

# CHECK IT OUT WINTER 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
SINCE 1998

## STUDENTS CREATE ARTISTS' BOOKS ABOUT URGENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

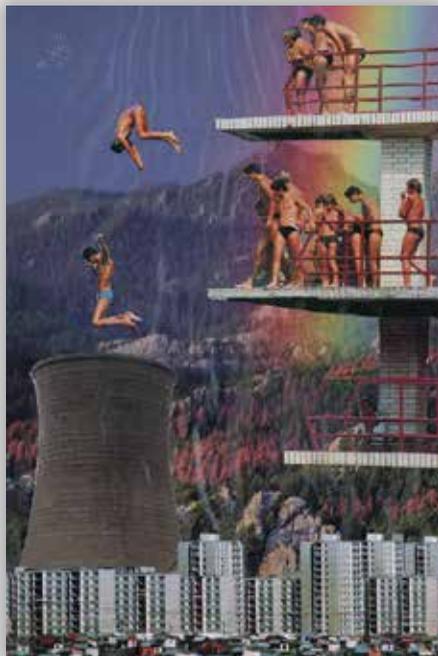
The arts often reach audiences in a more powerful and emotional way than facts or graphs can. For the last several years, students in Wesleyan's Introduction to Environmental Studies course have created artists' books as a final project. Artists' books embody an art form that stretches the concept of "book" so that the form, material, shape, or visual elements of the book are just as much a part of the message as any text that might be included. In making these projects, students learn how to present

urgent environmental issues with a creativity that grabs readers in a visceral and effective way. The fall semester's class, taught by Helen Poulos, exhibited in the Zelnick Pavilion on December 7th. Examples from previous years include a book that incorporates "pages" made from littered plastic bags fused together, exposing pollution in the Connecticut River; a portfolio of collaged images from *National Geographic* magazines that create startling visual juxtapositions surrounding global environmental issues; and a critique of GMO seed patents, consisting of handmade paper with actual seeds and plant material embedded in the paper and the text of the patents printed on each page.

Students first view a sampling of the many professionally created artists' books in Special Collections & Archives that focus on environmental issues. They also learn the basics of bookmaking and binding, either from Kate Ten Eyck in the art and art history department or from Michaelle Biddle, Olin's conservator and head of preservation services. Students support each creative project with facts gathered through academic research.

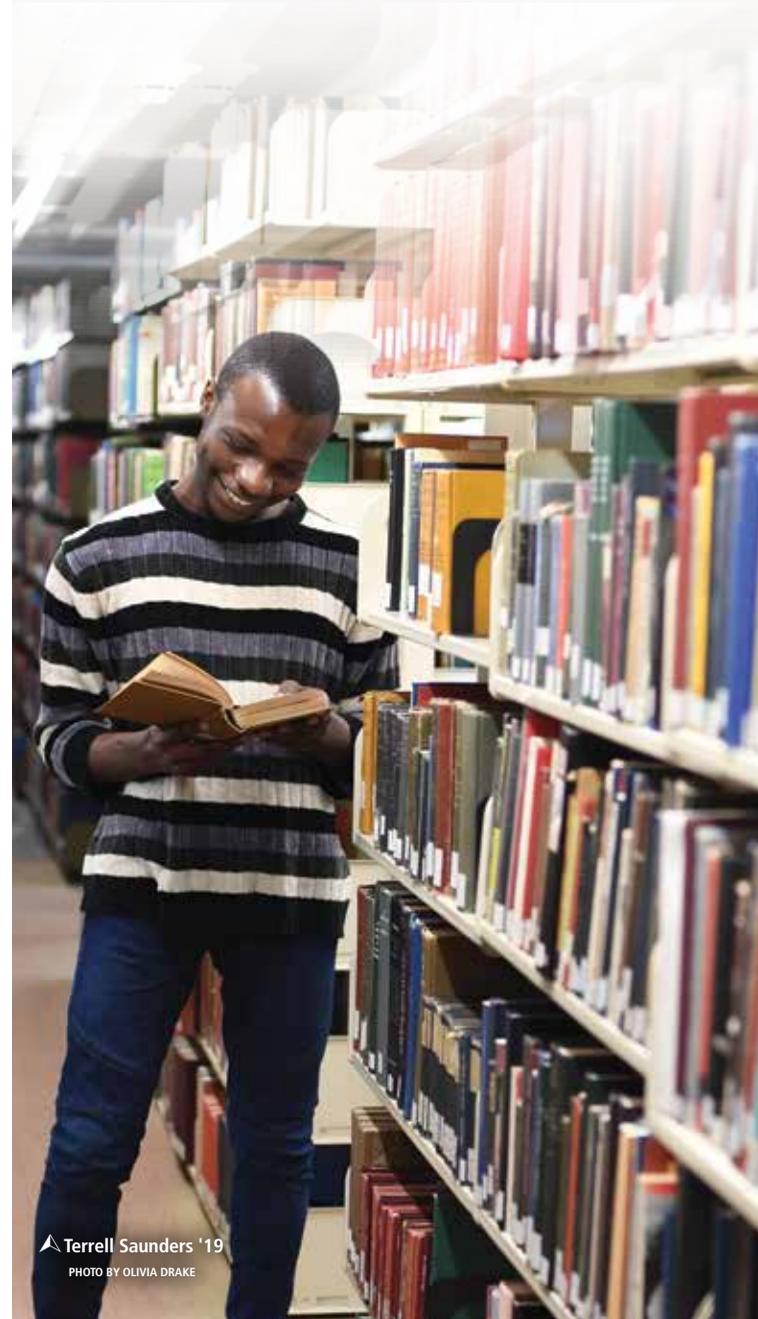
The project was initiated in 2014 as part of Wesleyan's Feet to the Fire program (now the Creative Campus Initiative); it was funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and began a collaboration between the Center for the Arts, the College of the Environment, and the library's Special Collections & Archives that has continued since then. Each semester, the best student artists' books from the class have been added to the permanent collection in Special Collections & Archives. To view these creative student projects, email sca@wesleyan.edu to make an appointment.

— REBECCA MCCALLUM, CATALOGING LIBRARIAN —

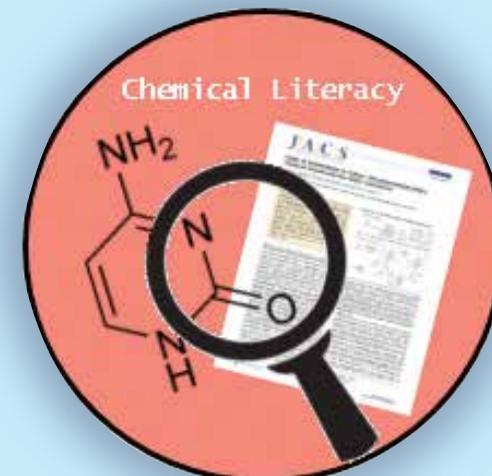


▲ Image from *State of the Planet: collageeffect* by Georgia Peckman '18, in Special Collections & Archives.

IMAGE COURTESY OF GEORGIA PECKMAN.



▲ Terrell Saunders '19  
PHOTO BY OLIVIA DRAKE



▲ Advanced Chemical Information Literacy Badge.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SARAH HENSIEK '13.

## BADGES TO BUILD INFORMATION SKILLS

During the 2016–17 academic year, Science Librarian Melissa Behney partnered with Professor of the Practice Andrea Roberts, Professor David Westmoreland, and Sarah Hensiek '13, a PhD candidate in chemistry education at Purdue University, to develop a chemical information skills badge for students in the Integrated Chemistry Laboratory. Students gained experience using reference sources and literature searching tools as part of their lab assignments during the fall semester. They built on those skills in the spring semester when all students were required to complete the Advanced Chemical Information Literacy badge based on the American Chemical Society's guidelines. The badge consisted of four challenges and culminated in students writing a perspectives article. Students learned how to use EndNote to manage citations, conduct structure and substructure searches in the SciFinder and Reaxys databases, and compare those results to the results from keyword searches in the Science Citation Index, Google Scholar, and ChemSpider. As students reviewed their results, they also selected a recently published journal article to read and distill into a brief perspectives article for a broader audience.

The feedback Sarah received about the Advanced Chemical Information Literacy badge was overwhelmingly positive. Students were particularly interested in learning how to use EndNote and strongly suggested that EndNote be introduced earlier. Students in their junior year felt that the challenges prepared them well for writing a thesis the following year. Chemistry majors in the course also developed the specialized information skills needed whether they seek jobs in industry or go on to graduate school. The badge is again part of the Integrated Chemistry Laboratory curriculum this year, and a separate badge was developed for Principles of Chemistry in fall 2017 to introduce first-year students to the journal literature and ways that science is reported to broader audiences.

Both Professors Roberts and Westmoreland have been recipients of the Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching. I am both grateful for their invitation to develop an information skills curriculum and the opportunity to work with two dynamic and dedicated teachers. Special thanks to Sarah for bringing her expertise in developing digital badges and assessing students' work.

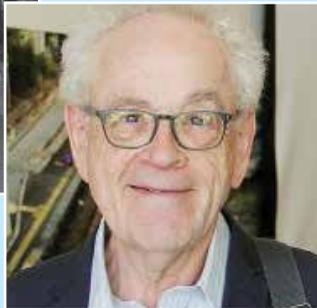
— MELISSA BEHNEY, SCIENCE LIBRARIAN —



## REMEMBERING DAN CHERUBIN

On September 13, 2017, Dan Cherubin, Wesleyan's Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian since July 2016, passed away unexpectedly. In the announcement to the campus, Provost Joyce Jacobsen praised how Dan "spent the past year working with the campus administration and the library staff on initiatives to re-envision library spaces and to reorganize the library to meet the 21st-century needs of students and faculty, as well as engaging people in-person and via social media to heighten awareness about academic libraries and what they offer. A huge proponent of inclusiveness and diversity, he enjoyed conversing with many students on Wesleyan's campus to learn about their ideas and concerns, and how the library could help address them.... Dan's sense of humor, his Twitter posts, and his quick repartee will be missed by many on and off campus." A graduate of Bard College with a BA in music, an MS in library science from Columbia University, and an MA in media studies from New School University, Dan had more than 20 years of experience in library and information services, and was chief librarian and associate dean at Hunter College in New York prior to coming to Wesleyan.

At a celebration of Dan's life held in the library on October 12, President Michael Roth read two poems and spoke about Dan's impact on the campus. "At Dan's memorial I read



▲ Mark and Greta Slobin arriving in Afghanistan, 1968.

IMAGES COURTESY OF MARK SLOBIN.

## WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES RECORDINGS IN NEW ALEXANDER STREET DATABASE

The World Music Archives has provided digitized sound recordings for the new online database from Alexander Street, Ethnographic Sound Archives Online. As part of a set of collections highlighting anthropological fieldwork, Alexander Street has compiled classic field recordings of music from Africa, Asia, North America, and Oceania; among these are a unique collection of 5-inch tape reels recorded by Professor Emeritus Mark Slobin in Afghanistan between 1968 and 1973. The recordings were made on a portable Uher reel-to-reel recorder and the tapes were initially digitized by the World Music Archives in 2003-4. Preparing the recorded sound files for upload to Alexander Street required considerable cross-checking of recorded tracks with written documentation, often making it necessary to return to the original tapes for verification. Detailed metadata for all the recordings were made available to Alexander Street as well. While Alexander Street has made the metadata public (so the descriptions of the content can be browsed by all), the media itself is available solely to institutions by subscription. Since the announcement of the project in the Wesleyan newsletter in June, there have been a couple of individual requests to listen to the recordings. We have been able to provide selective access to the recordings from our own server for researchers who are not in a position to gain access through institutional subscription.

— ALEC McLANE, MUSIC LIBRARIAN AND DIRECTOR, WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES —

Joseph Mills's poem, 'If Librarians Were Honest' because the poem emphasized the powerful charisma in all that libraries hold. Libraries hold us together and hold things that inspire us. Dan was the kind of librarian that knew that in his bones. He knew the power of libraries to be a home, a gathering point—as well as a point of instigation, inspiration, and even liberation. We miss him."

Interim University Librarian Diane Klare said, "Dan was willing to challenge the status quo and stereotypes to break down barriers between people or institutional norms and encourage open and measured dialogue within the Wesleyan community and beyond. For example, in the short time he was here, he engaged the students in several discussions about the library and the role of the library on campus, and in the process of those discussions, he earned their lasting respect."

Camille De Beus '19 shared her student perspective: "The very first official encounter I had with him was when he hosted a staff-wide luncheon in order to gain feedback, specifically from student workers, as to how the library could be improved. There are not many bosses who take the time to listen to their employees and really implement the changes that they ask for. This kind and considerate gesture went a long way. . . . But, perhaps one of the most poignant memories I have of Mr. Cherubin and the image that always comes to mind when I think of him now, is his silhouette on the lawn outside of Olin as he sat and talked with members of the Wesleyan and Middletown committee who were upset by the swipe system that had been implemented at Olin at the end of last semester. . . . I don't know many people who would care enough about their community to respond to a situation like that in that manner. But Mr. Cherubin was not like other people. He was special, and his absence within the community is a loss to all."

Music Librarian Alec McLane shared a musical memory: "Dan joined the Indonesian gamelan shortly after coming to Wesleyan, fulfilling a lifelong wish; and for the next couple of months he would often drop by my office unannounced, not to talk about library matters but about gamelan, wanting to make sure he was getting his parts right, and worried that he was having to miss too many rehearsals. Wesleyan musical ensembles, in addition to their educational value for students, are often graced by the presence of members from the general Wesleyan community, and Dan was a wonderful example of this."

Michael Meere, assistant professor of French and chair of the Friends of the Wesleyan Library wrote: "It was such an honor and pleasure to work with Dan Cherubin. He had such an inclusive and progressive vision not only for the Wesleyan Library but also for librarianship, scholarship, and collegiality as a whole. His cheerful and positive presence made a great impact on campus."

And finally, Mark Hovey, associate provost, shared a memorial image that Dan would have loved: PikaCherubin. "I was one of the first people at Wesleyan to meet Dan Cherubin. Like Pikachu, he was a brave soul with a mischievous sense of humor, unafraid to take on challenges much larger than himself. I miss him very much."

— COMPILED BY JENNIFER HADLEY, LIBRARY ASSISTANT, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES, MUSIC LIBRARY —

## IMPROVING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES: IMPLEMENTATION OF A LIBRARY REORGANIZATION

During the 2014-15 academic year, in preparation for selecting a new university librarian, the library embarked on a significant project to look inward and outward to determine how it might change services and staff roles in the coming years to better serve the campus community. With results in hand and a new university librarian in place, work began in the fall of 2016 under the late Dan Cherubin (see the tribute to Dan in this same issue) to turn that plan into reality. In the spring of 2017, two senior level positions were created in the library to oversee all of public



services (library research and access to materials) and all of technical services/digital projects (library collections and discoverability of library materials). The former role was filled by someone already in the Wesleyan library (this author). By the middle of the spring 2018 semester, the latter role will be filled as well. The library will then be able to examine its collections and services more holistically to reshape how students and faculty use all of the library's resources to do their research.

What's exciting about thinking more holistically about our collections is the opportunity that we had this past summer to bring under the library's umbrella various other collections on campus. On July 1, Jessie Cohen, the archaeological collections manager of the campus's archaeology and anthropology collections, moved under the library's oversight. The materials, located in the Exley Science Center, contain a broad variety of unique items, including Middle Eastern artifacts, historical materials from 18th- and 19th-century Middletown, missionary-collected objects from South America, and Native American pieces including pottery and jewelry. The collection will eventually be discoverable through the library's online catalog (OneSearch) so students and faculty will have the opportunity to find and physically work with historical objects alongside library materials that relate or speak to those objects. A further enhancement to collections occurred when Visual Resource Center (VRC) Manager Susan Passman and Digital Media Specialist Nara Giannella were also brought into the library organization. The VRC collection, which used to be referred to as the slide library, is now significantly digital in nature and is used by many faculty to teach across all disciplines.

The university and the library are also looking at similar future projects where other collections on campus (including those that are now "hidden" or "partially hidden") could be made discoverable through the library's online search tool and be available in one location alongside published materials about those objects. Such projects, particularly those that include physical objects, enable students, faculty, and researchers from beyond Wesleyan's campus to engage with all relevant materials at the same time. In addition, by collaborating with appropriate campus departments, integrated collections provide opportunities to create thematic displays across the campus for the enjoyment of the Wesleyan community and the larger Middletown area.

Thinking holistically about collections beyond those traditionally held in the library enhances opportunities for active as well as project-based learning, now widely understood as effective tools for intellectual engagement. The library looks forward to enriching the experiences of students, faculty, and researchers by enhancing existing library collections with other unique complementary collections as we move into the future.

— DIANE KLARE, INTERIM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN FOR RESEARCH AND ACCESS SERVICES —



▲ Top: Jessie Cohen  
Bottom: Susan Passman, Nara Giannella



## UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS:

- April 5, 2018—Talk by Nigerian author Chuma Nwokolo, whose book, *The Extinction of Menai*, is forthcoming this March from Ohio University Press (Smith Reading Room)
- Friends of the Wesleyan Library undergraduate research prize competition and award ceremony
- Screening of Frederick Wiseman's *Ex Libris—The New York Public Library*, April 14, 2018.

Thank you to all who have donated funds, books, and volunteer time to the Friends. Your support of Wesleyan Library events and programs is much appreciated. Recent gifts were given in memory of Shirley Feldman and in honor of Margery May. Details about a large special project donation given in memory of Ruth and Hank Fins will appear in the next *Check It Out*. For more information about donating to the Friends or sponsoring events and projects, email Jennifer Hadley at libfriends@wesleyan.edu.

(Check [www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends](http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends) for more details)

If you would like to contribute to the work of the Friends through membership or specific donations towards our digitization, preservation and archival projects, research prize, or events, please email libfriends@wesleyan.edu or visit [www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends](http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends).



Funding for *Check It Out* is provided by the Friends of the Wesleyan Library.

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