

FOCUS *on Global Resources*

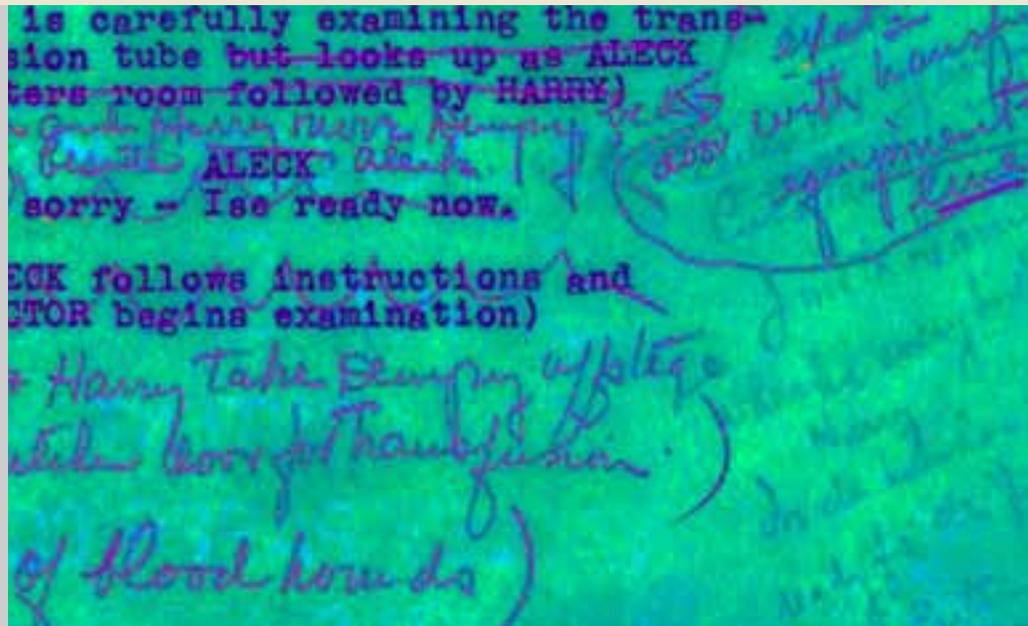
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CRL PRIMARY SOURCE AWARDS

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University of Massachusetts Amherst graduate student Amy Brady received the 2012 CRL Primary Source Award for Research for her project that created hyperspectral digital images of Federal Theatre Project documents to reveal typed-over text and handwritten revisions that had faded with time. Learn more about this project and the other awardees in the Spring issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources*. Courtesy of the Preservation Research and Testing Division, Library of Congress.

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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 a variety of approaches to mining the primary evidence of history.

We hope that the awards this year and in coming years help the CRL community promote support of advanced research and teaching. Please consider nominating a deserved colleague (or yourself) for the 2013 awards. Submissions will start being accepted in June; the [CRL website](http://www.crl.edu) has details.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President

CRL Primary Source Awards



Detail from a photograph from the 2011 CRL Primary Source Award for Access. From the John C. Austin Papers (Collection Number 904). Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

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. Nominations are accepted in three arenas: access, research, and teaching. This year the CRL Collections and Services Policy Committee, chaired by Richard Fyffe, Rosenthal Librarian of the College, Grinnell College, selected the following awardees for recognition:

2012 Primary Source Awards

Award for Access

Dan Reboussin, Head, African Studies Collections, University of Florida

Nominated by: Laurie Taylor, Digital Humanities Librarian, University of Florida

Award for Research

Amy Brady, Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Award for Teaching

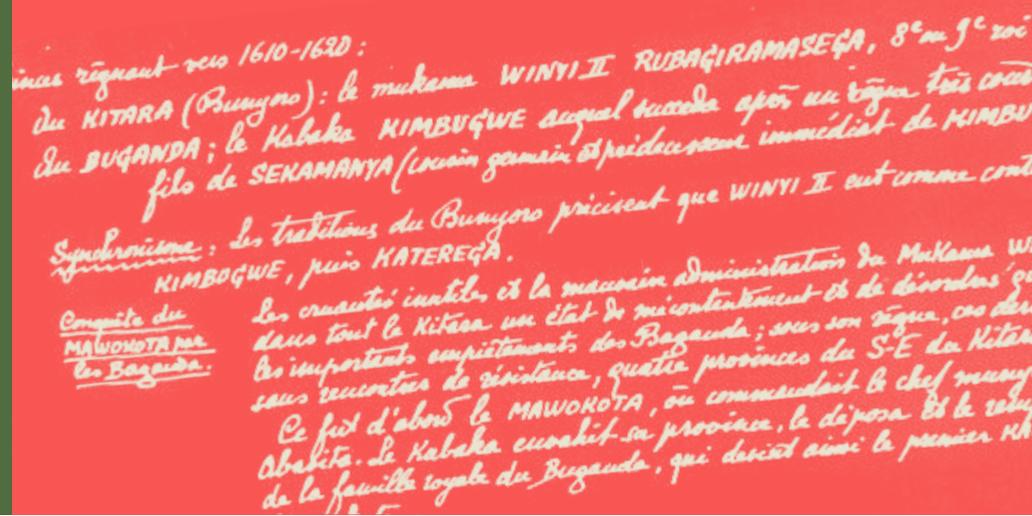
Dr. Sayre Greenfield, Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh (Greensburg campus)

Nominated by: Amanda Folk, Reference/Public Services Librarian, University of Pittsburgh

2013 Primary Source Awards

Nominations for the 2013 awards will be accepted beginning June 1, 2012. Faculty and staff at CRL libraries are encouraged to consider other staff, faculty, or colleagues as candidates for these awards; self nominations are welcome. Awardees receive a gift certificate from Powell's Books; an iPad is given to the persons who nominate the awardees. Please see the [Eligibility](#) and [Selection](#) sections on the [CRL website](#) for information on participants and the selection process. ❖

2012 Award for Access



Handwritten note identified from 1610, Kitara, Buganda. Courtesy of the Jean-Marie Derscheid Collection, University of Florida.

Award for Access

Dan Reboussin, Head, African Studies Collections, University of Florida

Nominated by: Laurie Taylor, Digital Humanities Librarian, University of Florida

Access to primary sources is essential for researchers, but effective online access requires a range of support extending beyond traditional methods. Catalog records and finding guides are still necessary, but search engine optimization (SEO) is also required to create effective, full access to online collections. Dan Reboussin, Head of the University of Florida (UF) Libraries' African Studies Collections, has received the 2012 CRL Primary Source Award for Access for his efforts to create effective access to the Jean-Marie Derscheid Collection.

The Derscheid collection encompasses a rich set of manuscripts relating to pre-colonial and colonial-era Burundi, Eastern Congo, and Rwanda. These unique and rare materials document the history of the region. They were created and collected by Jean-Marie Derscheid, a zoologist and conservationist who undertook historical research on Rwanda and the Eastern Congo from 1924 to 1939. He criticized Belgian colonial agricultural policies promoting cultivation in the Virunga Mountains, one of only two limited habitats of the endangered mountain gorillas. René Lemarchand, UF professor emeritus of political science and author of *Rwanda and Burundi* (1970), states that Derscheid's scholar-curated collection of primary research materials is a critically important resource for interdisciplinary research in this area.

Reboussin worked closely with author Lemarchand to enhance access to and preserve the microfilm collection. He ensured long-term scholarly access to the materials by securing permission from Derscheid's heir to distribute the collection and by creating a complete, verified, item-level index. This year, Reboussin led a project to digitize the Derscheid manuscript collection to ensure ongoing access. Building on prior work with the catalog record and index, Reboussin set out to ensure this rich collection was fully accessible by developing several innovative, enhanced means to support online access. The project began with the digitization of the Derscheid collection from microfilm and the creation of complete, item-level metadata using the existing index.

Some of the additional support methods Reboussin employed include:

- Digitizing the complete index to enable researchers to review the [entire collection](#) at a glance

2012 Award for Research



Photographic print from Federal Theatre Project production of *Macbeth*, New Lafayette Theatre, New York City, April 14–June 20, 1936, directed by Orson Welles. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Award for Research

Amy Brady, Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts Amherst

In the middle of the Great Depression, the U.S. government's New Deal program inaugurated the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to provide relief work for unemployed Americans, including artists. The Federal Theatre Project (FTP) was one of these programs. Although it lasted only four years, scholars have acknowledged its prevailing influence on 20th- and 21st-century theatre.

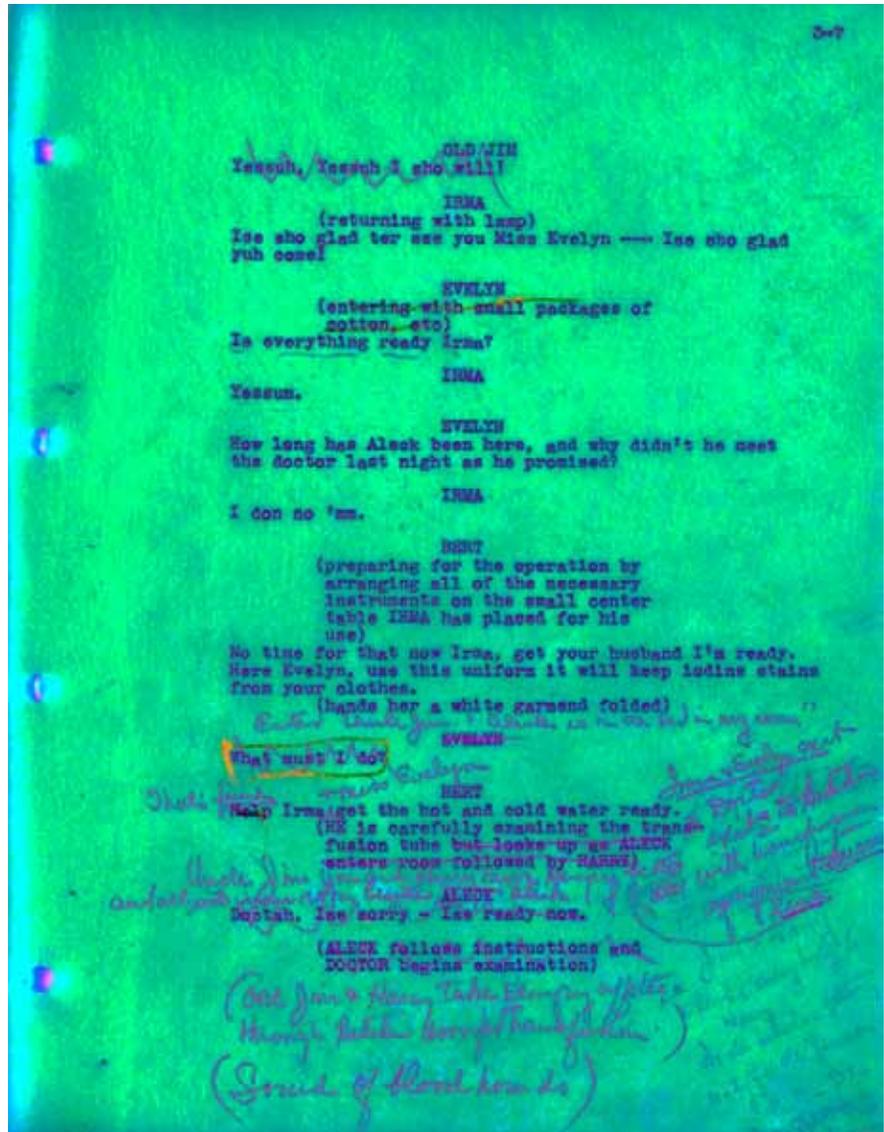
University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate Student Amy Brady is the recipient of the 2012 CRL Primary Source Award for Research for her CLIR/Mellon-funded project that examined primary sources in the Library of Congress archives that relate to plays produced by the Federal Theatre Project. She used these sources to determine where and how the work of radical avant-garde FTP artists caused political and ideological contradictions in their productions, such as the expression of radical propaganda versus more moderately toned New Deal rhetoric. Thanks to a CLIR/Mellon fellowship, she worked in conjunction with the Library of Congress's Preservation Research and Testing Division (PRTD)—especially Fenella France, the Library's Chief of the PRTD, and technician Meghan Hill—to create hyperspectral digital images of Federal Theatre primary sources. The technology made visible typed-over text and handwritten revisions that had faded with time. These images allowed Brady to make new interpretations of Federal Theatre history that account for the avant-garde's influence. The images will also open new avenues of research for other scholars as she and the Library staff make them available for future study.

For this project, Brady pieced together several different types of primary sources, including scripts and playbills, set designs, and correspondences between theatre personnel, to reconstruct the historical circumstances of several never-before examined FTP productions. She then utilized the PRTD's hyperspectral imaging unit on scripts used by actors and directors involved with these particular productions. The hyperspectral unit employs eight different light wavelengths to make visible text and handwritten markings that have either faded or been intentionally erased and thus have been until now illegible to the naked eye. This research marks the first time in the Library's history that the hyperspectral imaging unit has been used on FTP documents, and Brady's interpretation of this new data contributes to a more comprehensive historical picture of selected FTP productions. In particular, the imaging has made it possible to read the scripts' original wording as written by avant-garde artists, as well as the artists' handwritten revisions that were thought to have been lost forever. The recovery of the plays' original text and handwritten revisions has made it possible

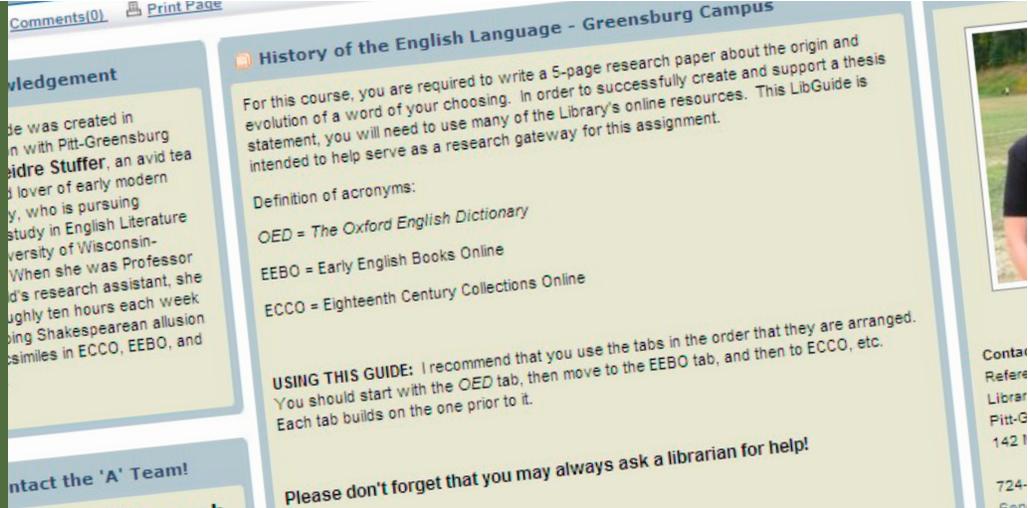
to determine where and how the productions changed over the course of rehearsals and rewrites. When contextualized with other primary sources at the Library, these revisions revealed new insights into where and how the avant-garde artists exerted influence on FTP productions, and moreover, how this influence resulted in the continuation of radical, avant-garde projects on government-funded stages.

Brady's research with Federal Theatre primary sources contributes to new knowledge in at least two ways: it broadens scholars' understanding of the avant-garde artists' history while contributing to a more comprehensive conception of the American Federal Theatre Project. Moreover, cataloging the hyperspectral images and making them available for future study opens up new avenues of scholarly research. ❖

This full spectrum color image from Act 3, page 6, of a little-known Federal Theatre play called *Return to Death*, captured by the Library's hyperspectral imaging system, shows the previously faded and erased markings. Courtesy of the Preservation Research and Testing Division, Library of Congress.



2012 Award for Teaching



Detail of online guide to assist students in Dr. Sayre Greenfield's History of the English Language (ENGLIT 1552) course in researching the development of individual words.

Award for Teaching

Dr. Sayre Greenfield, Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh (Greensburg campus)

Nominated by: Amanda Folk, Reference/Public Services Librarian, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Sayre Greenfield, Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, has received the 2012 CRL Primary Source Award for Teaching for his course on the History of the English Language. His course requires undergraduate students to conduct original research using primary source material that has been made available online.

In this course, students learn about all facets of the development of the English language, including grammar, phonetics, spelling, and geography. The course culminates in a research paper that addresses the evolution of a single word of each student's choosing. This paper requires the students to use online library resources containing primary source material, including the *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, *Early English Books Online*, and *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*, in order to discover how the word and its usage have changed over several centuries. The purpose is for the students to analyze the actual texts to determine how words evolve, rather than relying on secondary literature written by scholars.

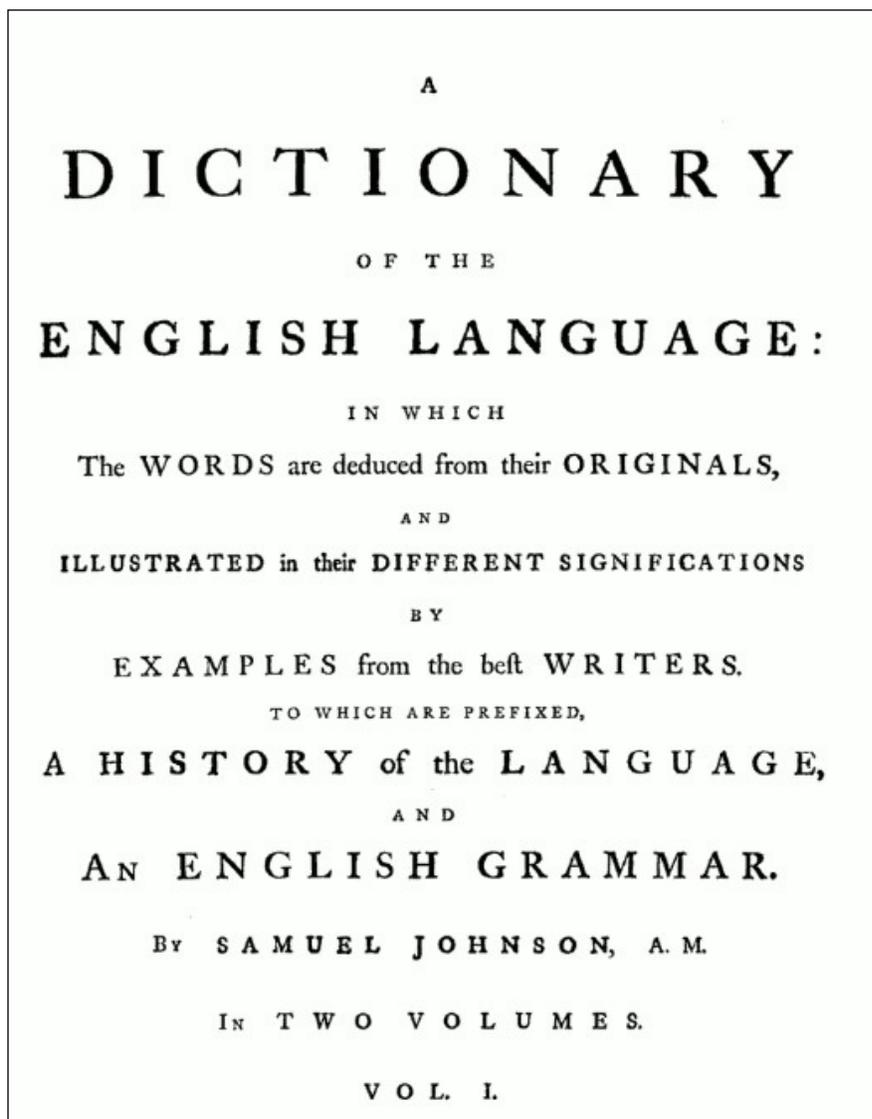
As an example for his students, Greenfield offers this linear history of the word "thread":

SAMPLE: thread, n. c725

The word thread derives from the pre-Germanic hypothetical root verb þræ-, meaning "to twist, from which pre-Germanic noun tretus derives. This form turned into Old Germanic þræ-ðu. This became Old English þræd and ðred, first recorded in about 725 AD. This word is cognate with such words in other Germanic languages as Old Low German þrad (hypothetical), which later became Middle Dutch draet and modern Dutch draad. Old English þræd and ðred are also cognate with Old Norse þraðr, which became modern Danish traad and modern Swedish tråd. In Middle English, spelling varied from þræd, to þred, to threed and thred. By the 1500s, spelling such as threede and Scottish dialect threid had emerged, but the modern spelling of thread was in existence by Middle English, and it became the only spelling in standard English after the 1700s.

For their final paper, Greenfield encourages students to pick a word that is either common or, if less common, a word with an interesting history of development and

Samuel Johnson's 1755 dictionary is among the earliest sources students are asked to consult for their word research. Courtesy of johnsonsdictionaryonline.com.



has changed meanings significantly (although he cautions that he has already seen several papers on the word “gay,” for example). He requires several examples of the word pulled from *Early English Books Online* and *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*, as well as other library reference sources such as *Cassell's Dictionary of Slang* (1998), or the *Harper Dictionary of Contemporary Usage* (1975).

The goal is that these examples will enable students to draw conclusions from the patterns of word use these instances collectively reveal. For the majority of the students, the type of research required to successfully complete the final paper is unfamiliar territory and may be among their first uses of primary source material. An online [libguide](#) offers help from university librarians and more background material regarding these sources. ❖

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