Anniversaries and Commemorations: Opportunities for Health Sciences Librarians

Health Science Librarians of Illinois
2018 annual conference, Rockford, IL
September 27, 2018

Presented by Ramune K. Kubilius, MALS, AHIP
Galter Health Sciences Library & Learning Center
Anniversaries and Comminmorations

“Librarians are cursed to live in interesting times”
Stephen J. Greenberg
(citing an old proverb)
“The Hunt of the Unicorn” IN
*Health Sciences Collection Management for the Twenty-First Century*

“Looking back, moving forward”
Diane Sonnenwald

*Opportunities for individuals, working groups, libraries, collaborations...*
The past


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: 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*” at NU Chicago

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

*(Galter Library photo archive.)*
1818, 1918, and 2018

- 200th anniversary of Illinois
- 100th anniversary of the Lithuania’s declaration of independence
- Posting on listserv of research question (influence of immigrant physicians...)

Outcomes:

- 2018 research: Lithuanian immigrant physicians to Chicago (~1865-1920s) - 4 / 42 identified 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:

• Galter Library was invited to join Northwestern University planning committee
• Created timeline of Marie Curie’s 1921 visit to the United States & Chicago (incl. Northwestern University campus)
• Began identifying prominent NU medical and dental women in research
• Incorporated a medical school 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 (exhibits, events)...
  eg. “The Flu Then and Now: 1918 to 2018” at Eastern Illinois University

- Attend, present, suggest speakers at symposia, conferences...
  eg. CAMA (Chicago Area Medical Archivists) annual fall medical history symposium: 2018 presentations on- Daniel Hale Williams (surgery: 125 years ago), Marie Curie (visit to U.S. anniversary in 2021: 100 years), Chicago medicine (in political landscape of 1968-50 years ago)...

Projects, activities, networking:

- Galter Library’s Special Collections Working Group
- CAMA (Chicago Area Medical Archivists)
- Medical Library Association- 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

Collaborate as individuals, working groups, libraries, look for partnerships...
Thank You!

Experiences, comments, or questions?