

Smithsonian Libraries

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

University and research libraries are not usually places of education for the K-12 student, but the Smithsonian Libraries is an unusual kind of research library. The Libraries is firmly embedded in the museum culture of the Smithsonian, as well as serving the needs of scholars and scientists. Informal education for young people has always been a museum priority; the Institution has raised it to the level of Assistant Secretary. With the Libraries' extensive collections, it only made sense that we test whether we also had a role to play. Our librarians already train Smithsonian staff and students in the use of new databases and research resources, but in this case we knew we needed a specialist, trained in education for the K-12 teacher and student.

The profile of our Board member and donor, Nancy Eaton, highlights the Libraries' new education initiative, which received funding from her and fellow Board member Steve Berry. Only a year from the arrival of our Education Specialist Sara Cardello in August 2015, she

had proved her worth. Through workshops and forums, Sara's first step was to explore how teachers and students might use images from our collections in the classroom or outside. On page five, you'll find the first set of education statistics, which illustrate Sara's progress. In 17 classrooms, 947 students are testing her program called I See Wonder, available through a Smithsonian initiative called Learning Lab. Sara has also reached out to the young adult community and formed a Teen Council to give us advice on what would appeal to teenagers. The Libraries has an endless supply of fascinating images on a variety of subjects to spark discovery and feed the imagination!

This report also acknowledges the many donors who supported us in in Fiscal Year 2016. I am pleased that the number is rising; I thank you all for your confidence in the Libraries and enriching our programs.

- Nancy E. Gwinn

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### **Lynn Fortney**

*American Art and Portrait Gallery Library*

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*Smithsonian Libraries Research Annex*

## RETIRED

### **Anna Brooke**

*Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Library*

### **Susan Frampton**

*Director's Office*

### **Mike Hardy**

*Smithsonian Libraries Research Annex*





**744**

workshops and trainings given



**9,074**

workshop and tour participants



**947**

students in  
**17** classrooms testing I See Wonder



**44**

teacher trainings



**31**

interns



**11**

teen council meetings with  
**17** teens

*Education  
Stats*  
**2016**



# WYCKOFF, SEAMANS & BENEDICT.



Wyckoff, Seamans & Benedict's The Remington Typewriter (1902).

# A LIFETIME *Love* OF *Libraries*

CHRISTINE WINDHEUSER



Each Monday, Christine (Chris) Windheuser steps into the Constitution Avenue doors of the National Museum of American History and hops into an elevator to the 5th floor. Far away from the museum's crowded exhibition halls, the National Museum of American History Library is its own bustling hub on the building's top floor. Chris is a volunteer at the library; her duties include preparing the monthly "new books list," which arrives in the email inboxes of staff, interns, fellows, and library users and friends; helping to triage gift books by examining them for duplication and better condition; and assisting Trina Brown, senior reference librarian, with email reference questions.




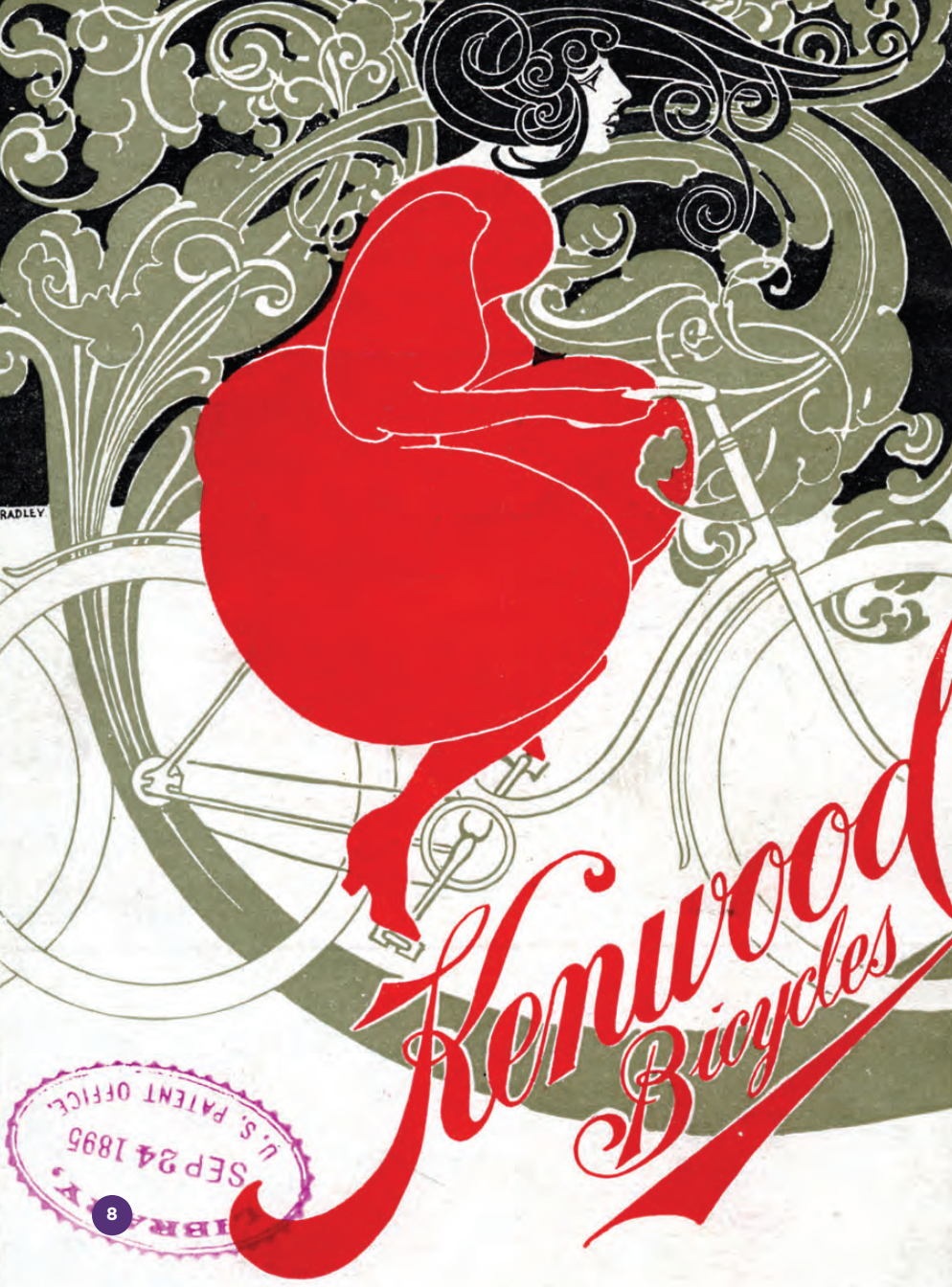
When asked to describe the National Museum of American History Library, Chris exclaims, "Used, useful, and out of space!" She continues, "What surprises me most about the library

is how busy it is and how involved it is with the museum's curators and fellows."

Chris has always been a book lover. She says, "I can remember my first trip to the public library when I was only as tall as the low shelves in the children's section. Later, the bookmobile provided me with stacks of books and the bookshelves in my bedroom were always neatly organized."

Chris reflects on an "aha!" moment as a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, when she knew libraries were her life's calling. She was sitting despondently in a bean bag chair mulling over what to do with her bachelor's degree in German and anthropology. Chris realized the solution was simple: her



A decorative graphic consisting of a cluster of colored dots in orange, green, blue, and purple, arranged in a roughly circular pattern in the upper right corner of the page.

*When asked to describe the National Museum of American History Library, Chris exclaims, “Used, useful, and out of space!”*

Kenwood Bicycle Manufacturing Company's Catalog for 1895 (1895).



# *“Libraries are the repositories of our cultural memory.”*

beloved student job in the main library’s social science reading room could be converted into a career! The next day she enrolled in the university’s School of Library & Information Studies and the rest is history.

After 25 years of working at the World Bank Library, latterly as Head of Reference and Research, Chris took early retirement in 2002. In addition to volunteering at the National Geographic Library for the last 13 years, she also began working at the National Museum of American History’s Archives Center – which has ongoing interaction with the American History Library through the complementary trade literature collections – and began volunteering at the library in April 2016.

Chris is a faithful donor to the Libraries. “At the Smithsonian, I believe Nancy Gwinn [Director, Smithsonian Libraries] has done a phenomenal job in a period

when special libraries are being driven to the wall,” notes Chris. “I want to see the Smithsonian Libraries continue to prosper and serve its clientele.”

Chris encourages others to donate to the Libraries. “Libraries are the repositories of our cultural memory,” she says. “Donors can help by providing funds for the conservation of the many treasures in the collection.”

When not busy volunteering and reading, Chris enjoys photography and travel, most recently visiting Indonesia and Singapore. As for her favorite genre of books? Well, that causes Chris to chuckle. “My favorite college library memory is my admiration for the lead reference librarian in the reading room, whose addiction to mystery novels was something I could never understand,” she says. “Now I’m the biggest mystery fan! So funny that I thought this was low taste back in college.”



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PHILADELPHIA

International Mercantile  
Marine Company's  
American Line (1906).



**654,892**  
pages digitized



**2,033**  
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digitized



**38,393**  
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**1,421,840**  
website visitor  
sessions



**17,272,073**  
downloads of the  
collections on  
Internet Archive



**162,331**  
followers on  
Facebook, Twitter,  
Tumblr, and Instagram

*Access  
Stats*  
2016



**11,703**

cubic feet “archival”  
collections –  
manuscripts, artist  
files, and ephemera



**2,073,902**

general and special  
collections



**466,633**

pieces of trade  
literature

*Collection  
Stats*  
**2016**



**6,696**

gifts added to  
the library



**714**

items treated at the  
Book Conservation  
Lab (rehousing and  
conserving)



**2,036**

exchange titles  
received

# INVESTING IN OUR NATION'S EDUCATION

NANCY EATON

For Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board member Nancy Eaton, libraries and education are inextricably intertwined. Nancy spent her career working for academic libraries, including serving as Dean of Libraries and Scholarly Communications at Penn State University for thirteen years and Dean of Library Services at Iowa State University for nine years.

“Libraries have always been a key component of education,” says Nancy. “The Smithsonian’s strategic plan stresses education as part of its goals, so we wanted to further expand the Libraries’ role in education. I chaired the initial Education Committee on the Board that produced a plan to do so, with a major new focus on K-12 and using online resources to reach new populations outside Washington, D.C.”

It was through Nancy’s leadership and funding, along with fellow Board member and author Steve Berry, that in 2015 the Libraries hired its first education specialist, Sara Cardello. “I felt so strongly about adding a staff member to lead the education program that I decided to help fund its start-up,” says Nancy.

Sara works to connect the knowledge and resources of the Libraries with the U.S. educational system, creating a conversation with learners of all ages and academic levels. Since starting in her new role, she has implemented I See Wonder, a classroom resource for digital images; a teen council; and monthly programs for a young adult audience. In the summer of

2017, Sara will launch the Libraries’ first docent program which will be run by local teens.

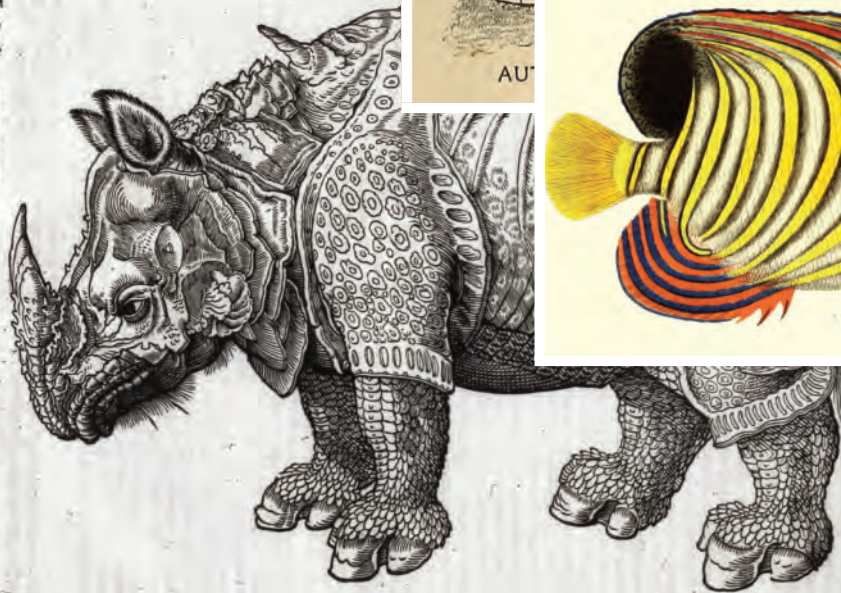
“The Libraries has several constituencies: the Smithsonian’s staff and scholars as well as the general public. Library collections and services are vital to the research programs of the Smithsonian,” notes Nancy. “But it also has a mission of sharing that research and the supporting collections with the citizens of the United States, especially to school-aged, curious learners.”







De Rhinocerotē. A. Lib. I. 953.



Images on cover and page 13 from the I See Wonder collection (library.si.edu/education/i-see-wonder).

...fecem, ut ipse menfurati, longitudine ei  
 ...antem inrelligo, (superaba, fiae, ille, in  
 ...ale frifens folipcedem effe, mox rhinoc  
 ...nem & unificam conlindit: terris  
 ...andis: curripitum folia tunc folia, ut  
 ...antem inrelligo, (superaba, fiae, ille, in

It is used for poisoning Arrows.

Nancy grew up around libraries. Her mother ran a bookmobile and a small branch library for the Sacramento Public Library for 25 years. Nancy volunteered at her junior high school library, worked for the Stanford University Libraries as an undergraduate, and supervised the chemistry library at the University of Maryland, College Park for a year before earning her master's in library science from University of Texas at Austin.

“During my time at the Penn State and Iowa State libraries, I was quite aware of the Smithsonian Libraries as a major national research library,” says Nancy. “When I retired from Penn State in 2010, Nancy Gwinn asked if I would consider joining the Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board. I was pleased to say ‘yes,’ as it allowed me to use my experience for a new purpose.”

In addition to serving on the Board and helping finance the education program, Nancy also has contributed a planned gift to the Libraries in response to the Smithsonian's inaugural capital campaign. “Before joining the Board,

I was not aware that the Smithsonian had libraries in other countries, nor was I aware of the international scope of its partnerships,” Nancy says. “I wish people understood that the Smithsonian Libraries is one of our great national libraries, along with Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Agricultural Library.”

*“Libraries  
have always  
been a key  
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Hats off to Nancy, who through her dedicated promotion of education and continued support is truly helping to fulfill Smithsonian founder, James Smithson's, mandate for an “increase and diffusion of knowledge.”





Education Specialist Sara Cardello (left), explores the I See Wonder collection with her fall 2016 Teen Council.





**120**  
staff members



**21**  
libraries



**\$2.11 million**  
books, journals, and  
databases budget

*Mission  
Stats*  
**2016**



**\$1,031,734**  
raised  
**\$23,855**  
raised from book  
adoptions



**117**  
new donors



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