

PRIMARY SOURCE AWARDS

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On page 1: Artist working on the moon sculpture for the Griffith Park Observatory in Los Angeles. Photograph by R. M. Starrett. From the John C. Austin Papers (Collection Number 904). Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.



In This Issue

This issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources* highlights the three projects selected for recognition in this year's Center for Research Libraries Primary Source Awards program. CRL created the program in 2009 to promote awareness and use of primary historical evidence in research and teaching. Identifying and recognizing innovative uses of primary sources helps us to better understand the paths taken by scholarly inquiry today.

The projects featured here were selected from a very competitive pool nominated by faculty and librarians at CRL institutions. CRL's Collections and Services Policy Committee, chaired by Richard Fyffe of Grinnell College, reviewed all nominations and identified the top projects in three areas: access, research, and teaching. The projects recognized by this year's awards illustrate strategies for improving access to "hidden" collections; new approaches to the scholarly analysis of cultural data and information; and the use of CRL's own materials to help students examine a historic event.

We hope that the awards this year and in coming years help the CRL community to promote support of advanced research and teaching. Please consider nominating a deserved colleague (or yourself) for the 2012 awards. Submissions will start being accepted in June; check the [CRL website](#) for details.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President

Primary Source Awards for 2011



This detail from a cover of *Popular Science* magazine from CRL collections was used on the Primary Source Awards flyer.

The Center for Research Libraries first developed the [Primary Source Awards](#) in 2009 to recognize innovative uses of primary source materials by faculty, librarians and library staff, graduate students, and other researchers in the CRL community in three arenas: access, research, and teaching. This year CRL received nominations from universities and colleges in ten states, with such intriguing projects as a “Senior Thesis Camp” (Notre Dame), a Shakespeare Online Archive (Penn State), and a “Rare Book Academy” that gave children an understanding of early print culture (Ohio State).

This year the CRL Collections and Services Policy Committee, chaired by Richard Fyffe, Rosenthal Librarian of the College, Grinnell College, selected the following projects to be recognized:

2011 Primary Source Awards

Access Awardee

Kelley Wolfe Bachli, Coordinator of the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Research Awardee

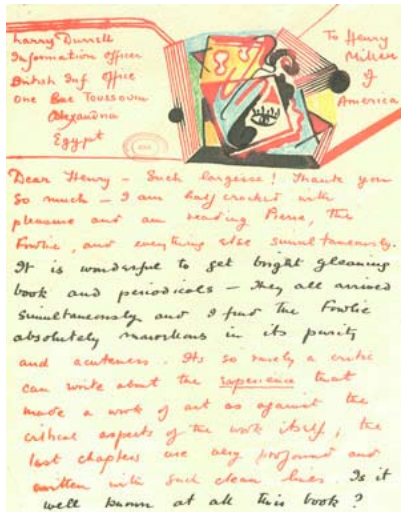
Laura Braden, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology, Emory University

Teaching Awardee

Professor Laurie Zittrain Eisenberg, Carnegie Mellon University History Department

2012 Primary Source Awards

Nominations for the 2012 awards will be accepted beginning June 1, 2011. Faculty and staff at CRL libraries are encouraged to consider other staff, faculty, or colleagues as candidates for these awards; self nominations are also accepted. Awardees receive a gift certificate from Powell’s Books; an iPod Touch is given to the persons who nominate the award finalists. Please see the [Eligibility](#) and [Selection](#) sections on the [CRL website](#) for information on participants and the selection process.



Letter to author Henry Miller from British Information Officer Larry Durrell. From the Henry Miller Papers (Collection Number 110). Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

2011 Primary Source Award for Access

Kelley Wolfe Bachli—Coordinator, Center for Primary Research and Training, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA

Nominated by Genie Guerard, Head, Manuscripts Division/Manuscripts Librarian, UCLA

The Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT) at the University of California, Los Angeles, was first conceived and implemented in 2004 in response to a problem common to special collections libraries: “hidden” or uncataloged collections.

In her role as Coordinator for the UCLA Library’s CFPRT over the past three years, Kelley Wolfe Bachli has helped provide and expand access to primary source materials in the UCLA Library. Ms. Bachli received the 2011 Primary Source Award for Access for innovative program and research enhancements that she incorporated at the CFPRT, including increasing the number of students enrolled in the program and expanding the scope of primary source research projects.

As CFPRT Coordinator, she interviewed graduate students who applied for paid positions to the Center, and matched them with unprocessed or under-processed collections in their area of interest. She trained these CFPRT scholars in processing and description methods that met current archival standards. The students then had access to these “hidden” or uncataloged collections (often formulating thesis or dissertation topics along the way), while collections they processed were made accessible to other researchers through online finding aids on the Online Archive of California (OAC). This has been described as a “win-win” situation over and over again for all concerned: students, their faculty and advisors, and the library.

Genie Guerard, Head, Manuscripts Division/Manuscripts Librarian at UCLA, who nominated Ms. Bachli for the award, notes: “Kelley’s enthusiasm for working with graduate students is so positively received, there is a hum of focus and energy one senses in walking through the Center. Many of the students are working with primary source materials for the first time, but Kelley’s warmth and professionalism, combined with her passion for working with the collections, instills confidence and pride in their contributions to research and the preservation of archival materials.” Many of the students commented that by processing primary source materials and creating the guides to the collections, they gained a much better understanding of how to navigate finding aids and conduct research.

Ms. Bachli’s work also expanded access to the CFPRT and to the UCLA Library’s primary source collections by taking on more students per quarter and increasing the number of linear feet processed, online finding aids, and catalogue records created each year. She curated an exhibition in the UCLA Library titled, “Revealing Hidden Collections,” which highlighted collections recently processed, from early California history ephemera to original photographic prints of Hollywood stars. She also collaborated with documentary filmmaker Erin Flannery to develop a film promoting the CFPRT, now available on the [Library’s website](#). The video depicts: a Near Eastern Languages and Cultures student processing a cuneiform tablets collection; a student of Latin American history processing bound manuscripts from Colonial Mexico; a history student processing manuscripts from the 15th through 19th centuries in Persian, Arabic, Ottoman, and Turkish; and an information studies student processing the papers of Miriam Matthews, the first credentialed African American librarian in the state of California.

2010 Primary Source Award for Research

Laura Braden, Graduate Student and Instructor, Department of Sociology, Emory University

Nominated by Robert O'Reilly, Coordinator of Numeric Data Services, Woodruff Library, Emory University

The International Exhibition of Modern Art, organized by the Association of American Painters and Sculptors, opened in New York City's 69th Regiment Armory on February 17, 1913, and ran to March 15. It featured now-famous masters such as Claude Monet, Henry Matisse, Paul Gauguin, and Vincent van Gogh, along with hundreds of others. For many Americans, the Armory Show served as an introduction to modern art, with works like Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase* or Paul Cézanne's *Baigneuses*. Despite (or perhaps because of) its controversy, the Armory Show became an overwhelming success.

Laura Braden, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Emory University, received the Primary Source Award for Research for her project that focused on the artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show. She looked at primary resource catalogs describing artists and works from the Armory Show, as well as later materials from the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA), and then examined criteria that determine which of these artists have been featured in art history textbooks.

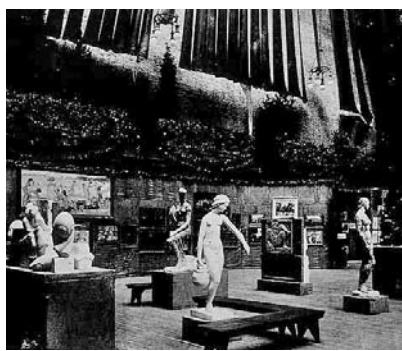
In addition to working on her dissertation, she teaches undergraduate classes in the Sociology Department. Ms. Braden was also recently named a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Women's Studies Fellow for 2010.

In her project, exhibition catalogs from the Museum of Modern Art in New York served as primary sources to help assemble a collection of data on the artists' attributes and their exhibits. Ms. Braden used the catalogs to conduct statistical analysis on what determines whether or not artists receive "canonical" status.

To accomplish this, Ms. Braden used primary sources to create a collection of quantitative data that does not currently exist. This data will be relevant and helpful to scholars in Art History as well as Sociology and Economics. The nearly complete database includes data on the artists themselves (*e.g.*, age, gender, nationality) and identifies subsequent exhibitions in which those artists appeared.

This research tracked all 308 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show to see which were included in prominent art history textbooks nearly a century later. In particular, Ms. Braden examined how artist attributes (*e.g.*, gender) and a legitimating organization (the Museum of Modern Art) shape this process. Results indicated that the number and type of exhibitions including Armory artists at MoMA from 1929 to 1967 dramatically raised the odds that they are featured in 21st-century textbooks. Meanwhile, many artist attributes (such as gender) seemed to have no bearing on the odds of textbook inclusion. However, several artist attributes—particularly gender—significantly predicted which artists ever exhibited at MoMA in the mid-1900s. Such findings suggest that certain types of contemporary validation (such as a MoMA exhibition) matter for later "consecration"—especially when a legitimating organization functions as a "gatekeeper" that grants exposure to certain types of artists while excluding others.

Robert O'Reilly, Coordinator of Numeric Data Services, Woodruff Library at Emory University, commented in his nomination of Laura Braden for the Research Award: "Ms. Braden is creating a resource that will benefit scholars across the academy by allowing them to address questions and apply methodologies in ways not possible without such data. . . . [She] is using primary materials in a distinctive, non-traditional manner."



Interior of 1913 Armory Show, photograph by Percy Rainford.

2011 Primary Source Award for Teaching

Laurie Zittrain Eisenberg—Teaching Professor, Carnegie Mellon University

The Center for Research Libraries was especially pleased to honor Professor Laurie Zittrain Eisenberg of the Carnegie Mellon University History Department with the 2011 Primary Source Award for Teaching for her “Historical Evidence and Interpretation” undergraduate course. Professor Eisenberg worked with Mary Wilke, CRL’s Member Liaison and Outreach Services Director, to enhance the course focus on the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, using relevant CRL holdings for the core of the class research experience. Students immersed themselves in middle-eastern newspaper collections, radio broadcast transcripts, and other primary source materials held by CRL.

The course considered how historians practice their craft in interpreting great events. The class read a recent account of the war and compared it to other secondary accounts, as well as a variety of primary source materials such as memoirs, documents, speeches, newspapers, maps, eyewitnesses, and UN resolutions. Students were asked to consider whether the sources support the new text or if there are other interpretations that might lead to different conclusions, and they explore competing or contradictory interpretations and differing accounts put forward by civilians and veterans and other scholars. They examined how politics, the availability of new archival sources, and the passage of time can bring about a rethinking of past events. Students also developed a familiarity with the skills required to identify a research topic, pose researchable questions, find and work with many kinds of sources, create a strong thesis statement, gather evidence, and present their findings persuasively.

CRL Member Liaison Mary Wilke describes: “I especially enjoyed working with Laurie because she was teaching undergraduates what historians do. They need to identify, investigate, and look at records and evidence and weigh everything they find.” CRL digitized two Arabic newspapers in English for the course—*The Egyptian Gazette* (pictured) and *The Daily Star* from Lebanon—over the time period of the Six-Day War so that students could examine coverage. CRL also offered transcripts from the [Foreign Broadcast Information Service](#), so that students could study the radio broadcasts. Wilke continues, “The addition of these primary sources to the ones already accessible at Carnegie Mellon (such as the *Jerusalem Post*) allowed Laurie’s students to see other viewpoints and to weigh the effects of the coverage from more than one perspective. It was very clear in some cases that what was reported was biased. I especially appreciated learning that her students were as excited as I had been about the course. I understand that at least one student determined his own future course of study as a result of this class.”



Front page of the *Egyptian Gazette*, June 6, 1967. From CRL collections. CRL digitized issues of this newspaper and *The Daily Star* from Lebanon over the time period of the Six-Day War for Laurie Eisenberg’s class on “Historical Evidence and Interpretation.”

By working extensively with the CRL resources early in the semester, students were then able to use their newfound skills in interpreting historical evidence as they pursued their individual research projects. For most undergraduates, this constituted their first opportunity to analyze and interpret primary source material for themselves. Many went on to represent the Carnegie Mellon History Department at the annual conference of the Western Pennsylvania Regional Phi Alpha Theta chapter, with papers on topics including: “Redemption and Reconciliation: The Impact of the 1967 War on the Political Career of Anwar Sadat”; “Unraveling the Myth: the Specious Social Mobility of the Israeli Woman Soldier following the 1967 Six Day War”; “Leveraging Lies: The Impact of Egyptian Radio Propaganda during the 1967 Arab-Israel War”; and “The Palestinianization of Israel’s Arabs Beginning in 1948: A Louder Voice.” Several were selected to present their papers at national conferences as well, with reliance on primary source documents as the hallmark of the work of these students. ❖

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