

Elizabeth A. Frengel

Profile

- A curatorial professional dedicated to helping library users explore connections between text and materiality through collection development, teaching, and public programming activities. Experienced with and enthusiastic about increasing engagement with academic and public audiences.

Education

M.A. | MAY 2007 | THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC

- Library and Information Science
- Concentration: Special Collections Librarianship

M.A. | MAY 2005 | AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC

- Literature
- Concentrations: English Romanticism and the Rhetoric of Composition

B.A. | MAY 1996 | MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY, MILLERSVILLE, PA

- English, *Summa cum laude*

CERTIFICATE | AUGUST 1995 | RICE UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON, TX

- Publishing

Language Skills

- Spanish (reading proficiency); French (reading proficiency); Italian (two years' study); Modern Greek (three years' study); Latin (bibliographic proficiency)

Academic and Research Library Experience

CURATOR OF RARE BOOKS | THE HANNA HOLBORN GRAY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER | THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY | JUNE 2018 - PRESENT

- In collaboration with faculty, subject specialists, members of the book trade, donors, and the research community, build on a collection of 360,000 volumes representing a wide range of subjects, disciplines, and time periods
- Partner with faculty, teaching fellows, and the research community to offer classes based in primary-source research and materials-based study
- Develop exhibitions and programming to enhance engagement with and access to the library's distinctive collections
- Support research and scholarship by providing reference services and consultations

- Manage description, discovery, and access for special collections materials in a variety of formats, from the incunabular period to the present, with attention to capturing copy-specific data and advancing equity of access through cooperative cataloging and digital scholarship projects
- Collaborate with colleagues in preservation and conservation to care for and maintain collection materials for research use
- Maintain collegial and productive working relationships with a large network of antiquarian and specialist booksellers
- Contribute to conferences, workshops and publications and serve on leadership and steering committees
- Recruit, train, and supervise the work of metadata librarians and graduate student assistants
- Manage budgets for materials, staffing, training, and travel

HEAD OF RESEARCH SERVICES | THE BEINECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY | YALE UNIVERSITY | JANUARY 2012 – MAY 2018

- Provided leadership for outreach and education programming in support of the library’s teaching and research mission
- Curated exhibitions, including “The Whole Art of Marbling,” “The Children’s Books of Russell and Lilian Hoban,” and “Under the Covers: The Development of Decorated Endpapers.”
- Organized and hosted “Mondays at Beinecke” gallery talk and tea series
- In collaboration with colleagues, assisted in the revival of Yale’s Bibliographical Press, and led workshops and demonstrations in handpress printing
- Hired, trained, and supervised the work of a dedicated research librarian
- Trained and supervised the reference work of public services assistants, archivists, and catalogers who participated in providing reference services
- Administered budgets for acquisitions, programming, travel, and training
- Promoted from Research Librarian to Head of Research Services, 2017

MANAGER OF READER SERVICES | THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI | JULY 2008 – JANUARY 2012

- Provided reference, instruction, and research assistance for the library’s collection of 50,000 volumes of books, manuscripts, and fine-art research materials
- Led outreach and public programming initiatives, including collaboration with the history departments of Washington, DC-based universities to offer classes in archival research methods
- Assisted with exhibition research and programming
- Developed projects for and supervised the work of library interns and volunteers
- Gave object talks and led tours of historic Anderson House

REFERENCE LIBRARIAN AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SPECIALIST | THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY | SEPTEMBER 2006 – JULY 2008

- Provided in-person and virtual desk reference services, including catalog, e-resource, and general bibliographic instruction to a diverse research community
- As a staff member of the Acquisitions department, performed preorder searching for out-of-print and difficult-to-find titles and placed materials orders
- Performed copy cataloging of monographs and original cataloging of dissertations and theses

WRITING CENTER TUTOR AND COLLEGE WRITING INSTRUCTOR | THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY | AUGUST 2003 – AUGUST 2006

- Taught academic writing concepts, including critical reading, research and writing skills, to a diverse population of undergraduates, including nonnative English speakers
- Offered one-on-one consultations to build academic research and writing skills to a diverse student population, with a focus on students for whom English is a nonnative language

BOOKSELLER INTERNSHIP | MAGGS BROS. | AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2007

- Cataloged for sale a range of rare materials on travel and natural history, from sixteenth-century imprints to photographic books, manuscripts, and ephemera
- Acquired books at auction
- Quoted books for sale to private and institutional clients

PRACTICUM INTERN AND VOLUNTEER | JOSEPH F. CULLMAN III LIBRARY OF NATURAL HISTORY, THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION | SEPTEMBER 2006 – DECEMBER 2007

- Assisted department curator with a project to transfer pre-1840 books from branch libraries to the rare collections at the Cullman
- Identified materials in need of conservation and measured and assembled boxes and prefab enclosures
- Performed catalog searches to identify holdings gaps and develop lists of desiderata

Exhibitions, Publications, Conference Papers, Talks and Media Appearances

- Book chapter: “A Scientific Reading of Wolf Vostell’s *Betonbüch*,” with Patti Gibbons, Maria Kokkori, Ann Lindsey, and John Okasinski (Argonne National Laboratory), submitted for consideration to the University of Chicago Press, September 2022.
- Conference presentation: “Wolf Vostell’s *Betonbüch*: Materials and Meaning,” presented at the 2022 ARLIS/NA conference, Chicago, IL <https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:45815/>
- Video documentary: The University of Chicago Library Preservation Labs <https://youtu.be/bzpArk7zN1k>

- The University of Chicago Library Society Talk: "A Book by Its Cover," March 2022.
- Exhibition: "A Book by Its Cover: Decorative Book Bindings from the Medieval Codex to Contemporary Artists' Books," on view at the University of Chicago Library, February 7 – April 29, 2022. <https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/a-book-by-its-cover/>
- Frengel, Elizabeth. "The Whole Art of Marbling," *Caxtonian*, vol. 29, no. 2, March/April 2021
- Frengel, Elizabeth. "The Robert S. Connors Collection: A Legacy for Book History," *Caxtonian*, vol. 28, no. 12, December 2019
- Panelist, The University of Chicago's Graham School Basic Program for Liberal Education Autumn Symposium, "The Future of Books?" October 2019
- Television segment: "Jay's World," *Chicago Tonight*, WTTW, "Cancer Diagnosis Leads to Donation of 400 Rare, Valuable Books." June 2019 <https://news.wttw.com/2019/05/01/cancer-diagnosis-leads-donation-400-rare-valuable-books>
- Television segment: *The Ann Nyberg Show*, WTNH, "The Ancient Art of Paper Marbling," March 2019 <https://www.wtnh.com/on-air/nyberg/nyberg-the-ancient-art-of-paper-marbling/1879412392>
- Mondays at Beinecke Gallery Talk: Curator's tour of "The Whole Art of Marbling" exhibition, presented at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, March 2019
- Frengel, Elizabeth. "The Whole Art of Marbling," essay in *Bibliomania; or Book Madness*, a publication in conjunction with the exhibition. New Haven: Yale University, 2019.
- Exhibition: *Bibliomania; or Book Madness*, "The Whole Art of Marbling," on view at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Jan. – Apr. 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExWhX7fanJI>
- Conference paper: "Disposable Dickens: Exploring Charles Dickens in the Ephemeral Archive." Co-presented with Professor Janice Carlisle at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association, New York City, January 2018.
- Exhibition: + The Art of Collaboration, "The Children's Books of Russell and Lillian Hoban," on view at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Jan. – Apr. 2018.
- Frengel, Elizabeth. "Ludwig Bemelmans: From the Castle No. 9 to Madeline." Chapter in *Story Time: Essays on the Betsy Beinecke Shirley Collection of American Literature*. Edited by Timothy G. Young. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.
- Clemens, Alison; Elizabeth Frengel and Colin McCaffrey. "From Papryi to Penguin Books: Teaching the Transmission of Texts Through Time." In *Collaborating for Impact: Special Collections and Liaison Librarian Partnerships*. Edited by Kristen Totleben and Lori Birrell. Chicago: ACRL, 2016.
- Undergraduate Seminar: *Dombey and Son*. Co-taught with Yale University English faculty at the Dickens Universe Conference, Santa Cruz, Calif., August 2016.
- Conference paper: "Artistic Re-imaginings in Twentieth-Century Children's Literature," with Andrea Immel, Cotsen Library, Princeton University and Lynne Farrington, Kislak Center, University of

Pennsylvania, presented at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Montreal, Canada, July 2015.

- Seminar presentation: "Under the Covers," a discussion of how endpapers have developed from extra-literary utilitarian parts of bindings into essential elements of literary narrative. Delivered at University of Pennsylvania's Seminar in the History of Material Texts, March 2015.
- Book Review: "Curiosity's Cats: Writers on Research," published in *Information & Culture: A Journal of History*: http://www.infoculturejournal.org/book_reviews/miller_frengel_2014 Nov. 2014.
- Television segment: *Better Connecticut*, WFSB, "Where You Can Find the Mo Willems Collection," with curator Timothy Young: <http://www.wfsb.com/story/27164220/where-you-can-find-the-mo-willems-collection> October 2014.
- Conference paper: "'A More Useful Pursuit': Using Endpapers to Place Editions in the Cult of Beatrix Potter" presented at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Antwerp, Belgium, September 2014.
- Mondays at Beinecke Gallery Talk: "The Art of Paper Marbling," Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, April 2014.
- Yale Program in the History of the Book seminar paper: "The Endpaper Maps of E. H. Shepard and Jules Feiffer," Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, January 2014.
- Conference paper: "When Extra-Literary Elements Become Part of the Literary: The Endpaper Maps of E. H. Shepard" presented at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, July 2013.
- Lunch Bite Lecture: "Historical Pastime, or, a new game of the history of England from the Conquest to the accession of George III" and other educational board games from the 18th and 19th centuries. From the library collections of the Society of the Cincinnati. Anderson House, Washington, D.C., August 2011.
- Guest lecturer for Belair Mansion's annual "History Day": Decoding two eighteenth-century rebus letters, "Britannia to America" and "America to Her Mistaken Mother," from the library collections of the Society of the Cincinnati. Belair Mansion, Bowie, Maryland, November 2010.
- Lunch Bite Lecture: Decoding two eighteenth-century rebus letters, "Britannia to America" and "America to Her Mistaken Mother." From the library collections of the Society of the Cincinnati. Anderson House, Washington, D.C., August 2010.
- Lunch Bite Lecture: "Isabel Anderson's 'Captain Ginger' series of children's books and the Golden Age of children's literature." From the library collections of the Society of the Cincinnati. Anderson House, Washington, D.C., July 2009.
- Book Notes: "New Yorkers at War." By Elizabeth Frengel. *Cincinnati Fourteen* vol. 45, no. 2: p. 118-19. Spring 2009.
- Local Library Profile: "The Society of the Cincinnati: Remembering the People and Events of the American Revolution." By Elizabeth Frengel. *Capital Librarian* March/April 2009: p. 8-9.

- Lunch Bite Lecture: “Valentines written and illustrated by Larz Anderson for his wife, Isabel.” From the library collections of the Society of the Cincinnati. Anderson House, Washington, D.C., February 2009.

Professional Associations and Service

- Member, Center for Digital Scholarship Focus Group, University of Chicago Library, since 2022
- Chair, T. Kimball Brooker Undergraduate Book Collecting Prize Committee, since 2019; member 2018
- Review Committee Member, Platzman Research Fellowships program, University of Chicago Library, since 2018
- Council Member, The Caxton Club, since 2019; member 2018
- Member, The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing, since 2011
- Member, Search Committee for Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning, The University of Chicago Library, 2019
- Member, Special Collections Research Center Council, University of Chicago Library, since 2018
- Member, The Chapter, a group of NY-region special collections librarians and curators who meet monthly during the term to discuss issues in librarianship, 2012 - 2018
- Member, The Dickens Project (part of Yale University’s collaboration with UC Santa Cruz), 2014 - 2018
- Personal Librarian, Yale University Library, 2012-2018
- Fellow, Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University, 2012-2018
- Member, Beinecke Library Dept. Heads, July 2017–June 2018
- Member, Beinecke Library Supervisory Group, July 2017–June 2018
- Yale Program in the History of the Book, Beinecke liaison, 2012, co-chair 2015-2016, to 2018
- Member, Reference, Instruction and Outreach Committee, Yale University Library, 2012-2018
- Member, Beinecke Library Teaching Committee, 2016-2018
- Member, Beinecke Web User Experience Working Group, 2012-2018
- Member, Libanalytics Implementation Task Force, Yale University Library, 2012
- Member, Beinecke 50th Anniversary Steering Committee, 2012-2013
- Member, Beinecke Renovations Committee, 2013-2016
- Member, Special Collections Identity Task Force, Yale University Library, 2014