Vice Provost and Director of Libraries

Constantia Constantinou started in August as the H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries. [https://www.library.upenn.edu/people/staff/constantia-constantinou](https://www.library.upenn.edu/people/staff/constantia-constantinou)

Since arriving at Penn, Constantia has launched a strategic planning process in the Libraries, working with DeEtta Jones and Associates, engaging staff at all levels and looking externally at peer institutions. The target date for completion is fall 2019.

Additionally, several changes were made to the senior leadership team:
- Richard Griscom has been appointed Associate University Librarian for Departmental Libraries.
- David Nerenberg has been appointed Chief Financial Officer and Director of Organizational Effectiveness.
- Brigitte Burris has been appointed Associate University Librarian for Collections.
- Will Noel has been appointed Associate Vice Provost for Special Collections, Director of the Kislak Center and Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, and External Strategic Partnerships.
- Jon Shaw has been appointed Associate Vice Provost and Deputy University Librarian.

Linked Data

The Penn Libraries have recently embarked on an exciting new partnership with Casalini Libri and @Cult to create a prototype linked data catalog for Penn Libraries. This prototype will demonstrate the value of linked data for user discovery in a new interface with contextual information including knowledge panels. The catalog will leverage the power and size of the SHARE-VDE cluster knowledgebase. APIs will provide local availability and remote delivery options for users. Penn has been a partner in the SHARE-VDE linked data project since its inception.

Penn was selected as part of the Linked Data for Production (LD4P) cohort in September 2018 [https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2019/02/14/metadata-creation-and-user-discovery-experience-to-be-dramatically-impacted-by-the-penn-libraries-membership-in-the-linked-data-for-production-ld4p-cohort/](https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2019/02/14/metadata-creation-and-user-discovery-experience-to-be-dramatically-impacted-by-the-penn-libraries-membership-in-the-linked-data-for-production-ld4p-cohort/). Cataloging and metadata staff have engaged with the project team, participating in linked data and BIBFRAME training, and preparing to begin work in Sinopia this summer. Our project will include the creation of native BIBFRAME data for some of our hidden collections. We have also created and posted a new position—Head of Metadata Research—to work on linked data and metadata projects. We hope to complete this search in the near future.

Area Studies Technical Services

In 2018, the Library created a new unit, Area Studies Technical Services, within the Information Processing Center. This unit is responsible for acquisitions and cataloging of East Asian, Middle
Eastern, South Asian, Slavic and other non-Roman languages. Michael Williams was hired as the Area Studies Technical Services Coordinator.

Colenda Digital Repository

Penn has continued development of our digital repository, locally named “Colenda”. Colenda is a system for long-term preservation and access to digital assets stewarded by Penn Libraries. It is a project of the Libraries, developed using the Samvera open source software framework. Much of our current digitization work has been added to Colenda, with a public launch expected in the fall.

Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Penn Libraries entered into a partnership with the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. The significant holdings of the Athenaeum were integrated into Alma, making these items visible when searching in our Franklin catalog. Users of the Penn Libraries are able to receive general collections materials from the Athenaeum through delivery to any of our campus libraries and request as well as to consult special collections materials in the Athenaeum’s reading room. [https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2019/02/03/penn-libraries-and-the-athenaeum-of-philadelphia-announce-a-transformative-integration-agreement/](https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2019/02/03/penn-libraries-and-the-athenaeum-of-philadelphia-announce-a-transformative-integration-agreement/)

Digitization Projects

- **Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis**: Penn collaborated with fifteen PACSCL libraries to digitize and host a regional collection of medieval manuscripts. This was a CLIR/Mellon digitization grant, including 160,000 pages from 450 individual volumes. [http://bibliophilly.pacscl.org/](http://bibliophilly.pacscl.org/)

- **Manuscripts of the Muslim World**: A CLIR grant to catalog and digitize Islamic manuscripts held at Penn, Columbia University, the Free Library of Philadelphia, Haverford College, and Bryn Mawr College. Cataloging and digitization are underway. [http://openn.library.upenn.edu/html/muslimworld_contents.html](http://openn.library.upenn.edu/html/muslimworld_contents.html)

- **Marian Anderson**: This CLIR grant is to digitize over two-hundred hours of home recordings and over 25,000-pages of print material from the Marian Anderson archive. A vendor has digitized the audio materials, and the print material has been digitized in house. [https://almanac.upenn.edu/articles/penn-library-to-digitize-thousands-of-items-in-marian-anderson-collection](https://almanac.upenn.edu/articles/penn-library-to-digitize-thousands-of-items-in-marian-anderson-collection)


- **1923 Philadelphia Imprints**: In support of public domain day, Penn has been digitizing Philadelphia imprints from 1923, and contributing them to HathiTrust. Our work is highlighted in this article: [https://whyy.org/articles/trove-of-copyrighted-items-set-to-enter-public-domain-whyy/](https://whyy.org/articles/trove-of-copyrighted-items-set-to-enter-public-domain-whyy/).
Information Processing Center (IPC) organizational changes

- The Postcataloging Department was renamed as the Physical Processing Department to reflect its increased range of responsibilities. These include marking, shelf preparation, bindery preparation, minor book repairs, opening & routing of newly acquired materials, and managing approval plan materials for bibliographer review.
- Periodicals check-in and binding staff have been part of the Access Services Department for the last few years. Recently, we have returned these functions to the IPC. Periodicals check-in is now part of the Metadata Services Department. Periodicals binding prep and management of the current periodicals stacks is part of the Physical Processing Department.

Workflow and Projects

- Implemented shelf ready processing for GOBI firm orders.
- Implemented a new Hebraica approval plan with Weinberg.
- Increased use of batch record loading and vendor services.
- Retention notes were added to over 100,000 records as part of the HathiTrust print retention agreement.
- Updating and migration of IPC documentation to Confluence.

Personnel

- Mike Williams hired as Area Studies Technical Services Coordinator
- Mary Ellen Burd hired as Director of Strategic Communications
- Jackie Parascandola hired as Rare Book Cataloging Librarian
- Louis Meiselman hired as Judaica Special Collections Cataloging Librarian
- Jalil Shafi hired as Associate Director for Human Resources