Anniversaries and Commemorations: Opportunities for Health Sciences Librarians

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Health Science Librarians of Illinois 2018 annual conference, Rockford, IL
“Librarians are cursed to live in interesting times”

-Stephen J. Greenberg
(citing an old proverb)
“The Hunt of the Unicorn” IN

“Looking back, moving forward”

-Diane Sonnenwald
(article title) IN
The past

• The medical school’s sesquicentennial (2009) timeline: update (2016)

• John Benjamin Murphy: portrait restoration

“In 2016, the 100th year since the death of J.B. Murphy, MD, LLD, MSc (1857-1916), the library began the process for the care of his portrait...”

(Galter Library photo archive- restored portrait photo credit: Kristi Holmes, PhD)
1997 & 2017
Harry Potter

1997: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* first printing

2017: NLM Traveling Exhibit, “Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance, Science, Magic, and Medicine” @ NU Chicago

Outcomes:

- Series of talks; event day @ Lurie Children’s Hospital
- 3 posters: “courses @ Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry”: (*images from library’s 16-18th century books*)

*(Photos from Galter Library photo archive.)*
1818, 1918 & 2018

200th anniversary of Illinois
100th anniversary of the Lithuania’s independence

Outcomes:

• Research: Lithuanian immigrant physicians to Chicago (~1865-1920s) - 4 / 42 were NU medical school grads (including 1 female from the NU Woman’s Medical School)

• Presentation: AABS (Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies) conference, Stanford University, June 2018
1921 & 2021
Marie Curie in the U.S.

Project - still in progress

Outcomes - research, discoveries:

• NU planning committee incl. library
• Timeline of Marie Curie’s visit to the United States & Chicago (including Northwestern University)
• Identification of NU medical and dental women in research
• A faculty member stamp collector & his Marie Curie collection

The future

Look for other commemorations, celebrations, anniversaries, opportunities to promote research/ers:

- See what others are doing...
  - eg. “The Flu Then and Now: 1918 to 2018” @ EIU (Eastern Illinois University)
- CAMA (Chicago Area Medical Archivists) annual medical history symposium (Oct. 11, 2018):
  
  *Daniel Hale Williams, Marie Curie, Chicago medicine...*

Projects, activities, networking:

- Galter Library’s Special Collections Working Group
- CAMA (Chicago Area Medical Archivists)
- MLA’s History of the Health Sciences Section
“Participate in your institution’s initiatives...”

“...even when a connection to the archives or library is not immediately clear. Sometimes to see and be seen is a goal in itself. Becoming a familiar face on campus can go a long way toward achieving your department’s future goals. Every time you introduce yourself to another participant at an event, you can create a potential user or donor...”

- Heather J. Stecklein & M. Nathalie Wheaton
“Mutual Advocacy: Developing Shared Outreach Programs with Institutional Partners” IN Against the Grain, Sept. 2011.
Thank you!

Other experiences or comments?