Jasmine Cardi is the newest member of the Access Services staff. Since January 7, Jasmine has been access services assistant, supporting Interlibrary Loan, Reserves, Circulation, and Reference Services.

Before coming to Wesleyan, Jasmine was outreach assistant and adult reference services assistant at the Hartford Public Library. She also worked at UConn Law Library as access services assistant in circulation and interlibrary loan.

With Jasmine's arrival, the service hours of Wesleyan Library's Interlibrary Loan Office during the semester will be increased to 10 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She also is available on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Jasmine (jcardi@wesleyan.edu) is in the Interlibrary Loan Office, Olin 112, and her extension is x3811.

— EUNJOO LEE, HEAD OF ACCESS SERVICES

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES HONORS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

O n January 10, members of the Middletown community as well as Wesleyan faculty, staff, and students came to the Davison Rare Book Room to view contemporary materials associated with the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War. Held as part of Middletown's festivities celebrating the sesquicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's executive order that formally began the demise of the institution of slavery, our open house featured 20 items (and groups of items) documenting the abolitionist movement and Southern reactions against it, as well as the dissemination of the Emancipation Proclamation and images of the Civil War.

Viewers of the recent PBS series The Abolitionists were intrigued by published exchanges of letters between Catharine Beecher and Angelina Grimké, who held opposing views on the efficacy of the abolitionist movement. Also on view was American Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses (New York: American Anti-Slavery Society, 1839) by Theodore Weld (Grimké's husband), a publication featured prominently in the first episode of the series. Those who had seen Lincoln, the movie, were especially drawn to the vellum document signed on July 22, 1861 by President Lincoln, appointing Hiram Willey (Wesleyan Class of 1839) to the post of U.S. attorney for the District of Connecticut. More sobering was the 28-page sermon preached by Rev. John Dudley at Middletown's South Congregational Church on the Sunday morning after Lincoln's assassination.

No display about slavery and the Civil War would be complete without at least one of Wesleyan's three issues of the first edition of Harriet Beecher Stowe's galvanizing novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly (Boston: John P. Jewett; Cleveland: Jewett, Proctor & Worthington, 1852). We showed the "regular" issue—mid-priced (at the time) and with modestly decorated covers, less showy and expensive than the "deluxe" issue, but fancier than the "cheap" paperback issue. All three issues were printed from the same setting of type and are thus identical textually. Their differences in presentation and cost reflect the broad range of contemporary readership of this astonishingly popular novel that outsold every book except the Bible. Far less well-known—today and in its own time—is J. W. Page's Uncle Robin, in his Cabin in Virginia, and Tom Without One in Boston (Richmond: J. W. Randolph, 1853), a Southern response to Uncle Tom's Cabin that promotes the idea that African Americans in the North endured worse conditions than enslaved people.

The Emancipation Proclamation itself was well-represented by several documents, including the January 7, 1863 issue of The Constitution, Middletown's most prominent newspaper of the era. This issue includes, in small type on page two, an early local printing of the complete text of the Proclamation. Even more ephemeral is our collection of Civil War era patriotic postal covers, a recent gift to Special Collections & Archives from Barry and JoAnne Scott. These colorful printed envelopes depict images of Lincoln, General Winfield Scott, and other Northern leaders, and several present Confederate States President Jefferson Davis in a less than flattering light. The postal cover shown here features a particularly dramatic image of President Lincoln from 1861.

A complete list of items that were on display at the Emancipation Proclamation open house can be found at sca.blogs.wesleyan.edu/

— SUZY TARABA, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES —
WHEN “BIG DEALS” MAKE SENSE FOR A LIBRARY

In 1993, Wesleyan University Library acquired access to some of the first online journals. Twenty years later, digital access to the journal literature is now the norm for academic libraries. In fact, some users incorrectly assume that all journal content is available online.

What has not changed in the past 20 years is the cost of acquiring access to academic journals in online or paper formats. Although many assumed the astronomical rise in the cost of journals that prevailed in the 1980s would be curbed by digital access, the economic model for acquiring journals continues to be the most problematic area of the library’s budget.

One solution, offered by publishers and embraced by academic libraries, was the introduction of the “big deal.” Publishers offered libraries electronic access to all of their journals for a price based on the library’s current payments to that publisher plus some increment, with annual price increases capped for a number of years.

Concomitant to this pricing model was the evolution of a collection building model for libraries. Consortia are groups of libraries that join together (think: buying clubs) to maximize their clout with publishers in negotiating resource purchasing and helping to manage “big deals” for their membership. The evolution served both groups well: publishers had a large base of libraries with which to work, and libraries could pool their resources to exert pressure on and enhance buying advantages with publishers.

For Wesleyan University Library, the “big deal” model is very attractive, especially through our affiliate memberships in NERL (Northeast Research Libraries consortium) and other groups. Although Wesleyan University Library is quite small in comparison to the other NERL libraries (e.g., Yale, Harvard, MIT, Duke), combining our journal subscriptions with theirs provides us with access to journals which Wesleyan could never have afforded on its own.

Prior to the “big deals,” we received few complaints about journal access. In recent years, some libraries have rejected this model of access. One of the cons to the “big deal” model is that the library has to retain its subscription base with each publisher. But in our annual review of the usage statistics for the “big deal” packages, the cost-per-use is significantly lower than the cost of acquiring an article through interlibrary loan.

Which leads to the library’s participation in the most recent “big deal.” Wesleyan Library has begun a subscription to the online content of the Taylor & Francis Social Science and Humanities subscription base with each publisher. But in our annual review of the usage statistics for the “big deal” packages, the cost-per-use is significantly lower than the cost of acquiring an article through interlibrary loan.
The CTW Consortium—Joining Forces to Improve Access

Libraries have a long history of collaboration, going back to interlibrary loan services in the 19th century. In the 21st century, we continue to work together to make access to print and online resources as efficient and seamless as possible.

The CTW Consortium—consisting of Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University—was established in 1987 so the three libraries could split the costs of an online catalog. We also shared our print collections and continue to do so via a delivery service between the three libraries. The delivery service has worked as a faster alternative to interlibrary loan.

In 2007, CTW was awarded a Mellon grant to explore how we might share our materials more effectively. We first analyzed our collections and compared them to those of our peers. We found that our combined CTW collection was strong but could benefit from more coordination in collection development. To that end, CTW began experimenting with consortial access to some e-book packages.

We were intrigued with Coutts Information Services’ patron-driven acquisitions model—the consortium paid for an e-book only after it was accessed twice by someone on our campuses. After a three-year pilot program, we found that this was not as cost-effective as we anticipated it would be. CTW is now piloting a short-term loan model, in which the consortium pays a small price for the first four uses and then purchases the e-book on the fifth use.

CTW continues to work together to coordinate our collection management practices. Both Wesleyan and Connecticut College are conducting significant weeding projects, and are using as one criterion for withdrawal candidates the existence of at least 30 other copies in U.S. libraries. Faculty members have expressed concern that if the library withdraws a book, depending on other libraries for access, those other libraries may also weed their copies, rendering the book inaccessible.

Libraries have been concerned about this as well. Within CTW, Connecticut College—who began their weeding project the year after Wesleyan—removed from their withdrawal candidate lists any books that are also withdrawal candidates at Wesleyan. But the consortium also wanted to formalize our commitment to preserve and maintain access to materials in our collections.

This past fall, the CTW Library Directors approved a Memorandum of Agreement on Final Copies. By this agreement, if there is only one copy of a book in our combined collection, the library that holds the copy will confer with the other two libraries before withdrawing it. If one of them thinks the book should be kept, either the original library or the library wanting retention will keep the book. Other library groups have expressed interest in this agreement as a model they may adopt.

Libraries—and library collections—are changing in radical ways. But as a profession, we remain committed to preserving the complete corpus of scholarly and creative works, and to making those works accessible to students, scholars, and others in useful and usable formats. CTW’s memorandum of agreement and those being contemplated by other library groups are one step toward honoring that commitment.

— HELEN M. AIELLO, ACQUISITIONS/E-RESOURCES LIBRARIAN —

— PAT TULLY, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN —

SC&A INAUGURATES PICK OF THE WEEK

Special Collections & Archives has instituted a new feature on its blog (scablogs.wesleyan.edu) called Pick of the Week. In the course of our everyday work, the SC&A staff comes across many interesting items, and we thought it would be fun to select one each week to give a sense of them.

Sometimes the picks relate to items used in conjunction with class visits. The Sept. 14 pick was the World War I Service Record of Wilmer Edgar Herr, Class of 1915. “Bennie” Herr (as he was known to his classmates) was the first Wesleyan man to be killed in the war. Frosh in the Visual Biography class (FILM103) taught by visiting artists in film studies Jessica Helfand and Adam Harrison Levy ’85 wrote a biographical sketch of a Wesleyan WWI serviceman using his WWI service record as a springboard.

Other picks relate to the various reference inquiries we receive. Abbey Francis, one of our student assistants, wrote up a quest to identify a sweater that once belonged to an alum in the Oct. 12 pick.

And some picks are items that we encounter that just catch our eye. The Nov. 9 pick was devoted to e. e. cummings and Krazy Kat, the Nov. 23 pick featured our first edition of Leaves of Grass, and the Dec. 10 pick featured the members of the John Wesley Club arranged as da Vinci’s Last Supper in the 1965 Olla Podrida.

We invite you to visit the blog and get a sampling of the many fascinating items held by SC&A.

— LEITH JOHNSON, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST —
In addition to the April 4th screening, other events on the Friends calendar include a collaboration with the Davison Art Center on events related to the exhibition, "Artists Take Action: Protest Posters Today." On Wednesday, April 17 at 4:15 p.m., Special Collections & Archives will host an open house to give the community an opportunity to view, handle, and read artists' books related to the exhibition. On Wednesday, April 24, the Friends' Annual meeting will feature a panel discussion in the CFA with artists Merideth Stern (This is an Emergency!) and Marshall Weber (Occuprint; a founder of Booklyn). And the Friends will conclude the year with a book sale focusing on ex libris literature books on May 4 and May 11. Check out the Friends' web site (wesleyan.edu/library/friends) for further details.

Whether you live close to Wesleyan or on the other side of the world, there are many ways you can keep up your connection with the library:

- "Like" the library and the Wesleyan Friends group on your Facebook page and share the events and news with your friends.
- Visit the library when you come back to Middletown.
- Suggest a topic or even better, write an article for this newsletter. (Do you have a favorite research story or librarian you remember? A book that still stands out in your memory?)
- Donate books for the book sale.
- Volunteer in person (for the book sale) or electronically (help keep our social media presence up-to-date).

We look forward to seeing you at library events or hearing from you through the Web. For more information or to share your ideas with us, contact the Friends at libfriends@wesleyan.edu.

— JENNIFER HADLEY, LIBRARY ASSISTANT AND COORDINATOR OF THE FRIENDS