Elmer Holmes Bobst Library Renovation, Phase II

A new phase of renovation for the Elmer Holmes Bobst Library will transform floors four and five into a research commons for 21st century scholarship, with staff, technology, equipment and furnishings all selected and located to ensure that users can work with maximum productivity. Work, to begin in mid-May, will be completed by November 1, 2010. Continued on page 2
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In combination the two floors will include many of the features researchers have been requesting: more natural light; comfortable, modern furniture; plentiful convenient power outlets; better lighting; spaces furnished and equipped to support research collaboration; spaces designed for intense individual work; convenient access to technology, librarians and specialized staff; improved acoustics; comfortable places to work amid the stacks; and an intuitive design so readers can easily find their way around.

Funding from a variety of sources, including generous donors, has helped make Phase II possible. According to Carol A. Mandel, dean of the Division of Libraries, “This project has been made possible by a major commitment from NYU, a generous gift from the Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst Foundation, and countless contributions from members of the Friends of Bobst Library. We are so grateful.”

During the renovation, books normally on the 4th and 5th floors will be moved to other floors, including the atrium. BobCat, the online catalog; signage; the Bobst Renovation website, library.nyu.edu/renovation; and other aids will make sure readers can always find the books and services they need. The noisiest work will be largely complete before classes resume in the fall.

The project design draws upon studies, including extensive interviews with students and faculty conducted by NYU Libraries, to learn how library spaces and technology can serve to make research more productive.

Below: On the redesigned 5th floor, below, the south side will be a hub of research and scholarly activity, with specialized digital and data services conveniently co-located; movable furniture for readers to reconfigure as needed; ample power for laptops; librarians and consultation spaces; a “help spot” for getting information, and audio visual facilities. The north side of the floor will feature zones of seating designed for intensely quiet use, with small group rooms that can be reserved by graduate students. (Note: The plan below is not to scale and does not show full layout; illustration only.)
Phase II was designed and will be overseen by the New York architectural firm Alspector Architecture. Alspector also designed Phase I, which was completed in 2004 and transformed the lower levels and main floor of Bobst Library into modern, multipurpose spaces that are extremely popular with students. The firm also designed the new university classrooms on Bobst Lower Level 1.

Several specialized library services, currently located on different floors, will be consolidated on the fifth. Librarians and specialized staff and resources will support digital projects, statistical analysis in all fields, and research in science, health professions, business, and public policy. Seating areas will range from open, technology supported collaborative spaces to quiet, limited access “writers’ rooms.” The fourth floor will introduce a new model for stacks floors, enhanced by such features as more natural light, comfortable and varied seating, new lighting and improved acoustics.

The new project is Phase II of a renovation that will, over the long term and as funding allows, update the entire library.

The Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst Foundation and Bobst Library

The opening of the Elmer Holmes Bobst Library in 1973 expressed in bricks and mortar New York University’s intention to establish a great research university at its Washington Square campus. This watershed event—the construction of a new, central library to consolidate collections held in more than 28 locations—was made possible by Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst.

A $10 million gift from Mrs. Bobst in 2002 helped to support Phase I of the Bobst Library renovation, which transformed the two lower levels and the main floor. The gift enabled the Libraries to update and upgrade services on the main floor and to install the Mamdouha S. Bobst Gallery, an exhibition space adjacent to the atrium.

In 2009, the Elmer and Mamdouha Bobst Foundation granted $10 million to NYU to assist with Phase II of the Bobst renovation. According to Foundation Trustee Charles C. Goodfellow, “While Mr. Bobst had the wisdom to make a major contribution to NYU for the new library, Mrs. Bobst has had the excitement and joy of seeing what it has become. The original commitment of Mr. and Mrs. Bobst and their Foundation to Bobst Library remains unwavering.”

Goodfellow said that while the Foundation was considering a request from the Libraries for funding support, he was struck by two small events. “While I was waiting to meet a friend in the Bobst Library atrium, a student guide came in with a group of prospective students. He said ‘This is the Bobst Library, the center of the university. You will spend a lot of time here.’

“Then, after a library reception, my wife and I had dinner at a crowded nearby restaurant, where we ate at the bar. The bartender heard us talking about Bobst Library and told us he was a graduate student in music at a different university and spent most of his waking hours at the Bobst Library.

“While these are little things, they indicate the impact that Bobst Library has on scholarship and its importance to NYU, and they helped make our decision to support the renovation easy.”
Digital Library Team Breaks New Ground in Archiving and Born-Digital Preservation

NYU Libraries has joined forces with the libraries of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to develop a next-generation archival management tool with the help of a grant of $539,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The team will design a powerful new software tool for the description and management of archives, based on the combined capabilities of the two most widely used open-source archival tools, Archivists’ Toolkit™ (AT) and Archon™. The project is one of a number of grant funded, collaborative projects of NYU’s Digital Library Technology Services (DLTS) group.

UCSD, the lead institution on the project, and NYU Libraries sponsored the development of AT, released to the public in 2006; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supported the development of Archon, released the same year. In 2008, the AT received the C. F. Coker award from the Society of American Archivists, which cited the AT’s “tremendous impact on archival practice and promotion and adoption of descriptive standards.”

DLTS recently completed work on another collaborative project, begun in 2005, to establish the first procedures, structures and national standards necessary to preserve public television programs produced in digital formats. DLTS developed a model preservation repository for complex video files and their associated metadata in a project funded by the Library of Congress that brought NYU together with WNET Thirteen of New York, WGBH of Boston and PBS. Visit dlib.nyu.edu/dlts/projects for more information.

Collections Update

The art book collections in Bobst Library have been augmented by a gift of 758 illustrated volumes from collector T. Peter Kraus on a range of subjects including African masks, French glass, Chinese bronzes, artists’ biographies, exhibition catalogs, historical studies and art theory.

Fales Library has been given the papers of two important New York literary agents whose clients span the years from the Beats to present day. Sterling Lord of the influential Sterling Lord Literistic has given more than 500 linear feet of correspondence, contracts, manuscripts, press materials, and editorial notes on his work with Jack Kerouac, Ken Kesey, Gloria Naylor, and Howard Fast among many others. Ira Silverberg’s papers, dating from 1980 to 2007, include correspondence and manuscripts from many of the city’s young writers and extensive material relating to experimental authors Kathy Acker, William S. Burroughs and Dennis Cooper.

Among the books acquired by Fales Library recently is the first novel published in Australia, Alexander Harris’ Settlers and Convicts (1847). Over the past three years, many important acquisitions for the Fales Collection have been supported by a grant of $75,000 from The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

Above far left: Fales Library’s 1950 first edition of Kerouac’s first published novel
Above center: A gift from cookbook author, chef, and restaurant consultant Rozanne Gold enabled NYU Libraries to purchase the library of Gourmet Magazine for the food studies collection in Fales Library. Gold is shown here with Marvin J. Taylor, head of Fales Library.
Above right: Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider), 1917, on the Munich School of early 20th century painters from the T. Peter Kraus collection
Mellon Foundation Supports New Libraries-TSOA Video at Risk Project

As magnetic tape moves toward obsolescence as a media format, NYU has received a grant of $523,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a project called Video at Risk: Strategies for Preserving Commercial Video Collections in Research Libraries. The project will continue a partnership of the Libraries’ Barbara Goldsmith Department of Preservation and Conservation and the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation (MiAP) program in NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. With previous Mellon Foundation funding, the Department and MiAP researched the preservation of moving image and audio materials, producing now widely used principles and methodologies for assessing and describing the physical condition of these holdings.

The new project will address the daunting task of preserving the largely commercial holdings of circulating video collections, seeking to answer questions such as, How scarce are these materials? If a library’s copy of a particular videotape is worn out, is a new one available for purchase? If not, what intellectual property conditions define the library’s ability to make a digital copy? What guidelines should be routinely followed when making preservation decisions? If digitization is allowed, what vendors are equipped to meet institutional standards? The project, to be completed in 2012, will include two other partners, the libraries of the University of California at Berkeley and Loyola University New Orleans.

Guantánamo and International Human Rights, a conference held April 16 by the Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Center in Tamiment Library, featured legal specialists and scholars from around the country. They included Colonel Morris Davis, USAF (Ret.), former chief prosecutor of the military commissions at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, shown below. Support for the conference was provided by the Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Foundation. A grant from the Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation is helping to fund the Guantánamo Archive Documentation Project, based jointly in Tamiment and the Center for Policy and Research at Seton Hall University.

2010 Fales Lecture Celebrates Semiotext(e) Archive

The 2010 Fales Lecture on March 11 presented Sylvère Lotringer, co-founder of the journal *Semiotext(e)*, in a panel discussion: “Continental Philosophy and American Culture: *Semiotext(e)* Between Theory, Art, and Politics—A Celebration.” The panel celebrated the acquisition of the *Semiotext(e)* archive by Fales Library and attracted a standing room only audience to the Fales reading room to discuss the journal’s groundbreaking work.

Coles Science Salon

While studies often find conflict among different working class ethnic groups who share urban neighborhoods, Colin Jerolmack, NYU assistant professor of sociology and environmental studies, has documented how pigeon flying fosters solidarity among Italian, Hispanic, and African American New Yorkers of varying ages. Jerolmack, who is writing a book on the subject, spoke in Coles Science Center in March on the ways animal practices can organize social relationships and connections to the environment. The Salons are open to the NYU community. For more information, visit blogs.nyu.edu/library/colessciencecenter.

Philosopher Sylvère Lotringer in Fales

Carmine Gangone, 85, and a high flyer on his Queens rooftop

Photo: Elena Olivo

Photo: Elena Olivo

Photo: Marcin Szczepanski

Photo: Marcin Szczepanski
Where in Bobst Library can researchers get help collecting and analyzing data? In the Data Service Studio, where staff will help them design, scan, and mount survey questionnaires. The Studio also offers software for statistical computing, geographical information systems (GIS) analysis, and more, with resources for data collection and management. At the Studio’s weekly clinics, researchers stop by with questions, discuss their projects with other researchers, and check out new software. For more information, visit library.nyu.edu/dataservice.

The Libraries’ online search system/catalog, BobCat, is loaded with features to expand or narrow searches, save results, share information, format bibliographies, and much more. To help users get maximum results fast, the Libraries provides a BobCat Tip of the Week by email. For example: Need a musical score? In the BobCat search box, enter the work’s title or composer, then choose “score” from the “limit to” box. Your results: nothing but scores.

The Scholars Portal Team, a Libraries/ITS (Information Technology Services) initiative, has introduced single sign on so users can navigate between BobCat, NYU Home, and other online NYU systems with only one authentication screen. The result: more done in less time.

The Libraries offers a wide variety of tours, demonstrations and instruction for users at all levels. New this spring, the Alternative Press Collections Workshop presented reference tools to help researchers find and use alternative (and often obscure) periodicals. Samples from Tamiment Library on view included anarchist and underground papers, strike bulletins, and publications of students, GIs, feminists and grassroots political groups.

Fales Library’s lively Critical Topics in Food series continues to present prominent chefs, food writers, farmers and scholars in discussions of up to the minute topics in food. If you missed any, catch them on the web: library.nyu.edu/fales/media. To sign up for e-vites, visit www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/research/fales.

What do Archives Mean to us? Spanish Artist Explores Their Complexities

As both an artist and historian, Jorge Blasco Gallardo is interested in what he calls “the complex historical, social, and rhetorical strategies” contained in archives. In March, Blasco Gallardo conducted a seminar in Tamiment Library about one of its major holdings, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archive (ALBA) of material from the Spanish Civil War. Blasco Gallardo, who is based in Barcelona, has done extensive interviews with people who keep photos from that war, looking at the role of memory, gender, trauma and storytelling in creating photo archives.

1937 photo from the ALBA: L to r: New York University Volunteers Leonard B. Levenson, Paul Sigel, Emanuel Mandel, Elkan Wendkos, unknown, and Paul MacEachron (Oberlin College) at Azalia, Spain

Jorge Blasco Gallardo
Two New Grants Help Moloney Project

The project to identify and describe materials in the **Mick Moloney Collection of Irish-American Music** is being supported by a new grant of $15,000 from **The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation**. The collection, part of NYU’s Archives of Irish America in Tamiment Library, was amassed over 30 years by musician and ethnomusicologist Mick Moloney, global distinguished professor of Irish studies and music at NYU.

Brothers Tim and Terence Finneran (first and second from left) visited the Avery Fisher Center for Music and Media (AFC) in Bobst Library recently to deliver a check for $1,000 for the Moloney project from the **Ancient Order of Hibernians Myles Scully Division One** in Yonkers. The gift will be used to help preserve the thousands of tapes and discs (including 78 rpm recordings) in the Moloney Collection. Also pictured, from left, are archivist Brendan Dolan, a graduate of NYU’s master’s program in Irish and Irish-American studies; Mick Moloney; investor William Murphy (Wagner ’75), generous supporter of the Moloney project; and Kent Underwood, head of the AFC.

Your Legacy Can Make a Difference to the Libraries

By naming NYU Libraries in your will or living trust, you will help grow collections and provide comprehensive resources to students and faculty.

Your legacy is a great way to ensure that your lifetime giving continues long into the future, and you can use it to establish a permanent, named acquisition fund. If you let us know that you have included NYU Libraries in your will, we will invite you to become a member of The Society of The Torch, a special group of NYU alumni, faculty and friends. To learn more about leaving a legacy to NYU Libraries, please contact Paula Jennings at (212) 998-6909 or:

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New Face

**Charlotte Priddle**

*Librarian for Printed Books*

The Fales Library and Special Collections

**Formerly:** Director of the Library at the New York Studio School, New York City

**Education:** MLIS, Rutgers University, NJ; MA, American Literature and Theory Since 1945, University of Sussex, UK; BA, English Literature, University of Sussex

**Projects:** Reevaluating our holdings of contemporary British and American authors and surveying our historical collections for potential areas of growth or expansion. I have also been using our historical and contemporary holdings to collaborate with various departments on subjects such as myths and fables in popular culture and mid-nineteenth century women’s fiction. In addition, I will be working on our food studies collection, which is now the second largest in the nation and growing.
Researchers in Tamiment Explore Later Cold War Years

Patrick Vitale of the University of Toronto was a fellow this spring of the Center for the Study of the United States and the Cold War in Tamiment Library. For his doctoral dissertation in geography, he is examining the confluence of the Cold War, nuclear science, and suburbanization in the Pittsburgh region from 1937 to 1979. A native of suburban Pittsburgh, Vitale has a B.A. in urban studies and economics from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.A. in geography from Syracuse University.

Vitale is using the papers of two activists targeted by red scares: Communist Party organizer Steve Nelson and University of Pittsburgh history professor Robert Colodny, along with some resources he did not expect. Vitale said, “Tamiment obviously is rich in the history of the left, but I was excited to discover archives from the right. For example, the papers of American Business Consultants, which investigated supposed Communists.”

Ulrich Best’s Cold War Center travel grant brought him to Tamiment from the University of British Columbia to work in the archives of the National Council for American-Soviet Friendship. Best looks at 1970s and ’80s-era US-Soviet relations through the prism of travel sponsored by organizations that brought American youth to the USSR, and compares their experiences with those of Eastern European youth who went to the Soviet Union to visit and work. Best, a Berliner, is a graduate of Heidelberg and Free University Berlin and holds a PhD in geography from the University of Plymouth in the UK.