Twelve months. Twelve verbs. Twelve images. We’re taking a different tack in presenting highlights from the past year in lieu of a traditional annual report. We hope you will find this calendar useful and that you will enjoy the iconic images and short vignettes as much as we enjoyed gathering them. And, in our none-too-subtle fashion, we imagine that as you turn the page each month, you’ll be reminded regularly of the critical role Cornell University Library plays in the life of this university on the hill.

The twelve verbs that tie the images to the text each month reflect accomplishments from the past year as well as our aspirations for the future. Several of them speak to a proud tradition of preserving cultural heritage while offering a place for learning, reflection, and inspiration that extends beyond formal years spent at Cornell. Others look to emerging needs wrought by changes in technology, new forms of scholarly expression, and the economic challenges facing us all. And several highlight the Library’s leadership in broadening access to scholarly resources here at home and abroad.

Among the very best research libraries in the world, Cornell University Library reflects the university’s distinctive mix of eminent scholarship and democratic ideals as both an Ivy League institution and New York’s Land Grant university. By all measures, the Library is a highly valued partner in teaching, research, and learning. It offers cutting-edge programs, internationally recognized expertise, and outstanding collections from rare books and manuscripts to a significant network of digital resources. Its impact reaches beyond campus boundaries with initiatives that extend the Land Grant mission to a global focus. More than a hundred years ago, Andrew Dickson White, co-founder of Cornell and its first president, wrote, “The ideas of a great university and a great library are inextricably linked.” We aim to keep it that way in the 21st century.

Anne R. Kenney
Carl A. Kroch University Librarian
Engaging alumni and friends

In the historical tradition of literary salons devoted to the life of the mind, Cornell University Library offers a series of Library Salons each academic year. These gatherings, held across the country, provide an opportunity for alumni and friends to engage with the most interesting and intellectual voices from the Library. Salon topics have included Hemingway’s Havana, legal issues in the digital world, and the preservation of cultural treasures in war-torn countries.

“[The Library Salon] was the best Cornell experience we have had in years. The presentation sparked the kind of intellectual enjoyment that was one of the best parts of our Cornell experience. We would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Nancy Gallant, M.P.A. ’75
“The ideas of a great university and a great library are inextricably linked.”

Andrew Dickson White, co-founder and first president of Cornell University

Echoes of Lincoln & Darwin

Through exhibitions and events, the Library joined worldwide celebrations of the 200th birthdays of two men whose visionary thinking changed the course of history. Charles Darwin’s exhibition focused on his work after the publication of *Origin of Species*. A rare trio of documents from the Library’s materials on Abraham Lincoln underscored his efforts to rebuild a nation torn apart by civil war.
‘Omit needless words’

When Cornell professor William Strunk Jr. produced a 43-page treatise on writing for an English class in 1918, he never could have envisioned the future of his modest project. One of his most famous students, E.B. White, would revive the treatise in 1959; it would become the world’s most respected guide to writing and sell more than 10 million copies. Fifty years after The Elements of Style’s first run, the Library marked the anniversary with an exhibit of Cornell’s outstanding collection of Strunk and White materials.

“In clear, concise, and compelling prose, Strunk and White laid down the law.”

Peter Hirtle, senior policy advisor at Cornell University Library
Libraries at the forefront

Whether celebrating the fundamental right to read during Banned Books Week or showcasing collections that influence culture and community throughout the United States, Cornell University Library supports scholarship that can challenge thinking and change lives.

“Cornell staked a claim in hip hop history... and Kroch Library just gained some serious street cred.”

“Grandmaster Ezra,” Cornell Daily Sun
We have been carefully preserving and storing materials for years, and now we're diversifying the channels for them to be studied and used. We now have the ability to take information to the places where readers are.

Oya Rieger, associate university librarian at Cornell University Library

INNOVATE

Flexible, transparent, seamless

Unlimited access to journal articles dating back decades. The ability to consult with librarians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Web sites that provide instant connections to the right information at the right time. As online tools become an essential part of research at Cornell, visions of “the library of the future” come into focus with new technology and virtual presences.

“We have been carefully preserving and storing materials for years, and now we’re diversifying the channels for them to be studied and used. We now have the ability to take information to the places where readers are.”

Oya Rieger, associate university librarian at Cornell University Library
We will flex, reach out in many directions, and think well beyond the traditional branch library model as we reshape this library, its collections, and services to support the evolving research environment for the 21st century.

Leah Solla, coordinator, Physical Sciences Library

Reimagining the Library

The entire country saw economic trouble in 2009, and Cornell University Library was no exception. Balancing our dedication to open access and responsible stewardship of Cornell’s resources in hard economic times requires focus, flexibility, and a rethinking of business as usual—but the Library’s commitment to research, teaching, and learning at Cornell remains constant.

“We will flex, reach out in many directions, and think well beyond the traditional branch library model as we reshape this library, its collections, and services to support the evolving research environment for the 21st century.”

Leah Solla, coordinator, Physical Sciences Library
Look for anything from an Irish epic to Japanese history to Greek etymology, and you’re going to find an entire shelf of books... half of which are going to be better than the one you thought you were looking for.

River Granados, undergraduate
Access for all

In a dramatic change of policy, library patrons may now use and republish public-domain works held by the Library without seeking permission. Large-scale digitization projects make Cornell’s materials available everywhere from Google Books to The Internet Archive to Amazon’s print-on-demand service. Continued support for research initiatives such as arXiv and Project Euclid—both of which recently hit significant milestones—emphasizes the Library’s commitment to academic discovery.

“This is an exemplary policy.... Cornell is right that restricting reuse of the public-domain texts will limit valuable uses, violate the university’s background commitment to open access, and constitute copyfraud.”

Peter Suber, open-access expert, referring to the Library’s new policy on public-domain materials
“Cornell University’s mission is to be a learning community that serves society by educating the leaders of tomorrow and extending the frontiers of knowledge. As New York’s Land Grant university, Cornell applies the results of its endeavors to its alumni, the community, the state, the nation, and the world.”

Kent Fuchs, Cornell University Provost

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**Spinning the Web**

Twitter, Facebook, Flickr—the Library hits the social-networking scene in a variety of ways, becoming part of users’ daily lives and keeping the entire Cornell community up to date on the Library’s activities. (And the fun social-networking tools complement the suite of serious research tools available online.)
Partnerships enable us to reach so much further than we could alone. Creating strong connections between institutions is a fundamental building block in advancing the mission of 21st-century research libraries.

Strength in numbers
Partnerships allow the Library to take advantage of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. The Library’s new “2CUL” agreement with Columbia University Library has the potential to become the most expansive collaboration to date between major research libraries. Another project involving Cornell’s research resource, VIVO, will build a national network of scientists with funding from the National Institutes of Health.

“Partnerships enable us to reach so much further than we could alone. Creating strong connections between institutions is a fundamental building block in advancing the mission of 21st-century research libraries.”

Anne R. Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian
It’s refreshing to see people living history through the world of words.”

Brenda Marston, archivist, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections

Breathing new life into language

In 2004, Cornell University Library acquired one of the largest collections of Native American materials in the world from the Huntington Free Library in the Bronx. Now, thousands of images from the collection are available for free online, helping to preserve ten different tribal languages at risk of being lost.
ADVANCE

Reaching out, reaching in

Thanks to a $1.8 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Cornell University’s Albert R. Mann Library will be able to fund the production, delivery, and integration of The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) for even more users around the world. TEEAL, which is already the most-used electronic resource in many African research centers, is one of many outreach efforts spearheaded by the Library.

“Millions of students and researchers worldwide still don’t have reliable bandwidth and electricity, and their institutions don’t have the resources to invest in scholarly information. TEEAL provides access to quality agricultural literature until it is truly available, and affordable, for everyone.”

Jaron Porciello, TEEAL’s program director
Cornell University Library thanks its donors for their extraordinary financial support.

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Gurdon B. Wattles '57 & Kathleen K. Wattles
Howard J. Weg & Karlene K. Weg
Tina L. Woetzel '80 & Kurt Woetzel

$122,149,283: Value of total article downloads for calendar year 2008

~1 billion: Number of items covered by WorldCat Local, the Library’s newly implemented catalog

CUL by the Numbers

421: Number of languages represented in the Library’s collections
1: Number of operatic song cycles about Strunk & White, composed and performed at the New York Public Library

>600: Number of people who attended Library Salons last year

73,613: Total linear feet of archival materials

879: Virtual library visits per hour

76,055: Volumes scanned and available through The Internet Archive

128,325: Volumes digitized and available through Google Book Search as of 09/09/09

78,441: Reference questions answered last year
Library Leadership

Anne R. Kenney
Carl A. Kroch University Librarian

Lee Cartmill
Associate University Librarian for Administrative Services

Dean Krafft
Chief Technology Strategist

Xin Li
Assistant University Librarian for Strategic Initiatives

Janet McCue
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