Welcome University Librarian Courtney L. Young

Courtney L. Young, University Librarian and Professor in the Libraries in conversation with Steve Black, Associate University Librarian

I've been asked similar questions over the years. I often note libraries will likely continue to do the type of work that users traditionally expect. At the same time it is important that we continue to transform in the eyes of our users by experimenting with new models for providing information and other resources. An awareness of user needs and implementing programs and services to meet those needs. Outreach and advocacy must go hand-in-hand with strategic risk-taking. No matter what we do we must do it well.

What do you like best about being at Colgate?

The opportunity to support the institution’s mission and work with smart people across the institution. This is a great time to be starting at the University and join a dynamic future-minded leadership. I am enjoying that we take time to come together and break bread fostering a strong sense of community. The campus is beautiful.

How has living “in the middle of nowhere” been like for you so far?

As Provost and Dean of the Faculty Tracey Hucks told me during my interview, this is not the middle of nowhere because she is here. I am enjoying my time in Hamilton and the central New York area. As someone who has lived in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio, I do not (cont.)
find a less populated area connected by scenic farms and small towns unfamiliar. At the same time you can drive just as far in a city to get to preferred commercial areas, shopping, and creature comforts. It’s all relative.

You’ve lived in many places. Can you tell us a little about your experiences?
My father was an officer in the U.S. Army, so we moved around a lot. I lived in four different states and South Korea. When I was in seventh grade, I spent a year with my mother in Ankara, Turkey, where she was a Fulbright Scholar. My peers taught me Turkish and I shared my American experience. It was the first time I experienced being culturally misidentified. Turks would often ask us if we were Pakistani. My race, gender, generational status, and upbringing have all shaped my experience, and I bring that to everything I do.

What is something else you’d like everyone to know about you?
I enjoy sending and receiving real mail through the postal service. I like taking time to sit down and write a quick note to friends and colleagues.


**BIOGRAPHY**

Courtney L. Young was Head Librarian and Professor of Women’s Studies at Penn State Greater Allegheny. She earned tenure and was promoted to the rank of associate librarian at Penn State in 2008, and was promoted to the rank of librarian in 2014. She previously held library positions at Penn State’s Beaver and University Park campuses, at Michigan State University, and The Ohio State University. She has served in a variety of leadership roles in the American Library Association (ALA), including being elected the 2014-2015 ALA President. Courtney is a graduate of the College of Wooster (OH) with a B.A. in English and minors in Black Studies and Women’s Studies, and Simmons College in Boston, where she received her M.S. in Library Science. In January 2016 she received the Simmons Alumni Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement and Excellence in Library and Information Professional Endeavors. In 2011, Courtney was named a Library Journal “Mover & Shaker”, recognized as a Change Agent for her ability to successfully make connections among a diversity of duties in her library, on campus, and in the profession. Courtney frequently presents and publishes on issues related to advocacy, academic librarianship, diversity, virtual reference, leadership, and professional development.

Courtney was ALA President when it was announced that Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress appointed by Ronald Regan in 1987, would retire. On behalf of the association, she sent a letter to President Barack Obama suggesting competencies for the next Librarian of Congress and strongly urged him to appoint a librarian. President Obama nominated Dr. Carla Hayden to serve as Librarian of Congress on February 24, 2016. That nomination was confirmed by a vote of the U.S. Senate (74 yea, 18 nay, and 8 not voting) on July 13, 2016. On September 14, 2016, Dr. Hayden was sworn in as the fourteenth Librarian of Congress by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. Dr. Hayden became the first woman and first African American appointed to this role. It was also only the third time since 1802 that a credentialed librarian held the position.

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New Student Orientation

Lynne Kvinnesland, Information Literacy Librarian and Steve Black, Associate University Librarian

We tried a different approach to new student orientation this year. Instead of leading new students through a scavenger hunt, the librarians trained the link staff (student mentors to the first-years) to lead library orientation. The training was an excellent opportunity for the librarians to deepen our knowledge of students’ experiences in the libraries, and it gave first-year students a chance to learn about the libraries from their mentors’ points of view. We asked every group to take a “shelfie”, and awarded a $300 gift certificate to the Hamilton Theater for the most creative and appealing photo. The winner was the group led by Estelle Kelty ’21.

Colgate Vote Project

Ellie Schonberg ’21

The Colgate Vote Project (CVP) is a student-run volunteer group which focuses on increasing and promoting voting and civic engagement among Colgate students. Along with being non-partisan, CVP works to include students of all backgrounds who wish to learn more about the political process and facilitate political awareness among their peers.

Operating through a database of nearly 200 student volunteers, CVP works to facilitate a conversation regarding student voting while also acting as a resource for students confused by the often-complicated voting process. Through voter registration drives and election awareness events, CVP has worked to reach potential student voters across campus.

This fall, the facilitates at Case Library have been vital for the efforts of CVP. While the library as a whole represents a center for student growth and learning outside the classroom, the reference desks on the 3rd and 5th floors of Case have allowed CVP to reach many students who present concerns regarding voting, while helping others register to vote and request absentee ballots.

This connection between the student population and the promotion of civic participation would not be possible without the facilities at Case, including ITS computers and the free and easy to use printer system, which is vital for voter registration.

On National Voter Registration Day (September 25th) specifically, CVP coordinated with the library staff and student volunteers to host a voter registration drive from noon to 9PM. This event led to 22 new voter registrations, along with 11 absentee ballot requests from students. Case Library has acted as a pivotal connection point between CVP and the student population and will absolutely be utilized again in the future.
Horizons Colloquium Series Hosts Paul Ginsparg  

Josh Finnell, Head of Research and Instruction

On Friday, September 28th, Paul Ginsparg gave the inaugural lecture in the Horizons Colloquium Series. Paul Ginsparg is a professor of physics and computing and information science at Cornell University. In 1991, while working in the Theoretical Physics Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Paul created ArXiv, the world’s premier preprint repository in the fields of mathematics, computer science, physics, and astronomy. In 2002, Ginsparg was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for revolutionizing scientific communication by providing a free service for publishing and reading research reports.

Paul’s talk, “The Rising Role of Preprints in Scholarly Communication” provided a historical overview of ArXiv and its role within traditional scholarly publishing. Preprints were initially popularized within the “hard sciences” because they matched the speed and pace of scientific discovery. By sharing working papers, ArXiv created a quick mechanism for scientists to solicit feedback from colleagues, claim credit for an idea, and gain visibility within their sub-field.

Today, ArXiv hosts approximately 1.3 million research preprints and receives 10,000 new submissions each month. Since its inception in 1991, ArXiv has inspired the creation of preprint repositories in the social sciences (SocArXiv) and humanities (Humanities Commons). Though not replacing peer-reviewed journal articles, preprint repositories provide a pathway for working ideas to be discovered and discussed within and across disciplines, and expand access to scholarship in the developing world.

Librarian Hour on WRCU

Anastasia Wells, Reference & Cataloging Librarian

Librarian Hour is a live show on WRCU Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. Each week I have a member of the library staff (librarians, archivists and staff) share music and talk about the music, the artists, and the genre. I have invited local public and school librarians to participate in future programs. The show is a way to remind listeners that librarians are human, approachable, and may even have decent taste in music. Feedback is always welcome, contact me at awells@colgate.edu.
New Databases

Mike Poulin, Head of Collection Management

Age of Exploration
Explore journeys across the globe from 1420 to 1920, including scientific discoveries, the expansion of European colonialism, conflict over territories and trade routes, and search and rescue attempts.

Access World News
A database of 10,587 news sources from around the world. A nice feature is one can use a world map to search by source location.

China, Trade, Politics, and Culture (1793-1980)
English-language primary sources relating to China and the West with manuscripts encompassing events from the earliest English embassy to the birth and early years of the People’s Republic.

Digital Theatre Plus
High quality full length films of leading worldwide theater productions plus interviews with the cast, the creative and production teams behind each show.

Entertainment Industry Magazines (1905-2000)
US and UK trade magazines covering film, music, broadcasting and theater, plus film fan magazines.

Gerristen Collection of Aletta H. Jacobs
The Gerritsen Collection of books, pamphlets and periodicals on the evolution of a feminist consciousness and the movement for women’s rights is a significant resource for the study of women’s history in the world.

Text searching of Early English Books Online
Colgate libraries have added to our EEBO subscription the Text Creation Partnership’s full-text transcriptions of 25,363 selected texts.

JSTOR: Security Studies and Sustainability
Two new collections of scholarly journals have been added to JSTOR.

Papers of Woodrow Wilson
Digitized edition of nearly 35,000 documents originally published in 69 volumes.

Citation Management in Google Docs
Zotero’s bibliographic management tool is now available for Google Docs. A description of how Zotero functions in Google Docs and instructions for adding the Zotero Connector to Chrome or Firefox is described at https://www.zotero.org/blog/google-docs-integration/. Please contact a librarian if you have questions or feedback.
The new Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) exhibit on the second and third floors of Case Library displays reproductions made from the Edward H. Stone photograph collection. Edward Stone was the official and unofficial Colgate photographer for more than fifty years, beginning in 1902. He also documented businesses, people, events, organizations, streetscapes and rural landscapes of Hamilton and Madison County. After Stone’s death in 1958, the professional archive representing his life’s work was purchased by grateful Colgate alumni and given to the library. Few records describe the provenance of the collection, but a Colgate Maroon article from 1959 notes it included 28,000 negatives.

A portion of the collection consists of fragile gelatin silver negatives on glass from the beginning of Stone’s career, before photographic technology transitioned to nitrate and acetate film negatives circa 1920s. In an effort to preserve and promote access to this unique collection amidst Colgate’s Bicentennial, SCUA began reprocessing, rehousing, and digitizing the glass plate negatives in fall 2016. So far almost 800 plates have been preserved and digitized.

Scanning a glass negative is a wondrous, slow unveiling of a finely-detailed moment in time. The glass plates appear cloudy and dark to the naked eye, yet high-powered scanners transform them into sharp positive digital images.

Glass, Silver, & Memory: Images of Community by Edward H. Stone was installed in August 2018. The photographs showcase Colgate and its wider community: students in buttoned-up suits in the classroom; wispy new saplings along Willow Path; the old gymnasium; a crew of ruddy-looking milk station workers at the Hamilton railyard; and storefronts full of early twentieth-century produce, canned goods, biscuits, cigars and handmade leather boots. Short narrative panels provide biographical information on Stone and glass plate production and use. One case explores the professional role—and charm—of portraiture.

In early 2018, after the successful implementation of SCUA’s Islandora digital asset management system, images from the Stone collection were made accessible online for the first time at https://digitalcollections.colgate.edu.

The ongoing Stone project has spurred improved in-house digitization capabilities. Students and staff have been trained to digitize a variety of materials according to the Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative and other professional best practices. Copies of the uncompressed TIFF files will be stored in multiple locations per the LOCKSS philosophy (“Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe”), including on the “dark archives” server, backed up by Amazon Web Services.

Volunteer, and former Head of Collection Development, Emily Hutton-Hughes, and Emily Jeffres, curator of the exhibit, will conduct a Life Long Learning seminar exploring the exhibit in March 2019.
In the midst of all that shifting, team LASR spent 290 hours cleaning, 238 hours straightening, and 284 hours sorting and shelving books. Of course, there is work in the LASR vault as well. This year we were able to perform a complete audit of 405,691 items in 4038 bins. We did not audit the 238 bins restricted to use by Special Collections.

Team LASR completed the removal of 11,000 items that are duplicated in JSTOR. This involved pulling each volume, scanning, temporarily shelving, and checking them against the approved list for withdrawal.

Processing included removing covers from all the bound journals, temporarily reshelving them, then wrapping them on pallets in plastic wrap. The volumes were taken to a dumpster and hauled off for recycling.

The removal of 11,000 items from the Library Automated Storage and Retrieval (LASR) system left us with over 300 partially filled bins. We were able to empty some bins while filling others, and spent a week consolidating bins. All together the project freed up 90 bins. This leaves LASR at just under 75% of its capacity of 550,000 volumes.

Lack of usable shelf space in Cooley had gotten to the point that in some sections new materials could not be added without time-intensive shifting. The monograph collection has been weeded regularly to make space for new books. We retain older materials that continue to be germane to academic programs and community use. It became clear that weeding books could not free enough shelf space.

Current and past serial literature continues to be transformed into reliable digital formats. We have been able to de-acquisition paper journals we are duplicated digitally to free up shelving for monographs.

During summer 2018 Cooley staff and members of the cataloging and acquisitions department processed records and materials, and consolidated the journal collection. This freed up 662.7 linear feet of shelf space, enough to host monographs in BFs to the beginning of Qs. We now have shelf space to accommodate future acquisitions of print books.

Allocated shelving space capacity for monographs is now 4721.5 linear feet. With 3595 linear feet occupied, the allocated space is at about 76% capacity. The ~1126 linear feet of shelf space now available negates the necessity for de-acquisitioning monographs in the near future.
New this Year

Rachel White, Head of Metadata and Cataloging Services

19,361 print volumes
83,810 e-books
2,185 streaming videos
482 DVDs

930,910 Records edited
by the metadata and cataloging team.

We edit for many reasons, including:
• fix typographical errors
• add subject headings, content notes, other notes
• change statuses and locations
• update authority records (e.g. add authors’ birth or death dates)

In the fall of 2018, the Colgate University Libraries Outreach Committee purchased a button maker and supplies to make 1,000 buttons. The button-maker will be used for outreach events such as pop-up makerspace breaks during finals. Making a button provides a way for students to de-stress and have fun while engaging students and library staff in a brief yet meaningful encounter. The Outreach committee welcomes ideas to collaborate on button projects with departments across campus.

Heidi Ziemer, Head of Borrowing Services and Assessment

Colgate University Libraries
http://cul.colgate.edu

Regular Library Hours
Academic Year 2018–2019
Case Library and Geyer Center
for Information Technology
Sunday: 10 am – 4 am
Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 4 am
Friday: 8 am – 10 pm
Saturday: 10 am – 10 pm

Cooley Science Library
Monday – Thursday: 8 am – midnight
Friday: 8 am – 11 pm
Saturday: 9 am – 11 pm
Sunday: 9 am – midnight

For exceptions see:
http://cul.colgate.edu/content/hours

Phone Numbers
Case Reference: 315-228-7303
Case Circulation: 315-228-7300
Cooley Reference: 315-228-7312
ITS/Source: 315-228-7111

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