, and tradition refer to a similar state of being, there is a subtle difference between the three terms. This construct consists of the ways of living that are developed by a group of people, and it remains stable mainly from one generation to another. The merger of multiple cultures could potentially develop a new culture. A prime example of such a situation is organizational culture which refers to the behaviors of employees within an organization or individuals of a particular institution. These people come from a different cultural background and their confluence results in some kind of a "new" culture with elements of the original constituent cultures. Heritage Definition. Concerning the concepts of 'culture' and 'cultural heritage', it will be useful to see additional references. These are particularly relevant to UNESCO's programmes, and therefore it has been thought logical to quote extensively from UNESCO's mid-term plan for the current six-year period. To start with, however, a reference to the concept of 'culture' which has been studied by anthropologists. The idea of the heritage has now been broadened to include both the human and natural environment, both architectural complexes and archaeological sites, not only the rural heritage and the countryside but also the urban, technical or industrial heritage, industrial design and street furniture.