



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019



Smithsonian
Libraries

Note from our Interim Director



To our extended Smithsonian Libraries family:

I write this at a difficult yet hopefully transformational time in our history. I would like to start with the opening of a recent statement by Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III:

Like many Americans, watching multiple incidents of deadly violence against Black people unfold before our eyes has left us feeling demoralized and distraught, aghast and angry. Not only have we been forced to grapple with the impact of a global pandemic, we have been forced to confront the reality that, despite gains made in the past fifty years, we are still a nation riven by inequality and racial division. The state of our democracy feels fragile and precarious.

Once again, we struggle to make sense of the senseless. Once again, we bear witness to our country's troubled history of racial violence, from Freddie Gray and Eric Garner to Sandra Bland and Trayvon Martin. Once again, we try to cope as best as we can, whether suffering in silence, participating in protests, or engaging in conversations that evoke all of our emotions. Once again, we try to explain to our children that which cannot be explained. Once again, we pray for justice and we pray for peace. Once again. . . .

I invite you to read Secretary Bunch's [full statement](#).

We are also facing the global pandemic. As a public health precaution due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus), all Smithsonian museums in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, including the National Zoo, and in New York City, temporarily closed to the public starting Saturday, March 14. Our physical locations in Maryland, Massachusetts, Arizona, Hawaii, and the Republic of Panama also closed. The health and safety of Smithsonian visitors, staff, and volunteers is a top priority. Most of our staff is now teleworking. They are doing their best to maintain the highest standards of professionalism while also juggling their time serving as at-home teachers, caregivers, and chefs.

The Smithsonian Libraries is still open virtually! There is a myriad of ways to connect with us online and use our educational resources. You can visit our virtual exhibitions. You can browse our electronic books and journals. You can learn from (and share!) our fascinating blog posts. You can engage with us and fellow Libraries fans on social media platforms, like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

Our online resources are available at no charge to anyone working to educate themselves or others. The Biodiversity Heritage Library continues to support online teaching and learning with 58 million digital content pages and no paywall. The Smithsonian Libraries Education Department also has a variety of resources available online, perfect for use inside a makeshift classroom.

The whole Institution has taken great strides to make our collections and scholarship available to anyone, anytime, anywhere. For example, the recently-launched Open Access initiative provides access to nearly 3 million 2D and 3D collections treasures on display at our museums or hidden in storage. Also, we invite you to take advantage of the Smithsonian's Learning Lab, bringing together distance learning resources from the museums, research centers, libraries, archives, and more. I hope you will explore these materials, whether for ongoing education opportunities or just for fun.

Additionally, our research continues. One of the most significant tools in the face of global uncertainty is knowledge. In this period of turmoil, I am made even more grateful for the consummate professionals at the Smithsonian Libraries who are doing their best to carry on business as usual, providing virtual support to researchers, curators, scholars, educators, and learners of all ages around the world. The strength of our electronic resources has been growing in recent years. We are incredibly honored to be able to continue to serve our communities and provide consistency during this time.

As interim director of the Smithsonian Libraries, I am deeply touched by your supportive messages to our staff. As a scientist with years of experience as a senior administrator at the Smithsonian and other cultural organizations, I hope to serve as a stabilizing force for our greater Libraries family, including you, during this time. As a long-time lover of libraries, I was thrilled to step into the interim director role when Nancy E. Gwinn retired in December. However, I could never have foreseen how the Smithsonian and the world would change so rapidly.

I know many of you have been close with the Libraries team for years, and your ongoing support and friendship during this time of transition and trials bolsters our spirits more than you can imagine. I can't begin to tell you how meaningful this has been for our staff, who miss the opportunity to help you in person. We hope you will continue to be in touch if you need anything, and we will provide periodic updates as we move toward reopening the Smithsonian to the public.

Wishing you and your loved ones good health,

Scott Miller
Interim Director
Smithsonian Libraries

Retirements

The Smithsonian Libraries honors the contributions and celebrates the retirements of five staff members:

Nancy E. Gwinn, Director

Smithsonian Libraries Director Nancy E. Gwinn retired January 4, 2020. Nancy joined the Smithsonian in 1984 as the Libraries' assistant director for collections management and became director in 1997. During her tenure, Nancy launched several new programs and activities, including the Libraries' exhibition and outreach program, the digital Cultural Heritage Library, the Education Program, and a Digital Imaging Center. She created the first Libraries Advisory Board and mounted an aggressive fundraising program that has resulted, among other things, in over 30 endowments and a successful \$11 million campaign. Under Nancy's leadership, the Libraries initiated and became the lead partner in establishing the international Biodiversity Heritage Library and the program's secretariat.

Mary Augusta Thomas, Deputy Director

Mary Augusta Thomas retired on September 28, 2019. As deputy director, Mary Augusta oversaw the operations of 21 libraries located in each of the Smithsonian's museums and research centers. In addition, she led the Libraries' strategic planning and guided its administrative and preservation services, collections management, and the exhibition program. She curated *An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in Smithsonian Libraries*, 2002-2003, which appeared in the Smithsonian Libraries Gallery in the National Museum of American History; an earlier version entitled *Voyages* was installed at the Grolier Club in New York City. In 2018, she co-curated *Magnificent Obsessions: Why We Collect*, in celebration of the Libraries' 50th anniversary. Mary Augusta began her extensive Smithsonian career in 1976 at the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology.

Maggie Dittmore, Librarian, John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology

Sheila Riley, Catalog Management Librarian, Discovery Services

Martha Rosen, Reference Librarian, National Museum of Natural History Library

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Kathryn C. Turner

Amy Threefoot Valeiras

Jacqueline Vossler

Susan Ellen Wolf

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS AND DATASETS TRACKED IN RESEARCH ONLINE

88,679



96,471

SEARCHES VIA ONESEARCH

BOOKS AND ARTICLES BORROWED BY THE LIBRARIES TO SUPPORT SMITHSONIAN RESEARCH

5,408



407,023,989

FULL TEXT RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH ONESEARCH

BOOKS AND ARTICLES LENT TO OTHER LIBRARIES

2,066



18,774

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

FELLOWS AND
INTERNS

50



744

TRAININGS AND
TOURS GIVEN



TRAINING AND
TOUR
PARTICIPANTS

41,378



1,459

VISITORS SERVED
IN-GALLERY AT
CHECK IT OUT:
HIRSHHORN



VISITORS SERVED
BY IN-GALLERY
CHAPTOUR
STUDENT DOCENTS

26,369



214

USERS OF
INTERACTIVE
RESOURCES IN
SCHOOLS AND
GALLERIES



ACCESS

PAGES DIGITIZED

469,815



1,339

BOOKS AND
JOURNALS
DIGITIZED

ITEMS CATALOGED

45,844



771,896

WEBSITE VISITOR
SESSIONS

FOLLOWERS ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

238,904



2

LIBRARIES
EXHIBITIONS
OPENED

ITEMS DISPLAYED IN
LIBRARIES
EXHIBITIONS

138



124

BOOKS AND PRINTS
LOANED FOR
EXHIBITIONS
WORLDWIDE

COLLECTIONS

GENERAL AND
SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

2,189,943

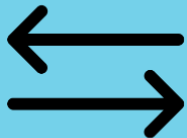


490,871

PIECES OF TRADE
LITERATURE

ITEMS TREATED IN
THE BOOK
CONSERVATION LAB

641



2,016

EXCHANGE TITLES
RECEIVED

GIFTS ADDED TO THE
LIBRARY

6,744



10,434

CUBIC FEET OF NON-
BOOK MANUSCRIPTS,
ARTISTS' FILES, AND
EPHEMERA

MISSION

STAFF MEMBERS



124



21



LIBRARIES

PRIVATE FUNDS RAISED



\$760,815



\$54,270



FUNDS RAISED FROM BOOK ADOPTIONS

NEW DONORS



279



42



VOLUNTEERS

Donors

SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES LEGACY SOCIETY

ANONYMOUS (2)

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Donations from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

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