Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

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University of Pittsburgh Library Acquires Nuremberg Chronicle

The University of Pittsburgh Library System's Archives & Special Collections (A&SC) is thrilled to announce the new acquisition of a Nuremberg Chronicle to the collection! This groundbreaking publication is one of the most well-known and well documented incunabula (books printed before 1500) in the world.

Published by the successful printer Anton Koberger (1440/45-1513) and compiled by historian and humanist Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514), the book itself is a selective encyclopedia of the world that follows the Christian seven ages of history. Starting with God creating the universe, the book goes on to describe biblical, mythical, and historical events; genealogies of important people such as kings, queens, and popes; and accounts of around 100 cities.

What makes the book truly notable, however, are the lavish illustrations that accompany the descriptions. The Nuremberg Chronicle was the first European book to really take advantage of the potential for illustration made possible by the printing press. The book contains an unprecedented 1,800 woodcuts produced from 645 blocks.

The Chronicle was one of the most ambitious printing projects of its time. It was first published in July 1493 in Latin with an estimated 1,500 copies—of which one is now part of A&SC. A second edition in German soon followed in December of 1493 of about 1,000 copies. Many copies in both Latin and German are still extant today, however, they are not all the same. While many copies remain in pristine black and white, for example, other copies have some degree of contemporary hand coloring. The copy in A&SC features a hand-colored map of northern and central Europe and a number of marginalia notes from previous owners.

Courtesy of University of Pittsburgh Libraries

New Hires at the Pennsylvania State University - 2025

Alaina Pearce will join Penn State University Libraries' Data Learning Center in the Research Informatics and Publishing Department as the new data curation librarian, effective May 1. Alaina comes to the University Libraries from her role as an assistant research professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Penn State. She has a B.A. from University of Minnesota Morris and a Ph.D from Georgetown University.

Moira Stockton has joined Penn State University Libraries as the new Digital Preservation Librarian, effective March 3, beginning her work virtually and reporting in person on the University Park campus on May 1. Moira comes

to the University Libraries from her role as the digital collections librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She has a B.A. from Western Washington University and a MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh.

Submitted by Jill Shockey, Penn State University Libraries

University of Pittsburgh Library System Acquires MacArthur "Genius" Grant Winner and Pitt Trustee Emeritus Bill Strickland Archive

The University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) has acquired the archive of Pitt trustee emeritus William (Bill) E. Strickland, Jr. (A&S 1970), founder, president, and recently retired CEO of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation. While enrolled at Pitt, Strickland founded the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (MCG) to offer a free arts program to inspire and mentor disadvantaged and at-risk youth. Later, he established the Bidwell Training Center and Drew Mathieson Horticultural Center to train adults for jobs within key sectors of Pittsburgh, such as medical services, horticulture, chemical laboratories, and culinary arts. His MCG Jazz program is devoted to the music of jazz through concerts and artistry.

Strickland's archive documents his inspiring personal story and efforts over the last fifty years to turn a fledgling arts and workforce training center into a nationally accredited, state-licensed career training institution. Items in the collection, such as letters, awards, photographs, audio/video recordings, books, press kits, programs, and articles, celebrate his accomplishment of creating a place where hundreds of students can learn ceramics, photography, and visual arts tuition free. His archive offers compelling evidence of how a single idea, combined with perseverance and tenacity, can profoundly impact and improve countless lives. His progress—from entering Pitt on academic probation to receiving a MacArthur Fellowship and creating centers globally to replicate his work in Pittsburgh—is documented throughout the collection.

Strickland's numerous awards are also part of the collection, including his MacArthur "Genius" Grant (1996) for his innovative approach to social change. Other prominent awards in the archive are Pittsburgher of the Year (2007), Skoll Award for Social Innovation (2007), Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (2007), Goi Peace Award (2011), the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pittsburgh Technology Council (2017), and the inaugural Patricia R. Rooney Community Impact Award (2021).

The archival collection will open for research use in 2026.

For the full news release visit the [Pittsburgh University Library System News article](#).

Courtesy of University of Pittsburgh Libraries

Pennsylvania State University Libraries Launches Continua, a New Open-access Linguistics Journal

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — [Penn State University Libraries' Open Publishing](#) has launched Continua, an open access, peer-reviewed journal exploring interdisciplinary linguistics research.

Continua is founded by [Michael Putnam](#), professor of German and linguistics at Penn State and visiting professor of linguistics at University of Greenwich, United Kingdom; and [David Natvig](#), associate professor in the Department of Cultural Studies and Languages at University of Stavanger, Norway, who also serve as co–editors in chief.

The central focus of Continua is to be a home for research dedicated to issues related to words and, more generally, the "mental lexicon," said Putnam. The journal will focus on research that explores how people understand words and how word structures relate to sounds, meanings, sentence rules and their use in different situations. The journal team is especially interested in research that looks at how different language systems interact — such as how word forms connect to grammar, sounds and meanings — and studies on bilingual and multilingual speakers.

Continua Journal Logo. Credit: Penn State Libraries Open Publishing / Penn State. Creative Commons

"We felt that a publication focused on issues related to words, morphology and the mental lexicon more generally was lacking among linguistics open access journals," said Putnam. "After consulting with colleagues over the past few years and receiving an overwhelming positive endorsement from various research traditions and backgrounds, we decided to move forward with founding Continua. The name of the journal clarifies our position on this research program, too. We view words as being continuous and the result of intersecting information."

Putnam's and Natvig's goal is for Continua to serve as an arena for discussing and advancing research on wordlike units and furthering understanding of the human language.

For the full news release visit the Penn State University Libraries News Article.

Courtesy of Penn State University Libraries