News from the Bowdoin Library

Fall 2020

Humanities and Media Librarian Carmen Greenlee welcomes First Year students from the seminar *Presidential Elections: From the Constitution to the Campaign Trail*, taught by Professor Andrew Rudalevige.

This semester has presented an abundant variety of challenges for the Library. The pandemic has necessitated significant alterations to our surroundings and the way work is accomplished, although the nature of the work itself has not changed. Face coverings and social distancing requirements did not deter students, who have enjoyed the quiet atmosphere of Hawthorne-Longfellow and the branch libraries over the past several months. And the Library’s indefatigable staff have continued to focus on meeting the needs of the campus community. Since the start of the semester staff members have acquired 350 books to support fall courses, processed 1,700 items for Reserves, digitized dozens of films, prepared over 1,100 volumes for Take-Out, provided more than 500 articles through digital delivery, and mailed an array of books to students who are studying remotely. The Library’s Virtual Help service, with Research Librarians and members of the Circulation Department at the ready, has logged close to 600 questions to date. Librarians provided instruction in 112 class sessions, both in-person and remotely, created a host of digital resources, held over 300 one-on-one consultations, and offered an extensive series of virtual citation management workshops for students. With appropriate safety measures
in place, Special Collections & Archives has assisted researchers in the department’s reading room throughout the semester and has supported 30 classes across 16 departments and programs, including 6 First Year Writing Seminars that met in Hawthorne-Longfellow Library’s Nixon Lounge to engage with primary source materials.

Not totally focused on COVID-19, the Library has continued to advance several long-term projects this semester, notably the preparation for a major collections shift at the Hatch Science Library, which will precede the construction of two classrooms on the top floor of the building during summer 2021, and the implementation of Aeon for Special Collections & Archives. Aeon (ā·on), a web-based system that enables users to request that items be pulled for consultation in the reading room or to order digital reproductions, also allows researchers to store information about the materials they’ve consulted, making it easier to cite items or request them again. Following the system’s launch on December 1st, users can visit aeon.bowdoin.edu to create an account.

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The Library Joins HathiTrust

HathiTrust is a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries preserving over 17 million digitized items. Bowdoin’s membership provides students, faculty, and staff with the ability to view and download all public domain materials in the collection as well as access to HathiTrust Research Center computational services and to the Accessible Text Request Service for users who are blind and/or print-disabled. Log in on the HathiTrust site with your Bowdoin credentials (through Okta). Additional information on HathiTrust collections and services can be found here.

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Noteworthy New Resources

Bowdoin faculty, staff, and current students now have access to the Portland Press Herald and Times Record through a site license provided by the Library. The subscription includes access to archived content for both papers since 1984, and the Portland Press Herald and Times Record ePapers & Headlines App. Registration and access information can be found here.

The Library’s video streaming resources have been enhanced by a subscription to Jacob’s Pillow Online, which provides access to select full-length performances and talks from the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival Archives, including master classes, recordings of webinars, and the Jacob’s Pillow’s Virtual Festival 2020.

Special Collections & Archives recently added two important Arctic-related holdings that together illustrate the breadth and depth of the
department’s collections in this area. Spencer Apollonio (Bowdoin 1955) generously donated his correspondence, field notebooks, preliminary and unpublished scientific reports, and Kodachrome photographs documenting the origins, progress, and conclusions of his twelve research (and other) trips to the high Arctic conducted between 1952 and 1986. And, the Library purchased copy no. 6 of the deluxe edition of Anneli Skaar’s Nansen’s Pastport, an artistic re-invention of Norwegian polar explorer and humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen’s refugee passport for post-Great War Europe. Both Skaar and the book’s publisher, Two Ponds Press, are based in Camden, Maine, and are notable contributors to the state’s flourishing book arts culture.

Upcoming Events

Beyond the Reading Room: Archives in the World with Don Westfall ’72

December 3, 2020, 9:30-10:30 A.M.
Live Virtual Event

Join Special Collections & Archives staff and alumnus Don Westfall (Class of 1972) for a discussion of his extensive research in the College archives on Bowdoin’s historic acquisition of land in Maine.

Details and Registration

Recordings of Beyond the Reading Room presentations held earlier this semester can be viewed here.

Audubon Birds of America Page-Turning

December 4, 2020, 12:30-1:00 P.M.
Live Virtual Event

For this month’s page-turning of Audubon’s Birds of America double-elephant folio, Special Collections & Archives welcomes Jacqueline L. Scott, a PhD student at the University of Toronto, OISE, in the department of Social Justice Education, and the author of the blog Black Outdoors, who will discuss birdwatching while Black.

Details and Registration
Winter Break Library Hours and Services

The Library will be closed for winter break, from December 24th-January 10th. Plan ahead! Place requests for:
- CBB/MaineCat items by December 15th
- Bowdoin-held items by December 22nd
- Bowdoin Digital Delivery items by December 22nd

Please request Interlibrary Loan items as soon as possible as delivery times vary and are dependent on our partner institutions. Digital delivery of articles is ongoing, though many of our partners are still not loaning physical materials. Contact Guy Saldanha with questions.

The entire Library staff wish you and all your loved ones a safe and restful break!

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