New Games with Old Seed Catalogs

In late 2013, Mann Library joined an initiative, called “Purposeful Gaming,” led by the Missouri Botanical Gardens and funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to encourage public participation in improving the accuracy of digitized historical materials.

Inspired in part by the promising success of other online citizen science efforts such as Zooniverse, the new IMLS grant is helping the BHL partners design and test an online game that involves the public in correcting mistakes in the computer-generated optical character recognition of digitized historical texts.

For the past year Mann has been busy scanning materials from the renowned historic catalog collection of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium for inclusion in the game design and the BHL collection. Named after Liberty Hyde Bailey’s daughter and considered second only to that of the National Agricultural Library, the Ethel Zoe Bailey Horticultural Catalogue Collection is one of Cornell’s most remarkable heritage treasures. Incorporating close to 140,000 seed and nursery catalogs, the Collection is a rich trove of information for plant scientists, horticulturists, historians, landscape designers, and many other fields. It is also exquisitely beautiful. Often gorgeously illustrated and plenty whimsical in their own right, the catalogs can also engage plant taxonomists, gardening enthusiasts, library lovers, and more.

So far, “Purposeful Gaming” has launched two online games that challenge participants to correctly type a series of words or phrases culled from the digitized historical materials in the BHL collection. The first, available at beanstalkgame.org, echoes the horticultural motif in line with the nursery catalogs being contributed by Cornell. The second, intended for more seriously experienced online gamers at smorballgame.org, proceeds at a faster pace with a competitive championship theme. In both cases, as they enjoy some light online entertainment, players are helping achieve correct transcription of historical materials for the BHL collection. The project’s ultimate goal is to determine how well digital games can work to improve the conversion of print text to digital and strengthen the research value of online collections overall. Who, after all, ever said that serious work can’t be fun?
Spaces & services for students

Over 2000 people pass through the Mann's doors every day, the vast majority of whom are students. Mann Library staff work hard to find the most effective ways of supporting students in their quest for success at Cornell.

It's a whole new 2nd floor

Mann librarians completed the refurbishment of student study spaces on the 2nd floor of the library building, with particular emphasis on incorporating student input that was gleaned through quick surveys, in-depth interviews and consultations, and ethnographic studies. Our careful groundwork paved the way for a grand roll-out in the middle of the spring 2015 semester, when students returned from spring break to find Mann's 2nd floor completely transformed. Adding over a hundred new seats to the library building, the refurbishment project has resulted in a host of study spaces to accommodate virtually all study styles—and has been enthusiastically welcomed by an appreciative student population.

In these new spaces, students can find:
- A range of study environments—from intimate nook to open area—that provide a spectrum of quieter as well as louder study zones, whether for group work, studying quietly with or alongside others, or working individually in semi-privacy;
- A variety of comfortable, adjustable and mobile furniture of differing heights and styles with lots of room to spread out, work, discuss, and even also just to rest;
- Lots and lots of white boards and other writing surfaces, where students can really dig in to visualize data, figure out equations, sketch out outlines for their papers, and much more.

On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest level of satisfaction), they've given the new spaces, on average, a 4 on all measures and they've been even more complimentary in comments. Students have said:

"Where do I begin? The color scheme is soothing and non-distracting. The study pod things are cozy and private, the high-backed chairs are super comfy and there are more than enough outlets to go around! Five stars!"

"LOVE everything! The aesthetic, the versatility, the quantity, the openness. Thank you! The best library just got better :)

"The ambience is super relaxing yet motivating, which is awesome during prelim season."

"The furniture is fun and different, making the studying aspect less of a drag."

"You've completely outdone yourselves! Mann was always my preference but now it's my #1 go to spot!"

From Mann Library Patron Survey, May 2015
Lights, camera, action on a new universe of science communication possibilities ahead! Desktop multimedia production has become one of the defining features of 21st century digital culture. Cornell University Library has kept pace with the times, opening centers for the loan of multimedia equipment at Mann and Uris Libraries. Come to Mann's circ desk these days and you get a wide selection of equipment—from high-end video and still cameras to powerful portable digital audio recorders and projectors—to fit any multimedia project.

These resources are already being put to some serious use. Recognizing the importance of training students to communicate effectively about their field, professor of soil and crop science Matt Ryan challenged students of his CSS 1900 class “Sustainable Agriculture” to create a short film conveying a particular aspect of sustainable agriculture for class credit. Mann librarians Ashley Downs and Tobi Hines and multimedia support specialist Matt Ryan (yes, two Matt Ryans on one project!) provided participating students with expert guidance in using Mann's loaner video equipment to produce their projects—and then also helped select the most outstanding final projects for public display in the Library at the close of the fall 2014 semester.

Play’s the thing: The Library recognizes that at least some play to go along with all the hard work is a vital ingredient in the success of any Cornell student. So Mann also creates opportunities for our young patrons to refresh, relax, re-focus and remember life’s bigger picture. Some of our successes of the past year include:

A new puzzle station by the Mann Library Reference desk, featuring puzzles hand-picked by library staff, drew a steady stream of enthusiasts who clearly enjoyed the chance to set all cares—and digital devices!—aside for a time to see how all the pieces might just fit. Over 2 dozen puzzles, of varying degrees of difficulty,

Visits by Cornell Companion Animals feature Rottweilers, Golden Retrievers, Akitas and adorable mixed breeds as beloved star performers. These four-footed visitors dropped into the Library with their two-footed escorts during some of the most intense weeks of the year (e.g. study and finals weeks) to share some puppy love with some adoring and appreciative fans. The photos say it all!

have been successfully assembled at the station since spring 2014. What a (nice) surprise that this low-tech pastime has been such a big hit in our hi-tech Library!

Weekly guided meditation sessions led by staff from Gannett Health Services in Mann's Goldstein Seminar Room as part of Gannett's campus-wide “Let's Meditate” series provide an opportunity for students to walk away from their books, pens and laptops for a half-hour practice in techniques for relaxing the mind and restoring a sense of emotional well-being. That homework may still be waiting for them when they're done with the session—but the perspective they'll bring back to it will be a good deal fresher.
Titan Arum Now and Then
Last fall, Cornell's School of Integrative Plant Sciences hailed the unfolding of a rare bloom on an Amorphophallus titantium plant—or more popularly known as titan arum—in its greenhouse collection. Mann joined the celebration by displaying historic renderings of the very first titan arum ever to have bloomed in captivity, 125 years ago in the Kew Gardens of London. The drawings are from a late 19th century issue of Curtis's Botanical Magazine housed in the Library's own special collections vault. Created by acclaimed botanical artist Matilda Smith in 1889, they were accompanied by a seven-page account of the first discovery of this remarkable plant by a European naturalist in the forests of Southeast Asia and the careful cultivation of the seeds collected from that encounter by botanists at Kew.

Woven Across Time and Space: From the Jirousek Collection
The Cornell community lost a passionate scholar of textile and fashion arts with the passing of Charlotte Jirousek in September 2014. As professor of textiles and fashion and curator of the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection, Jirousek played an active role in the development of Mann Library's resources, guiding us in the purchase of both print materials and the newest online databases such as the Berg Fashion Library and electronic fashion forecasting systems. Through the generosity of Charlotte Jirousek's family, Mann Library received a substantial portion of her remarkable personal reference library, featuring difficult-to-find works on textiles and fashion from Turkey—where she had resided for several years—and many other regions of the world. This important enhancement will support the study of fiber science and fashion design at Cornell for generations to come.

Looking Ahead
Students know they can count on Mann Library to help them do well in their courses while at Cornell. But what about the next big step—their career after college? A partnership with the CALS Career Development Office has moved the Career Development Library previously located in Roberts Hall into Mann, where it’s now known as the Career Planning Collection on our first floor. Fully discoverable via the library catalog and available for student use whenever Mann is open, this little power collection offers a wealth of resources that students will find invaluable in exploring careers, figuring out strategies for landing internships, preparing for job searches, and writing resumes and cover letters.

What Do Our Faculty Think?
In October 2014, Cornell University Library conducted a survey to gauge how its electronic and physical resources and services support Cornell faculty's research, teaching, and learning needs. Respondents from CALS and CHE made up close to 30% of total survey participants. Their responses have been instructive for strengthening our understanding of how our faculty use our resources and for guiding the Library's future development. Early findings for CALS and CHE faculty included:

• 98% report using the Library's electronic collections; use of the Library's print collections is somewhat lower but still high at 84% and 80% for CALS and CHE faculty respectively.
  • Satisfaction with the Library's collections is high: 92% rate the quality of the Library's electronic collections as adequate; for the Library's print collections this rate is 80%.
  • Faculty make frequent use of the Library's online resources. About 80% report using the Library's online resources at least once a week; about 96% report using these resources at least once a month.
  • And as frequently as faculty connect to the Library online, they still make in-person visits to the Library regularly. 86% report coming to the Library at least
Introducing Mann’s Newest Librarians

Ashley Downs is our new Food and Agriculture Librarian. She oversees the USDA-Economics, Statistics and Marketing Information System and provides specialized outreach to faculty in Crop & Soil Science and Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology. With an MSc (Library & Information Science) from Syracuse University, Ashley returns to Cornell (CALS class of ’09) from a position as research associate at the Multiple Sclerosis Center for Excellence at the VA Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. Having grown up in Whitney Point and been active with the Dilmun Hill Student Farm as a Cornell undergrad, Ashley has a long history of interest agriculture and food production.

Christine Fournier has joined Mann as a part-time Life Sciences Librarian. Chris has an MSc in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland and a BA in Environmental Studies and Latin American Studies from Tulane University. Along with providing services in support of Cornell’s life sciences students, faculty and staff, Chris is part of the Research Data Management Service Group. Her professional experience includes four years working at the US Geological Survey (National Biological Information Infrastructure).

Erica Johns is Mann’s new Research Data and Environmental Sciences Librarian, serving as the Library’s liaison to the departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Biological and Environmental Engineering, and Natural Resources. She is also a consultant for the the Library’s Research Data Management Service Group, which assists Cornell researchers in the successful management of complex research datasets. Erica comes to Cornell from a position as data curator at New York University’s Center for Urban Science and Progress. She holds an MSc (Information Science) from the University of Tennessee and a BSc (Horticulture) from the University of Georgia.

A Campus Center for GIS Services

As demand for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology climbs ever higher across all disciplines, Mann Library has become a major center where Cornell researchers can get help achieving command of this technology for powerful data visualization and analysis. Our enhanced services now include:

- Introductory and intermediate workshops on various GIS applications, from classic standards such as ArcGIS to promising open-source applications like QGIS and CartoDB;
- Daily consultation hours—new this year!—where researchers can get customized help for their very specific research projects;
- Co-sponsorship of special outreach programs, such as this year’s inaugural Cornell Geospatial Forum, which brought over 100 Cornell researchers together to identify GIS work, resources and needs across disciplines at Cornell to strengthen the infrastructure for future GIS support.

CUCEGO 2014
CORNELL GEOSPATIAL FORUM
THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Mann Library Highlights 2014/15
Exhibit highlights from the past year include:

"An Extreme Stirrer-Up of Passions" – Falconry at Cornell and Around the World
An exploration of the ancient, yet still vibrant world of falconry, presented in collaboration with Abby Duvall (College of Veterinary Medicine) and Tim Gallagher (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology). Video of exhibit lecture by Tim Gallagher at: tinyurl.com/FalconryLivesOn.

For a Quart of Ale Is a Dish for a King: The Craft Beer Tradition and Its Revival in New York State
An exhibition tracing the history of New York craft beer and hops production and highlighting new developments that suggest a promising future for hops farmers, microbrewers and beer connoisseurs. Video of exhibit lecture by Steve Miller and Randy Lacey at: tinyurl.com/BrewingHorizon

From the World We Live In
A spotlight on a richly illustrated popular science series that made its way into homes across the nation during the 1950s and 60’s to delight and inspire readers of all ages.

Impressionistic and Abstract Interpretations of Cornell Library Guides by Subject
A colorful, playful visualization, in acrylic and oil paints, of the myriad subjects you’ll find covered at Cornell’s libraries--sure to bring out the library lover and graphic designer in each of us.
Slideshow at: tinyurl.com/ImpressionisticLibrary

Wild Flowers for a Winter Season: The Photography of the Late Dr. James Reveal
Stunning botanical photography by the late Dr. Jim Reveal, adjunct professor of botany in the School of Integrative Plant Sciences, revealing the wondrous landscape of beauty present in even the tiniest buds.
Slideshow at: tinyurl.com/FlowersForWinter

Shifting the Paradigm: Microbes as Animal Helpmates
Exquisite views and explorations of the ways that bacteria are crucial to the well-being of plants and animals. We may think of tiny microbes—aka germs—as big trouble, but as emerging science is now teaching us, they very often really aren’t bad. And it turns out, they can be quite beautiful too!
Slideshow at: tinyurl.com/ShiftingParadigm

We Step into the Light
A student-organized multi-media exhibit featuring work by artists in a collaborative, creative process with "thrivers"—a term that has been chosen to replace the term survivors of sexual violence. Sponsored by the Cornell Women’s Resource Center.

Back by popular demand! Note cards from our collections
New note cards, created with images from Mann’s special collections and the Ethel Zoe Bailey Horticultural Catalogue Collection of the Bailey Hortorium, are available at Mann Library. Enclosed in a limited edition gift box that commemorates the historic role that the Library has played as a crossroads for sharing ideas at Cornell, they are available for purchase at the Mann Library circulation desk, or via mail request. For mail purchase, please send this form to:

Mann Library Administration
237 Mann Drive, Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Note card sets are $18 each for “Trees,” $12 for “Seed catalogs,” shipping included. Please make check payable to Cornell University.
Cornell's vibrant diversity of ideas was showcased in the Sesquicentennial events of 2014/2015. Mann's public programs celebrate this lively culture of intellectual engagement around the Ag Quad.

So, what makes Cornell University so special? Our land-grant history for one. Mann Library joined in on commemorating this unique story during Cornell's Sesquicentennial celebrations with some special programming:

**How do YOU Say Cornell?**

Mann Library sponsored a video contest for current Cornellians in connection with Cornell University Library's Sesquicentennial exhibition “150 Ways to Say Cornell” in the Hirschland Gallery. We challenged students to capture in a short video—20 seconds or less—what their Cornell experience has meant to them. Students turned in submissions that were creative, quirky, passionate, and seriously fun to watch. Check out our final compilation at tinyurl.com/HowDoYouSayCornell

**Knowledge with a Public Purpose:**

**Voices from the Field in Cornell's Land-Grant History**

Introducing some of the leading and sometimes lesser-known Cornell figures who laid the groundwork for a thriving culture of public engagement at Cornell today. An online feature connects visitors to thoughts penned by the featured Cornellians—such as Ezra Cornell's moving letter to his granddaughter—to reveal some of the passion and perspective these luminaries applied to their life's work. Listen in at tinyurl.com/VoicesFromTheField

**The History of the Home Economics Fellowship:**

**Reflections on an Evolving Field**

Now in its 23rd year, the Dean's Fellowship in the History of Home Economics at the College of Human Ecology has fostered numerous scholarly works that trace the history of the field and connect early efforts in health, education, and consumer behavior research and extension to work being done at the College today. From a look at the origins of the baby food industry to the development of storage design in American home architecture, the exhibit demonstrates the wide ranging impact of the home economics field. See more at tinyurl.com/HomeEcFellowship

**New “Chats in the Stacks” Book Talk and Lecture Videos**

- *The Insects*, Angela Douglas (tinyurl.com/TheInsects)
- *Food Security and Sociopolitical Stability*, Christopher Barrett, Wendy Wolford, Joanna Upton, and Samuel Crawford (tinyurl.com/FoodStability)
- *The Neuroscience of Risky Decision Making*, Valerie Reyna (tinyurl.com/RiskyDecision)
- *Tracks and Shadow: Field Biology as Art*, Harry Greene (tinyurl.com/TracksShadows)
- *International Development: Experience, Ideas, Prospects*, by Ravi Kanbur (tinyurl.com/DevelopmentIdeas)
- *Toward Engaged Anthropology*, Sam Beck (tinyurl.com/EngagedAnthropology)
- “Brewing on the Horizon: A Revival of Hops and Craft Beer Production in New York State,” by Steve Miller and Randy Lacey (tinyurl.com/BrewingHorizon)
- *Greening in the Red Zone: Disaster, Resilience and Community Greening*, Ken Tidball (tinyurl.com/GreeningRedZone)
- *The Neoliberal Regime in the AgriFood Sector*, Steven Wolf (tinyurl.com/NeoliberalRegime)
- *Chasing the American Dream: Understanding What Shapes our Fortunes*, Tom Hirsch (tinyurl.com/AmericanFortunes)
- “Art in Unseen Partnerships: The Beauty of Small Things,” Margaret McFall-Ngai (tinyurl.com/ArtUnseen)
Friends of Mann Library Update

- A major new gift by Gary Duka '76 is expanding the Gary Duka '76 and Bonnie Smith Duka '78 Library Fund for Environmental Science, which supports acquisitions in a vital growth area for teaching and research by Cornell faculty—the environmental sciences.
- A new gift by professor emerita Mary A. Morrison has strengthened the Mary A. Morrison Public Education Fund for Mann Library. Each year, the Morrison Fund supports numerous public book talks, special lectures and exhibits at the Library.
- Generous new giving by Bradley Grainger '79 and Mary Maxon Grainger '79 to the Mann Library Excellence Fund will significantly enhance the impact of this important fund on all aspects of Mann Library's collections and services.
- A bequest from the Estate of Wilson Mitchel '40 has established the Wilson Mitchell '40 and Elizabeth Mitchell '40 Acquisitions Fund for Mann Library, which supports books, journals and e-resources in all subjects related to the agriculture, life science and human ecology disciplines.
- Sheldon Severinghaus '62 and Lucia Severinghaus 'GR made a generous new gift to the Sheldon R. and Lucia Liu Severinghaus Fund for Mann Library, which enriches, preserves and improves access to Mann Library's special collections in the agriculture, life science and human ecology disciplines.
- A generous gift by Ruth Sherbon has significantly enhanced Mann's John and Ruth Sherbon Endowment, which funds food science acquisitions at the Library.
- Cornell lost an esteemed emeritus professor of animal science with the passing of Ari van Tienhoven in 2014. Ari was a long-time friend of Mann Library, and family and friends from across the world commemorated his life with gifts to Ari van Tienhoven Memorial Fund, which Ari established in honor of his 1817. The fund supports professional training, staff recognition and student assistant awards.

We also gratefully acknowledge the additional generous giving to Mann Library by friends and alumni in 2014/15:

Paul William Alts '73 & Elena Hayde de Sevilla GR (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Audrey L. Anastasia (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Leona Bell Anderson '79 & Richard Charles Anderson 'GR (Dean David L. Call Fund for Mann Library)
Benjamin Jon Andri '99 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Joy Baldwin Astle '95 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Alisa Michelle Auerbach '09 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Sandra Belsky Auerbach '75 & Richard A. Auerbach (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
David M. Barbasso '70 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
David M. Bates '99 (Bente & King Fund for Library Acquisitions)
Michele Braun '79 (Gary Duka '76 and Bonnie Smith Duka '78 Fund for the Environmental Science Collection)
Usheen Brandenburger (Usheen Brandreuter Acquisition Fund for Mann Library)
David L. Brown & Nina Glasgow (Bente & King Fund for Library Acquisitions)
Scott R. Brown '11 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
John L. T. Berton 'GR (Janet A. McCue Acquisition Fund for Mann Library)
Dan Cekander & Margaret Cekander (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Ruth Claassen '44 (Evelyn Strong Claassen Memorial Book Endowment Fund)
Tom P. Cuna '74 (Gift in memory of Maurice Tauber)
Collen Cuddy (Janet A. McCue Acquisition Fund for Mann Library)
Dana G. Delcymples '54 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
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Sharon L. Dettter '86 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Katherine L. Dryer '01 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Maria E. Eisen (Gift in memory of Maurice Tauber)
Sallie Elserayt 'GR (Ans van Tienhoven Memorial Fund)
Howard Evans '44 and Erica Evans (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Pouli Kitt Evanos '09 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Florence Fearington (Library Endowment for Endocrinology, Limnology and Ecology in honor of Professor James G. Needham)
Evelina Ferretti 'GR (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Geoffrey Ferster 'GR, (Howard F. Conklin and Geoffrey Ferster Book Endowment, Janet A. McCue Acquisition Fund for Mann Library)
Francille M. Firebaugh 'GR & John D. Firebaugh (Francille and John Firebaugh Book Endowment for Human Ecology)
Susan O. Friedman '08 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Adele C. Frielio '13 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Paul A. Garrett '57 (Janet A. McCue Acquisition Fund for Mann Library, Mann Library Excellence Fund)
David E. Giblin '85 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Brenda L. Graff '77 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Robert E. Greaves '65 (Janet A. McCue Acquisition Fund for Mann Library, Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Marjorie L. Griffin '81 (Campaign for Mann Library Collections)
Nicole Neronius Gupte '01 & Salil A. Gupte '01 (Mann Library Excellence Fund)
Kathleen Holpin '11 (Campaign for Mann Library Collections)
Susan A. Henry & Peter Henry (Mann Library Excellence Fund)

If you note an error or omission in our new gift listing, please let us know! Mann's community of dedicated friends are a cornerstone in the success of this institution. To find out more, please visit mannlib.cornell.edu/about/friends or contact Mary Ochs, Director, mao4@cornell.edu; 607-255-2285.