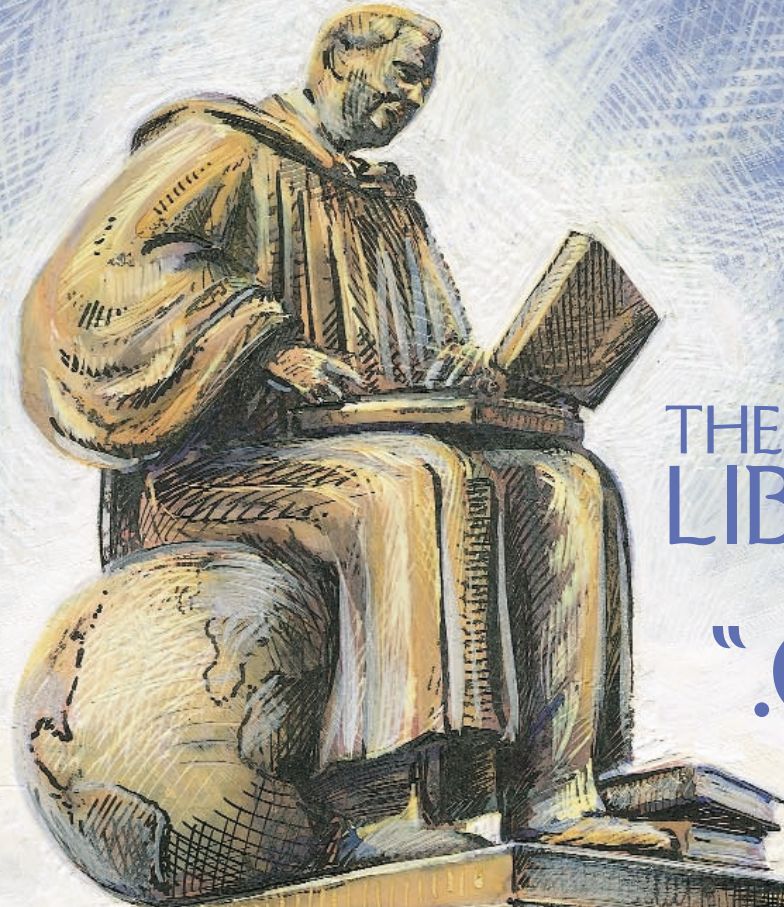


THE ACORN Chronicle

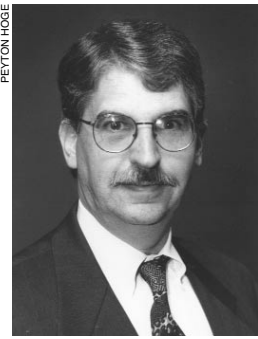
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THE
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PAGE 6

Even the statue of
Harold Stirling
Vanderbilt, guarding
Library Lawn from
the top of the hill, finds
it easy to access library
resources remotely through
the library's Web site at
www.library.vanderbilt.edu

HAROLD
STIRLING
VANDERBILT



Paul M. Gherman

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Gee Named Vanderbilt's Seventh Chancellor

E. Gordon Gee, 56, the former president of Brown University, will be Vanderbilt's seventh chancellor, effective August 1. During his March 31 visit to the library, Gee met with University Librarian Paul Gherman and members of the Library Management Council, including Mary Beth Blalock (left), director of the Education Library, and Shirley Watts (center), director of the Music Library (see more news about Watts on p. 10).



SHIRLEY WATTS

53rd among the 115 North American members of the Association of Research Libraries. There is a correlation between the strength of the library and the academic strength of a university.

We try to build our collections in the face of two competing pressures: inflation rates for books and serials average 5% to 9% annually while the University's tuition increases have been held to around 4%. Gaining added strength under these conditions will be extremely difficult without additional library funds from sources other than tuition. One source could be income from endowed book funds, but the library does not have sufficient funds to generate much additional income. Last year the return on such funds accounted for only 1.5% of new book and serial purchases. Vanderbilt cannot hope to compete with the top twenty universities without a much larger endowment for its libraries.

Our third goal is to reorganize and remodel the General Library Building so that the Central Library can become a dynamic academic gathering place, on a par with the University's world-class Student Recreation Center and the newly remodeled Sarratt Student Center. The oldest section of the GLB was dedicated the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and the "new wing" was added almost 30 years ago. The size of the collection has more than tripled in this time, and space arrangements and utility requirements to deliver digital information are far different than those in a library planned over 60 years ago. We have already moved more than 600,000 books from several of the library divisions to storage at the Library Annex, and many more must be moved in the near future. We hope to hire an architect who can provide a new vision for the GLB, enabling us to understand the possibilities and costs of improving the quality and attractiveness of this facility.

Meeting all three of these challenges is critical to the library's future effectiveness and its ability to provide necessary resources to University students, faculty, and alumni. The dedication and assistance of a broad range of library supporters will be essential to our success. This planning process has helped us identify our goals, challenging as they may be. I believe that knowing what must be done is a major step toward making the Heard Library system a sustaining and enriching element in the fabric of this great University.

Paul M. Gherman

CONFESSIONS OF A COLOMBIANIST BIBLIOPHILE

BY J. LEÓN HELGUERA, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, EMERITUS

May 30, 1999

How does one become a bibliophile? It is a question I have only asked recently, having been one for over a half century. I grew up in a home which held books (in several languages) in high esteem. My maternal grandmother, a devotee of classical Austrian and German prose and verse, spent years attempting to find (among the second-hand book sellers of New York) a special edition of Joseph Viktor von Scheffel's *Trompeter von Säckingen*. There were over 80 between 1864 and 1918, and having to accompany her in these searches I would learn some rudiments of collecting: to respect the discrete quality of book editions. Suffice it to say, my Nana never found the right *Trompeter*!

So when, at 14, I came to live for some years in Mexico, I became aware that my uncles, and great-aunts and great-uncles too, possessed sizeable libraries. My uncle Pancho, then residing in Monterrey, had a half dozen shelves stacked with 16th- and 17th-century parchment volumes on theology plus paper-bound French poetry. His older brother, Julio, in San Luis Potosí, owned a fine assortment of 19th- and early 20th-century Mexican and Spanish history classics. My paternal grandmother's siblings, also residents in that city, had extensive religious tracts and periodicals and works of Spanish literature.

But it was not until I came into my Uncle Nacho's large library in Mexico City that I came to appreciate the utility of bibliographies, for he had a large assortment, plus the standard works of English, French and Spanish literature, and a dozen bound Mexican and Spanish literary periodicals from the 'teens through the 1940s. Whereas his brothers' and uncles' and aunts' collections numbered in the high hundreds, in 1941 Uncle Nacho's approached 3,000 items. By the time of his demise in 1967 it had reached 5,000, including some quite rare works such as 16th- and 17th-century legal treatises, which he in turn had acquired from some great-uncles of his.

I also had the good fortune to have as a mentor in the final years of high school, a Chicago-born Hibernian, Paul Vincent Murray, who collected from the early 1930s through the 1960s Mexican imprints relating to the Catholic Church's travails in the 1910 Mexican Revolution. His library's special strength was in handbills and pamphlets, those so easily lost ephemera of Latin American political expression. Mr. Murray urged me never to neglect this kind of collecting. I never have.

While I did, as a boy of 14, start to haunt the second-hand bookshops on the far side of Mexico City's Alameda Park, I could only acquire a few books, mostly for their binding. Furthermore, by the

¹A survivor of her own library, an almost unique edition of a Colombian romance, is described in my "Del zarzo de mi abuela: la edición coatepecana de *María*, 1875," [From my grandmother's attic: the Coatepec edition of *María*, 1875], *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* (Boulder, Colorado, No. 8, 1990), pp. 41-42.



1940s, the Mexican antiquarian book market had been invaded, first by German, then by U.S. scholars and libraries, and the pickings grew slimmer each year.

A Bevy of Booksellers

A stint in the United States Army, then a return to Mexico, where I finished my undergraduate degree with those superb academic exiles from Franco's Spain, and a return to this country brought me into a limbo of several months, for graduate schools were then full. I filled those months with work in Pathé Labs and in trying my hand at antiquarian book selling. My list of Latin Americana did well, but my capital was insufficient to continue in the trade, and Chapel Hill beckoned. Some years of class work, marriage, and two tiny children followed. Eventually, I acquired two fellowships, and my family and I were able to embark for dissertation research in Colombia. The country was in an uneasy peace after some years of highly partisan Conservative rule and emergent Liberal party guerrilla resistance which was being (temporarily) disarmed. It was a society whose edges had been scarred by its civil strife, but it remained one where an elitist lifestyle still set the tone.

Colombia was and remains a country of regions, each with its main city, and Bogotá, its capital. Imagine a chilly city of some 600,000, abutting, lengthwise, a (then still) green range of the Andes set upon a swampy verdant plain, and you will have Bogotá, Colombia, in October 1953 when first I arrived there.

After spending my childhood and youth in Mexico City, where most people who could do so dressed with some flair and elegance, the contrast with Bogotá was instantaneous: its denizens dressed in funereal black or Carmelite dark brown. The men all wore wool suits and fedoras or homburg hats. Everyone who could carried an umbrella for the cold rain could come down without warning in long torrents. At 8,660 feet above the sea Bogotá saw itself (with some justice) as the "Athens of South America."

The great Simón Bolívar once characterized Venezuela as a barracks, Ecuador as a convent, and Colombia as a university. A hundred and thirty years later, the Liberator's generalization still had a certain validity. Bogotá taxi drivers were experts on the civil and criminal codes, and the principal newspapers remained models of Spanish grammatical correctness, reflecting the general populace's pride in their spoken and written language. Much poetry was read and written.

And, although the radio was making inroads, Colombians generally were devoted readers. Books were part of most household furnishings, and the strong place of lawyers in the civil bureaucracy brought numerous collections of professional books into existence.

As a journeyman historian in graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I learned that Colombian histori-



cal works were rare in United States college and university libraries, and so, even before arriving there, had determined to build a working collection.

Once established in Bogotá itself, I discovered that the National Library held great stores of 19th- and early 20th-century materials, but had no funds for collection development. The library of the Colombian Academy of History also held pockets of rich holdings, especially pamphlets and newspapers from the 19th century.

A third institution, then just really starting, was the Luis Angel Arango Library, today the prime Colombian library. The Arango, just before I arrived, had emptied the shelves of the dozen or so second-hand book sellers of their Colombian, especially bound newspapers and some of their pamphlets.

But this unhappy fact I would learn later. In the meantime, I began collecting. I first came to the bookstore of Don Eduardo Licht, a somber man, to say the least. I spied a few works of interest, and, as I waited to pay for them, I noticed a flushed-face man in a tired homburg and an even more tired-looking, dark chocolate-colored suit, winking at me trying to indicate something. This man turned out to be Don Senén del Camino, my devoted bookseller-to-come. He was, of course, trying, by body sign language, to warn me not to buy the books, the price of which Don Eduardo had coincidentally raised after I placed them on his counter!

Just as Don Eduardo Licht resented having to stand behind a counter, having once unsuccessfully attended Law School, so too, Don Senén, with far slimmer resources, refused to open a book shop, considering “trade” too confining. He had spent more than 19 years behind a counter as a telegraph office money order functionary, only to be sacked three months before he could claim his pension. He had, therefore, gone into the used book trade as an ambulatory hunter of bibliographic treasures. Although much reduced in social status, Don Senén still enjoyed some repute among the local book buying elite. This elite consisted of the members of the Colombian Academy of History and those of the other learned or specialized

societies, of which there were about a half dozen and some few dozen non-academic collectors.

Another cherished friend and book supplier was Don Mario Caicedo Posada, a man who also retained some social cachet, especially among the book-buying clergy, regular and secular. While Senén would dispense painfully garnered data on rarities he had handled, Mario would sell me valuable imprints at fair value, but only if I swore myself to secrecy and hid my treasures from his competitors—especially the unlearned, but ambitious, dealers from Antioquia, the Jaramillo brothers. Mario Caicedo Posada’s place of business was the corner edge of a café, about 12 feet by 6 feet, in which he crammed his wares but changed his stock frequently.

Luis Rincón, a widower, lived a few blocks from the center of town in a low adobe house that he shared with his aged mother. The front room, a dark place, was his shop. Not only did occasionally otherwise unobtainable pamphlets and broadsheets make their appearance there, but so did a number of paper-bound political tracts from the 1920s and 1930s. When Luis Rincón’s only child, a son who had achieved a modest success in Venezuela, dragooned his father into joining him there, the father’s misery at being separated from the inner city of Bogotá was so palpable that the senior Rincón eventually returned to his penurious, but homey book selling trade.

Of fearsome temper and choleric repute was Julia Sánchez. Her speciality was the *Gaceta Oficial*, the Official Gazette. She spent years assembling sets of this bulky periodical, tramping from government office to office negotiating for individual issues and/or years. Nora Julia also lived downtown in a stall owned by her sister in the barn-like Pasaje Rivas market. She would be found among stacks of *Gacetas*, wooden kitchen utensils, clay pottery, and various bundles of rope and smelly saddlery. The key to doing business with Nora Julia was Bavaria beer. A half-dozen bottles would convert her from intractability to benevolence and bargain-granting reasonableness. Her fixation on *Gacetas* made her indifferent to pamphlets, but she would gather these up anyway—to my great profit!

Light years away from Julia socially (if not physically) was the antiquarian Don Antonio Cancino, whose two-story shop was really part of the Bogotá Cathedral—a testimony to Señor Cancino’s excellent clerical connections. Stacked away among the antique swords, lances, stirrups, furniture and brass cookware, Cancino’s had occasional treasures, especially early 19th-century official imprints. He was sometimes testy, and it was often better to deal with his miscreant son or dutiful daughters for items while their parent was attending mass next door.

A final Bogotá book and imprint source, also in the heart of the old city, was the shop indifferently managed by Sr. Eliécer Gaitán,² well into his seventies. He was the father of Dr. Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, the populist Liberal leader assassinated on 9 April 1948 by persons still unknown. Eliécer Gaitán, of extremely traditionalist Liberal political views, had been the bane of the existence of his son, whom he had treated harshly. After his brilliant offspring’s tragic death, the father continued in his book business, mainly dealing in second-hand books and in used school texts. He did not take many pains

²For data on Eliécer Gaitán and his bookshop, see Alberta Figueredo Salcedo (comp.). *Colección Jorge Eliécer Gaitán. Documentos para una biografía*. Tomo I. (Bogotá: Imprenta Municipal, 1949), ff, and the photos between pages 18 and 21. Also, Luis David Peña, *Gaitán íntimo* (Bogotá: Editorial Iqueima, 1949), pp. 88-89.

with his other basic stock of very dirty, dusty items, many of them local law collections, long-out-of date school texts, and, mixed in, some very valuable early Bogotá imprints, including prayer books and novenas (nine-day prayer booklets). All made it worthwhile to browse there, if you could handle the dust.

The Collection Increases

As my collection grew, so did my appetite for more! Having to visit archives and libraries in Popayán, the hometown of my thesis protagonist, General Tomás C. de Mosquera (1798-1878), I set off, first by train, then when the rails ended, by taxi across the middle range of the Andes and descended into the lush Valley of the Cauca, again by train, stopped off in Cali, where I bought more books at bargain prices, then took a plane to Popayán itself.

Landing in the quiet colonial city, I sought out more of the local Mosqueras, one of whom gave me a lock of his ancestor’s hair and several imprints. A day or two later I met another branch of the family; the two branches had been on poor terms since the General’s second marriage (to a niece; the first had been to a first cousin) some eighty years before.

Quite by chance, I also visited another Popayán elite family, and noticed some interesting publications strewn in corners of the *sala* (the parlor). They noted the focus of my attention and inquired if I were interested in more such old imprints! When I acknowledged, with thinly disguised excitement, that I was, the family allowed that the attic overhead contained much more of the same. I found an Ali Baba cave of books, imprints, broadsides, pamphlets and other materials. After some hours of moving the materials down a rickety bamboo ladder aided by a hapless peon, the ancient head of the decayed house offered it all to me for 500 Colombian pesos, then about \$167 U.S. I was hardly prepared for such an offer, having in mind dusting off the attic’s contents and selecting 30 to 50 items. Upon hearing of my intentions, Don José María “X” ordered everything piled down in the ground floor patio and burned! All such things, treasures for me, were only reminders to him of his family’s former prominence, and he, now that the attic’s contents were accessible, had decided that to hold on to such objects of grander days gone by was mere vanity!

What to do? I cringed at the thought of such wanton destruction, not having 500 pesos at hand. I did, however, have a check book of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Citizens’ Bank, and so wrote him a check. He accepted it without question. The materials got shipped expeditiously to Bogotá within ten days and my collection had been dramatically enlarged. Some of the early Spanish—not Colombian—imprints I managed, once in Bogotá, to sell at a profit. Next, thanks to a friend, I learned of another library for sale in Bogotá, that of the Cantillo O’Leary sisters.³ These grandes dames were the granddaughters of the Irish-born General Daniel Florence O’Leary (1800-

³The sisters resided in a late colonial house located on the lower side of a narrow street. In their prime, in the 1890’s up to the 1930’s, they were celebrated as hostesses and confidants of major Colombian cultural and political figures. On one occasion, highly indignant, the Cantillos called on the Bogotá authorities alleging that their neighbor across the street was engaging in indecent behavior. A senior police official duly appeared. He looked at the offending house, but could discern nothing untoward. The Cantillos insisted that their neighbor disrobed in public, to their great horror. Again, the police inspector tried to spy any offensive conduct, and again, found none. “Ah”, said the sisters, “that is because you are not standing on the dining room table, from where the man’s outrageous behavior is perfectly discernible!”

1854), Bolívar’s secretary and later biographer.⁴ Once I had gone over their books, I managed to purchase a handful of items, but the sisters withdrew others which I had dusted and cleaned and which, 45 years later, I still mourn not getting! This experience of viewing and cleaning a collection and selecting some books from it, and not being permitted to buy all of them, would be repeated a few more times. One such especially painful memory was with the library of Dr. Lorenzo María Lleras (1811-1868),⁵ a famous 19th-century Liberal educator and intellectual. How it got into a storeroom in downtown Bogotá was never explained, but there it was, a glorious assemblage of handsomely bound sets of 19th-century Colombian, first editions in fine condition (once the grime got removed), no fewer than 300 items. My selection made, it was cut 90% by the vendor, and I had to leave hardly all that pleased.

What of course happened in these instances (and others) was that my role as an interested foreign collector was to serve as benchmark for the local owners of old books. Items I found desirable, *they* would too! It is probably true that this sort of brain borrowing has occurred ever since books began to be sold.

In further book-buying jaunts, especially in neighboring Boyacá Department, where I was the only client for certain imprints, the playing field, as it were, got more level, and my offers were usually accepted. These “country” excursions looking for books began to extend to hacienda houses, and once there, the owners were queried as to whether they cared to dispose of any spare books. One out of three or four would, and a deal would be done.

These remarks refer primarily to 1953-1954, a period in which there were no other graduate students or scholars working in Colombia. It was also a time in which there was no really organized antiquarian book trade, save in the most occasional sense. In the early 1960s, once the Peace Corps became a fixture in the country, and United States historians and political scientists became more concerned with Colombia, university and college library interest would bring far more order as well as less adventurous book hunting! The greatly enlarged Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango also became a steady consumer of Colombian bibliographic treasures, and so did Colombian universities.

The era of men like Senén del Camino and Mario Caicedo Posada, book sellers to a small elite, would end by about 1975. They, and their colleagues mentioned above, however, did so very much to make this Colombianist bibliophile! 🐼

Maps of Bogotá reproduced from *Las Calles de Santafé de Bogotá, Homenaje en su IV Centenario, 1938*, by Moisés De La Rosa, Bogotá, Imprenta Municipal.

⁴For Gen. O’Leary, see Jo Ann Rayfield, “Daniel Florencio O’Leary: from Bolivarian General to British Diplomat, 1834-1854.” (Ph.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 1969).

⁵On Lleras see Robert H. Davis, “Acosta, Caro and Lleras: Three Essayists and their Views of New Granada’s Problems, 1832-1853,” (Ph.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 1969), pp. 167-242.

Vanderbilt's Heard Library takes users beyond the Web to scholarly information resources

BY BONNIE ARANT ERTELT

Here's the scenario: It's 2 AM. You're a junior physics major who has just finished proofs for your lab in quantum mechanics. You're in your dorm room, ready finally to hit the sack, when you realize that day after tomorrow—next week—you have a paper due on Jane Austen for the English course you're taking. You need to find some resources fast if you're going to have enough time to review them and write this paper, but the library is closed at 2 AM.

Or is it?

The toughest decision this student has to make is not where to find resources, but when to find time to sleep.

For a student at Vanderbilt, in a dorm with Internet connections, scholarly resources are literally a click away at www.library.vanderbilt.edu. From the Heard Library's home page, this student can search ACORN or any number of other Nashville area library catalogs, as well as library catalogs from regional universities such as the University of Kentucky and University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Research databases like the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature, LION: Literature Online, or the Modern Language Association International Bibliography are there for the student's perusal. If the student above were to click the subject guides button for English, literary resources on the World Wide Web are readily available for any budding Austen scholar.

Of course, the big question is: Do students know that this much quality information is available through the library's Web page? Are they, in today's parlance, information literate? And if they are, are they aware that even if they access these resources remotely from their dorm rooms—or off-campus by proxy server using their VU Net ID—they are, in essence, at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library?

Lost on the Information Superhighway

As computers and various other technologies have entered our work and private lives, the number of ways one may receive information has increased at such a rate that living in the "Information Age" requires new skills and abilities in information retrieval. The American Library Association has a committee devoted to "information literacy" that studies the impact of the information explosion. In their progress report dated March 1998, they define information literacy as the ability to recognize "not only when information is needed, but to identify, locate, evaluate, and use effectively information needed for the particular decision or issue at hand. The

information literate person, therefore, is empowered for effective decision making, freedom of choice, and full participation in a democratic society." In addition, the report stressed that economic independence and quality of life in the U.S. are dependent on all citizens becoming lifelong learners—which essentially means learning to learn in such a way that one can easily adapt in an environment of constant technological change.

Lewis Branscomb, the Harvie Branscomb Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt and Aetna Professor, Emeritus, of Public Policy and Corporate Management at Harvard, gave a recent presentation on campus in which he illustrated how fast these changes have taken place. He reported that it has taken only four years for 50 million people to begin using the Internet. Comparatively, it took 13 years for that many to use television, 16 years for the personal computer, 38 years for the radio, and 74 years for the telephone. He described the unique, shape-shifting properties of information in this kind of fast-paced, technological environment: "When I give it to you, I still have it; I can give it to everyone at once; its value is context dependent, so it is difficult to price; it is hard to protect."

Librarians, of course, are trained in organizing and retrieving this kind of slippery entity. Jean Reese, librarian and associate director of the Education Library, remembers when the first CD-ROMs were put into use, starting the shift from librarians conducting online research to librarians training patrons to do their own research.

"I started in August 1986, and at that time the librarians were doing online searches for people doing dissertations," she recalls. "It was the first year we had a CD-ROM product, ERIC. It was command-driven, not graphical or intuitive in nature. You had to know what to type in. We used to do a lot of one-on-one instruction with people because of that."

"These days we see an increase in the number of people who come in, sit down, and start doing something," she says. "I believe it's because of the Web. People are more comfortable with using the computer to search for information, but sometimes we have concerns about how their skills translate to research. I'm not sure they can always distinguish between a professionally prepared database that is accessible on the World Wide Web and a Web page that someone has put up, and who knows what their credentials are."

Not only are there questions about how students evaluate the information, but also about whether they know how to search effectively and efficiently.

"We have a number of people who come to the desk and they'll say 'I've looked at all these places on the Web, and I can't find anything,'" says Melinda Brown, librarian at Central and bibliographer for women's studies, economics, and philosophy. "If they'd started in ProQuest or Lexis-Nexis (two of the Heard Library's full-text databases

available on the Web page), they would have found more information. Some come and ask, but others don't. We need now to focus on services for people who may not come and actually talk to someone in the library. We need to address the issues of those who might be in their dorm room as opposed to coming over here."

"The Library has its strength in helping people evaluate information," stresses Brown, "and in teaching them how to adapt the research process to an increasingly electronic environment."

A Short Course in Boolean Logic

"I think everyone who has ever staffed the reference desk has thought at one time or another that if they're shown one more new database, they're going to go into a meltdown," says Becky Ray, librarian and bibliographer for psychology at the Central Library.

"It is hard, because you retrieve the information in each database, or in many of them, in several different ways."

Ray is in charge of bibliographic instruction for the Central Library. "Virtually all of the databases will let you use 'and,' 'or,' truncation, or nesting to do keyword searches," she says. "You learn to read the help screens and look for either truncation or variant endings. You zero in and find out the little bit you don't know

about that particular database. We teach patrons how to use keyword searches and do those things for themselves."

This year Ray's workshop was entitled "Discover the World Beyond .com" and concentrated on extending students' skills in searching the Web to encompass searching ACORN and at least one of the electronic databases. These kinds of skills are easily transferable to other databases.

"What was different this year," says Ray, "was that I tried to acknowledge the skills that many people now come in with in terms of general Internet search engines. I'm trying to actively state where they can take what they already know and apply it to library databases, and also show them how they work differently. You can't assume that what happened in your search on the Web will happen here."

Most people who have used a search engine to look for something on the Web know that you usually get a list sorted by relevancy, that is, a particular search engine will weight your keywords in a particular way and give you a list of ranked sites. Internet search engines vary by how they weight your search criteria. Not so with ACORN.

"ACORN sorts automatically in reverse chronological order," says Ray. "So, it may be that your best hit for a keyword search is number 59 as opposed to a Yahoo search where you may have 30,000 hits, but the first 5 are your best bets. Patrons have to remember that they're using a different search engine and the way results are returned is different. That's where I see people make errors."

Coming up with relevant keywords may seem like an easy task, too, but the way one phrases a search directly determines what kinds of search results ensue. It's all related to Boolean logic and set theory.

"If you're in AltaVista or Yahoo, and you're searching for 'racehorses Kentucky Derby,'" says Ray, "it will assume 'or' as a connector, which is why you get all those hits. First you get those with all the words, then those with most of the words. That's what 'or' means. In ACORN, if you put in all those words, you won't get anything. In a keyword search on ACORN, you may need to explicitly add your own connector."

"And' makes your set smaller. 'Or' makes your set bigger, and that is absolutely the opposite of the way most people think of it. For instance if I say 'Becky and Bonnie,' that's two people, right? Don't think of it that way. If I say, 'Everybody named Becky or Bonnie stand up,' we both stand up. But if I say, 'Everybody named Becky and Bonnie stand up,' I don't stand up and you don't either."

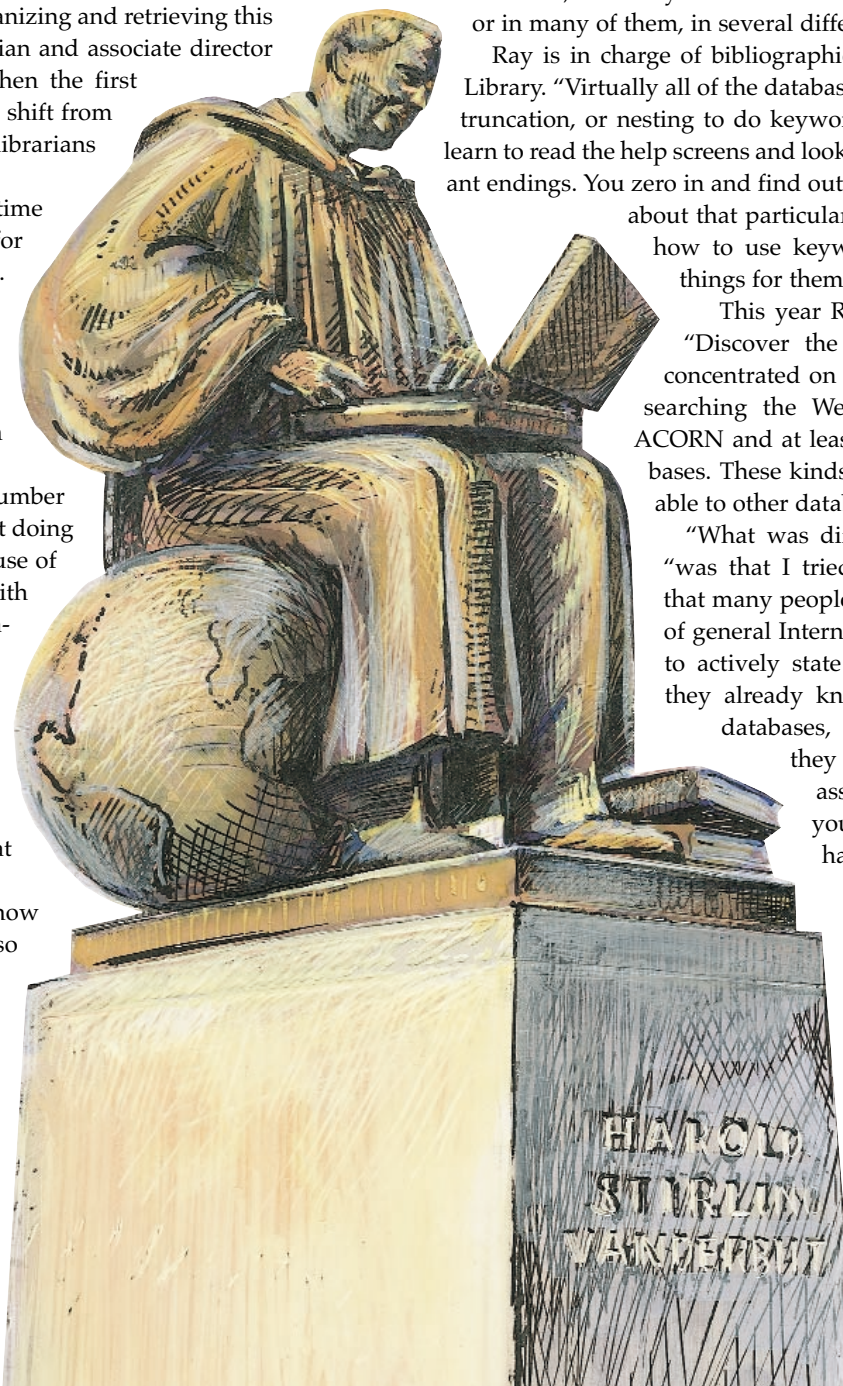
"And' is another requirement; it's not adding two sets together. 'Or' makes your set bigger because it gives you variance, as in 'horse or filly or mare' or in using variant spellings—'color or colour'—that will suit your requirements."

Truncation is another keyword searching technique that Ray focuses on in her classes. "It's the same thing I learned in ninth-grade algebra when I learned to round something off. It means you don't care how it ends. Let's say I'm looking for 'regulations,' but I'll take regulation, regulate, regulated, regulatory, regulations—any of those. So, I put in 'regulat' (as much as all those variations have in common) and then replace the end of the word with a symbol. In ACORN, the symbol is \$; it differs for other databases." Nesting is simply using parentheses to tell the computer the order in which to properly process your search.

Probably the main misconception Ray runs into when teaching her classes is that people assume everything can be found on the Web for free.

"People think it's all out there in space for anyone to grab," says Ray. "They don't realize that the good research they're going to be able to access is from the library's home page. They're not going to get it from AltaVista or Yahoo. The electronic databases and full-text databases listed on the home page exist because the library buys them, the library evaluates them, the library maintains them, and the library has people who know how to use them. You can call them on the telephone if you don't want to come in."

"You can't go off-campus or outside Vanderbilt's proxy server,



type in the Web address for Lexis-Nexis Universe, for example, and access what it has to offer," Ray continues. "You can only get it through the Web because the library makes it available. And it's expensive."

The Library of the Future

In the Heard Library's recent strategic plan, digital, Web-based resources take a central position. "Vanderbilt scholars can now create bibliographies, examine literary and historical texts, build chemical structures, survey fine art collections, and read journal articles from their homes, dormitories, or offices," the plan reads. "We expect to accelerate the digital conversion of our collection, offering electronic books, and replacing print periodical backfiles with full-text digital facsimiles." But it goes on to explain that there will continue to be a place for print materials, which predominate in the humanities and social sciences.

Anne Womack, librarian at the Divinity Library, understands why this division between electronic and print will continue. In Divinity, as in other humanities, there is still very active use of historical collections. Her vision of the library of the future consists of two layers: a "non-building" library of universally available electronic resources and divisional libraries that serve users based on the specific informational needs of their schools.

"In ten years, you could have a general set of electronically-presented resources that all the libraries chip in from their budgets to purchase—a wonderful array of information resources that are universally available to the Vanderbilt community whether you're at home or on campus," says Womack. "The librarians' role would be to organize these resources so that they are easily accessible. That means integrating resources that we purchase from vendors, that patrons can use without ever coming in here, without ever talking to a librarian. That's the sense of a virtual library.

"Then, even more than now, the individual libraries will become more separate in the way they choose to serve their patrons. We'll become more aware and sensitive to the needs of our schools. For instance, the recently built Eskind Biomedical Library was designed with very limited space for books because so much of their material already is electronic in form. This is true for most scientific, technical, and medical (STM) disciplines. I could imagine that in ten years, their space needs could greatly dwindle, and their support staff would be oriented more toward the electronic.


"The humanities would be very different," she explains. "We have very active use of our historical collections in ways that STM disciplines do not. In Divinity, for example, we may choose to put more of our resources into maintaining the physical book collection, and we may have to continue purchasing more actual books. That's the only way some of the material is available. It's not presented in elec-

tronic form because of the nature of the discipline. So, libraries that are as different as the Divinity Library and the Medical Library, or the Education Library and the Law Library, cannot be linked too tightly as we march down this path to the future."

"We're here to meet the needs of faculty, staff, and students," agrees Reese. "I don't have a problem with looking at what those needs are and trying to accommodate what the future holds. Ultimately the definition of the library is dependent on the school and the administration."

The definition of what Vanderbilt holds, as far as ACORN is concerned, has already changed. ACORN is no longer the equivalent of the old card catalog system. It now lists links to sites on the World Wide Web as well as the library's physical holdings

"ACORN is no longer what Vanderbilt owns," explains Ray. "It's Vanderbilt's way of helping you get information you need, whether we own it or not. It does bring up some philosophical issues, and the bibliographers in Central talked about how this changes the nature of ACORN. The point, however, is to help patrons get the information they need with Vanderbilt's library expertise behind it.

"If you have good library research skills, you're going to go beyond what you can find on the Web," says Ray. "We're going to help you find scholarly information that has been filtered through a library and through librarians. It's not just out there and we don't know where it came from. The Vanderbilt Library and all the librarians here are behind the information you find on our Web page. That's the world 'beyond .com.'" 



"Excuse me, I'm lost Can you direct me to the information superhighway?"

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THE LIBRARY, 1941: A REMINISCENCE

J.P. Foster, BA'41, JD'50, current chair of the Heard Library Society and a long-time member of the Friends of the Library, remembers the summer of 1941, when the General Library Building, then called the Joint University Libraries or JUL, was being readied for its dedication. It was a summer of preparation for the coming war as Nashville held a city-wide aluminum scrap drive, Roosevelt and Churchill met at sea, announcing their war aims in the Atlantic Charter, and Foster received a commission as second lieutenant in the Army. He shares these log entries, which were the basis of an article in the Fall 1991 *Chronicle*.

Mon., July 28

Miss Fleming of Joint University Library [sic] asked if I wanted a job moving books.

Wed., July 30

Up at 7 AM to VU. Dr. Kuhlman having books moved from old library to new. I and James Penrod, VU English major, carried together. Rather heavy work. 30¢ per hour. Ate lunch at Mack's.

Thurs., July 31

Another day carrying books as of yesterday. Ate lunch at new Campus Grill, a subsidiary of Dr. Taylor's Drug Store. University furnishing us with salt tablets to prevent heat problems.

Fri., August 1

Books at VU again.

Sat., August 2

Worked the entire day again. Carried copies of New York Times newspapers; went over to Kirkland Hall to help bring them down.

Mon., August 4

More books—VU library. Penrod, Gardner, and I to Peabody Demonstration School for lunch. Cheap place to eat.

Tues., August 5

More books at VU library. Jas. Penrod, my partner,

fell on steps and cut face.

Wed., August 6

Books: loaded them from the front of the building

Thurs., August 7

Banner photographer made picture of us moving books. Didn't work after twelve. Got check for week of book toting, \$14.03.

Fri., August 8

With books again. Relatively light day. Picture of yesterday in night Banner.

Sat., August 9

Finished up moving most of VU's 125,000 books to the new library.



The day after the new JUL building was dedicated, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The United States declared war on Japan the following day. J.P. Foster was called to active duty as a second lieutenant in the army and resigned with the rank of lieutenant colonel at war's end after serving in a combat division in the South Pacific.



"I give UnCover and ScienceDirect a list of subjects and they tell me when something has been written in those areas. I don't have to go to the library and look through journals. I pretty much know what's being published in my field."

Al Strauss,
professor of mechanical engineering

Al Strauss appreciates the ease and efficiency of using the electronic journals and databases subscribed to by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. From his office on campus, his home, or even far from Vanderbilt, he can do research and print articles directly from the computer any time of the day or night.

The ease with which researchers now are able to access sources vital to their scholarly work has changed the way those in the academic community conduct research. The Jean and Alexander Heard Library currently subscribes to more than 4,000 full-text electronic journals and 150 online databases, all available through the library's Web site. Databases change constantly, however, as more journals are added and technology is upgraded. These resources are available only at a tremendous cost.

Your gift to the Library helps make such dynamic resources available to students and faculty at Vanderbilt. For more information, please contact Elaine Goleski in the Office of the University Librarian at 615-343-4701.



The Eskind Biomedical Library held an open house April 13 and 14 that focused on information resources for the research community. Trainers from the National Center for Biotechnology Information and the Institute for Scientific Information were on hand to provide demonstrations. Exhibits highlighted services and electronic resources.

Eskind Biomedical Library Forms Training Partners for Tennessee Public Health

The Eskind Biomedical Library recently received National Library of Medicine seed funds to promote information use in the public health community. The major goal of the project is to make public health officials aware of the applicability and relevance of electronic information resources to their work and to measure the use and usefulness of resources. To achieve this goal, the EBL has joined with the Tennessee Department of Health, the Metropolitan Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County, the Area Health Education Centers

(AHEC) Program of Tennessee, the Knox County Health Department, and the University of Tennessee,

Memphis Center for Health Policy to form Training Partners for Tennessee Public Health (TTPH), an alliance to promote information use and provide training opportunities throughout the state.

TTPH conducted an extensive survey of the information needs of Tennessee's public health community, and data from this survey guided the development of training sessions now held weekly at EBL. Additionally, on-site training sessions will be held at various health agencies.

A teleconference to inform a large segment of the public health community about grant writing and project information also has been broadcast. For more information on Training Partners for Tennessee Public Health, please contact Nila Sathe, assistant director for information, education, and research services, at (615) 936-1543, or access the Web site at www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/publichealth/.

Watts to Retire After 44 Years as Music Librarian

On September 17, 1956, Shirley Marie Watts began work at the Music Library. She plans to retire August 4, 2000. Having worked almost 44 years in a single division is a record unmatched in the library's history.

Watts, BM'57, MA'61, MLS'67, all from Peabody, began work as an undergraduate student assistant in the Music Library when it was located on the third floor of the Social-Religious Building. She continued to work there while attending graduate school and shepherded the library in its growth at Peabody and its move in 1985 to the new Blair School building. Watts, who holds a Vanderbilt fac-

ulty appointment as lecturer in music bibliography, is the person most directly responsible for the collection, services, and overall development of the Music Library.



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In 1996, to celebrate her 40th anniversary with the library, a group of friends, former students, and members of the Nashville music community created the Shirley Marie Watts Acquisitions Fund at the Blair School in her honor. The fund, whose balance now exceeds \$10,000, is tangible evidence of the high esteem in which she is held.

A national search is being conducted for a new director of the Music Library.



Dean Ettore Infante, center, speaks with Pat Ward, professor of French, and Jean-Paul Monchau, Consul Général de France, at the open house for the relocation of the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies on February 22. Cécile Peyronnet, Attachée Culturelle from the Consulat de France, was also in attendance.

Newington-Cropsey Sculpture Installed

The latest sculpture from the Newington-Cropsey Foundation was installed on the lawn in front of the campus entrance of the General Library Building in mid-May. The sculpture, whose theme is the tree of knowledge, was dedicated as part of Reunion activities on May 27.

Several sculptures from artists at the Foundation have already been installed on campus; a total of 15-20 sculptures will be placed at Vanderbilt over the next three to five years.

Variety in Paradise

For Elaine Goleski, paradise may well reside on earth in her roles as assistant to the University librarian and library development officer. She enjoys the whirlwind of variety—days which encompass doing everything from arranging social events to writing and editing library publications to providing support for the library's senior administrators.

"There are times when I think of people I've interviewed for positions here who say the reason they want to work in a library is because it's quiet and they like to read. I don't think I've ever hired anyone who said that, because it seemed to me that their view of libraries and mine were incompatible."

Goleski, MA'80, began working at the library as a secretary in 1978, while finishing her doctoral research in the English department. Ultimately, she chose the library over her budding career in English, progressing from the clerical ranks to managerial and administrative levels over the last 22 years. One of her favorite jobs was manager of the library annex. "It was fun transforming an old phone company central office near campus into an off-campus storage facility for the library, making up rules and procedures as we went along."

The Ohio native has served as president of the University Staff Council, chair of the Women's Center Advisory Board, chair of the Faculty/Staff Campaign,



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and was a member of the 1999 Leadership Development Forum. What she brings to her new role as library development officer is familiarity with Vanderbilt and the Heard Library system as well as an understanding of the central position a strong library occupies in the University.

"I know from my own experience as a graduate student that broad and deep library resources are critical to the University's teaching and research missions," she says, "and as a staff member, I have learned that support for those resources is essential."

As the library attempts to balance extensive and valuable print collections with the technology that is redefining the library itself, Goleski finds that this kind of paradise is a particularly exciting place to be.

"I have had the great good fortune to work for people here who have challenged me to use my skills, enabled me to develop new ones, and helped me find a true calling.

"I am committed to the library: I believe that few other organizations on campus affect faculty, students, staff, and the Nashville community so significantly."

"I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library."

Jorge Luis Borges

Eyewitnesses to Vanderbilt's History

Commuting to campus via streetcar. The Owen School's genesis in a former funeral parlor. Tanks on the corner of Twenty-first Avenue and West End when Stokely Carmichael came to town. The Peabody merger. When women students wore dresses and men wore neckties.

Historian Amy Sturgis has left few stones unturned in an ambitious oral history project aimed at recording yesterday's Vanderbilt by interviewing key players in the University's life. Sturgis, MA'95, PhD'98, has spent two years immersing herself in the history of Vanderbilt, conducting more than 70 interviews in her role as coordinator and interviewer for the oral history project.

Sturgis says the interviews shed light on every large question regarding Vanderbilt in the post-war years, including the GI Bill, the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, and unrest on campuses across the country.

"I think it's always valuable to mine the minds of people who set the course of an institution," Sturgis says. "It's important not only to know what happened, but also why things were done and to have a greater appreciation of the characters, in every sense of the word, who really created the character of the University."

Among those Sturgis interviewed are former chancellors Harvie Branscomb and Alexander Heard. Most interviews will be open for public hearing or perusal of tran-

scripts, although some participants placed restrictions on access. Information gleaned from the history project also is available through a searchable Web site at www.library.vanderbilt.edu/speccol/vuvoices.

"To get a real sense of the character and development of the school we consciously approached a variety of people in the administration, faculty, and staff," Sturgis says. Several participants donated significant collections of personal papers to the archives after being interviewed.

Sturgis was approached with the idea of doing the oral history project while she was still a doctoral candidate at Vanderbilt. "It's really the brainchild of Hugh Davis Graham (Holland N. McTyeire Professor of History)," she says. "Professor Graham, Paul Conkin (Alexander Heard Distinguished Service Professor of History), and Marice Wolfe (University archivist) put their fingers on a new national trend. Many state schools were involved with oral history projects. Vanderbilt would be one of the first private institutions to catch the wave of that trend."

Sturgis had help from Katy McDaniel, a Ph.D. candidate in history, Ed Harcourt, a graduate student in history, and Andrew McMichael, a Ph.D. candidate who was in charge of Web design.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



(top left) Jane Entrekin speaks with University Librarian Paul Gherman and author Jay McInerney at the October 26 Friends event. Some of McInerney's novels include *Brightness Falls* and *Bright Lights, Big City*. (top right) Roy Kramer, left, former Vanderbilt athletic director, joins current director Todd Turner, right, to honor Fred Russell on November 14 as Friends enjoyed hearing Bill Harper of Purdue University speak about "*Grantland Rice and Fred Russell: Two Gentlemen of Sport.*" (bottom) Alex Jones, coauthor of *The Trust: The Private and Powerful Family Behind the New York Times*, spoke to the Friends on April 6 at the University Club. He was joined by his parents, John M. and Arne Jones of Greeneville, Tennessee.

ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID CRENSHAW

For more information about the Jean and Alexander Heard Library,
please visit our Web site at <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu> or call 322-7100.

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