

**MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES
OF
NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN/WEILL CORNELL**

**1300 York Avenue #34
New York, NY 10065**

Finding Aid to the

**THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF LIBRARIAN,
SAMUEL J WOOD LIBRARY,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE
(ERICH MEYERHOFF)**

Dates of Records:

1932-1986

45 Linear Inches

(9 Boxes)

Finding Aid Prepared By:

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Provenance

These papers were received from Erich Meyerhoff, Librarian, and Emiko Akiyama, Associate Librarian, from 1985 through 1987. They originally came to approximately 107 inches of material.

Departmental History

The Cornell University Medical College appears to have had some kind of library from the opening in 1900 of its first building on First Avenue and 28th Street.

The Cornell University Medical College Announcement for that year describes the new structure as having "a Library of Pathology and Bacteriology" on the fourth floor. No mention of the library is made again until 1911/1912 when that year's Announcement states "the Library contains nearly 7,000 bound volumes and a large number of reprints and monographs." Also, for the first time, the 1911/12 Announcement lists a Librarian among the staff, Dr. Elise Strang L'Esperance, who was also an Instructor in Pathology; she remained Librarian until 1917/18.

Still, It appears that by the end of the First World War the Cornell University Medical College Library was less a general medical library than an overgrown departmental one. This is confirmed by reminiscences of Dr. Eugene DuBois. Writing in the October 1952 Alumni Quarterly, he states that until 1920 Cornell University Medical College had "only departmental libraries. The largest was Dr. Ewing's in the Department of Pathology; the best was Dr. Graham Lusk's private collection. There was no place in the 28th Street building where the student or research worker could consult the literature."

This situation began to change in 1920 when Josephine Genung Nichols was hired as the College's first true medical librarian. She faced a huge task. The Cornell University Medical College Library Committee reported that same year "attendance of students in the Library still averages only five or six a day and they consult almost nothing except textbooks." (Medical Faculty Minutes, v.4, p. 312).

In contrast, the Committee noted, the library of the College of Physicians and Surgeons was open longer hours than Cornell "and is much used by the students. Their attendance is sometimes as high as three hundred a day." (Ibid).

Although not trained as a medical librarian, Mrs. Nichols made great improvements with the slim resources at hand. By 1930, the library boasted 12,000 volumes of bound periodicals, 5,000 monographs, and reprints as well as a new reading room. The move to the new Medical Center building in 1932 gave the Library more space including a spacious reading room on the second floor of the Medical College building, and stacks that could accommodate 100,000 volumes.

After her retirement in 1952, Nichols was succeeded by Anna Frances Burke. During Burke's tenure, the Library underwent its first major expansion. A gift of \$1.6 million from the Samuel J. and Evelyn L. Wood Foundation in 1959 enabled the College to construct the Samuel J. Wood Library and Research Building. Opening in 1962, the building provided the library with additional study space and larger staff quarters in a modern setting; it also enabled it to absorb the Lydia Anderson Library of the School of Nursing.

Upon Ms. Burke's retirement in 1963, no new librarian was appointed; Emiko Akiyama, who had been at the School of Nursing Library, was named Acting Librarian.

A librarian was finally named in 1970 when Erich Meyerhoff succeeded to the post. Meyerhoff (who was made Assistant Dean for Information Resources in 1977) was a prominent medical librarian who rapidly brought the Wood Library into the forefront of American medical libraries. During his sixteen year, administration a full range of computer systems was installed, the Medical Archives was founded (1972), and the Audio-Visual Department was greatly expanded.

At his retirement in 1986, Meyerhoff had left the library well-prepared for its next expansion into the Lasdon Biomedical Research Building. He was succeeded by Robert Braude who became the first Loeb Librarian of CUMC, an endowed chair made possible through the generosity of Frances and John L. Loeb.

Scope and Content

The bulk of this collection dates from 1970-1985 when Erich Meyerhoff ran the library. (For earlier years, researchers should consult the minutes of the Library Committee): Perhaps the largest number of folders covers the Library Consortium Study Committee, which in 1979/1980 investigated ways of increasing cooperation among the libraries of the York Avenue institutions. (Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and Hospital for Special Surgery) The Committee, along with the consulting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, completed a number of studies on computer systems, space needs, journal holdings, and user demands. Their conclusions are summarized in the January 1981 report "Library Cooperation in the 1980s" (4:11)

Another topic covered in detail is the Cornell Media Consortium an attempt to pool the audio-visual resources of several area health care institutions. The rise and fall of the Consortium over the years 1977-1982 can be examined in these records (2: 5-9)

Also included in the collection are the minutes and correspondence of the Loeb Librarian Search Committee; documents relating to the Wood Foundation donation in 1959; and information on the establishment and operations of the Medical Archives.

There is also correspondence (1968-1974; 1979-1985), library department papers, and information on library exhibits. In contrast, records documenting the library's increasing use of computers during this period are scarce (1:15; 2:1, 4). Researchers should also consult other Library records in the Archives, especially the Annual Reports, for additional information on this period.

Removals and Disposals

A good deal of material originally in these papers was disposed of after consultation with the Archivist. These included bills, invoices, accession records, duplicate statistics and job applications. The "Library Statistical Record" for 1932/33 -1946/47 was sampled as were the completed questionnaires for the Peat, Marwick, Mitchell Utilization Survey of 1980.

A number of blueprints found in the collection have been removed to Oversize Case 2, Drawer 7. They are:

Stimson Room -blueprints, November 1970 (3 items)

Wood Library and Research Building -floor plans and shelving plans, 1959-60 (8 items) and 1983 (4 items)

Student Learning Center -proposed plan, no date, by Wank Adams Slavin Associates (1 item)

Lasdon Biomedical Information Center, various plans proposed by Payette Associates c. 1983-1986, many duplicates (22 items)

In addition, three audiotapes entitled "Medical Library Association Anaheim, 1982," "Professor Max Black Lectures, 3/80" and "Clinical Librarianship" have been removed to the tape drawer in the reading room.

Subjects

Air Rights 1:3
Akiyama, Emiko
Archives, NYH-CMC 1:4
Broedel, Elizabeth 3:9
Building 9:11; 8:3
Computers 1:15; 2:1, 4; 6:10; 7:1
Cornell Media Consortium 2:5-9
DeHaven, Hugh 3:4
Hochstein, Elliott 3:13
Library Consortium Study Committee Boxes 4-5
Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital 6:5
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center 7:2-3
Meyerhoff, Erich 6:8; 7:5-6
Minorities 1:10; 7:7
Nursing, School of, CU-NYH 7:9-13
Reichert, Philip 8:2

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder	Description
1	Accreditation Study, American Medical Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, 1972
2	Acquisitions Policy, c. 1966-1980
3	Air Rights, Meyerhoff Notes for Speech before New York City Planning Commission, 1972
4	Archives, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Grant Proposals, Correspondence, etc., 1971-1981
5	Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors (AAHSLD), Reports, Correspondence, 1978-1980
6	Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors (AAHSLD), Reports, Correspondence, 1980
7	Audio-Visual Department, Cornell University Medical College, 1971-1985
8	Audio-Visual Material, School of Nursing, 1972
9	Biomedical Communications Department, Proposal, c. 1980
10	Black History Week, Exhibits and Panels, 1970-1973
11	Books for Asian Students Program, 1961
12	Budget, Memos, Statistics, 1969-1983
13	Cataloging Department, 1971-1972
14	Circulation Department, Correspondence, Statistics, 1970-1973; 1983-1985
15	"Computer Applications in the Samuel J. Wood Library," c. 1973

Box 2

Folder	Description
1	Computer Charges, 1981
2	Consortium Facility Study Committee, Arthur D. Little Report on Joint Information Center, 1979
3	Copier Service, Contract, Correspondence, 1976-1982
4	Cornell Health Sciences Computerized Library Network, Grant Application, 1982
5	Cornell Media Consortium, Correspondence, Minutes, etc., 1977-1982
6	Cornell Media Consortium, Grant Continuation Application, 1978
7	Cornell Media Consortium, Miscellaneous
8	Cornell Media Consortium, Reports, 1978-1981
9	Cornell Media Consortium, Software Catalogs, 1979-1980

- 10 Cornell University Medical College Alumni Quarterly Editorial Board, 1973
- 11 Cornell University Libraries, 1970-1973
- 12 Correspondence, 1968-1970

Box 3

Folder	Description
1	Correspondence, 1971
2	Correspondence 1972-1974; 1979-1985
3	Correspondence, Library Staff, 1973
4	De Haven Papers, Will, Reception; etc., 1980-1983
5	Exhibits, General Correspondence, Captions, Publicity, 1970-1982
6	Exhibits, Italic Handwriting, 1966
7	Exhibits, Wildflowers by Dr. Bronson Ray, 1979
8	Exhibits, Antique Hand Calculators, 1980
9	Exhibits, Elizabeth Broedel Drawings, 1981
10	Faculty Status of Librarians, 1973
11	Gifts, Letters of Thanks, Lists of Books Donated, 1966-1983
12	Historical Print Collection, 1972
13	Hochstein Estate, 1972-1979
14	Institute for Muscle Disease, 1973
15	Insurance, 1973
16	Interlibrary Loan, 1973
17	International Co-operation, Committee on, Medical Library Association, Correspondence re Fellowships for Foreign Librarians, 1972

Box 4

Folder	Description
1	Journals, Statistics, Correspondence, 1970-1972
2	Lasdon Biomedical Information Center, Area Analysis, Plans, 1986
3	Library Brochures, c. 1952, 1970s
4	Library Consortium Study Committee, Acquisitions Report, Cornell University Medical College, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Rockefeller University, 1980
5	Library Consortium Study Committee, Bibliographic Retrieval System, (BRS)
6	Library Consortium Study Committee, Cornell University Medical College Archival Periodical List, 1980
7	Library Consortium Study Committee, Cornell University Medical College Library Needs Assessment Report, 1979
8	Library Consortium Study Committee, Cornell University Medical College Library Financial Data
9	Library Consortium Study Committee, "Draft Proposal for Utilization of Tri-Institutional Consortia Library Facilities," February 1980
10	Library Consortium Study Committee, Final Report (Draft) By Peat Marwick, Mitchell, November 1980
11	Library Consortium Study Committee, Final Report, "Library Cooperation in the 1980s," by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, January 1981
12	Library Consortium Study Committee, Joint Facility Considerations, 1972-1980
13	Library Consortium Study Committee, Journal Count, Data, & Analysis
14	Library Consortium Study Committee, Journal Holdings, Cornell University Medical College, Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering
15	Library Consortium Study Committee, Journal Utilization Study, 1980
16	Library Consortium Study Committee, Librarians' Reports, Rockefeller University & Memorial Sloan Kettering

Box 5

Folder	Description
1	Library Consortium Study Committee, Library Renovation Cost Estimates, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, 1980
2	Library Consortium Study Committee, Minutes, 1979 -1980
3	Library Consortium Study Committee, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell Collection Analysis Data, 1980
4	Library Consortium Study Committee, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, Overview Flowcharts
5	Library Consortium Study Committee, Peat Marwick, Mitchell, Questionnaire
6	Library Consortium Study Committee: Peat Marwick, Mitchell, Questionnaire Tabulation Data
7	Library Consortium Study Committee, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, Study, Phase 2, February -October 1980
8	Library Consortium Study Committee, Space Allocations, Wood Library Notes, Drafts and Final Report, August 1980
9	Library Consortium Study Committee, Space Needs, Wood Library, 1980
10	Library Consortium Study Committee, Technical Services
11	Library Consortium Study Committee, 24 hour Study Facility
12	Library Consortium Study Committee, User Headcount, Cornell University Medical College, February 1980
13	Library Consortium Study Committee, User Headcount, Cornell University Medical College & Memorial Sloan Kettering May 1980
14	Library Planning, Correspondence, Pamphlets, 1960

Box 6

Folder	Description
1	Loeb Librarian Search Committee, Correspondence, and Documents, August 1984-June 1985
2	Loeb Librarian Search Committee, Correspondence, and Documents, July 1985-February 1986
3	Loeb Librarian Search Committee, Document Folder Index
4	Loeb Librarian Search Committee, Minutes, 1984-1986
5	Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital, 1971; 1983-1985
6	Medical Committee for Aid to Indochina, Appeal, 1973
7	Medical Library Assistance Act, 1965-1966
8	Medical Library Center of New York, Remarks by Erich Meyerhoff on its 25th Anniversary, 1984
9	Medical School Library Building Survey, c.1960s
10	MEDLARS, 1970-1971

Box 7

Folder	Description
1	MEDLINE, Agreements, Correspondence, 1971-1972
2	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Correspondence, Minutes, etc., 1952, 1969-1971
3	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Librarian Search Committee, Correspondence, Minutes, 1973
4	METRO, Correspondence, Newsletters, 1966-1970
5	Meyerhoff, Erich, Retirement Receptions, 1985-1986
6	Meyerhoff, Erich, Tributes and Letters on his Retirement, 1986
7	Minority Members of Staff, 1970-1979
8	Montague Memorial Library, Will Rogers Hospital, Saranac Lake, N.Y. Disposition of Holdings, 1977

- 9 Nursing, School of, Cornell University-New York Hospital, Books Transferred from Lounge, 1975
- 10 Nursing, School of, Cornell University-New York Hospital, Centennial Celebration, 1977
- 11 Nursing, School of, Cornell University-New York Hospital, Correspondence, 1958-1964, 1972-1979
- 12 Nursing, School of, Division of Continuing Education, 1980-1985
- 13 Nursing, School of, Library, Subject Holdings Project, 1962
- 14 Programs (panels, lectures), 1973

Box 8

Folder	Description
1	Reference Department, Statistics, Annual Report, 1973
2	Reichert Collection, 1964-1965
3	Renovation and Expansion, Plans, Reports, Correspondence, etc., 1981 -1985
4	Research Libraries Group (RLG), Correspondence, Reports, Notes, etc., 1982-1983
5	Rockefeller University, 1980
6	Salaries, Discussion re librarian pay scales, 1972-1973
7	Science Citation Index, Correspondence, Brochures, 1972
8	Space Needs, 1972, 1980
9	Staff Meetings, Agenda, Memos, Support Documents, 1973-1978
10	Staff Meetings, Agendas, Memos, Support Documents, 1979-1982
11	Statistical Record, 1932/1933, 1936/1937

Box 9

Folder	Description
1	Statistical Record, 1941/1942-1944/1945
2	Stimson Room/Library Alterations, Memos, Statistics, 1970-1973
3	SUNY Biomedical Communication Network, Correspondence, Reports, etc. 1970-1973
4	Surveys & Questionnaires, 1935-1962
5	Surveys & Questionnaires, 1964-1970
6	Technical Services Department, Correspondence, Statistics, etc., 1972-1973
7	User Survey, 1982/83; c.1986
8	Utilization Questionnaire (conducted by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell), Answers, 1980
9	Volunteers, Survey of their use in Wood Library, 1977
10	Wood Foundation, Correspondence re donation to build Wood Library, 1959
11	Wood Library, Architects ' Memos re Construction, 1959-1960