Fondren Library Hosts Data Rescue Houston

About 75 librarians, archivists, faculty, students, civic technologists and community members came together March 4 to participate in Data Rescue Houston, a local offshoot of the national initiative to identify, harvest and publicly archive federally generated data.

Fondren librarians led the planning of the Houston event and were joined by librarians at the University of Houston and a colleague from Rice’s Office of Information Technology. The organizers walked volunteers through the steps of finding valuable government websites and datasets, marking them for preservation and archiving them. Not all of the processes required technical skills, allowing for contributions from all manner of participating Houstonians. Further contributions included creating a new Wikipedia entry on data rescue, as well as writing a detailed description, or “primer”, on the Federal Election Commission, providing background for future data rescue events.

Several similar events have been held across North America since the end of 2016, supported through networks of librarians and scientists, including the DataRefuge Project (https://www.datarefuge.org) and the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative (https://envirodatagov.org/). The goals of such events are to acquire, describe and preserve government-published datasets, due to an increasing concern for their long-term access and preservation. According to numbers published by the nonprofit Sunlight Foundation in early February, approximately four terabytes (or 4,000 gigabytes) of data have been downloaded and preserved at data rescue events.

A typical data rescue event has a fairly complex chain of processes to ensure the harvest, storage and trustworthiness of data. “Seeder” participants canvass government websites, looking for valuable information that can be preserved. Some of this data exists as simple and straightforward websites, which can be easily crawled, or automatically harvested and preserved. These websites can be nominated for preservation through the Wayback Machine, a digital archive of the internet created and maintained by the Internet Archive. However, in the cases of complex, “uncrawlable” websites and large datasets, “researcher” participants are tasked with finding ways for this data to be extracted or downloaded. Once these extraction methods are decided upon, “harvester” participants carry out the methods and acquire the data. After the harvest, “bagger” participants check the data against the original and place the datasets into “bags,” a file packaging format widely used in archives to collect files and safeguard against data corruption.

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Woodson Research Center archivist and special collections librarian Norie Guthrie brought library and archives professionals from around the country together to discuss local music archives at a SXSW 2017 Music Conference panel in Austin March 17.

Titled “I Remember That Band: Preserving Local Music,” Guthrie’s session addressed the attempts by archivists and librarians to document and preserve the work of local musicians and music “scenes,” or vibrant local musical communities. The session also focused on the impact on a community’s cultural memory when such scenes and local musicians are left undocumented.

Session panelists included Andy Leach, senior director of library and archives at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, and Megan Hahn Fraser, head of processing projects and co-head of collection management for UCLA Library Special Collections (LSC).

The session was moderated by Jennifer Hecker, project archivist for the public television music program “Austin City Limits” at KLRU-TV in Austin and founding director of Town Talk Library, which houses the Austin Fanzine Project, the Austin Music Documentation Initiative and other self-publishing related projects.

During the session, Leach presented on NEO Sound, the initiative to preserve Northeast Ohio music, and advocated that archives and other cultural memory organizations organize “scan days,” where members of the public can bring cultural and ephemeral materials for donation and return home with personal digital scans of the donated materials.

“Remember That Band?: Preserving Local Music”

“If you’re a part of a local music community, encourage your friends and musicians you know and anyone in the music business to preserve their legacies by donating their materials,” Leach told the audience.

Fraser spoke about UCLA’s LSC Punk Archive, a project to document the punk music and lifestyle in and around the Los Angeles and Hollywood communities.

“In the age of ubiquitous social media and constant promotion, the impact of original, self-published fanzines can hardly be overstated,” said Fraser, discussing the collections of heavy metal and punk rock “zines” in the LSC Punk Archive. “As a group, we too hope to foster the creation of original content, such as maps and digital collections. Archivists refer to gaps in information as ‘archival silences,’ and I think we should fill those silences with music,” Fraser added.

Guthrie ended the session by speaking about the Houston Folk Music Archive, a Woodson collection she founded to document the city’s vibrant folk scene, active from the early 1960s through the 1980s.
You may see a blue and gray bookworm on future Fondren Library merchandise. Meet our new mascot, Ted the Bookworm, brainstormed and designed by Catie Tsai ’19.

After a meeting with our Student Ambassadors (featured in News From Fondren, Fall 2016) to brainstorm new outreach efforts, we kicked off a contest to identify a mascot for Fondren Library. The contest is an example of the library’s support for participatory design practices, which involve interested parties in the design process.

There were many wonderful contest entries — from hand-drawn to 3-D rendered and many points in between — Rice students showcased their creativity and shared their love for the library.

Fondren Library Ambassadors voted for the top two contenders. University Librarian and Vice Provost Sara Lowman served as our tiebreaker, choosing Tsai’s design. Our new mascot will play a role in future marketing campaigns and on promotional items, especially in undergraduate outreach.

For her winning mascot entry, Tsai will receive a $100 Amazon gift card.

Amanda Thomas
User Experience Librarian

Elsewhere at the SXSW 2017 Music Conference, Scott Carlson, metadata coordinator for Fondren Library, moderated a panel on record labels releasing historical and lesser-known music. In the session titled “Starting Your Own Reissue Record Label,” Carlson interviewed reissue record label founders on their starts in the music industry and what the future holds for labels wanting to release historical and archival music. Panelists included Grammy award winner and founder of Omnivore Recordings Cheryl Pawelski, as well as Jeremy Cargill, noted rock journalist and founder of Got Kinda Lost Records.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator
Fondren Fellows Program Offers Research Opportunities to Students

Fondren Library not only offers resources and services for conducting research, but also sponsors student research projects. Through the Fondren Fellows program, graduate and undergraduate students work on projects to understand the needs of students and scholars, conceptualize potential services, or create digital exhibits. In creating the program, the library aimed to support Rice’s Quality Enhancement Plan on Inquiry Based Learning by providing students with opportunities to do research that helps shape Fondren’s services, facilities and collections. Fondren staff propose project ideas and mentor the fellows.

Program recipients enjoy a flexible work schedule, develop research and communication skills and receive a competitive wage (currently $15 an hour). As Neha Potlapalli, an undergraduate sociology major, noted, “I applied to the program because I was interested in working on a project that could benefit Rice students and change our community for the better. I saw it as an opportunity for a lot of independent work and a chance to learn more about resources at the library.” Fondren uses a competitive process to appoint fellows. Students submit applications and fellows are chosen after interviews are conducted by the mentor and a member of the selection committee.

Fondren selected its first cohort of fellows in 2016, appointing three graduate students and one undergraduate student. For his project on author rights, Marcel LaFlamme, a graduate student in anthropology, conducted ethnographic interviews with faculty to determine how they understand the copyright forms that they typically sign in order to publish their work. Another graduate student in anthropology, Ian Lowrie, conducted interviews with faculty to understand how Fondren can improve data services and facilitate sharing of final datasets. Potlapalli explored whether Fondren should provide alternative seating such as standing desks, treadmill desks or bike desks in order to improve students’ physical health and cognitive processes. To enable new modes of access to the Woodson Research Center’s Civil War collections, Christina Regelski, a graduate student in history, created interactive maps of over 300 Civil War letters, enabling users to visualize what locations were mentioned in these letters and where they were sent to and from. (See https://woodsononline.wordpress.com/2017/01/04/mapping-civil-war-narratives/)

The 2016 fellows have presented their work to the Friends of Fondren and to Rice’s Library Committee; fellows LaFlamme and Regelski also presented on the fellows program with Fondren staff at the Coalition for Networked Information conference in April 2017. LaFlamme also plans to publish his work.

The fellows program is now entering its second year with a group of five fellows, with projects to be conducted between spring and fall 2017. Potential future developments in the program include connecting graduate and undergraduate students on common research projects and going further in building community among the Fellows. The Fondren program was modeled on a similar program at Vanderbilt as well as on student research programs at Rice’s Center for Civic Leadership and its Humanities Research Center. A generous gift from Trish Brice, a Friend of Fondren, underwrites most of the Fondren Fellows program, with additional funding from the library.

Lisa Spiro
Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services
In fall 2013, Professor Melissa Bailar of the Humanities Research Center (HRC) and Lisa Spiro of Fondren’s Digital Scholarship Services (DSS) first offered a class called Introduction to Digital Humanities, which introduces students to current digital humanities projects and tools for approaching humanities research in new ways. The class planted the seeds for a collaborative project among Rice’s HRC, DSS, the Woodson Research Center (WRC), and the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS). The result was an online exhibit, “Rice University Between Decisions: From Co-education to Integration (1957–1970),” which focuses on the university during its critical years of change as the original charter was broken. The exhibit can be found at: http://exhibits.library.rice.edu/exhibits/show/between-decisions.

The exhibit explores the enormous changes to Rice during the period, including the creation of the residential college system, the movement of women into on-campus housing, the acceptance of black students to the university and the establishment of required tuition. Finalized by Edna Otuomagie in 2016, the exhibit was developed by a team including Samhita Sunya, doctoral student in film studies, and Itohan Idumwonyi, graduate student in religious studies, along with undergraduates Danni Vasquez and Matthew Holloway. It includes images, documents and press reportage documenting the intertwined histories of gender and race at Rice University between 1957 and 1970, against the backdrop of the broader history of the United States during the women’s movement and the civil rights movement. Three years later, the exhibit is continuing to inspire new projects; Professor Brian Riedel of the CSWGS is using the project as a model in his class Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.

To add firsthand insight to her research materials, Otuomagie spoke with members of the Rice community who attended or worked at Rice during the period covered by the exhibit, and conferred with Centennial Historian Melissa Kean for historical context. Physical materials in the WRC collections were highlighted as well as documents and images from the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive. Her excellent work on the exhibit won Otuomagie first prize in the 2016 campuswide Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium for the School of Humanities.

Sunya, currently on the faculty of the American University of Beirut, stated the significance of the project to her: “Originally, the Omeka project was meant as a simple exercise, but it became more because of the synergy of things happening on campus. The WRC and HRC and Melissa Kean were involved in the symposium for the CSWGS. Support of all these parties enabled us to complete the exhibit. The CSWGS found funding for our stipends for the project; Fondren’s Amanda Focke and Monica Rivero trained the team. The biggest insight from our participation is how the history of race and gender in the U.S. intertwine.”

Dara Flinn
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian

Jan West, Althea Jones, Brenda James, Regina Tippens

Between Decisions: Collaboration in the Study of Gender and Race at Rice
Data Rescue Event - continued

Finally, “describer” participants create catalog records with tags and other identifiable information, so that the datasets can be found and used by researchers in the future.

Beyond the datasets that were preserved during the event, awareness of the importance of access to government data was raised through brief talks given by Rice anthropology professor Zoe Wool, Rice earth science professor Laurence Yeung, and author and data journalist Fred Trotter, as well as through engaging people in hands-on work with data. An article about Data Rescue Houston ran on Page 3 of the March 5th issue of the Houston Chronicle. Press coverage of Data Rescue Houston also included Houstonia Magazine and The Scientist.

Along with Fondren Library and the University of Houston, the event was co-sponsored by Rice’s Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology, Office of Information Technology and Center for Civic Leadership, as well as Sketch City, a nonprofit community of technology advocates.

While it is unclear what the future holds regarding data and data rescue, participants were so enthusiastic that they asked when the next Data Rescue event will be.

Scott Carlson  
Metadata Coordinator, with

Lisa Spiro  
Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services and

Katherine Hart Weimer  
Head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services

Advances in Library Convenience

Need a recharge? Stop by the Service Desk to borrow our new, more powerful portable battery chargers with Apple Lightning and Micro-USB cables to refresh your mobile devices.

Leaving the library to grab a coffee, take a test or enjoy a meal? No need to carry all of your belongings with you. Based on feedback from our students, we have added lockers for your convenience. We now have 16 first-floor personal lockers available on a first-come, first-served basis for Rice ID holders with borrowing privileges.

Students who need to watch a DVD for a class can now check out a portable DVD player with earphones. The players have 9-inch swivel screens, five-hour rechargeable batteries and AC/DC adaptors.

Again, in response to feedback, the library has recently revised its food and drink policy. Covered coffee cups and dry snacks are now allowed. Students have been doing a good job of notifying the service desk of needed cleanups and refraining from bringing open trays of food into the library.

Sue Garrison  
Head of Access Services
Fondren Participates in Resilient Networks Grant

Fondren Library and Rice’s Humanities Research Center are currently collaborating with George Washington University, Davidson College and Prairie View A&M University on Resilient Networks to Support Inclusive Digital Humanities, a two-year project to promote humanities research melded with digital tools.

The project was awarded a $500,000 grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in March 2016 to “support a network of institutional partnerships to advance digital humanities scholarship,” according to the Foundation. Digital humanities (DH) is generally defined as the area where computational technology intersects with traditional disciplines of the humanities, enabling researchers to pursue deeper analysis and understanding.

According to George Washington University, the grant’s lead institution, the project aims to create sustainable networks that foster expertise in, and support for, digital humanities instruction and research among faculty, students and librarians. Such sustainable network endeavors may include DH curriculum modules, training opportunities and research project teams formed between participating institutions. Rice professor Anne Chao received some of the first funding from the grant; Fondren’s Amanda Focke will be partnering with her on the project (http://library.gwu.edu/resilient-networks/projects).

Work on the Resilient Networks project began in August 2016, when representatives from the collaborating institutions met to discuss the project at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., including co-PIs Lisa Spiro, Fondren’s executive director of Digital Scholarship Services, and Melissa Bailar, associate director of Rice’s Humanities Research Center.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator
New Metadata Coordinator: Connecting the Dots

Making connections is what Jeanette Sewell does: connecting users with information, connecting the library’s catalog with Google and connecting books with their correct authors. Recently she reconnected the book “The Clemenceau Case” with its correct author, Alexandre Dumas, a separate and less famous author than that of “The Three Musketeers” fame. As Fondren Library’s new Database and Metadata Management Coordinator, Sewell is primarily responsible for quality control in the library’s catalog. She is also responsible for inputting catalog records for the library’s increasingly large collections of digital materials, including e-books, streaming videos and database titles. “Being able to find these items through the library’s website or catalog is really valuable,” said Sewell. “If you are already searching for materials on a specific subject, providing good cataloging or metadata makes discovery of these newer electronic resources easier.”

Sewell came to Fondren from Houston Public Library, where, in addition to working with their catalog, she was involved with digital archives. “The library had a lot of valuable digital resources for teachers and students,” explained Sewell, “but they weren’t tied together, and it was often difficult for users to find all of the materials about a specific topic.” She addressed the problem by creating a number of digital timelines which connected individual digital objects via a chronological timeline. The Shamrock Hotel, the Astrodome and C. F. Richardson, the African-American journalist who founded the Houston Informer and Houston Defender newspapers, are just some of the topics for which she designed timelines. In working with these materials, Sewell gained a great respect for the interesting people who made Houston what it is today.

An upcoming project for Sewell is working on linked data, a method of making Fondren Library’s resources more discoverable by Google and other search engines. “Libraries are always focused on user needs; trying to keep up while also staying ahead of the curve with technology. Linked data is another really powerful way that we can make library resources more discoverable and accessible online.” Sewell will also be involved with data cleanup for the Rice Digital Scholarship Archives, Rice’s institutional repository.

When not at work, Sewell spends her time engaged in performing and visual arts activities, including singing with the Houston Masterworks Chorus and Rice Chorale, as well as designing her own jewelry.

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions

In Memory of Edward ‘Mike’ Kelley Jr.

We mourn the passing of our donor and friend, Edward ‘Mike’ Kelley, Jr. in December 2016. Kelley was a Rice graduate and successful businessman who served on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors for many years.

Kelley was born in Oregon in 1932, and moved to Houston, his mother’s hometown, as a child. He graduated from Rice in 1954, served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1956 and then went to Harvard Business School, graduating in 1959. He then returned to Houston to serve as president and CEO of his father’s company, Kelley Industries, and later was active in banking and investment firms. Kelley was an active contributor to Rice University, serving as a member of the governing board and trustee from 1980 to 1987. In 1987, he was appointed to the Federal Reserve Board by President Reagan and served through the terms of the following three presidents, retiring from that position in 2001. Among his many contributions to the board, Kelley directed efforts to make the Federal Reserve’s computer networks ready for Y2K. The Houston branch building of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas is named for him. The Kelleys graciously donated to the Fondren Library to expand the presence of the government information area in the basement, now named the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services. Kelley donated the records of Kelley Industries, as well as his federal reserve papers, to the Woodson Research Center (WRC). His family papers, the James Lockhart Autry family papers, are a significant WRC collection.

Kelley was a devoted family man, with three children and four grandchildren, and volunteered at numerous educational and religious institutions.

Katherine Hart Weimer
Head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services
Kelley Center Adds Staff Member

Kelley Center Adds Staff Member

If the Southwest Conference still existed, Kevin Markowski, the newest member of the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services, would have a hard time deciding which team to support. A Houston native, Kevin majored in political science at Texas A & M University, completed a law degree at Baylor University and is now enrolled in Rice University's Master of Global Affairs program, specializing in international political economy.

A part-time staff member in the Kelley Center, Kevin's job title is government documents and data specialist. His job duties include working at the government information desk, assisting the Rice community in accessing and archiving social science data and helping review Fondren's legal holdings. Kevin has also co-taught a legal resources class with Linda Spiro and will be presenting a class about the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research.

In his limited free time, Kevin enjoys reading nonfiction (especially biographies and history); outdoor activities, including fishing and hunting; and attending Owl, Aggie and Texans football games. If you see Kevin at one of these games, you may very well think you are seeing double — his twin brother, Kenny, often attends with him.

Linda Spiro
Government Information Librarian

Fondren Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary in Federal Depository Library Program

Fondren Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary in Federal Depository Library Program

Did you know that the U.S. government is the largest publisher in the world? You would expect the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to publish legislation and law. However, the GPO also shares government findings and reports related to health, the environment, commerce, transportation and numerous other topics representing information from the U.S. courts, executive branch and federal agencies. Titles such as the “World Factbook” and “Our Flag” and a pocket Constitution are extremely popular.

Over the past 20 years, many of the standard print documents, both books and series, have evolved into digital texts, interactive websites and data. A majority of the information now can be found online using the library catalog, the GPO web page or the many guides found on the library’s website.

Beginning in 1813, the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) has freely provided selected U.S. government documents to designated libraries around the country, which in turn, store, organize, preserve and provide assistance to the public in using the government's published works. The legal authority for this program is in the U.S. Code. There are more than 1,200 FDLP libraries around the country, and federal depositories can be found in state and local public libraries as well as law and university libraries. Fondren Library became a member of the FDLP in 1967, and the library's program is administered through the staff in the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services. Fondren's official FDLP anniversary is March 23. A summer celebration is planned with a speaker from the Government Publishing Office. More details will be shared on the library website and all are welcome to attend.

Katherine Hart Weimer
Head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services
Recent Digital Acquisitions at Fondren

As more information is transferred to digital format, vast numbers of written pages have been opened up to scholarly examination. Digitization has dramatically increased the ease with which multivolume works (newspapers, journals or archives) in all disciplines can be stored and accessed. It is helping libraries to conserve valuable shelf space and make research possible at any time of day regardless of geographical distance from the originals. Digital resources can also be costly, some of our purchases hitting the six-figure mark. Here are some of our more recent purchases.

African-American Communities (http://www.africanamericancommunities.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/) presents “multiple aspects of the African-American community through pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals, correspondence, official records, reports and in-depth oral histories …”

Colonial America (http://www.colonialamerica.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/) will “make available all 1,450 volumes from the National Archives, UK, covering the period 1606 to 1822, including original correspondence between the British government and the governments of the American colonies …”

Defining Gender (1450–1910) (http://www.gender.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/) offers c. 50,000 images of original documents linked to essays by leading scholars in the field.

Engineering Research Database (http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.rice.edu/materialscienceengineering) offers bibliographic coverage of the international serial and nonserial literature for research in civil, earthquake, environmental, mechanical, transportation engineering, forensic engineering, engineering services, education, theoretical mechanics and dynamics, mathematics/computation, design, construction and latest technological developments.

Foreign Office Files for the Middle East, 1971–1981 (http://www.archivesdirect.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/FO_MiddleEast) “ … addresses the policies, economies, political relationships and significant events of every major Middle East power. Conflicts such as the Arab-Israeli War, the Lebanese Civil War and the Iranian Revolution are examined in detail.”

Global Commodities: Trade, Exploration and Cultural Exchange (http://www.globalcommodities.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/) provides a vast range of visual, manuscript and printed materials sourced from key libraries, companies and trade organizations around the world to explore the history of 15 major commodities and to examine how they have changed the world.

Jewish Life in America, c1654–1954 (http://www.jewishlife.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/) “will enable you to explore the history of Jewish communities in America from the arrival of the first Jews in the 17th century right through to the mid-20th century. This rich collection brings to life the communal and social aspects of Jewish identity and culture, whilst tracing Jewish involvement in the political life of American society as a whole.”

Literature Resource Center (http://bit.ly/2nSfPsA) provides full-text journal articles, literary criticism, reviews, biographical information and overviews on over 130,000 writers in all disciplines, from all time periods and from around the world.

London Low Life (http://www.londonlowlife.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/) is a full-text searchable resource, containing colour digital images of rare books, ephemera, maps and other materials relating to 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-century London.


Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice (http://www.slavery.amdigital.co.uk.ezproxy.rice.edu/default.aspx) brings together documents and collections about slavery covering an extensive time period from across the Atlantic world. Includes images of many thousands of original manuscripts, pamphlets, books, paintings, maps and images.

Elka Tenner
Humanities/Social Science Librarian
Fondren Library Celebrates The oH Project Collection

Fondren Library’s Woodson Research Center (WRC) hosted a reception Nov. 17, 2016, to formally announce a new collection of oral histories received from The oH Project. Established in 2015 by activists Tori Williams and Sarah Canby Jackson, The oH Project documents the effect of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Houston, Harris County and southeast Texas. Houston has seen more than 20,000 deaths from AIDS since the city’s first case was diagnosed in 1981, with the LGBT community particularly devastated. The project seeks to record the city’s response to the crisis and preserve individual stories among the thousands who have been affected. “We could potentially lose any history related to the AIDS/HIV crisis in Houston and the area due to an aging population,” said Lee Pecht, university archivist and board member of the project. “We need to capture this revealing chapter of American history before it is too late.”

To capture these stories, Williams and Jackson gathered a group of volunteers to coordinate aspects of the project, including fundraising, publicity and the task of conducting oral histories. They also partnered with local groups, including Legacy Community Health Services, Montrose Center and the WRC, which have provided financial and administrative support. Throughout the process, the project has been overseen by archivists, trained interviewers and a professional transcriptionist.

Each oral history consists of a recorded interview along with a written transcript. Confidentiality agreements govern the interviews, and The oH Project policies redact third-party names in relation to their HIV/AIDS status or sexual orientation unless written consent has been provided. “In many instances there is still a stigma of being identified as gay or lesbian,” said Pecht. “We must protect and respect anonymity for a number of years due to employment and personal reasons.”

The ultimate goal is to record at least 100 histories covering perspectives from survivors, health-care providers, politicians, community leaders and others. More than a dozen interviews are already available online, with additional ones expected soon.

The reception attracted about 60 people, including former Houston mayor and Rice alumna Annise Parker, who provided one of the interviews. Representatives from Legacy Community Health and Rice University spoke, and Tori Williams thanked those who had given unselfishly of their time and talents to ensure the success of the project.

For more information about The oH Project collection, visit http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/ricewrc/00905/rice-00905.html.

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions

Tori Williams
Annise Parker, Chree Boydstun (Legacy Community Health), Kathy Hubbard
Fondren and Knowledge Unlatched
Make Scholarship Open

This spring, Fondren Library proudly supported open access to academic research by participating in Knowledge Unlatched (KU; www.knowledgeunlatched.org), a library-driven crowdfunding initiative to make humanities and social sciences e-books freely available through Creative Commons licenses.

Fondren joined around 270 other libraries to pledge funds to purchase publishers’ licenses for 343 newly published and backlist academic books, covering 16 subject areas. After a successful international pledge campaign, digital copies of these books can now be freely downloaded from web repository OAPEN Library (http://ow.ly/Hmgu309Gcaq) and are also available via KU links on the relevant WorldCat records. Additional access to the titles through the Fondren catalog is currently in process. Because so many libraries participated, including those of Ivy League and other peer institutions, the price of pledging for each library was no more than the purchase prices of the books themselves. Participating KU publishers include numerous major university presses such as Cambridge, MIT and Yale, as well as other academic publishers such as Bloomsbury Academic, Brill and Routledge.

As described on Rice’s open access site (openaccess.rice.edu), open access “refers to creative work or scholarship that is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.” Today, when the price to access much scholarly work is continuously increasing and many e-books come burdened with use restrictions, Knowledge Unlatched offers a sustainable and scalable open access model for high quality academic texts. In a welcome development, KU pledges in 2017 will include humanities and social sciences journals as well as books. Fondren librarians will continue to engage with this and other efforts to broaden access to scholarship.

Joe Goetz
Information Literacy Librarian

Newly Purchased Atlas and Energy Maps

Fondren Library has recently purchased a number of regional and worldwide oil, gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) maps published by the Petroleum Economist. The newly published maps show the locations of oil and gas fields and pipelines and production terminals as well as LNG terminals and shale reserves and other energy resources, such as thermal, coal, solar and nuclear. The maps include charts, graphs and photographs depicting trade and import/export statistics. They cover the U.S., North America, Mexico and the world, many with insets showing more details of a city or region.

In addition to the maps, the Petroleum Economist’s “World Energy Atlas” is a compilation of their maps. It includes a CD-ROM with downloadable copies of the maps for use in presentations. The atlas also depicts worldwide statistics on trade as well as production and consumption of oil, gas, coal and other resources.

The maps do not circulate, but may be viewed in the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services. The World Energy Atlas is held on reserve and is available for short-term checkout at Access Services.

Katherine Hart Weimer
Head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services.
In 1934, Poulenc began collaborating with the French baritone Pierre Bernac (1899–1979). Bernac, later the most renowned interpreter of French song, performed with Poulenc as his accompanist until 1960, and recorded much of it. The Lambiotte collection contains the only known autograph of Poulenc’s “Quatre poèmes de Guillaume Apollinaire” (FP 58, 1931). Poulenc used verses of the best poets of the day, including Paul Éluard and Max Jacobs, and studied them for as long as several months to compose music that would suit them. Stylistically, the songs tend to be fairly short, with varied rhythmic patterns and tuneful harmonies. They range in character from the childlike “Bonne enfant” of “Cocardes” to the gentle, prayer-like “Fleurs” from “Fiançailles pour rire” (FP 101, 1939).

The Lambiotte Family collection’s autograph manuscripts consist of orchestral, vocal, piano and choral works. The two orchestral works, “Aubade” and “Concert Champêtre,” are particularly interesting and representative of Poulenc’s neoclassic style. Poulenc wrote that they were influenced by Stravinsky. They are considered to be two of Poulenc’s most difficult works to perform. The “Concert Champêtre” (FP 49, 1927-1928) was composed at the request of the renowned harpsichordist Wanda Landowska, for orchestra and solo harpsichord. Poulenc wrote the work in the style of baroque composers Couperin and Rameau, but with frequent meter changes and 20th-century harmonic elements. The public premiere was May 3, 1929, in Paris, with Landowska playing the harpsichord and the Orchestre Symphonique de Paris, Pierre Monteux conducting.

“Aubade” (FP 51, 1929), for piano and 18 instruments, was composed as a ballet depicting the goddess Diana and her companions. The Lambiotte collection contains a working draft of the piece and a reduction for two pianos. The piece was commissioned by the Vicomte and Vicomtesse de Noailles for a ball at their home June 19, 1929, where it was performed with Poulenc at the piano. Poulenc wrote that he could not reach the end without crying.

Although during Poulenc’s early career he was not widely regarded as a serious composer because of the simplicity, and sometimes humorous tone, of his music, in the years since he has become more highly regarded. We hope that, with the addition of the Lambiotte collection, scholars will gain more insight into Poulenc and his works.

Mary Brower
Music Librarian
What books have shaped your career path or your way of thinking? Each year, Friends of Fondren Library hosts a lecture series where we ask that very question.


In his lecture, Brinkley covered a broad spectrum of book titles, from books he read as a youngster to those he wrote in recent years. He discussed his fondness for “Johnny Tremaine,” an historical novel about the events leading up to the American Revolutionary War and for “On the Road” by Jack Kerouac. He praised the novels of Thomas Wolfe, Willa Cather and John Steinbeck. He also discussed the fascinating people he has met through authoring biographies, including Gerald Ford and Rosa Parks. He spoke of the importance to writers of reading and writing constantly.

On February 2, Robert Stein, the Lena Goldman Fox Professor of Political Science, was the featured speaker. An expert on urban politics and public policy, Stein is co-author, with Kenneth N. Bickers, of “Perpetuating the Pork Barrel: Policy Subsystems and American Democracy” and author of “Urban Alternatives: Public and Private Markets in the Provision of Local Services.” Stein’s current research, supported by the National Science Foundation, examines the impact of the federal aid system on the electoral trajectories of office holders below the national level.

Stein enjoys reading about politics through fiction focused on people who want to do good but somehow fail to do so, giving examples such as “All the King's Men” by Robert Penn Warren and “Things Fall Apart” by Chinua Achebe.

He noted that his favorite book is a nonfiction work, Robert Caro’s “The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York.” This biography chronicles the ways Moses amassed power in 20th-century New York City through his role as city planner.

We hope that this lecture series inspires new writers and readers. Please join us for future lectures; they will be featured on our website at library.rice.edu/friends. Friends of Fondren Library lectures are free and open to the public.

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library
The 37th Annual Friends of Fondren Library Gala had a Texas twist this year, honoring the D. Kent and Linda Anderson family, longtime Rice supporters whose family farm is located near the seat of Texas Independence, Washington on the Brazos. Kent served on Rice’s Board of Trustees for three decades prior to his death in 2015, and Linda and her three children, Clarke Anderson, Huntley Anderson Kubitza and Whitney Anderson Walsh, carry on Kent’s tradition of support.

The celebration at the River Oaks Country Club on Texas Independence Day included beautiful floral arrangements accented with yellow roses and fascinating pieces of Texas history offered in the silent auction. Fifth-generation Texan and character actor David Born led the evening’s live auction, encouraging guests to support the library generously through their bids. This year’s “paddles up” portion of the auction echoed the Texas theme by funding new purchases for the Carroll and Harris Masterson Texana Collection in the Woodson Research Center. This extensive collection, initially donated in 1966 by Mr. and Mrs. Masterson, includes items from early Spanish rule through modern fine Texana. Further enhancing the collection ensures Fondren’s premier standing among holders of primary and significant secondary source Texana.

We extend our thanks to everyone who attended or donated to the annual gala, answering the call of gala chair Liz Crowell to support Fondren Library. We invite you to join us next spring for our 38th annual gala.

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library
With its central location in the academic quad, Fondren Library frequently serves as a backdrop for meaningful social engagement within the campus community. This image of an anti-Vietnam War demonstration during the late 1960s depicts just one of the many protest movements that have played out in front of the library over the decades.