

Patti Gibbons

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Education

MLIS Library and Information Science, University of Illinois
MA Museum Studies, University of Washington
BA Anthropology, University of Chicago, graduated with academic honors

Certificate Graduate Certificate in Special Collections, University of Illinois,
Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies

Certificate Philanthropy & Non-profit Fund Raising, Northwestern University,
School of Continuing Studies

Foreign Studied Spanish, Portuguese, Greek (Attic), and Latin
Languages

Experience

Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library Chicago, IL
Head of Collection Management, 7/12 to present (along with continued Preservation Manager duties)

- Responsible for the leadership, planning, coordination, management, supervision, and documentation of all aspects of collection management, preservation, and exhibition production for the Center's rare books, manuscripts, and archival materials
- As chair of the Collection Management Group, responsible for identifying and prioritizing departmental collection management needs, oversees implementation of group plans
- Acting registrar who manages all aspects of loans: risk management evaluation, item review and condition documentation, fabricating shipping mounts, coordinating fine arts transportation services, couriering materials, and customs registration for foreign loans
- Security officer who manages the Center's integrated security system and serves as a liaison with campus police and the security vendor
- Develops and monitors annual budget and sets expenditure priorities for preservation expenses
- Hires, trains, and supervises Exhibitions Designer, Collection Management Coordinator, and two FTE student employees

Interim Exhibition Designer Responsibilities 9/17 to 8/19

- Oversaw development, design, project management, and de/installation of temporary exhibitions
- Oversaw fabrication of all mounts, mats, and display apparatuses; trained students in production
- Designed and produced graphics, posters, text panels, and AV interactive materials

Interim Head of Reader Services Responsibilities 12/16 to 3/18

- Oversaw circulation, reference, and digitization services for onsite researchers, classes, and patrons with remote reference queries
- Supervised three full-time reader services staff and four graduate reference assistants

Interim Collection Management Coordinator Responsibilities 7/15 to 2/17; 6/19 to 3/20

- Oversaw shelving of book acquisitions, shelf reading, and lost material searches
- Oversaw loading of archival materials into a high density storage facility, addressed mechanical and system interface problems
- Hired, trained, supervised student staff

Preservation Manager, 2/04 to 7/12

- Planned and oversaw the renovation of over 10,000 square feet of public spaces in Special Collections (2010-11), member of planning team for a high-density underground storage facility (2008-11), and project managed an HVAC renovation project (2005-06)
- Plans, sets, and monitors preservation goals and priorities
- Determines and coordinates conservation treatment work streams
- Manages shelf-preparation of printed materials and provides expertise, consultation, and training for archival housing and treatment

- Coordinates space planning, construction, and facilities projects
- Manages exhibition publication projects and researches and secures image permissions
- Serves as member of department Council with shared responsibilities for supporting reader services desk and reference coverage

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

Chicago, IL

Collections Care Technician, 1/98 to 2/04

- Responsible for the registration, physical care, and security of a collection of antique astronomical instruments, historic maps, and rare books
- Significantly improved and expanded the scope of core collections care preventative maintenance programs
- Designed monitoring programs to identify and track environmental, structural, and security concerns
- Managed the archives: planned and developed archive policies, oversaw appraisal, created database, processed collections, and prepared finding aids
- Evaluated the physical condition of each artifact in the permanent collection and prepared individual restoration treatment recommendations
- Designed and fabricated custom housing mounts for every artifact in permanent storage

Collections Assistant, 5/97 to 8/97

- Monitored environmental conditions in exhibit cases, storage spaces, and laboratory facilities
- Installed and de-installed artifacts on exhibit

Swedish American Museum

Chicago, IL

Curator/Educator, 8/97 to 1/98

- Responsible for public interpretation of collections and collection management of materials from the museum's permanent object, textile, and book collections
- Led public tours in galleries and classrooms and scripted thematic presentations

Preservation, Exhibition, and Curatorial Internships at the Field Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Burke Museum of Natural History, and World Kite Museum, 6/92-10/96

Presentations

“Challenges in Caring for Art and Art Libraries: Preservation, Management, and Access.” Art Libraries Society of North America annual conference, April 2022, Chicago

“More Than Visual: Engagement Practices of Library Exhibitions.” International Visual Literacy Association annual meeting, September 2020, virtual conference

“International Kite Festivals: Touring the World for Fun and Cultural Exchange.” Travel and Tourism Area of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, April 2020, Philadelphia (Paper accepted, conference canceled)

“Oral Histories, Biographies, and Kitefliers: Promoting a Sport through Publishing.” Biography Area of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. April 2019, Washington, DC

“Lending Cultural Heritage Materials: Evaluating Exhibition Loan Requests to Minimize Risks to Significant Special Collections Materials.” *Special Collections in the Context of Cultural Heritage Protection and Fostering Cultural Development* conference, National Library of Serbia, October 2017, Belgrade, Serbia

“Storing Framed Artwork in an Archive” segment of the *Housing Solutions for those Troublesome Things* session at the Preservation Section Meeting, Society of American Archivists annual meeting, August 2015, Cleveland, OH

“Conservation and Curation in the Age of Offsite Storage: What Does it Mean for Special Collections Librarians and Conservators?” Rare Books and Manuscripts Section annual meeting, June 2013, Minneapolis, MN

Publications

Article. Gibbons, P. and C. Ng-He. Exhibitions and Visual Literacy. In (Eds.) J. Lee, S. Christensen, S. Beene, X. Chen, and W. Huang, *Visual Literacy in the Virtual Realm: The Book of Selected Readings*. 2021 (pp. 30-38). International Visual Literacy Association. <https://doi.org/10.52917/ivlatbsr.2021.014>.

Book. Ng-He, C. and P. Gibbons. *Exhibits & Displays: A Practical Guide for Librarians*. Landham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021.

Book. *The Modern Kiteflier: Voices of Those Pulling the Strings*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2019.

Article. Gibbons, P. and D. Werner. “Embedded Clinical Librarianship: Bringing Medical Reference Services Bedside.” *Public Services Quarterly*. 15(2). UK: Taylor & Francis, 2019.

Chapter. Perils of Lending Rare Book and Archival Materials for Exhibition: Identifying Threats and Evaluating Exposures. In (Eds.) M. Korstanje, R. Vajjhala, & K. Strang, *Research, Practices, and Innovations in Global Risk and Contingency Management*. Pennsylvania: IGI-Global, 2018.

Foreword. *Library Outreach to Writers and Poets: Case Studies of Cooperation*. Eds. C. Smallwood & V. Gubnitskaia. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2017.

Article. Assessing Risk and Safeguarding Rare Library Materials during Exhibition Loans. 2016. *International Journal of Risk and Contingency Management*, 5(1).

Chapter. Creating Carrots: Promoting Productivity and Motivating Student Workers in Academic Libraries. In C. Smallwood & L. Sanborn (Eds.), *Library Volunteers Welcome! Strategies for Attracting, Retaining, and Making the Most of Willing Helpers*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2016.

Chapter. Training Tomorrow’s Workforce: Teaching Lifelong Job Skills and Cultivating Professionalism during Student Employment. In C. Smallwood & L. Sanborn (Eds.), *Library Volunteers Welcome! Strategies for Attracting, Retaining, and Making the Most of Willing Helpers*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2016.

Chapter. Disaster Management and Exhibition Loans: Contingency Planning for Items on Display. In E. Decker & J. Townes (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Disaster Management and Contingency Planning in Modern Libraries*. Pennsylvania: IGI-Global, 2015.

Review. *Collection, Curating, and Researching Writers’ Libraries: A Handbook*, by Richard W. Oram, ed., with Joseph Nicholson. 2014. *Collection Management Journal*, 39 (4), 298-300.

Review. *Museum Collections Management: A Handbook*, by Freda Matassa. 2012. *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*, vol. 13 (1), 66-69.

Column. “Voices from the Vault” in *Kiting Magazine*. 2001-present.

Publication Experience

Editorial Review Board Member, *International Journal of Library and Information Services*. Pennsylvania: IGI-Global, 2021 to present

Publication Awards Committee Member. Carl Bode Award for Outstanding Article. *Journal of American Culture*, 2020 to present

Column Co-Editor. "Special Libraries, Special Challenges" in *Public Services Quarterly*, 2017 to present

Editorial Review Board of Directors, Member. 2017. (Eds.) M. Korstanje, R. Vajjhala, & K. Strang, *Research, Practices, and Innovations in Global Risk and Contingency Management*. Pennsylvania: IGI-Global, 2018.

Peer Reviewer. *Collection Management Journal*, 2013 to 2015

Professional Development Activities

Co-Facilitator, Chicago Area Archives Exhibition and Curation Interest Group, 2021 to present

Online Course Instructor. *Fundamentals of Preservation*, American Library Association, 2016 to present

Member, Preservation Week Planning Group, American Library Association, 2013 to 2014

Student Mentor. University of Chicago Career Advancement Office 1998 to present

Committee Work

University of Chicago Library

Intranet Advisory Group, 2013-19

Assistant University Librarian Search Committee, 2016-17

Mansueto Library Operations Group, 2013-16

Emergency Planning Committee, 2011-13

Floor Coordinator's Committee, 2006-13

Staff Development and Training Committee, 2006-09

Future Library Preservation Planning Committee, 2006-07

Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center

Collection Management Group, 2004-present, Chair 2008-present

Leadership Council, 2006-present

Exhibitions and Programs Committee, 2014-present

Preservation Committee, 2007-09, Chair

Professional Associations

American Alliance of Museums

American Library Association

Chicago Area Archivists, Exhibits and Curation Group

Chicago Area Special Collections

Chicago Museum Exhibitors Group

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association