

## [SLIDE] Introduction

- [Beth will frame and introduce]

Today talk about my project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation

Project focused on:

- Missionary Research Library Archives and the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives
- MRL is 150 collections that are grouped by geographic location from missionaries themselves, missionary organizations, and others involved in the similar activities.
- The Ecumenical collection, comprised of about 30 collections, documents the modern ecumenism, or study of Christianity, movement.
- The majority of these records are from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s, although the earliest item is from the 1600's.

## [SLIDE – Various Collection Pictures]

- Collections contain unique cultural depth, geographic breadth, and historical importance. The material can be of interest and use for historians, anthropologists, economists, and medical researchers, among others.
- Missionaries and organizations were the “first responders” or at least first to document the locations outside of the culture itself.
- Fully-processed collections are now accessible
  - Point out information on the slide
  - Dental clinic in China from the 1920s
  - Photograph from American Constantinople Relief, 1912-1914
  - Map showing aid from Armenian and Syrian Relief
  - Paper coins that were to be burned at funerals in China (Hume papers, 1914)
  - Handwritten note from someone who worked with Native Americans in USA

## [SLIDE] – Completed Projects

- **PROMISED:** 3 years, 573 Linear Feet
- Process, arrange, describe and make available.
- Assistance of interns and work study students.
- **Actual:** 776 linear feet of archives in 183 collections

### **[SLIDE] - Scope**

- All of the collections now have MARC records with updated information and also include the link to the finding aid
- This has made the catalog and the results for researchers easier to understand, more streamlined and efficient.
- We exceeded the goal of processing:
- Grant proposal stated we would process 15 linear feet per month.
- Over the course of the grant, we processed on average 19 linear feet per month.

### **Theme 2 [SLIDE] - Conservation/Preservation**

- Increased use means increased threat of damage
  - All of the materials are in new acid free boxes and folders.
  - Some materials digitized to increase ease of access as they are used and requested often, and we wish to preserve the originals
  - a filmstrip from the Church of South India was scanned thereby preserving its contents
  - An online display of G.E.E. Lindquist Native American photographs
- Thanks to Janet Gertz, Alexis Hagadorn and their teams for assisting us.

### **Theme 3 [SLIDE] – Providing Access**

- How have we done this?
- **Luckily for us, it is a little bit easier than this!**

### **Finding Aids [SLIDE] – Unlinked versus linked**

- On the left side, it was just a list of what we had by title. Couldn't tell you very much about the stuff, or how it could help your research
- Now there is a sea of blue! So many links
- This sight now makes Beth very happy
- All keyword searchable

### **[SLIDE] - EAD**

- EAD, encoded archival description, is an international standard for XML markup maintained by the Library of Congress in partnership with the Society of American Archivists. The goal of EAD is to make collections more accessible to users and to reduce the complexity of finding aids.
- RBML and Avery using EAD, copied with RBML was doing

- EAD files were created from the MARC records, which sped up the creation of the individual aides.
- At this time the collections all have an EAD file, and many of them have fully encoded container lists for boxes and folders.

→Thanks to Stephen Davis, LDPD and Terry Catapano among others for getting us up to speed on this venture.

### **[SLIDE] - Academic Commons**

Some of you may remember when the Columbia Library website was updated about two years ago? During this time, the URLs were changed from “libraries” to “locations” in the update. Well, this made all of our hyperlinked finding aids within all of the documents go dead; everything linked in Voyager; and it also made anything linked outside of Columbia go dead as well. Ultimately an edit was created in Voyager so that the files were redirected to the appropriate place. However Beth and I wanted to think of a way that perhaps this could be prevented in the future; perhaps with a stable link?

- Creation of a finding aid can be very time-consuming – a lot of research goes into these documents and many people consider them to be publications.
- emailed Rebecca Kenison at CDRS to get her take on it, and she agreed and welcomed the inclusion of finding aids in AC
- Thank you CDRS!
- New tool for usage statistics. It has been very interesting to see when the items are being downloaded, and throughout the lifetime of the upload what has been important.

### **Theme 4 [SLIDE] – Outreach and Promotion**

So, we did all these great things with our archival collections –How did we tell the public about this?

### **[SLIDE] – Social Media**

- Started in 2012, one year into project to start advertising
- Twitter and Facebook pages for the Burke and started posting regularly about collections
- Wrote and solicited articles for the Burke Library Newsletter

### [SLIDE] - Blog

- I created project blog, and I think this where we really shined.
- Populated with articles written by me, interns & student assistants.

### [SLIDE] – Examples of collections in project blog

- Quotes
- Gripsholm Prisoner Exchange (1943)
- Love letter from a missionary (who died soon after)
- Withdrawal of Assyrian Christians in Persia, 1918

### [SLIDE] – Publications and Me

So has any of this been successful? The finding aids are all on the web, they are in Voyager, EAD, and showing up in a variety of results through CLIO. I've seen them used in Wikipedia, and google in general picks up these results.

- Led many presentations that included MRL and WAB materials.
- displayed and spoke about collections at Union Seminary events
- New York Genealogy and Bibliography Society
- Provided material for an architectural class on Modern Chinese Architecture, and the Columbia University Class, “Modern China Documents and Bibliography Course”
- promoted the project at conferences
- Two updates on the project to SAA's *Academic Archivist* (Spring 2013) and ART's *Metropolitan Archivist* (Winter 2013) and wrote an article for an issue of *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*.
- Hosted two talks by researchers who have used the MRL and WAB collections

### [SLIDE] - Researcher Visits

Earlier in February, I attended an Archivist Roundtable of Metropolitan New York meeting with Society of American Archivists president Kathleen Roe. She said during the question and answer session, **“It doesn't matter how much you process if nobody comes.”** Well luckily for us, people have been coming!

- From July 2011 until December 2014, the number of researcher visits and boxes requested doubled.
- 2012 is when the social media began, and a big increase in requests there can be seen.

- MRL and WAB collections make up 17.5% of the total archival collections at the Burke.
- Promotion of the Project has led to more researchers

### Nature of collection

- So you may be thinking, missionaries and the study of Christianity – that must mean Theologians are the bulk of our users
- **That assumption is incorrect!**
- While yes, we do serve theologians, we have a much wider audience than just that.
- Kept track of researchers throughout grant, only those using MRL and WAB archives. This does not show those using other collections in archives, or even Rare Books
- 116 individuals, some of whom came multiple times
- Of the 116 individual researchers who used the collections in-person from 2011-2014, how many of those do you think were from theological schools or churches?
- **6 people.** That means 95% of the people coming to research at Columbia University were **not from theological schools.**

### So where were these researchers from?

#### [SLIDE] – Map of international

- We've got almost all of the continents covered
- Trying to raise awareness across Columbia's campus and beyond
- As Beth likes to say, "Burke Library – Not just for theologians anymore!"
- Exhibit at Butler which was in the few display cases for a few months showing some surprising things from our collections
- Poster campaign

#### [SLIDE] - Library Research Awards

We have seen an increase in requests for collections via the Library Research Awards program.

- Three awardees of the Library Research Awards have used collections in MRL and WAB, since they are now discoverable
- We have even had people who applied for the Library Research Awards, but did not receive them, but then pay their own way to come to the library to access the collections.

## [SLIDE] – IMPACT and OUTPUT

### [SLIDE] - Intern program

- One aspect of my work as an archivist and information professional, and something that I have always enjoyed and been passionate about, is working with future professionals.
- Beginning in January 2012, I was able to have some assistance
- Overall, 14 library school interns and 5 work-study students, 8 other work-study students who helped with special projects.
- All of the library school interns were matriculated in a local graduate school specializing in library science, with some of the students taking specialized courses and training in archives, preservation and records management.
- One international intern was from **ENSSIB** (*École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques*), a renowned library school in Villeurbanne, France.
- Variety of experience from the students.
- Regardless of this, I have developed an internship program that all of the students are held to, whether they are taking the experience for credit or not.
- The point of the internship is for the student to fully understand what it means to be a processing archivist. They take collections from beginning to end, write the finding aids, advertise on social media, digital asset management, and MARC records...
- Throughout semester students write blog posts.
- The first is on their first day, where they write about their expectations, hopes, dreams, etc... The student blogs throughout the semester, and finally their last day they write a final reflection post.

And, this program is working! Even at the end of their internships, they may not know what is next but they know the value of what they have learned and done hands-on.

### **[SLIDE] - Quotes from interns**

- Tracked the employment status of the library school interns who worked on this project.
- Of the 14 library school interns, four are still in school. The other 10 all have jobs in the field or in related positions.
- 5 have become archivists at institutions such as
  - Princeton University
  - Center for Jewish History
  - the Brooklyn Academy of Music
  - Winthrop Group
  - American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
- Other past interns are now employed as catalogers, user experience designers, adjunct faculty, and customer order clerks at the following institutions:
  - Poet's House
  - Columbia University
  - Farmingdale State College.

### **[SLIDE] - Outputs of researchers**

One way in which we can measure the impact of this project is through the output of these researchers. As I stated, the growth of the questions and usage of the collections has increased significantly over the life of the project. But what have they been doing with this stuff?

- The response rate from about half
- Responders included students, faculty, professors, independent researchers and an independent documentary filmmaker. We found that there are a variety of research products (completed and in progress) as a result of this project.

These are just from **in-person** visits [**Slide Stats!**]

### **[SLIDE] – Assessment - BETH**

### **[SLIDE] Conclusion and Discussion - BETH**