

Timeline of Library Preservation at Harvard
Weissman Preservation Center, Harvard University Library

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1638: John Harvard bequeaths half his money and his entire library (several hundred volumes) to the recently-founded college in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The college is re-named for him. Other donations quickly follow.

1638-1642: Harvard's first academic building is constructed. Often it is referred to simply as "The College" or "Old College." The library (still under 1,000 volumes) occupies a room on the second floor. Poorly constructed, the building begins to deteriorate: the roof decays, the floors sag, and wind blows through cracks in the walls.¹

1667: The first Library Laws address problems such as security and collections care. A patron who damages or fails to return a book is obligated to pay double the cost of the book and may have borrowing rights revoked. Library records, manuscripts, and "books of extraordinary value" are kept under tighter security than the regular collection. In this period a new Library Keeper is appointed every two years. It is his responsibility that "the Library be kept in good repair, that no damage come to any of the books by the weather or want of convenient shelving &c. Also he shall keep the Library duly swept, & the books clean & orderly in their places." Solomon Stoddard is the first Librarian of Harvard.²

1671-8: Harvard Hall (or "New College") is built to hold the library, the collection of scientific apparatus, a chapel, dormitories, a kitchen, and a buttery. The library is transferred to Harvard Hall from the collapsing Old College building.³

1682: John Cotton, Librarian of Harvard, suggests at a Corporation meeting that "double books" – or multiple copies – be sold in order to buy other books for the Library.⁴

1700s: The library continues to be housed on the second floor of Harvard Hall. In 1723, the library contains 3,500 volumes. There are two library collections – one for "common

¹ Bainbridge Bunting and Margaret Henderson Floyd, *Harvard: An Architectural History* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1985), 5-13.

² Alfred Claghorn Potter and Charles Knowles Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College, 1667-1877* (Cambridge: Library of Harvard University, 1897), 43.

³ Bunting, *Harvard: An Architectural History*, 11 and 18-21; Alfred Claghorn Potter, *The Library of Harvard University: Descriptive and Historical Notes* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1934), 12-13; Samuel Eliot Morison, *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636-1936* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1994), 21.

⁴ Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 10.

use” and one for valuable and restricted books. These are referred to as the “smaller” and “great” libraries, respectively. Since later librarians suggest just such an arrangement, it seems likely that the division was not adequately clear.⁵

1719: An important early book donor is Thomas Hollis (1659-1731), whose brothers, nephew, and heirs would also be important donors to Harvard. In 1719, he sends his first gift of books.⁶

1721-1722: Joshua Gee, Librarian of Harvard, prepares a printed catalog of the library. It describes the arrangement of books in numbered cases, each case with seven shelves, each book individually numbered.⁷

June 1725: In a letter, Thomas Hollis (1659-1731) expresses concern about the liberal borrowing policies of the Harvard Library: “Your library is reckond here to be ill managed, by the account I have of some that know it, you want seats to sitt and read, and chains to your valluable books like our Bodleian library, or Sion College in London, you know their methods, wch are approved, but do not imitate them, you let your books be taken at pleasure home to Men’s houses, and many are lost, your (boyish) Students take them to their chambers, and teare out pictures & maps to adorne their Walls, such things are not good; if you want roome for modern books, it is easy to remove the less usefull into a more remote place, but not to sell any, they are devoted.”⁸

1736: The Corporation approves a new set of Library Laws. These rules lay out stricter regulations about who may check out books and for how long; generally, three books may be borrowed for three weeks at a time. In addition to previous rules about replacing damaged books, a new rule specifies that stealing a book will result in expulsion. A new Library Keeper will be appointed annually. His duties include keeping the building and the books clean. Only he and the President should have copies of the key to the library.⁹

1737-1738: While Thomas March is Librarian of Harvard, a vote is taken “to provide Boxes for the Books in the Library, fitted wth handles &c wrby the said Library may be Speedily & Safely remov’d in case of Fire.”¹⁰

24-25 January, 1764: The General Court of Massachusetts holds session at Harvard Hall during a smallpox outbreak in Boston. A fire begins in the library and spreads, destroying the Hall; severe winter weather hinders firefighting efforts. Most of the

⁵ Potter, *The Library of Harvard University: Descriptive and Historical Notes*, 13; Keyes D. Metcalf, “The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 1, no. 1 (1947): 29-30.

⁶ Samuel Eliot Morison, *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636-1936*, 66.

⁷ Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 17-18.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 19; Potter, *The Library of Harvard University: Descriptive and Historical Notes*, 14.

⁹ Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 43-45.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 22.

library collection (5,000 volumes) is lost. About 400 books survive: they were either out on loan or in boxes, waiting to be unpacked. President Edward Holyoke writes: “In a very short time, this venerable Monument of the Piety of our Ancestors was turn’d into a heap of ruins.” Early Harvard records are saved because they are stored in President Holyoke’s office in Wadsworth House. The General Court pays to rebuild Harvard Hall and donates a “water engine” for future firefighting efforts. The library collection grows by donation in the following years.¹¹

1765: The president and fellows approve a new set of Library Laws. The Librarian (no longer referred to as “Library Keeper”) may be appointed for no more than three years. He is responsible for keeping the building aired, swept, and dusted. A fire should be lit once a month from October to April, but the Librarian must monitor it and make sure it is properly extinguished. Juniors may now borrow books from the library, a privilege previously reserved to seniors. It is easier to borrow books from the “smaller” library of books for common use, but it is also possible for these students to borrow from the “great” library with permission from the proper authority figures. Each year, every borrower must return his books to the library by the end of June, so they can be dusted and inspected. It is now explicitly forbidden to bring a candle or a lamp into the library.¹²

1764-1766: The second Harvard Hall is built. (It still stands today – albeit heavily renovated and expanded.) The library collection, organized in alcoves denoted by the names of major donors, takes up half of the second floor of this building. Early shelf-lists and catalogues are attempts to keep track of the growing collection. Certain books of philosophy and medicine are prohibited to students.¹³

1775: The Harvard University Archives holds an invoice from “Barclay’s” (possibly Andrew Barclay, a Boston bookbinder) for binding and covering a number of books in calf and sheepskin. Total cost: £13:2:7.¹⁴

¹¹ Clifford K. Shipton, “The Collections of the Harvard University Archives,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 1, no. 2 (1947): 176; Morison, *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636-1936*, 95-98; Kenneth E. Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library: Description of an Exhibition* (Cambridge: Harvard University Library, 1986), 12-13.

¹² Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 45-47; Metcalf, “The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877,” 29-30.

¹³ John Perkins Brown, “The Second Harvard Hall Library,” *Harvard Library Notes* 29 (March 1939): 226-232; Potter, *The Library of Harvard University: Descriptive and Historical Notes*, 14-16; Douglass Shand-Tucci and Richard Cheek, *Harvard University: An Architectural Tour* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2001), 33-36; Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library*, 18; Ernest John Knapton, “Pitt Clarke’s Harvard Diary, 1786-1791,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 21, no. 2 (1973): 167-170.

¹⁴ Harvard University. Records of the Harvard University Library. Records relating to the activities of the Library. Binding papers 1775-1928. UA.III.50.15.17.3pf. Box 1. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

1775: The Provincial Congress commandeers the buildings of Harvard College as quarters for the continental army. Samuel Phillips, Jr. describes packing books for war-time storage during the Battle of Bunker Hill: "Amid all the terrors of battle I was so busily engaged in Harvard Library that I never even heard of the engagement (I mean the siege) until it was completed." In June 1775, the books are moved to Andover and subsequently to Concord, where the library is temporarily located in a private home. The Corporation also votes to send the College's fire engine to Concord. After the British evacuate Boston in March 1776, the Provincial Congress grants Harvard permission to return to Cambridge.¹⁵

1793: The salary paid to the Harvard Librarian increases, with the condition that he or a staff member will open the library during vacations.¹⁶

1790s-1810s: Borrowing privileges are gradually expanded to include sophomores and freshmen. Students may borrow books from the library on specific days of the month, and do not have access to the entire library collection.¹⁷

1815: In a letter to President John T. Kirkland, Librarian Andrews Norton advocates for both a general collection of "common books for circulation among the students" and a collection "where valuable and rare books are deposited for preservation." Norton recommends purchasing lower-quality editions for regular use by students, who sometimes damage or make marks in the books. He understands the mission of the library to be two-fold: preserving books and benefiting students. Norton believes that these goals can be accomplished by having two distinct libraries.¹⁸

1815: With the commons and chapel transferred from Harvard Hall to University Hall, the first floor of Harvard Hall is devoted to classrooms and laboratories. The library now occupies the entire second floor.¹⁹

1818: The Harvard Library is under-funded and therefore unable to purchase many books in this period. Israel Thorndike donates the Ebeling collection of maps and Americana, one of the most valuable gifts the library has yet received.²⁰

¹⁵ Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution, *An Historic Guide to Cambridge* (Cambridge: 1907), 22; Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 30; Morison, *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636-1936*, 147-150; Percy W. Brown, "The Sojourn of Harvard College in Concord," *The Harvard Graduates' Magazine* 27 (1918-1919): 497-509.

¹⁶ Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 32-33.

¹⁷ Robert W. Lovett, "Harvard College and the Supply of Textbooks," *Harvard Library Bulletin* 4, no. 1 (1950): 118; Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library*, 46-47.

¹⁸ Metcalf, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877," 32-35.

¹⁹ Bunting, *Harvard: An Architectural History*, 32.

²⁰ Potter and Bolton, *The Librarians of Harvard College*, 35; Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library*, 54-55.

1822: Joseph Green Cogswell, briefly Librarian of Harvard, questions whether the library's priority should really be to provide books to undergraduates. He would prefer to build a collection for scholars and he writes – in a letter to the Harvard Corporation – that “no library book should be allowed to be used as a class book under any circumstances, such a use being wholly inconsistent with its proper preservation.”²¹

1820s-1830s: President Josiah Quincy repeatedly expresses concern about the vulnerability of the library to fire due to its proximity to Hollis Hall, a residential building in which students often keep fires. Student revolts in the 1830s result in bonfires, explosions, and vandalism, all of which pose a threat to irreplaceable collections. Quincy refers to the fire of 1764 as precedent and hopes that “friends of the University,” in the private sector or in the government, will help fund the construction of a new building and prevent the destruction of irreplaceable collections.²²

1831: President Quincy expresses concern about the crowding of books in the library. There are too many books for the space. This means that the alcoves are full and the books are held on shelves constructed in the middle of several rooms. Quincy is concerned that this arrangement will be inconvenient to patrons and may result in “damage and even loss” of the books.²³

1838-1841: Gore Hall is constructed on the current site of Widener Library. It is the first Harvard building to be used exclusively as a library. Modeled after King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, Gore Hall is widely considered a beautiful building. Its materials – granite (from President Quincy's quarry) and iron – are intended to minimize the danger of fire. However, the building is ill-suited to Harvard's ever-growing collections. It is poorly lit, poorly ventilated, and it soon becomes overcrowded with books. Concerns about fire mean that artificial light is largely forbidden, limiting hours of access. Moisture causes frost to form in the winter and mold to grow in the spring. The stucco on its interior walls erodes, creating dust. Gore Hall is heated by means of an early – and inadequate – system of steam heating; readers often need to wear coats in the winter.²⁴

²¹ Metcalf, “The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877,” 37.

²² See Josiah Quincy's annual reports of this period (in the *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university*). Quincy expresses particular concern between 1828 and 1833. See also Robert A. McCaughey, *Josiah Quincy, 1772-1864: The Last Federalist* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1974), 148-162.

²³ Josiah Quincy, “Report,” *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1830-1831* (1832): 7.

²⁴ Harvard University Library and William Coolidge Lane, *Gore Hall, The Library of Harvard College, 1838-1913* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1917); Kimball C. Elkins, “Foreshadowings of Lamont: Student Proposals in the Nineteenth Century,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 8, no. 1 (1954): 47; Clifford K. Shipton, “John Langdon Sibley,

1841: John Langdon Sibley begins his thirty-six year tenure as Assistant Librarian and then Librarian of Harvard. (He also worked for the Harvard Library in 1825-1826.) His collection development strategy is based on the theory that every item may one day be valuable. His systematic requests for donations cause books and ephemera to accumulate in the library, contributing to the over-crowding of Gore Hall. On July 11, 1846, Sibley writes in his journal: "Let the library be filled. If trash comes let it come. What is trash to me may be the part of the Library which will be the most valuable to another person."²⁵

Late 1840s: President Edward Everett notes the growth in the size and quality of the library collections. He regrets the lack of funds available to keep the library "in perfect condition" and wishes that students did not have to be charged a fee to use the collections. He suggests the establishment of a working collection for undergraduates, which would be housed in a building separate from the general library. The general library would remain "a repository of the rarer works in every department of science and literature." In the meantime, Gore Hall has an anteroom of books for undergraduate use.²⁶

1848: Walter Mitchell, Class of 1846, complains in a letter to President Everett that undergraduates are granted too little time in the library and such minimal access to the books that it is difficult for them to learn. He believes that students are unfairly suspected of theft and vandalism. He wishes that the College Library offered the same type of liberal access that the Law School Library does. Everett answers with a brief note, saying that it would be ideal to make the library more open, but that it already is more accessible than equivalent European and American libraries.²⁷

1850-1851: Manuscript papers relating to the earliest days of Harvard are discovered to have suffered damage and losses during storage in Gore Hall. The Corporation decides to have them classified, arranged, and bound, "for their preservation and for preventing future loss." They will be stored in a safe in the President's office in University Hall. This event constitutes the formation of Harvard's first Archives.²⁸

Librarian," *Harvard Library Bulletin* 9, no. 2 (1955): 258-260; Bunting, *Harvard: An Architectural History*, 43-46.

²⁵ Harvard University Library and Lane, *Gore Hall, The Library of Harvard College, 1838-1913*; John Langdon Sibley, "Sibley's Private Journal"; available from <http://hul.harvard.edu/huarc/refshelf/Sibley.htm>; Internet; accessed 24 June 2009.

²⁶ Metcalf, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877," 50; Elkins, "Foreshadowings of Lamont: Student Proposals in the Nineteenth Century," 42. See also Edward Everett's annual reports of this period (in the *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university*).

²⁷ Metcalf, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877," 39.

²⁸ Jared Sparks, "Report," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1850-1851* (1852): 11-12; Jared Sparks, "Report," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the*

1856: John Langdon Sibley, previously Assistant Librarian, becomes Librarian of Gore Hall. Despite the resistance of President Walker, Sibley increases the building's storage capacity by installing movable shelves in the alcoves. Sibley begins to employ women in the library, first to clean books and then to work on the catalogue (a women's restroom is added in 1860). Harvard students and young boys are often hired to dust the books.²⁹

1856-1857: Francis C. Gray bequeaths his collection of engravings to Harvard. His nephew, William Gray, establishes conditions for the bequest, including a requirement that the collection will be kept with special care for "security against fire and other injury." By 1896 the engravings have become the responsibility of the Fogg Art Museum, where they are stored in "dust-proof cases, of handsome quartered oak with interior fittings of Spanish cedar."³⁰

1857-1860: Harvard undergraduates submit two proposals requesting better library facilities. A committee appointed by the Faculty suggests that, if particularly valuable books were locked up and patrons were inspected at the exit, Gore Hall's alcoves could be open to undergraduates. Sibley resists, reasoning that increased access would cause damage to the books and inconvenience to staff. A compromise is reached: library hours are extended, the hours during which books can be borrowed are extended, and current periodicals are made available (before they are bound). The alcoves remain off-limits to undergraduates.³¹

1858: In this period the library is inspected every year. All books are recalled and shelved. John Langdon Sibley notes (on June 23) that there are "fifty-seven persons delinquents, among the worst of whom are some of the College Officers."³²

1859: John Langdon Sibley hires John Maccarty, who subsequently trains as a bookbinder. Sibley hopes to establish a small workshop and bindery in which Maccarty can do binding work for the library, and thereby save money on binding costs. However, Maccarty dies before this plan can become a reality.³³

Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1851-1852 (1853): 10-11; Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library*, 84-85.

²⁹ Shipton, "John Langdon Sibley, Librarian," 236-261.

³⁰ James Walker, "Report," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1856-1857* (1858): 17-19; Charles H. Moore, "The Fogg Art Museum," *Annual reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1896-1897* (1898): 256.

³¹ Elkins, "Foreshadowings of Lamont: Student Proposals in the Nineteenth Century," 42-53.

³² Metcalf, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877," 48.

³³ Shipton, "John Langdon Sibley, Librarian," 247-248.

1860s-1870s: There is ongoing concern about crowding of books in Gore Hall. Thefts in the library can sometimes be traced to students, but more often to collectors.³⁴

1865: A fireproof building (funded by Nathaniel Thayer) is built to house Asa Gray's herbarium and botanical library.³⁵

1865: According to President Thomas Hill, Gore Hall is under-funded and the collections are suffering as a result. There is not enough money "to keep the bindings in repair," let alone to purchase new books. The building is full of books, with no room for people. Many parts of the building are damp, hastening the books' decay.³⁶

October 1868: Charles Ammi Cutter writes of the Harvard College Library that the "original restrictions on its use – restrictions made apparently in the interest of a remote posterity, from a fear that too much reading would wear out the books – are disappearing one by one." The library is open for longer hours and the improved catalogue (Cutter's own work) provides better access to books.³⁷

1869-1870: Some repairs are made to Gore Hall. Attempts are made to decrease dampness (by increasing ventilation) and to protect the building against the possibility of fire.³⁸

1860s-1870s: The Theological Library's collection continues to improve in quality, producing concern about the collection's safety from fire.³⁹

1871: President Charles W. Eliot explains the purchase of sixteen acres of land in Cambridge as security against the spreading of fires from buildings grouped too close to one another. He believes that all future construction at Harvard should be done in stone. Eliot also expresses the need for fireproof libraries for the Divinity School and the Medical Museum. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the Great Boston Fire of 1872 would seem to justify some of his concerns.⁴⁰

³⁴ Ibid., 252.

³⁵ Thomas Hill, "Report," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1864-1865* (1866): 4.

³⁶ Ibid., 8.

³⁷ Metcalf, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877," 51.

³⁸ Charles W. Eliot, "President's Report for 1869-1870," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1869-1870* (1871): 26-27.

³⁹ See Oliver Stearns's annual reports of this period (in the *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university*).

⁴⁰ Charles W. Eliot, "President's Report for 1870-1871," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1870-1871* (1872): 30; Charles W. Eliot, "President's Report for 1871-1872," *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1871-1872* (1873): 42; Charles W. Eliot, "President's

1871: The architecture firm Ware and Van Brunt begins plans and estimates for an enlargement of Gore Hall. President Eliot believes that Gore Hall's problems – specifically, overcrowding and dampness – can be solved, and that the building should be kept exactly where it is, since it is safe from the spread of fire.⁴¹

1871-1872: For the first time, the Theological Library will be overseen by a non-student. The Faculty hopes that this change will deter book theft. The librarian proceeds to increase the security of the collection.⁴²

1871: For the first time, the Law School Library will be overseen by a non-student. The library is divided into a “working library” for high-demand and reference books, and a “general library” for duplicates and less-used books. Access to the general library requires permission. From the 1870s to the 1890s the library purchases numerous duplicate copies of much-used items and greatly increases the amount of money it spends on binding and repairs. Greater attention is paid to the materials and methods used in binding.⁴³

1875: Books are piled on the floors of Gore Hall. There is not enough space in the library for books, patrons, and employees. Professor Henry Adams and a number of students from the History Department submit a petition to the Corporation of the College, requesting more space in which to consult books. The petition leads to a rearrangement of an area of the library that had previously been filled with exhibit cases.⁴⁴

26 January 1876: A fire in Hollis Hall prompts Harvard to construct a water main with four hydrants and to acquire several fire-ladders for Harvard Yard.⁴⁵

Report for 1872-1873,” *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1872-1873* (1874): 30 and 37-38.

⁴¹ Ibid., 40-42.

⁴² Oliver Stearns, “The Divinity School,” *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1870-1871* (1872): 58; Oliver Stearns, “The Divinity School,” *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1871-1872* (1873): 57-59.

⁴³ C. C. Langdell, “The Law School,” *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1870-1871* (1872): 63-64.

⁴⁴ Adams is quoted in Robert W. Lovett, “The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1877-1937,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 1, no. 2 (1947): 223. See also Charles W. Eliot's annual reports of this period (in the *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university*).

⁴⁵ Charles W. Eliot, “President's Report for 1875-1876,” *Annual Report of the President of Harvard University to the Overseers on the state of the university for the academic year 1875-1876* (1877): 25.

1876-1877: The construction of a fireproof wing to Gore Hall, with self-supporting iron stacks, briefly relieves space problems in the library. These are the first such stacks to be built in America. John Langdon Sibley strongly advocates for a new building instead of an enlargement, but is overruled by President Eliot.⁴⁶

1877: Justin Winsor becomes Librarian of Harvard. He eliminates the annual recall of books and stops the practice of closing the library for cleaning. Students can acquire tickets that give them limited access to the stacks, a result of Winsor's belief in the importance of contact with books.⁴⁷ In 1883, the annual examination of the books is reinstated and supplemented by regular shelf-reading by staff.⁴⁸

1878: Justin Winsor believes that the great number of serials and pamphlets requiring binding or rebinding suggests the need for a University bindery similar to the one with which he was familiar at the Boston Public Library. The bindery could use high-quality materials to do efficient work; an in-house operation would also provide better security for rare items.⁴⁹

Late 1870s: Environmental conditions at Dane Hall are deleterious to the books of the Law School Library. They become dusty when windows are open in the summer, are injured by exposure to gaslight, and are damaged by extreme changes in temperature. Furthermore, the library is over-stuffed with books and is not fireproof.⁵⁰

1879: The "Harvard Annex" – renamed Radcliffe College in 1894 – is founded. Its students have access to a reference library, which grows rapidly by means of gifts and purchases. A messenger retrieves books from Gore Hall so that Annex students can consult them. Some female students are given access to Gore Hall.⁵¹

⁴⁶ Ibid., 26-27; Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library*, 74.

⁴⁷ Lovett, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1877-1937," 223-225.

⁴⁸ Harvard University. Records of the Harvard University Library. Records relating to the activities of the Library. Frank Carney, "History of the Shelf Department," 1900. Archives UA.III.50.29.00.6. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

⁴⁹ Justin Winsor, "The Library," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1877-1878* (1879): 115.

⁵⁰ See C. C. Langdell's annual reports of this period. For example, C. C. Langdell, "The Law School," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1877-1878* (1879): 87.

⁵¹ Arthur Gilman, "Private Collegiate Instruction for Women: Work of the Second Year," *Private Collegiate Instruction for Women... Reports of the treasurer and secretary* (1881): 9-10.

1879-1880: Subject-specific books are transferred from Gore Hall to the new, fireproof Herbarium Library. Conversely, books are transferred from the Theological Library – which is not fireproof – to Gore Hall.⁵²

1880-1881: The cellar of Gore Hall is expanded into storage space for newspapers.⁵³

1883-1887: The bequest of the Ezra Abbot Library to the Divinity School requires the construction of a safer, fireproof facility. The new library opens in 1887. Today the building forms part of the Harvard Herbaria.⁵⁴

Late 1880s-early 1890s: Gore Hall does not have electrical lighting, and so it often needs to close before 4:00 pm on dark winter afternoons. The plaster walls and fixtures are crumbling. On Thanksgiving Day, 1889, “a fifty-pound corner ornament” falls in the reading room. President Eliot and Justin Winsor would like to make the entire building fireproof, add new stacks, and create a new reading room.⁵⁵

Late 1880s-1890s: Concerns grow about the danger of fire at the Observatory, and the potential destruction of thousands of unique photographic plates and manuscripts.⁵⁶

1889-1890: Fay House, the main building of the Harvard Annex – renamed Radcliffe College in 1894 – is expanded. The building is equipped with a “noiseless fan” that introduces hot or cool air, as well as a ventilator in the roof. The library is on the third floor. It is lit by windows, a skylight, and gas jets when necessary. There is an open fireplace. The collection continues to grow, and within a few years Radcliffe begins to need a larger, fireproof space. Students of the Annex continue to make regular use of Gore Hall.⁵⁷

⁵² Justin Winsor, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1879-1880* (1880): 109.

⁵³ Justin Winsor, “The Library” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1880-1881* (1881): 107.

⁵⁴ C. C. Everett, “The Divinity School,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1883-1884* (1885): 97; C. C. Everett, “The Divinity School,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1886-1887* (1888): 86.

⁵⁵ Charles W. Eliot, “The President’s Report,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1887-1888* (1889): 19-20; Lovett, “The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1877-1937,” 224-225.

⁵⁶ See Charles W. Eliot’s annual reports of this period. For example, see Charles W. Eliot, “The President’s Report,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1888-1889* (1890): 33.

⁵⁷ Arthur Gilman, “The Society for the Private Collegiate Instruction of Women: Secretary’s Annual Report,” *Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women... Reports of the treasurer and secretary* (1890): 9-15.

1890s: The same cases are regularly assigned to large classes at the Law School; heavy use does damage to library collections. Duplicate copies alleviate the problem somewhat.⁵⁸

January 1891: The President and Fellows of Harvard University vote to grant students of the Harvard Annex – renamed Radcliffe College in 1894 – continued access to the books in Gore Hall. This access is primarily provided via messenger service between Gore Hall and Fay House.⁵⁹

February 1891: The Library Council limits access to the shelves of Gore Hall due to frequent misplacement and losses of books, some at the hands of a professional thief. Justin Winsor acknowledges that making the collection entirely secure from theft would restrict access in a way that would be inconvenient to patrons.⁶⁰

1891-1892: Winsor expresses concerns about reports of both patrons and staff lighting matches in order to see better in dark areas of Gore Hall.⁶¹

Spring 1894: 15,000 books – selected due to low circulation – are boxed and stored in the cellar of Appleton Chapel. Demand for their return to Gore Hall is nearly immediate. In December they are made accessible when they are transferred to the Theological Library.⁶²

1895: Interior renovations of Gore Hall begin. Features include a new roof with skylights, a three-story iron book stack, and a new reading room (which will be open until 10:00 pm). The building is wired for electrical lighting. During construction, many books are stored in Perkins Hall and Massachusetts Hall.⁶³ Frank Carney (who works in

⁵⁸ Charles W. Eliot, "The President's Report," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1890-1891* (1892): 20; C. C. Langdell, "The Law School," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1890-1891* (1892): 115-116.

⁵⁹ Arthur Gilman, "The Society for the Private Collegiate Instruction of Women: Secretary's Annual Report," *Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women... Reports of the treasurer and secretary* (1891): 7.

⁶⁰ Justin Winsor, "The Library," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1890-1891* (1892): 143-146.

⁶¹ Justin Winsor, "The Library," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1891-1892* (1893): 160.

⁶² Charles W. Eliot, "The President's Report," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1893-1894* (1895): 25-26; Charles W. Eliot, "The President's Report," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1894-1895* (1896): 31.

⁶³ Justin Winsor, "The Library," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1894-1895* (1896): 180; Charles W. Eliot, "The President's Report," *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1895-1896* (1897): 28.

the Shelf Department) describes the transport of books in 5-foot-long boxes, with iron handles, in which the books are arranged in shelf order.⁶⁴

1895-1896: The old boiler room of Gore Hall is converted into a newspaper room with “steel roller shelves.”⁶⁵

Summer 1896: Construction adds two new stories and electric lights to the Law School Library.⁶⁶

1897-1898: The reading room of Gore Hall is poorly ventilated and very uncomfortable in the summer. A rotary ventilating fan, designed to pump warm air into the room in the winter and to draw warm air out of the room in the summer, is installed. It is apparently ineffectual.⁶⁷

Summer 1898: Radcliffe College undertakes renovations to a wall of Fay House, due to concerns that the weight of books in the third-floor library might do structural damage to the building.⁶⁸

1897-1898: The Fogg Art Museum institutes regulations and record-keeping for use of its collections of prints and engravings. Permission is required to consult and copy materials; only pencils are allowed for note-taking; visitors must sign in and be supervised during use.⁶⁹

1898-1899: President Eliot begins to use the term “dead books” to describe those books in a library that are seldom or never used. He believes that they should not be stored with the “living” collection (which is used primarily by “young men”), but rather elsewhere – either in more compact storage or somewhere off-site. William Coolidge Lane, Librarian of Harvard, will come to acknowledge that off-site storage is a better option than overcrowding the library or deaccessioning books, but he resists the term “dead book.”

⁶⁴ Harvard University. Records of the Harvard University Library. Records relating to the activities of the Library. Frank Carney, “History of the Shelf Department,” 1900. Archives UA.III.50.29.00.6. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

⁶⁵ Justin Winsor, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1895-1896* (1897): 196.

⁶⁶ Charles W. Eliot, “The President’s Report,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1895-1896* (1897): 23.

⁶⁷ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1897-1898* (1899): 208; William Bentinck-Smith, “Archibald Cary Coolidge and the Harvard Library, II. Facing the Question as a Whole,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 21, no. 4 (1973): 426.

⁶⁸ Agnes Irwin, “Report of the Dean,” *Annual reports of the president and treasurer of Radcliffe College 1897-1898*: 20-22.

⁶⁹ Charles H. Moore, “The Fogg Art Museum,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1897-1898* (1899): 281.

Discussions of a storehouse – perhaps shared with other New England libraries – continue over the next few years.⁷⁰

1898-1899: William Coolidge Lane describes access to Gore Hall at this period: “Cards of admission to different departments of the Library are given, on recommendation of an instructor, to all advanced students who need to go directly to the shelves for purposes of investigation in connection with their work.” Radcliffe students may consult books in a small reading room.⁷¹

1898-1899: A new method of checking the stacks is introduced in Gore Hall. Previously, they were checked against a shelf-list twice a year. Now they will be checked each month. A list of books that are out of place is checked against circulation and cataloging records. If a book has not reappeared after several months it is declared missing.⁷²

Late 1890s-early 1900s: The Fogg Art Museum mounts photographs and prints for many departments in the University. Its own collection of photographs has outgrown the cases set aside for it, and the museum cannot afford new cases. Photographs accumulate in piles on top of the old cases.⁷³

Early 1900s: Gore Hall is utterly overwhelmed with books. Many books are sent for storage in departmental libraries and other buildings. Discussion of off-site storage continues.⁷⁴

1900: Frank Carney (who works in the Shelf Department) describes the annual cleaning of books in Gore Hall. Janitors take down a section of books and put them in order on a table. They wash the empty shelf with a “nearly dry” sponge and a brush, if necessary, to remove excess dirt. Books are “taken from the table and the top and sides wiped with a

⁷⁰ Charles W. Eliot, “The President’s Report,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1898-1899* (1900): 29-30; William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1901-1902* (1903): 215-216.

⁷¹ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1898-1899* (1900): 219.

⁷² William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1898-1899* (1900): 225-226.

⁷³ See Charles H. Moore’s annual reports of this period. For example, see Charles H. Moore, “The Fogg Art Museum,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1902-1903* (1904): 295-296.

⁷⁴ See Charles W. Eliot’s and William Coolidge Lane’s annual reports of this period. For example, see Charles W. Eliot, “The President’s Report,” and William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1902-1903* (1904): 27 and 198-200.

dry cloth and knocked together gently to shake out any dust remaining upon them.” To clean the whole library takes several months. The job was done by one or more people.⁷⁵

1900: Due to overcrowding, the Radcliffe Library is moved from Fay House to the Gilman Schoolhouse. The need for a fireproof building with high storage capacity and good ventilation is apparent. The addition – several years later – of two extra rows of shelves to the bookcases does little to help the situation.⁷⁶

February 1900: Many books in the Harvard collection are discovered to have been mutilated in order to remove their bookplates. Dr. Charles E. Cameron, a Boston physician, stole the plates and subsequently sold them to collectors. Most plates are recovered. Cameron pays all expenses, including the cost of rebinding the books.⁷⁷

May 1900: Harvard Treasurer's accounts from 1669 to 1693 are in terrible condition, due in large part to “a long sojourn in John Hancock's carriage house where they were eaten by insects and discolored and rotted by damp.” Harvard commissions the Emery Record Company, in Taunton, to mount each page between sheets of white silk.⁷⁸

1900: Harvard receives the Riant collection of early manuscripts and incunabula. Initially these items are stored in locked cases. The value of this collection leads the library to consider building a Treasure Room, for secure storage and display of rare and valuable books.⁷⁹

1901-1902: Concerns about fire at the Observatory are somewhat alleviated by a donation that funds a brick storage wing for many of its photographs. The library is still housed in

⁷⁵ Harvard University. Records of the Harvard University Library. Records relating to the activities of the Library. Frank Carney, “History of the Shelf Department,” 1900. Archives UA.III.50.29.00.6. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

⁷⁶ Ruth K. Porritt, “The Radcliffe College Library after Seventy-five Years,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 9, no. 3 (1955): 338; Caroline Farley, “Report of the Librarian,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Radcliffe College 1903-1904*: 61.

⁷⁷ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1899-1900* (1901): 216; William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1900-1901* (1902): 194.

⁷⁸ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1899-1900* (1901): 237.

⁷⁹ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1899-1900* (1901): 219; William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1901-1902* (1903): 216.

a wooden building, however, and the Observatory installs a hydrant and hoses to augment its fire alarms and fire extinguishers. Fire drills are conducted every other month.⁸⁰

1902-1903: Concerns are raised about the inefficient and insecure storage of rare books in Gore Hall. They are currently arranged by subject in “small locked closets which have been built at frequent intervals as needed against the ends of the book-rows in the stack.” Each time he wants to consult a rare book, a reader needs to fetch an attendant to open the necessary closet(s). Closets are sometimes left unlocked.⁸¹

1903: The *Rules of the Library* state that “no borrower shall write or mark in a book belonging to the Library; and any damage to, or loss of, books, shall be made good to the satisfaction of the Librarian, at a valuation to be determined by him.” Students cannot graduate until their fines to the library are paid.⁸²

February 27, 1904: The Med. Fac. Society, a secretive club that had existed at Harvard since the early 19th century, vandalizes the reading room of Gore Hall with brown and white paint. The main targets are statues and chairs. Eggs are broken on the superintendent’s desk.⁸³

1904: The Harvard Library, conscious of its own disastrous history with fire, donates one hundred books to the National Library in Turin following its destruction by fire.⁸⁴

1904: The Radcliffe Student Library Committee is partially responsible for keeping the Radcliffe Library orderly and quiet. In following years, they often find or replace overdue and lost books. When reserve books are lost from the Radcliffe Library, the classes for which they were reserved contribute money to replace them.⁸⁵

1904-1908: The new Radcliffe Library is planned, constructed, and opened. Dean Agnes Irwin convinces Andrew Carnegie to make a gift of \$75,000. This amount is matched by gifts from alumnae and friends of Radcliffe. The new library is open-stack, at the insistence of the librarian, Caroline Farley.⁸⁶

⁸⁰ Edward C. Pickering, “The Observatory,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1901-1902* (1903): 266 and 275.

⁸¹ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1902-1903* (1904): 216.

⁸² Harvard University. Records of the Harvard University Library. Records relating to the activities of the Library. “Rules of the Library,” 1903. UA.III.50.29.03.2. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

⁸³ “Vandals at Harvard Again,” *New York Times*, 27 February 1904.

⁸⁴ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1903-1904* (1905): 212.

⁸⁵ Caroline Farley, “Report of the Librarian,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Radcliffe College 1904-1905*: 66.

⁸⁶ Dorothy Elia Howells, *A Century to Celebrate: Radcliffe College, 1879-1979* (Cambridge: Radcliffe College, 1978), 21; Porritt, “The Radcliffe College Library after

1905: While President Eliot continues to push for offsite storage with courier service to Gore Hall, William Coolidge Lane counters by describing the experience of sending a group of “dead” books to Robinson Hall. The result is a high demand on the library messenger to retrieve books for use by readers. Meanwhile, the over-crowding of books in Gore Hall hinders access and damages books.⁸⁷

1906-1908: A final – two-story, reinforced concrete – addition is made to the north side of Gore Hall’s east stack. One new feature is the Treasure Room, where valuable books can be kept secure and used under supervision. This room has twenty-three sliding book-cases: an early example of compact shelving. Gore Hall’s new Map Room stores maps and atlases on sliding horizontal shelves. Several reading rooms are lit by tungsten lamps. There is still not enough space to house all of the library’s books.⁸⁸

March 4, 1907: A fire at the residential hall of the Observatory is extinguished before the arrival of the city fire department, thanks in part to experience gained from frequent fire drills.⁸⁹

1907-1908: William Coolidge Lane notes that the annual cleaning of the Gore Hall’s books now takes four men working over three months – “a constantly increasing, but apparently unavoidable, item of expense.” He blames the Cambridge air – full of coal-smoke – for the dust that accumulates on the books. Lane considers several future preventative measures, including filtering the air being introduced to the library and applying “dust-laying compounds” to paths and streets in Cambridge. The library experiments with a book-cleaning mechanical vacuum, but chooses not to purchase one.⁹⁰

1908: Caroline Farley, Librarian of Radcliffe, resigns due to poor health. Her successor, Rose Sherman, often includes specific statistics about binding costs in her annual reports. She does not specify where the binding is done.⁹¹

1910-1911: Gore Hall is too small and not fireproof. Thousands of books are stored in basements around campus. Other books are piled on tables or on the floor of Gore Hall.

Seventy-five Years,” 338-340; see L. B. R. Briggs’s and Caroline Farley’s annual reports of this period (in *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Radcliffe College*).

⁸⁷ Charles W. Eliot, “The President’s Report,” and William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1904-1905* (1906): 42-43 and 226-227.

⁸⁸ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1906-1907* (1908): 190-196.

⁸⁹ Edward C. Pickering, “The Observatory,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1906-1907* (1908): 261.

⁹⁰ William Coolidge Lane, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1907-1908* (1909): 215-216.

⁹¹ See Caroline Farley’s and Rose Sherman’s annual reports of this period (in *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Radcliffe College*).

A committee of architects submits a plan for a new library building, but there are no funds available to build it.⁹²

1911: The libraries of the Harvard Divinity School and the Andover Seminary are united in a new fireproof stack in Andover Hall. The schools separate in 1926, but the libraries remain united as the Andover-Harvard Theological Library. In June 1912, this library extends privileges to officers and students of Radcliffe College.⁹³

November 1911: Radcliffe College begins to pay an annual fee of \$500 (“to defray the expenses incurred”) so that its students may continue borrowing books from Gore Hall.⁹⁴

April 14, 1912: Harry Elkins Widener, class of 1907, dies aboard the *Titanic*. He leaves his collection of rare books to his mother, Eleanor Elkins Widener, with the understanding that she will donate them to Harvard once there is a suitable library in which to store them. She offers Harvard a library as a monument to her son. The building is a compromise between recommendations made by Harvard’s own library committees and the wishes of Eleanor Elkins Widener regarding its appearance.⁹⁵

1912-1916: During the construction of Widener Library, most books remain accessible and are stored in Massachusetts Hall, Randall Hall, the Andover-Harvard Theological Library, and departmental libraries. Some rare books are stored in a safe deposit vault. Widener is built on an area that stretches from the site of Gore Hall to Massachusetts Avenue. A patron with access to the stacks (professors and “advanced students”) will have access to the entire collection, not just subject-specific collections.⁹⁶

1913-1914: After renovations at the Fogg Art Museum, prints are moved from the basement into upstairs storage cases. The Museum, which owns large collections of books, slides, photographs, and prints, is hindered by a lack of space.⁹⁷

⁹² A. Lawrence Lowell, “The President’s Report,” and Archibald Cary Coolidge, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1910-1911* (1912): 22-23 and 160.

⁹³ W. W. Fenn, “The Divinity School,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1911-1912* (1913): 134; Rose Sherman, “Report of the Librarian,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Radcliffe College 1911-1912*: 18.

⁹⁴ L. B. R. Briggs, “Report of the President,” *Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Radcliffe College 1911-1912*: 17.

⁹⁵ Bentinck-Smith, “Archibald Cary Coolidge and the Harvard Library, II. Facing the Question as a Whole,” 428-442.

⁹⁶ See Archibald Cary Coolidge’s and A. Lawrence Lowell’s annual reports of this period (in *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College*).

⁹⁷ Edward W. Forbes, “The Fogg Art Museum,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1913-1914* (1915): 250.

January 1914: The Radcliffe Student Government Association takes “responsibility for the conduct of the students in the Library,” and metes out punishments for improper behavior.⁹⁸

June 24, 1915: Widener Library is formally dedicated. Books begin to be moved in from Randall Hall. Widener has adequate space for the Harvard’s books, as well as ample study and classroom space. Load-bearing stacks allow for the weight of many books. A small reading room is reserved for Radcliffe students, and some advanced Radcliffe students are allowed into the stacks.⁹⁹

1916: With the understanding that photographic reproduction would be important to a modern research library, a photographic laboratory – with one wooden camera – is established in Widener. The laboratory was intended to be financially self-sustaining, but must sell its equipment to the library in 1918.¹⁰⁰

1918: George Vasmer Leverett bequeaths to Radcliffe Library more than a thousand books, some very valuable and rare.¹⁰¹

1918-1920: The Radcliffe Library has run out of shelf-space, but cannot afford a major renovation. Instead, new shelves in the basement will house periodicals and a fireproof vault will store rare books and doctoral theses.¹⁰²

1918-1920s: World War I and post-war inflation cause Widener to postpone projects, including necessary binding, due to rising costs. Several staff members are fired due to lack of funds.¹⁰³

1919: Robert H. Pearman, who is also a photographer at the Massachusetts Historical Society, is hired to recondition the camera and the darkroom in Widener. The laboratory

⁹⁸ Rose Sherman, “Report of the Librarian,” *Radcliffe College Reports of the President and Treasurer for 1913-1914*: 115.

⁹⁹ A. Lawrence Lowell, “The President’s Report,” and Archibald Cary Coolidge, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1915-1916* (1917): 20 and 202; Carpenter, *The First 350 Years of the Harvard University Library*, 143; Radcliffe College Library, *Handbook of the Library* (Cambridge: Cosmos Press, 1923), 16-21.

¹⁰⁰ Charles L. Grace, “The Photographic Department of the Harvard Library,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 4, no. 2 (1950): 278.

¹⁰¹ Rose Sherman, “Report of the Librarian,” *Annual Report of Radcliffe College for 1917-1918* (1919): 50.

¹⁰² See Rose Sherman’s annual reports of this period (in *Annual Report of Radcliffe College*).

¹⁰³ See Archibald Cary Coolidge’s annual reports of this period (in *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College*). Regarding layoffs, see Archibald Cary Coolidge, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1919-1920* (1921): 190.

charges for reproductions, and in 1920-1921 the Photostat is used for 184 jobs, taking in \$772.73. These numbers rise in the following years. Pearman continues to work on a part-time basis until he is replaced by Walter B. Ballantyne in 1925. In the following years, the Photographic Department gains business, adds staff, and updates its equipment.¹⁰⁴

1920s: Widener Library is already overcrowded. It becomes necessary to add shelving to the lowest two floors and to various sections throughout the stack.¹⁰⁵

1920: Charles Facey develops the Library Bindery as an expansion of a small repair shop in the basement of Widener. The Bindery gains staff and equipment over the following years. It is overseen by the library's administration.¹⁰⁶

1924-1925: The Radcliffe Library is again overcrowded. The problem is addressed by storing books on top of bookcases, installing five double-faced cases for reserved books, and building bookshelves along the walls of one room.¹⁰⁷

1925-1926: Rose Sherman, Librarian at Radcliffe, notes the "widespread lack of responsibility" demonstrated by students in the library. Books are cut up, written upon, and taken without being checked out. She notes that these are expensive and frustrating side effects of the open-stack system. The year is also noteworthy for an increase in binding. In addition to the usual binding of periodicals, the library has engaged in "a systematic attempt to strengthen bindings." Many books with loose bindings are recased in their old covers, a job that is done in the library.¹⁰⁸

1926-1927: Rose Sherman notes the "frequent and mysterious disappearance" of books from the Radcliffe Library. New security measures – including a desk at the exit of the reserved books room (the Fiske Room) where patrons must show all of their books – are approved and put into place. Mending and repair work continues. Much of this work is done by Elfreda C. Heath, who remains at Radcliffe until 1945.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁴ Grace, "The Photographic Department of the Harvard Library," 279-280; William C. Lane, "The Library," *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1920-1921* (1922): 229.

¹⁰⁵ See Archibald Cary Coolidge's annual reports of this period (in *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College*).

¹⁰⁶ Mabel F. Barnes, "The Library Bindery," *Harvard Library Notes* 25 (June 1935), 60-63.

¹⁰⁷ Rose Sherman, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1924-1925* (1926): 29-30.

¹⁰⁸ Rose Sherman, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1925-1926* (1927): 30-32.

¹⁰⁹ Rose Sherman, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1926-1927* (1928): 30-35.

1927-1928: Georgiana Ames, the new Librarian of Radcliffe, notes that fewer books have been lost since security measures were instituted. Students still keep books for too long and frequently whisper in the library, forcing staff to act as disciplinarians. The library remains overcrowded; many items – including maps – are moved to the basement. During the summer, books are cleaned “with a vacuum cleaner.” Ames keeps statistics about annual expenditures for binding and recasing; she also notes the number of books mended in the library each year.¹¹⁰

1928: Edward W. Forbes founds the Fogg Art Museum’s Department of Technical Studies (also referred to as the Department of Conservation and Technical Research, later the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies). It quickly becomes an important voice in the growing field of conservation science. In the 1930s, the department examines and experiments on a variety of materials, including drawings and engravings, to determine best restoration practices. The department produces and studies X-rays of paintings. Another study examines “the effect of oxidation on the cellulose fibre of paper.”¹¹¹

1929: The Library Bindery moves from Widener to the Boylston Hall Annex (the current site of Wigglesworth Hall), where there is more space for its equipment. This frees up space in Widener for expansion of the Treasure Room, such that one room will primarily be used for exhibitions and another will be used for secure storage. A small repair shop remains in operation in Widener.¹¹²

1929-1930: Lists of books missing from the Radcliffe Library are printed in *The Radcliffe Daily*. Editorials in this newspaper discuss students’ obligations to return books and to keep them in good condition. Overcrowding of the library continues. An “unused coal hole” is cleaned and equipped with shelves in order to provide more storage space.¹¹³

1929-1930: Widener’s female cleaning staff are dismissed in December 1929 and replaced with male workers. Frank Carney (who works in the Shelf Department) finds

¹¹⁰ Georgiana Ames, “Report of the Librarian,” *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1927-1928* (1929): 26-31.

¹¹¹ Francesca Bewer, “Early History of conservation and technical studies at the Fogg Art Museum”; available from <http://cool.conservation-us.org/byform/mailling-lists/cdl/1998/1145.html>; Internet; accessed 26 October 2009. For more details about the research carried out at the Fogg, see Edward W. Forbes’s annual reports of this period (in *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments*).

¹¹² Barnes, “The Library Bindery,” 60-63; Robert P. Blake, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1927-1928* (1929): 232; Robert P. Blake, “The Library,” *Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College 1928-1929* (1930): 206.

¹¹³ Georgiana Ames, “Report of the Librarian,” *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1929-1930* (1931): 28-32.

that the men lack discipline and leave many parts of Widener uncleaned. There are complaints from patrons about dust and uncollected trash.¹¹⁴

Early 1930s: House libraries open in seven Harvard dormitories. Many freshmen use the library in the Freshman Union.¹¹⁵

Early 1930s: It is discovered that numerous books have been stolen from the stacks of Widener. In the following years, the thieves are caught and many of the books are recovered. The Library Council and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences agree that security in Widener should be increased. As a result, a guard is placed at each entrance and a barrier with turnstiles is constructed at the main entrance. The locks to the stacks are changed and the number of keys in circulation is reduced. (Young staff, research assistants, and secretaries are now less likely to receive keys.)¹¹⁶

1930: Plans to build Wigglesworth Hall cause the Bindery to move to 888 Memorial Drive (former site of the Hingham Knitting Company). It is difficult for Widener to administer the department from this distance.¹¹⁷

1930-1931: Recognizing that some books become more valuable with time, staff and patrons have been recommending books for transfer from the open stacks to the Widener Treasure Room. The Treasure Room stores manuscripts, incunabula, rare books, examples of fine printing, books with valuable plates, and so on.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁴ Harvard University. Records of the Harvard University Library. Records relating to the activities of the Library. Frank Carney, "History of the Shelf Department," 1900. Archives UA.III.50.29.00.6. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

¹¹⁵ Lovett, "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1877-1937," 235-236; A. Lawrence Lowell, "The President's Report," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1931-1932* (1933): 15; Delmar Leighton, "The College," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1931-1932* (1933): 105.

¹¹⁶ Robert P. Blake, "The Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1929-1930* (1931): 221; Robert P. Blake, "The Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1930-1931* (1932): 230-231.

¹¹⁷ A. Lawrence Lowell, "The President's Report," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1929-1930* (1931): 23; Barnes, "The Library Bindery," 60-63; Harvard University. Photographs of 888 Memorial Drive. HUV 653. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

¹¹⁸ Robert P. Blake, "The Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1930-1931* (1932): 231-232.

1930-1931: The Radcliffe Library opens a Map Room in Longfellow Hall. Twelve maps are mended before being moved there with the others. More shelves are built in the basement of the library.¹¹⁹

1931: A student advertises a Leica camera in the *Harvard Crimson*. Widener Library's Photographic Department buys the camera, which is used to begin producing microfilm facsimiles. Production is slow and labor-intensive at first.¹²⁰

1931-1932: A new building at the Observatory will provide adequate space and a fireproof environment for its immense collection of glass negatives.¹²¹

1931-1932: Georgiana Ames begins to note the following statistics for binding and repair work at the Radcliffe Library: volumes bound and rebound, outside the Library; volumes repaired, in the Library; pamphlets inserted in binders, in the Library.¹²²

1931-1933: A decrease in the University's income causes Widener to close in the evening and on Sundays. Many Harvard libraries cope with reduced budgets.¹²³

February 1932: The Radcliffe Student Government Library Committee writes letters or conducts interviews with students who returned more than 5 books after their due date. The library needs but cannot afford additional space. Several years later, Georgiana Ames notes "the tragic unexpansiveness of the present building."¹²⁴

1934: The Harvard Bindery becomes a department independent from the Library. It does business with the Harvard College Library as well as with other departments of the University. When Charles Facey resigns, Robert F. Fiske becomes superintendent. In the following decades, most libraries at Harvard do business with the Bindery, as do departments and individual scholars. A workshop in Widener continues to do basic binding repairs.¹²⁵ Records indicate Fiske's interest in materials, equipment, standards, and treatments of bindings (leather preservative, e.g.). The Harvard University Archives hold correspondence indicating that questions regarding environment, mildew, and

¹¹⁹ Georgiana Ames, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1930-1931* (1932): 29.

¹²⁰ Grace, "The Photographic Department of the Harvard Library," 282.

¹²¹ Harlow Shapley, "The Observatory," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1931-1932* (1933): 275.

¹²² Georgiana Ames, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1931-1932* (1933): 32.

¹²³ Robert P. Blake, "The Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and Reports of Departments 1931-1932* (1933): 227-228.

¹²⁴ Georgiana Ames, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1931-1932* (1933): 29; Georgiana Ames, "Report of the Librarian," *Annual Reports of Radcliffe College for 1933-1934* (1935): 32.

¹²⁵ Barnes, "The Library Bindery," 60-63; Daniel C. Weber, "Harvard University Bindery Sold," *Library Journal* 83, no. 11 (1958): 1659-1661.

storage of books are directed to him.¹²⁶ Services offered by the Bindery include “repairing, mounting photostats, making cases, folios, labels, etc.”¹²⁷ More detailed work was possible for special projects. For example, a 1939 job description for a book from the Widener Treasure Room reads, “reback chocolate calf, AV 209 sides. Remove old mend from A3. Mount between silk. Mount TP on paper.”¹²⁸

March 1935: The Radcliffe Library uses its front hall to display a “varied collection of mutilated books” as an effort in user education. The show is called “Radcliffe Native Industries.”¹²⁹

1935: Robert Blake notes the over-crowding of Widener’s Treasure Room and the need for additional funds to rebind and repair its holdings. The Treasure Room collection continues to grow, both by donation and by the transfer of books from the main stacks.¹³⁰

1935: Eleanor S. Peters, librarian of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, having already implemented a system of organizing the library’s pamphlets, hires an assistant to “clean, oil, and repair the bindings” of over 200 rare books in the collection. She also initiates a binding program for the collection’s serials.¹³¹

1935-1936: The Divinity School Library constructs a cage to hold archival materials related to missionary work.¹³²

1935-1936: Georgiana Ames describes the Widener privileges available to Radcliffe students. Some undergraduates – this year, forty-five – are given access while they are working on their theses. Graduate students can use the Widener stacks year-round. Many also use departmental libraries at Harvard. The Radcliffe Library still cannot afford a new building, and instead undergoes renovations: wooden shelves are replaced with steel, and tables are removed to make more room for shelves. The Student

¹²⁶ Harvard University. Records of the Bindery, 1933-1955. UAV 213.2. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

¹²⁷ Harvard University. Records of the Bindery, 1933-1955. UAV 213.229 hd. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

¹²⁸ Harvard University. Records of the Bindery, 1933-1955. UAV 213.279 hd. Harvard University Archives. Courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

¹²⁹ Georgiana Ames, “Report of the Librarian,” *Reports of College Officers 1934-1935* (1936): 48.

¹³⁰ Robert P. Blake, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1934-1935* (1936): 267.

¹³¹ Robert L. Work, “Ninety Years for Professor Agassiz’s Natural History Library,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 6, no. 2 (1952): 214-215.

¹³² Willard L. Sperry, “Divinity School,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1935-1936* (1937): 186.

Government Library Committee continues its outreach to encourage student responsibility and organizes a “Be Kind to Books Day” in April 1936.¹³³

Late 1930s: The Radcliffe Library deals with overcrowding by shifting parts of its collections to Byerly Hall, Agassiz House, and dormitory libraries.¹³⁴

Late 1930s: Widener installs a book drop, allowing patrons to return books when the library is closed.¹³⁵

Spring 1937: The Harvard University Bindery installs a display of its bindings, with samples and photographs, at the Radcliffe Library.¹³⁶

1937-1938: Widener’s Photographic Department acquires a Folmer-Graflex Photorecord camera. This camera produces better microfilm, more quickly, than the Leica purchased in 1931. The Photographic Department also purchases a microfilm reader. It soon becomes necessary to purchase two additional readers. Patron demand for microfilm reproductions increases in the following years. Beginning in 1938, in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, the Library regularly acquires microfilm reproductions of foreign newspapers.¹³⁷

1937-1938: The Farlow Reference Library purchases steel filing cabinets for its collection of pamphlets and reprints. The cabinets protect the items from dust and eliminate the need to bind each item.¹³⁸

1937-1939: Repairs are made to the Treasure Room, the Reading Room, and other areas of Widener. An air humidification system installed in the Treasure Room stack is intended to improve environmental conditions for the collection. Stacks constructed in the Widener sub-basement help alleviate over-crowding, but mildew is a possibility in this moist environment.¹³⁹

¹³³ Georgiana Ames, “Report of the Librarian,” *Reports of Officers 1935-1936* (1937): 50.

¹³⁴ See Georgiana Ames’s annual reports of this period (in *Reports of Officers*).

¹³⁵ Lovett, “The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1877-1937,” 236.

¹³⁶ Georgiana Ames, “The Library,” *Reports of Officers 1936-1937* (1938): 44.

¹³⁷ Grace, “The Photographic Department of the Harvard Library,” 281; Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1937-1938* (1939): 342. See also Keyes D. Metcalf’s annual reports for subsequent years.

¹³⁸ David H. Linder, “The Farlow Reference Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1937-1938* (1939): 373.

¹³⁹ Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1937-1938* (1939): 341; Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1938-1939* (1940): 373.

September 1938: A hurricane damages the joints of the Radcliffe Library's skylight. The damage goes unnoticed until March 1939, when melting water from a heavy snowstorm drips through the skylight for several hours. Some books are completely soaked. Others are warped either by water or by improper drying techniques.¹⁴⁰

1938-1939: The Radcliffe Library surveys its reserved books and several subject areas in the stacks in order to determine which need repair or rebinding. As a result, the number of books that receive "preservation by rebinding" doubles over the previous year to 2,197. Members of the Student Government Library Committee walk through the Library wearing posters reminding their classmates not to talk or eat. In subsequent years they also organize an exhibit of mutilated books ("propaganda against misuse") and help to erase marks made in books.¹⁴¹

1939: The Harvard University Archives is established, with the official purpose of preserving University records.¹⁴²

1940: Keyes D. Metcalf, Librarian at Harvard College and Director of the Harvard University Libraries, begins to promote his plan to save space by creating specialized libraries, including a rare books library, an undergraduate library, and a warehouse for low-use materials. Houghton Library, Lamont Library, and the New England Deposit Library are the realizations of this plan.¹⁴³

1940: The Widener Photographic Department purchases a Recordak Model D camera to keep up with increasing demand for microfilm. A second Recordak Model D is purchased in 1946.¹⁴⁴

1940-1942: In 1940, Arthur A. Houghton Jr. agrees to endow a library for rare books and manuscripts. The donor remains anonymous for a time, but the library – which opens in 1942 – is named for him. The building is air-conditioned for stable temperature and humidity, providing a better environment for books than Harvard has yet been able to supply. "Cool lighting" is used in the display cases. Shelving is designed to be free of edges that might damage bindings. The opening of Houghton stimulates the donation of rare books to Harvard. William Bond, librarian of Houghton from 1965 to 1982, describes a team of Houghton employees catching and killing mice (which had entered the building during construction) on the night before the library's grand opening.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁰ Georgiana Ames Hinckley, "The Library," *Reports of Officers 1938-1939* (1940): 49.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 43-53.

¹⁴² Harley P. Holden, "The Collecting of Faculty Papers," *Harvard Library Bulletin* 19, no. 2 (1971): 187.

¹⁴³ Keyes D. Metcalf, "University Library," *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1939-1940* (1941): 356.

¹⁴⁴ Grace, "The Photographic Department of the Harvard Library," 283.

¹⁴⁵ Keyes D. Metcalf, "University Library," *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1940-1941* (1942): 349; William H. Bond,

1940-1942: The New England Deposit Library, a cooperative venture of several Boston-area libraries, is formed. Construction of its warehouse on Western Avenue in Allston is completed in 1942. Creating storage space on inexpensive land saves Harvard the expense of expanding its central library in Cambridge, frees up space in Cambridge collections, and allows Harvard to postpone binding and repair work. Books from NEDL will be available via messenger service. Due to war-time demands for steel, four of the six floors have wooden shelving. The building lacks climate control.¹⁴⁶

1941-1942: The Andover-Harvard Theological Library is overcrowded. Some books are withdrawn and sent to the Andover Newton Theological School. Some duplicates and non-theological materials are sent to Widener. In the same period, many newspapers and periodicals are “put in boxes or protective covers.” Books published before 1700 are removed from the stacks. William A. Jackson, from Houghton, advises on which books should be prioritized for protection in case war endangers the Harvard collections.¹⁴⁷

1941-1942: The Radcliffe Library installs “modern fluorescent lamps” in its Reserved Book Room. It continues an ongoing campaign of selecting books for storage in NEDL and for deaccessioning.¹⁴⁸

1942-1945: Many Harvard libraries – in addition to dormitories and classroom buildings – are appropriated for war-time purposes. For example, the Victory Book Campaign stores donations on the sixth floor of NEDL. The Radcliffe Librarian notices an improvement in patron behavior and a decrease in book losses, perhaps due to “new feelings of responsibility.” Harvard libraries are understaffed due to employees’ joining the war effort, causing the shelves to become disorderly. Acquisitions from Europe are held up by the war. Houghton provides secure storage for some of the Harvard Botanical Museum’s Glass Flowers. The Fogg Museum’s Department of Conservation is temporarily depleted when two important employees join the war effort: Rutherford John

“William Alexander Jackson: 1905-1964 (concluded),” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 15, no. 2 (1967): 201-204.

¹⁴⁶ James Bryant Conant, “The President’s Report,” and Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1940-1941* (1942): 27-28 and 349-350; Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1941-1942* (1943): 374-375; Georgiana Ames Hinckley, “Report of the Librarian,” *Reports of officers issue 1940-1941* (1942): 46-47; *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, 1st ed., v. 29, “Storage and Deposit Libraries”; Kenneth E. Carpenter and Jeffrey L. Horrell, “A Harvard Experience,” in *Library Off-Site Shelving: Guide for High-Density Facilities*, ed. Danuta A. Nitecki and Curtis L. Kendrick (Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 2001), 120-122.

¹⁴⁷ Willard L. Sperry, “Divinity School,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1941-1942* (1944): 222.

¹⁴⁸ Georgiana Ames Hinckley, “Report of the Librarian,” *Reports of officers issue 1941-1942* (1943): 48.

Gettens works on a government project at Los Alamos, New Mexico, and George L. Stout is a Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Officer in the United States Army.¹⁴⁹

1943: An agreement is reached between Harvard and Radcliffe, such that Radcliffe increases its annual payment to the Harvard University Libraries (to \$5,000) and “qualified” Radcliffe undergraduates are now granted use of Widener, including the main reading room (graduate students already have borrowing privileges). The Radcliffe Library will now primarily function as an undergraduate library, while simultaneously beginning to develop a collection on the “contributions of women to the culture and history of the United States.” The Radcliffe Library sends numerous books to NEDL over the subsequent years.¹⁵⁰

1945-1949: Widener’s resources – reserve books, stall space, etc. – are overwhelmed by the growing student population in the wake of WWII. Financial resources are also stretched, but Harvard’s participation in the Farmington Plan (a cooperative acquisition program) gives Keyes D. Metcalf hope that Harvard may be able to purchase books more selectively. The increasing means of photographic reproduction and the “disintegration” of books printed on wood pulp paper suggest to him that the net growth of library collections may decrease.¹⁵¹

1946-1947: Concerns are expressed about the fire hazard presented by paper cartons of dried plant specimens stored in close proximity to library collections at the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁹ Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1942-1943* (1944): 260-264; Georgiana Ames Hinckley, “Report of the Librarian,” *Reports of officers issue 1942-1943* (1944): 47. For information on Gettens’s and Stout’s pre-war contributions, see Miriam Clavir, *Preserving What Is Valued: Museums, Conservation, and First Nations* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2002), 22-24. For their war-time activities, see Arthur Pope, “William Hayes Fogg Art Museum,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1944-1945* (1948): 372.

¹⁵⁰ W. K. Jordan, “President’s Report,” *Reports of officers issue 1943-1944* (1944): 5. See also Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, “Records of the Radcliffe College Library, 1881-1983: A Finding Aid”; available from nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:sch01123; Internet; accessed 30 June 2009. During the 1940s, the entry in Radcliffe College’s annual reports “College – Income [and Expenditure]” often lists a fee of \$5,000 to “Harvard University for use of Widener.” See, for example, “College – Income [and Expenditure],” *Reports of officers issue 1945-1946* (1946): 76.

¹⁵¹ Keyes D. Metcalf, “The Spatial Growth in University Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 1, no. 2 (1947): 133-154; see also Keyes D. Metcalf’s annual reports of this period (in *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments*).

¹⁵² I. W. Bailey, “Institute for Research in General Plant Morphology,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1946-1947* (1949): 254.

1947: “After a number of years of experimentation with a relatively free borrowing system,” the Andover-Harvard Theological Library institutes shorter circulation periods and a fine system for overdue books. This brings its policies into line with the College Library.¹⁵³

1947-1948: A space in Langdell Hall is renovated into a Treasure Room for the Law School Library, providing air-conditioned storage for rare materials from that library.¹⁵⁴

1948: About 1,500 pre-Linnaean botanical volumes from the Arnold Arboretum Library are deposited in Houghton Library, where they will be stored until the Arnold Arboretum is able to provide a better storage environment. Currently, the temperature at the Arnold Arboretum Library fluctuates seasonally and damages leather bindings. The remaining pre-Linnaean materials are treated with leather preservative and in some cases repaired at the Harvard Bindery.¹⁵⁵

1949: The Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology sends more than 900 rare volumes of natural history to Houghton.¹⁵⁶

1949: Lamont Library opens, providing open stacks and a collection designed specifically for the undergraduate population. Lamont is equipped with steel book stacks and an air-conditioning system. The Freshman Union and Boylston Hall reading rooms close, and many of their books are incorporated into Lamont. Lamont has a smoking room, which Keyes D. Metcalf justifies since the building is “fireproof” and the air-conditioning system will remove dirt from the air. Radcliffe graduate students and honors candidates now have “full privileges” in Widener, but Radcliffe students are not allowed to use Lamont until 1967.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵³ Henry J. Cadbury and Jannette E. Newhall, “Appendix to the Report on the Divinity School,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1946-1947* (1949): 391.

¹⁵⁴ Keyes D. Metcalf, “University Library,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1947-1948* (1950): 207-208.

¹⁵⁵ Karl Sax, “Arnold Arboretum,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1947-1948* (1950): 248-249.

¹⁵⁶ Alfred S. Romer, “Museum of Comparative Zoology,” *The report of the President of Harvard College and reports of the departments for 1948-1949* (1952): 308.

¹⁵⁷ Henry R. Shepley, “The Lamont Library, I. Design,” and Keyes D. Metcalf, “The Lamont Library, II. Function,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 3, no. 1 (1949): 5-30; Howells, *A Century to Celebrate*, 27 and 54; Georgiana Ames Hinckley, “The Library,” *Reports of officers issue 1948-1949* (1949): 50; Elizabeth A. Gudrais, “A World of Books All Their Own,” *Harvard Crimson*, 7 June 1999.

1949-1953: Baker Library occasionally curates an exhibit titled “Enemies of Books,” which demonstrates the destructive power of insects and humans.¹⁵⁸

1949-1950: Ruth K. Porritt, the new Librarian of Radcliffe, continues to make note of annual preservation statistics: volumes bound or rebound; volumes repaired in the Library; pamphlets inserted in binders in the Library. Until 1959 Ona A. Morse oversees “the binding and processing of books.”¹⁵⁹

1950s: Libraries are hindered by the growth of their collections in a limited amount of space. Many select materials for off-site storage at New England Deposit Library.¹⁶⁰

Summer 1950: A renovation project at the Radcliffe College Library is intended to assuage student frustration at being denied access to Lamont. Lighting, heat, ventilation, and layout are improved.¹⁶¹

1951: The Gray Herbarium deposits more than 300 pre-Linnaean books in Houghton Library.¹⁶²

1951: Renovations in Widener include the expansion of storage space in the Winsor Memorial Map Room, the installation of fluorescent lights in many parts of the building, the addition of more radiators in the stacks, and the installation of exhaust fans to several rooms, including the Photographic Department’s dark room. The roof is also repaired.¹⁶³

Spring 1952: Widener Library opens a coffee lounge for faculty and students.¹⁶⁴

1953-1954: A new fireproof building (with steel shelving and humidity and temperature control) is constructed to house portions of the Gray Herbarium, Arnold Arboretum, Ames Orchid, and paleobotanical collections.¹⁶⁵

¹⁵⁸ “News of the Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 3, no. 1 (1949): 155; “News of the Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 4, no. 1 (1950): 133; Dorothea D. Reeves, “Exhibits in a Business School Library,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 7, no. 2 (1953): 244-245.

¹⁵⁹ See Ruth K. Porritt’s annual reports of this period (in *Reports of officers issue*). For mention of Ona A. Morse, see Ruth K. Porritt, “The Library,” *Reports of officers issue 1958-1959* (1959): 60.

¹⁶⁰ See Keyes D. Metcalf’s and Paul Buck’s annual reports of this period (in *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments*).

¹⁶¹ Porritt, “The Radcliffe College Library after Seventy-five Years,” 344-345; Ruth K. Porritt, “The Library,” *Reports of officers issue 1950-1951* (1951): 50.

¹⁶² Reed C. Rollins, “Gray Herbarium,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1951-1952* (1954): 279.

¹⁶³ “News of the Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 5, no. 3 (1951): 385-386.

¹⁶⁴ Francis M. Rogers, “Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1952-1953* (1955): 159.

¹⁶⁵ I. W. Bailey, “Institute for Research in General Plant Morphology,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1952-1953* (1955): 240; I. W.

1954: Lazella Schwarten is appointed librarian of the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium. In addition to extensive cataloging she oversees regular treatment of the collections' leather bindings with preservative.¹⁶⁶

1956: Widener and other Harvard libraries (excepting Lamont) are opened to all Radcliffe undergraduates.¹⁶⁷

September 1957: Widener opens a Microtext Reading Room to centralize much of the collection in one air-conditioned space.¹⁶⁸

1957-1958: Widener begins to bind together pamphlets on a particular subject and then to classify and shelve them accordingly, as opposed to previous practice of leaving them unbound in boxes, where "many of them disappeared and many others were damaged."¹⁶⁹

1957-1958: The Radcliffe Library is "unbearably crowded, dirty, and noisy" due to continuing growth of the student body.¹⁷⁰

April 16, 1958: The Harvard University Bindery is sold because outside companies now offer competitive pricing. Paul H. Buck, Director of the University Library and Librarian of Harvard College, writes: "Repair work will continue to be done in Widener. A new multiple form has been developed that promises to increase the efficiency of operations in the College Library's Binding Records Section." The Bindery is sold to Samuel H. Donnell, Class of 1937, who renames it the New England Bookbinding Company.¹⁷¹

Bailey, "Institute for Research in General Plant Morphology," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1953-1954* (1955): 298.

¹⁶⁶ Reed C. Rollins, "Gray Herbarium," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1954-1955* (1956): 359; Richard A. Howard, "The Arnold Arboretum," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1954-1955* (1956): 406-407.

¹⁶⁷ Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, "Records of the Radcliffe College Library, 1881-1983: A Finding Aid."

¹⁶⁸ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1957-1958* (1959): 439.

¹⁶⁹ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1957-1958* (1959): 438.

¹⁷⁰ Ruth K. Porritt, "The Library," *Reports of officers issue 1957-1958* (1958): 59.

¹⁷¹ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1957-1958* (1959): 438-439; "The Harvard Bindery," *Harvard Library Bulletin* 12, no. 3 (1958): 424-425; Weber, "Harvard University Bindery Sold," 1659-1661.

Late 1950s: Concerns grow about poor-quality paper and brittle books. Paul H. Buck writes of the University Library: “Some of its holdings, if they are to be preserved, must be filmed before the paper on which they are printed turns to dust.”¹⁷²

1958-1959: Allen B. Veaner is appointed Specialist in Documentary Reproduction in the University Library. He is responsible for the Microtext Reading Room, the Photographic Library, and coordinating photographic reproduction throughout the University Library.¹⁷³

1958-1959: Lamont, Widener, and Radcliffe Libraries institute a uniform system of fines.¹⁷⁴

1959-1960: The Association of Research Libraries starts a Committee on the Preservation of Research Library Materials. Douglas W. Bryant and Edwin E. Williams (both of Harvard) are chairman and secretary, respectively.¹⁷⁵

1959-1960: A Master Microfilm Collection of negatives is established. The collection will be stored under good physical conditions, in the basement of Lamont, and only used to produce for-use positive film copies.¹⁷⁶

1959-1960: The Medical School Library installs a Haloid Xerox office copying machine – “an electrostatic device that will produce a copy of a page in less than one minute” – for patron use. The following year, the Medical School Library will purchase a second photocopying machine and Widener will purchase one as well. Many libraries, such as those of the Arnold Arboretum and the Graduate School of Business Administration, begin to fill ILL requests with Xeroxes or microfilm reproductions.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷² Paul H. Buck, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1958-1959* (1960): 414.

¹⁷³ Paul H. Buck, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1958-1959* (1960): 424.

¹⁷⁴ Ruth K. Porritt, “The Library,” *Reports of officers issue 1958-1959* (1959): 59-60.

¹⁷⁵ Paul H. Buck, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1959-1960* (1961): 525.

¹⁷⁶ Paul H. Buck, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1959-1960* (1961): 525-526.

¹⁷⁷ Paul H. Buck, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1959-1960* (1961): 533; Paul H. Buck, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1960-1961* (1962): 449; Richard A. Howard, “Arnold Arboretum,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1961-1962* (1963): 622.

1960s-1970s: Repair and rebinding projects are ongoing at the Gray Herbarium and Arnold Arboretum libraries.¹⁷⁸

1960-1961: Harvard receives a grant from the Charles E. Merrill Trust to purchase new photographic equipment and to renovate the photographic laboratory in Widener.¹⁷⁹

1960-1961: Plans begin for a new undergraduate library at Radcliffe. In the meantime, hours are extended until later in the evening to meet student demand.¹⁸⁰

1962-1963: Widener Library's Photographic Department produces more than 655,000 negative microfilm exposures and nearly 350,000 full-size copies. A new Xerox Copyflo machine is used to reproduce catalogue cards.¹⁸¹

Spring 1963: The Radcliffe Library begins to require that patrons present an ID card in order to access the collection.¹⁸²

1963-1964: Paul Buck writes: "The output of the Library's Photographic Department during 1963-64 again broke previous records by a substantial margin. Card reproduction has already been mentioned; in addition, 1,139,477 negative microfilm exposures, 67,121 rapid copies, 346,144 electroprints, and 74,700 feet of positive microfilm were produced during the year."¹⁸³

1963-1964: Widener Library introduces full-time security guards to monitor exits and patrol the building. Paul H. Buck writes: "It would have been rash to defer any longer this contribution to the safety of the collections and those who use them."¹⁸⁴

1963-1964: Concern about the condition of the map collection leads the Graduate School of Design to inspect the collection, repairing and re-housing (in steel map-cases) when possible.¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁸ See Gray Herbarium and Arnold Arboretum reports of this period. For example, Reed C. Rollins, "Gray Herbarium," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1965-1966* (1967): 422

¹⁷⁹ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1960-1961* (1962): 443.

¹⁸⁰ Radcliffe College, "Libraries," *Report of the President 1960-1961* (1961): 36-37.

¹⁸¹ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1962-1963* (1964): 411.

¹⁸² Radcliffe College, "Other Student Services," *Report of the President 1961-1964* (1964): 16.

¹⁸³ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1963-1964* (1965): 348.

¹⁸⁴ Paul H. Buck, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1963-1964* (1965): 355-356.

¹⁸⁵ José Luis Sert, "Graduate School of Design," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1963-1964* (1965): 291.

1965-1966: A theft highlights the need for enhanced security at Baker Library.¹⁸⁶

1965-1966: The Gray Herbarium Library will no longer circulate books that are over one hundred years old.¹⁸⁷

September 1966: Hilles Library opens to enthusiasm from Radcliffe students. Harvard men are so eager to use the new library that the Radcliffe Government Association circulates a petition to limit their access to Hilles. Radcliffe's undergraduate collection is moved into this building, while the Radcliffe Women's Archives – now the Schlesinger Library – and the Radcliffe Institute are moved into the old Radcliffe Library building.¹⁸⁸

1966: The Collection Maintenance Section is established within the Catalogue Department of Widener.¹⁸⁹

1966: Catastrophic floods leave Biblioteca Berenson at Villa I Tatti the only functioning library in Florence. (The Villa is located on a hill.) Fellows and staff members aid in relief efforts and salvage work. I Tatti facilities are used to clean, dry, and store negative plates rescued from the Gabinetto Fotografico of the Uffizi.¹⁹⁰

1966-1967: Plans are made to clean, organize, and microfilm materials from the Theodore Roosevelt Collection, including “some 2,000 combustible nitrate negatives that are now in custody of the Cambridge Fire Department.”¹⁹¹

1966-1967: The Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America moves into renovated, air-conditioned quarters at Radcliffe.¹⁹²

1967: Lamont Library begins to admit Radcliffe students.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁶ George P. Baker, “Graduate School of Business Administration,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1965-1966* (1967): 303.

¹⁸⁷ Reed C. Rollins, “Gray Herbarium,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1965-1966* (1967): 422.

¹⁸⁸ Mary I. Bunting, “President’s Report,” *Report of the President 1965-1967* (1967): 5-10.

¹⁸⁹ “The Pusey Library and the Pusey Years,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 19, no. 4 (1971): 441; Edwin E. Williams, “The Book-Preservation Problem as Seen at Harvard,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 29, no. 4 (1981): 442.

¹⁹⁰ Merle Fainsod and Douglas W. Bryant, “University Library,” and Myron P. Gilmore, “Villa I Tatti,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1966-1967* (1968): 418 and 514-515.

¹⁹¹ Merle Fainsod and Douglas W. Bryant, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1966-1967* (1968): 410.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*, 421; “The Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 15, no. 2 (1967): 221.

¹⁹³ Gudrais, “A World of Books All Their Own.”

1967-1968: Minor renovations of Widener's windows, stacks, and doorways should reduce the danger of a fire spreading due to drafts.¹⁹⁴

20 August 1969: A thief fails to steal the Gutenberg Bible from Widener. In a year of student protests across America (during which some libraries are vandalized), Harvard is particularly concerned for the safety of its collections. Security is heightened at Widener and Houghton.¹⁹⁵

14 October 1970: The detonation of a bomb at the Center for International Affairs (probably planted by affiliates of the radical Weatherman organization) does little damage, but "the result has been a reluctant decision to require identification cards for admission to that Library."¹⁹⁶

1971: Standard housings for records in the Harvard University Archives are acid-free Permalife folders and Hollinger boxes.¹⁹⁷

1971-1972: The decision is made to microfilm hundreds of volumes of Russian belles-lettres. There are several major benefits to this project: preservation of texts on brittle paper, increased access, and income from the sale of duplicates.¹⁹⁸

1971-1972: The Fine Arts Library receives outside funds to reformat negatives from the Arthur Kingsley Porter collection of photographs of medieval art and architecture. Many of the buildings documented were destroyed or damaged in the years after 1900. Douglas W. Bryant, Director of the University Library and University Librarian, writes of the negatives: "Many of these, it was discovered, were on nitrocellulose-base film, which deteriorates rapidly and is a serious fire hazard."¹⁹⁹

1971-1972: An electronic Checkpoint device used to protect the Core Collection is removed from Baker Library after three years. Instead, there will be just one open exit staffed by a security inspector.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁴ Merle Fainsod and Douglas W. Bryant, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1967-1968* (1969): 386-387.

¹⁹⁵ Merle Fainsod and Douglas W. Bryant, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1968-1969* (1970): 357-358.

¹⁹⁶ Merle Fainsod and Douglas W. Bryant, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1970-1971* (1972): 381; Scott W. Jacobs, "Bomb Blasts CFIA Library; Damage Limited, None Hurt," *Harvard Crimson*, 14 October 1970.

¹⁹⁷ Harley P. Holden, "The Collecting of Faculty Papers," *Harvard Library Bulletin* 19, no. 2 (1971): 191.

¹⁹⁸ Douglas W. Bryant, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1971-1972* (1973): 428.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 429.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 436.

1972-1973: The Arnold Arboretum and the Farlow Library and Herbarium receive National Science Foundation funding that leads to extensive rebinding, repairing, and rehousing. Storage conditions are improved. Hundreds of leather bindings are treated with preservative and oil.²⁰¹

1973-1974: Doris Freitag, who has been overseeing binding and book repairs in the Andover-Harvard Theological Library, is now part-time conservation consultant to the University Library. She also gives workshops on book conservation. The Emergency Procedures Subcommittee of the standing University Library Committee on Library Collections and Services is evaluating emergency procedures and preparing recommendations. Doris Freitag chairs this committee, which publishes a booklet, *Emergency Guidelines for Harvard Libraries*.²⁰²

1973-1975: The theft of books and plates from the Gray Herbarium, Arnold, and Farlow Libraries leads to the installation of a new alarm system.²⁰³

1974: Widener's Collection Maintenance Section is transferred from the Catalogue Department to the Collection Development Department. Its name is changed to the Preservation Section.²⁰⁴

1975-1976: A locked cage is introduced at Andover-Harvard Theological Library for storage of pre-1800 imprints.²⁰⁵

1976-1977: The Preservation Committee of the University Library Council presents the results of a survey. Its major recommendation is for a Harvard Library collection conservation center. Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin – Director of the University Library and Librarian of Harvard College, respectively – write: “The center, if it can be financed, would not take over the work that is done in libraries throughout the system, but would provide assistance in emergencies arising from floods and fires, assist in

²⁰¹ Richard A. Howard, “Arnold Arboretum,” and Lorin I. Nevling, Jr., “Farlow Library and Herbarium,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1972-1973* (1973): 363 and 378.

²⁰² Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1973-1974* (1975): 448-449.

²⁰³ Reed C. Rollins, “Gray Herbarium,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1973-1974* (1975): 517-518; Richard A. Howard, “Arnold Arboretum,” and Reed C. Rollins, “Farlow Library and Herbarium,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1974-1975* (1977): 460 and 482-483.

²⁰⁴ Williams, “The Book-Preservation Problem as Seen at Harvard,” 442.

²⁰⁵ Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1975-1976* (1977): 444.

training of staff, purchase materials in bulk, and offer services requiring special skills or expensive equipment.”²⁰⁶

1976-1977: Doris Freitag continues to consult on conservation and emergency preparedness. She also obtains evaluations of library bindings done by different commercial binderies²⁰⁷

1977-1978: Harvard withdraws from the Research Libraries Group. Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin note Harvard’s ongoing commitment to preserve books printed on brittle paper. In the following decade numerous subject-specific collections will be microfilmed, primarily funded by grants.²⁰⁸

1978: The Harvard University Library begins to receive annual Strengthening Research Library Resources Program (Title II-C) grants from the U.S. Department of Education to microfilm fragile and rare materials from its collections. Over the next 11 years, these grants fund the filming of approximately 16 million pages from Harvard’s special collections. Ann Swartzell, Preservation Librarian, coordinates these projects, with consultation from Edwin E. Williams.²⁰⁹

1978: The University Library Preservation Committee produces a slide-show about care and handling, "Keeping Harvard's Books." It is shown frequently at Harvard and in the following years it is borrowed by other libraries, including libraries in Australia and Japan.²¹⁰

April 1978: Doris Freitag oversees the installation of the Vacudyne Altair Document Fumigator, located in Widener.²¹¹

1978-1979: The University Archives has been surveying the 250,000 photographs in its collection. Many are cleaned and re-housed.²¹²

²⁰⁶ Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1976-1977* (1978): 440.

²⁰⁷ Ibid.

²⁰⁸ Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1977-1978* (1979): 441-446; Williams, “The Book-Preservation Problem as Seen at Harvard,” 438-441.

²⁰⁹ “Title IIC Microfilming: Harvard’s Contributions”; available from <http://preserve.harvard.edu/microfilming/index.html>; Internet; accessed 17 March 2010; “Preservation Microfilming Grant,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 31, no. 4 (1983): 397.

²¹⁰ Douglas W. Bryant and Louis E. Martin, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1977-1978* (1979): 446; Douglas W. Bryant and Lawrence J. Kipp, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1978-1979* (1980): 402.

²¹¹ Douglas W. Bryant and Lawrence J. Kipp, “University Library,” *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1978-1979* (1980): 402; Williams, “The Book-Preservation Problem as Seen at Harvard,” 427.

1978-1979: Several books damaged by a leak at the Arnold Arboretum Library in Jamaica Plain are treated at the Preservation Office in Cambridge. They are fumigated to retard mold. Several are rebound.²¹³

January 1979: The Library Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences approves a recommendation that books printed prior to 1800 no longer be permitted to circulate from the Widener building.²¹⁴

1979-1980: Reorganization of the Museum of Comparative Zoology Library reveals the theft of many rare books.²¹⁵

1980s: Congestion in Widener demonstrates the need for a new library or storage site. Some at Harvard hope for a new library near Harvard Yard, to be connected to Widener by a bridge or an underground walkway. Oscar Handlin, Director of the University Library, advocates for off-site storage that will provide better conditions than the New England Deposit Library.²¹⁶

1980s: Oiling of bindings continues to be regular practice at Arnold Arboretum and other botanical collections. Items are also frequently re-housed in acid-free boxes. The Farlow Library regularly sends books to be repaired by outside binders and continues an extensive microfilming project.²¹⁷

1980-1981: Two endowed preservation funds allow the Graduate School of Design Library to treat damaged materials and begin conversion to microfilm.²¹⁸

1981: Edwin E. Williams describes the collections care program at Harvard: "For work requiring particular skills and work on very valuable books and manuscripts, we can turn to specialized craftsmen outside the library. For simpler tasks, it seems more reasonable to expect each major library unit to provide its own facilities; if satisfactory mending can

²¹² Douglas W. Bryant and Lawrence J. Kipp, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1978-1979* (1980): 402.

²¹³ Peter Shaw Ashton, "Arnold Arboretum," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1978-1979* (1980): 454.

²¹⁴ Douglas W. Bryant and Lawrence J. Kipp, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1978-1979* (1980): 405.

²¹⁵ A. W. Crompton, "Museum of Comparative Zoology," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1979-1980* (1981): 548.

²¹⁶ Carpenter and Horrell, "A Harvard Experience," 119-120.

²¹⁷ See Arnold Arboretum, Gray Herbarium, Farlow Library and Herbarium, and Harvard University Herbaria annual reports of this period. For example, see Otto T. Solbrig, "Farlow Library and Herbarium," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1980-1981* (1982): 538-539.

²¹⁸ Gerald M. McCue, "Graduate School of Design," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1980-1981* (1982): 346.

be done on the premises, it seems wasteful to send books out. About twenty persons throughout the Harvard Library are regularly engaged in repair work; for at least ten of them, it is a full-time occupation.²¹⁹

1981-1983: Villa I Tatti, in Florence, suffers a series of rare book thefts, resulting in increased security measures.²²⁰

1982: A revised edition of *Emergency Guidelines for Harvard Libraries* is published.²²¹

1983-1984: The Farlow Herbarium Library suffers several major leaks from its roof and skylight. The lack of climate control also creates problematic conditions for the collection. These problems are addressed in subsequent years.²²²

1984-1985: Construction begins on the Harvard Depository in Southborough. Several libraries at Harvard and MIT plan to use its facilities. The Depository will provide high-density storage for low-use materials. Environmental conditions will be designed for the preservation of holdings instead of for the comfort of patrons.²²³

1985-1986: The University Library Council endorses a resolution on the preservation of materials produced by or for the Library. Books should be printed on acid-free paper. When possible, binding specifications should be discussed with Harvard conservators. Microform publications should be inspected for completeness and packaged for longevity; publishers should store the microform master copy according to preservation standards.²²⁴

1986: Several libraries (Baker Library, the Law School Library) begin to move portions of their collections to the Harvard Depository. The process of preparing items for off-site storage often includes updated cataloging and item-level repair work.²²⁵

1987: A brochure outlining best preservation practices for library exhibitions, *Guidelines for Exhibitions*, is published by the Harvard University Library.²²⁶

²¹⁹ Williams, "The Book-Preservation Problem as Seen at Harvard," 426-427.

²²⁰ Craig Hugh Smyth, "Villa I Tatti," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1982-1983* (1984): 684.

²²¹ Oscar Handlin, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1982-1983* (1984): 429.

²²² Donald H. Pfister, "The Harvard University Herbaria," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1983-1984* (1985): 552.

²²³ Sidney Verba, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1984-1985* (1986): 427-430.

²²⁴ Sidney Verba, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1985-1986* (1987): 415.

²²⁵ See reports of individual libraries in Sidney Verba, "University Library," *Report of the President of Harvard College and reports of departments 1985-1986* (1987): 388-476.

1987: Funding from Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Malloy make it possible for Harvard to create an endowed position for a preservation librarian. Before the first holder of this position is appointed, Lofton Wilson acts as a preservation fellow in the Harvard University Library.²²⁷ She previously directed the Harvard/Radcliffe Manuscript Survey and Guide Project, which “created machine-readable bibliographic records for five thousand manuscript collections in more than fifty repositories at Harvard and Radcliffe.”²²⁸

Fall 1989: Carolyn Morrow is appointed Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian, “the first named endowment for a senior preservation librarian in the country.” Harvard soon receives the first of several NEH grants to microfilm specific collections. Morrow oversees the development of a comprehensive preservation program designed to maintain circulating and special collections, and to target materials in need of reformatting.²²⁹

1989: Harvard begins to participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) program to microfilm brittle books and serials. Harvard completes seven grants between 1989 and 2006, microfilming over 105,000 volumes.²³⁰

1990: Roger Stoddard, Curator of Rare Books, initiates the “Be Kind to Books” program at Houghton. It will focus on staff education in handling, repairing, and photocopying of library books.²³¹

January 24 1990: The Collection Preservation Priorities Task Group, composed of librarians from different parts of the Harvard system, holds its first meeting in the Preservation Office at 25 Mt. Auburn Street. In 1991, this group publishes “Preserving Harvard’s Retrospective Collections.”²³²

²²⁶ “Harvard Library Bibliography: Supplement,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 35, no. 4 (1987): 451.

²²⁷ “First Endowed Preservation Post,” *Abbey Newsletter* 11, no. 5 (1987).

²²⁸ “NHPRC Grant Supports Cataloging of Manuscripts and Archives,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 32, no. 2 (1984): 191; Susan Baerg Epstein, “Rare Book and Manuscript Libraries in the Twenty-First Century: Technology As Change Agent,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 4, no. 1 (1993): 22.

²²⁹ “Appointments,” *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1989-1990* (1991): 10-11.

²³⁰ “NEH-Funded Brittle Books Microfilming: Harvard’s Contributions,” available from <http://preserve.harvard.edu/microfilming/nehprojects.html>; Internet; accessed 17 March 2010; “NEH-Funded Brittle Books Microfilming: Cumulative Statistics of Harvard’s Contributions,” available from <http://preserve.harvard.edu/pubs/nehstats.pdf>; Internet; accessed 17 March 2010.

²³¹ “Roger Stoddard’s Activities,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 1, no. 3 (1990): 8.

²³² “Among Harvard’s Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* 36, no. 4 (1988): 328-331; “Preserving Harvard’s Retrospective Collections: Report of the Harvard University

August 1990: The Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian in the University Library becomes a joint appointment with the College Library.²³³

September 1990: A preliminary report by Carolyn Morrow leads to the creation of the Preservation Department in Widener Library. The goals of this department are “to consolidate preservation decision-making and treatment and address severe workflow and backlog problems.”²³⁴

November 1990: The Harvard College Library Preservation Department formally opens, with a staff of thirty-four people who had previously worked in other departments of Widener.²³⁵

1990-1991: An exhibition, “*Slow Fires*” in *Harvard’s Libraries*, is displayed in several Harvard libraries. Organized by Carolyn Morrow and Elaine Benfatto, its content is adapted into an appendix to *Preserving Harvard’s Retrospective Collections*.²³⁶

1990-1991: A Harvard task group assesses the viability of mass deacidification procedures. Harvard subsequently signs a contract with Akzo Chemicals to deacidify an initial 5,000 maps and 4,000 books. Akzo uses the diethyl zinc (DEZ) gaseous deacidification process.²³⁷

1990-1991: Stephen L. Womack, while an employee in the Widener stacks, mutilates hundreds of books on the library shelves. He is arrested in 1994 and convicted in 1996, receiving the maximum sentence of seven to ten years. Sidney Verba, Director of the University Library, refers to him as “a library terrorist.”²³⁸

Library Task Group on Collection Preservation Priorities,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 2, no. 2 (1991).

²³³ “Among Harvard’s Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 1, no. 4 (1990-1991): 4.

²³⁴ Richard de Gennaro, “Report of the College Librarian,” *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1990-1991* (1992): 36.

²³⁵ “Among Harvard’s Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 1, no. 4 (1990-1991): 4.

²³⁶ “Exhibitions,” *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1990-1991* (1992): 27.

²³⁷ “Preserving Harvard’s Retrospective Collections,” 53; “Preservation,” *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1991-1992* (1993): 16; Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1992* (1992), 1; Harvard University Library Preservation Office, “Mass Deacidification in the Harvard University Library: A Report on the 1991/92 Pilot Operational Program”; available from <http://cool.conservation-us.org/byorg/harvard/harvdeac.html>; Internet; accessed 2 October 2009.

²³⁸ Marvin Hightower, “Destroyer of Books Gets Stiff Sentence,” *Harvard University Gazette*, 28 March 1996.

1991: Houghton hires a part-time in-house conservator. In 1992, Houghton begins to use the services of the HUL/HCL Conservation Laboratory. As of 1993-1994, nine contract conservators do work for Houghton.²³⁹

1992: Harvard opens a Conservation Laboratory in the Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point. This laboratory is designed specifically for treating materials from Harvard's special collections. The Columbia Point location is temporary, and the laboratory soon moves to Cambridge. A grant from Edwin A. Malloy supports the first years of the Conservation Laboratory.²⁴⁰

1992: The Woodberry Poetry Room regularly treats and remasters recordings on fragile media (glass-coated disks, acetate tapes) in its audio laboratory.²⁴¹

1992-1993: The HUL Preservation Office develops a methodology to conduct condition surveys on research collections.²⁴²

December 1993: In addition to book checkers situated at library exits, HCL now installs electronic book tags and security gates. In 1995, a full-time security officer is hired to keep track of unusual patterns in the libraries of Harvard College. This means that Harvard's many libraries are now more likely to share information about suspicious behaviors or discoveries.²⁴³

1992-1994: Akzo Chemicals continues to oversee deacidification of 10,000 books and 16,000 maps from Harvard. The closing of Akzo's deacidification facility in 1994 leads the HUL Preservation Office to investigate other processes (Battelle and BookKeeper).²⁴⁴

1993-1994: Houghton renovates its HVAC system.²⁴⁵

July 1994: Carolyn Morrow resigns her position as Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian.²⁴⁶

²³⁹ Roger E. Stoddard, "The Houghton Library, 1991-1993," *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 4, no. 4 (1993-4): 5.

²⁴⁰ "Pickwood and Morse are Harvard's New Conservators," *Abbey Newsletter* 16, no. 6 (1992); Sidney Verba, "Report of the Director," *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1992-1993* (1994): 14.

²⁴¹ Stratis Haviaras, "The Woodberry Poetry Room at Harvard University, 1931-1991," *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 3, no. 3 (1992): 11.

²⁴² Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1993* (1993), 2.

²⁴³ Hightower, "Destroyer of Books Gets Stiff Sentence."

²⁴⁴ Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1994* (1994), 2.

²⁴⁵ "The Houghton Library, 1991-1993," *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 4, no. 4 (1993-4): 5.

²⁴⁶ Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1995* (1995), 1.

1994-1995: The HUL Preservation Center is consolidated, so that administrative and conservation staff will work from a single facility at 59 Plympton Street.²⁴⁷

1994-1996: The Widener Judaica Division digitizes thousands of Israeli posters for the joint purposes of access and preservation. Microfilm had been considered inadequate for the project, because many of the posters are large and colorful. An image database provides the solution. The original posters can be stored in improved conditions at the Harvard Depository. David Moore advises on this project.²⁴⁸

1994-1996: Jose Torres-Carbonnel steals rare books and razor plates from books in Widener and the Fine Arts Library. He has access to the libraries because he is married to a Harvard graduate student. Arrested in June 25, 1996, he confesses and is indicted. Most materials are recovered. Conservation and re-cataloging of the mutilated materials takes four years – which is longer than Torres-Carbonnel's prison sentence.²⁴⁹

1995: The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) provides a grant to preserve and provide access to daguerreotypes from Harvard/Radcliffe collections. Building on a condition survey from the previous year, conservators treat and re-house many daguerreotypes. More daguerreotypes are photographed in preparation for reformatting.²⁵⁰

April 1995: Jan Merrill-Oldham is appointed Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian. In the following years, the HCL Preservation & Imaging Department and the HUL Preservation Center expand library preservation services at Harvard.²⁵¹

January 1996: Following a flood, the HUL Preservation Center moves from 59 Plympton Street to the eighth floor of Holyoke Center. Its staff members provide conservation services for rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and other special collections.²⁵²

July 1996: An “early-intervention” program is added to the HCL conservation plan. A workstation is installed in Widener for the performance of minor repairs on items that are

²⁴⁷ Ibid.

²⁴⁸ “Among Harvard’s Libraries,” *Harvard Library Bulletin* New Series 5, no. 4 (1994-1995): 3-9.

²⁴⁹ Shawn Zeller, “Cambridge Man Arraigned on Charges of Stealing Rare Library Books,” *Harvard University Gazette*, 20 February 1997; Christopher Reed, “Biblioklepts,” *Harvard Magazine* 99, no. 4 (1997): 38-55; Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2000* (2000), 2.

²⁵⁰ Sidney Verba, “Report of the Director,” *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1994-1995* (1996): 22; Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1996* (1996), 1-2.

²⁵¹ Sidney Verba, “Report of the Director,” *Harvard University Library Annual Report 1994-1995* (1996): 23.

²⁵² Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1996* (1996), 4.

only slightly damaged. Circulation will hasten damage, and performing minor repairs early will save the time needed for major repairs in the future.²⁵³

1997: Photographic Services is renamed Imaging Services to reflect its expansion into digital reformatting.²⁵⁴

1997: A book that was on loan from the Harvard library at the time of the 1764 fire is re-purchased for Harvard. It is the third volume of *The Complete History of England with the Lives of All the Kings and Queens Thereof*.²⁵⁵

March 1997: A Preservation Center website launches. By providing information about guidelines and services, it will be a tool for librarians and curators at Harvard.²⁵⁶

1997-1998: A new, expanded Conservation Laboratory opens in Widener. HCL Conservation Services treats the College Library's research collections – by repairing books and creating protective enclosures, for example. The organization of the new facility and the hiring of talented technicians leads to an increase in productivity over the next years.²⁵⁷

1997-1998: A workshop on the handling of wet books is presented to staff from the HCL Preservation Services and the HUL Preservation Center.²⁵⁸

1998-1999: The HUL Preservation Center establishes the Library Collections Emergency Team, a group of preservation librarians and conservators that staffs a 24-hour hotline in order to respond quickly to emergencies in the library collections. In the following years, the team expands and comes to include staff from both the HUL Preservation Center and HCL Preservation Services.²⁵⁹

1999-2004: Major renovations are undertaken in Widener Library, resulting in the introduction of two new reading rooms, the installation of a new HVAC system, and major improvements to the building's fire suppression and security systems.²⁶⁰

²⁵³ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 1997* (1997), 3.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 1.

²⁵⁵ Jon Marcus, "Long loan allows free ranging," *Times Higher Education*, 20 June 1997.

²⁵⁶ Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1997* (1997), 1.

²⁵⁷ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 1998* (1998), 1.

²⁵⁸ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 1998* (1998), 3.

²⁵⁹ Harvard University Library Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 1997* (1999), 2-3.

²⁶⁰ Beth Potier, "Widener Library renovations: On time, on budget," *Harvard University Gazette*, 30 September 2004.

1999-2000: Due to ongoing renovations at Widener, numerous items need to be moved. Many fragile materials – pamphlets, for example – are transferred to phase boxes. Conservation staff frequently make enclosures for special materials being transferred to the Harvard Depository.²⁶¹

1999-2000: The digital imaging studio in Widener DN-90 develops in quality with the acquisition of new equipment and the configuration of four digital image capture workstations. A variety of materials – reports, daguerreotypes, the Harvard Map Collection’s Mercator globes – are scanned or photographed. Preservation microfilming, primarily of brittle materials, remains a major activity of the Preservation & Imaging Department.²⁶²

1999-2006: The University awards Library Digital Initiative grants to libraries throughout Harvard for projects having to do with digital collections. The projects – fifty in all – include the creation of metadata and the digitization of analog collections. In addition to making many of Harvard’s unique resources available online, this innovative project creates the groundwork for organizing and preserving digital materials at Harvard. It also educates staff from throughout the Harvard libraries about the technologies and issues involved in digital curation.²⁶³

March 20, 2000: The HUL Preservation Center is named for Paul M. Weissman (Class of 1952) and Harriet Weissman. The Center continues to treat rare materials from Harvard’s special collections. It also hosts training programs for the Harvard library community. The staff’s projects include stabilizing illuminations in a 15th-century Book of Hours, lining fragments of deteriorating posters with strong Japanese paper, and manufacturing supports and housings for artifacts in a variety of media. Conservators also undertake condition surveys of several Harvard collections.²⁶⁴

2002: Binding & Shelf Preparation staff move into renovated space on D-Level of Widener, allowing Conservation Services to become a more integrated unit. A new laboratory allows the Microfilming Group to film thousands of volumes from Harvard libraries. When a patron requests a microfilm reproduction, the procedure is to produce a master negative and a duplicate negative in addition to positive copies.²⁶⁵

²⁶¹ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2000* (2000), 1.

²⁶² Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2000* (2000), 4-5.

²⁶³ Harvard University Library Office for Information Systems, “Digital Projects: List of Projects”; available from <http://hul.harvard.edu/ois/digproj/projlist.html>; Internet; accessed October 16, 2009.

²⁶⁴ Weissman Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 2000* (2000), 1-2; Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2002* (2002), 5-6.

²⁶⁵ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2002* (2002), 1 and 8.

October 2002: The Library Collections Emergency Team organizes a full-day disaster simulation attended by 35 staff members. Training sessions on care and handling are also organized for library staff.²⁶⁶

2002-2003: The Weissman Preservation Center surveys the preservation needs of Harvard's 7+ million photographs. This groundbreaking survey, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, continues to be emulated by other major institutions.

2003-2004: The Woodberry Poetry Room Collection Library Digital Initiative develops a workflow and technical specifications for audio preservation.²⁶⁷

June 2004: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provides a major grant to support the preservation of photographs at Harvard.²⁶⁸

2004-2005: The Weissman Preservation Center improves its management of conservation records. Its database stores information about surveys and treatments, saving time and centralizing record-keeping. The Center also assists specific libraries to develop emergency response plans and establishes a program to help librarians monitor the temperature and relative humidity of their facilities.²⁶⁹

2004-2005: The "NEDL Push" is a project to transfer materials from the New England Deposit Library (NEDL) to better conditions in the Harvard Depository (HD). In the HCL Collections Conservation Laboratory, tens of thousands of deteriorating sheets of newspaper are microfilmed, mended, and re-housed before transfer to HD. The Lab is involved in several other microfilming and digitizing projects, as well.²⁷⁰

2004-2005: As part of a departmental reorganization, the HCL Microfilming Laboratory is renamed Scanning and Microfilming Services. This title better reflects its reproduction of texts both on microfilm and in digital formats.²⁷¹

October 2005: Brenda Bernier begins to work at the Weissman Center as senior photograph conservator. In 2007, this position is endowed and the title is changed to Paul M. and Harriet L. Weissman Senior Photograph Conservator. A grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation makes it possible to focus more closely on photograph preservation in the following years.

²⁶⁶ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2002* (2002), 3.

²⁶⁷ Weissman Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 2004* (2004), 4.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 1.

²⁶⁹ Weissman Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 2005* (2005), 3 and 6.

²⁷⁰ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2005* (2005), 1-2.

²⁷¹ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2005* (2005), 7.

2005-2006: Conservation Services advises and assists several Harvard libraries on commercial binding preparation. In addition to its numerous other projects, Conservation Services provides support for the Smart Barcoding Project, which will help HCL keep track of inventory.²⁷²

2005-2006: Four broad HCL collections are identified for digitization by Imaging Services: Widener Library Pamphlets, Historic Photographs of Asia, Music Scores, and Medieval Manuscripts. Until now, microfilming was a major part of the preservation program for HCL's brittle books. Digitization is now an alternative to microfilming; books that are copyright-protected or incompatible with the digitization workstations will still be microfilmed. Original paper copies are kept in the Harvard Depository.²⁷³

2006: Members of the Library Collections Emergency Team (LCET) present a program on hurricane preparedness for libraries, in part due to alarms raised by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. A new Wei T'o book freezer is installed on the D-Level of Widener, and repairs are done to the freezer in the Binding and Shelf Preparation office at 625 Massachusetts Avenue.²⁷⁴

May 5, 2006: The Weissman Preservation Center moves to a new facility at 90 Mount Auburn Street. The new laboratory includes equipment that will allow conservation staff to provide better treatments to the Harvard collections.²⁷⁵

2006: The Weissman Preservation Center collaborates with the HUL Office for Information Systems to develop specifications for the preservation of digital content. The Weissman Preservation Center continues to provide training programs to the Harvard library community.²⁷⁶

March 2008: A broken drainpipe in Pusey Library pours 500 gallons of water into the Harvard Theater Collection. HCL Operations and the Library Collections Emergency Team (LCET) respond within 20 minutes, work through the night, and prevent untold damage to irreplaceable collections.²⁷⁷

2009: A team from the Weissman Center is currently surveying audiovisual holdings in the Harvard University Archives. The survey aims to identify assets and to assess their conditions. This project includes the development of software that will help determine

²⁷² Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2006* (2006), 2.

²⁷³ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2006* (2006), 5-6.

²⁷⁴ Harvard College Library Preservation & Imaging Department, *Annual Report: FY 2006* (2006), 3.

²⁷⁵ Weissman Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 2006* (2006), 1.

²⁷⁶ Weissman Preservation Center, *Annual Report: FY 2006* (2006), 3-4.

²⁷⁷ "Synchronized Effort Rescues Collections," *Harvard University Gazette*, 13 March 2008.

preservation and reformatting priorities, as well as a taxonomy that will describe the composition and condition of a variety of audiovisual materials.²⁷⁸

²⁷⁸ “Harvard’s AV Collections: Searching for Resources at Risk,” *Harvard University Library Notes*, no. 1349 (May 2009); available from http://publications.hul.harvard.edu/ln_1349/av-survey.html; Internet; accessed 16 October 2009.