Staff Highlight

Dawn Smith
Head of Acquisitions

Dawn joined the Law Library in 2018 and serves as our Head of Acquisitions where she leads the team that purchases and processes all of our library's resources. Before coming to Yale Law School, she worked for nearly a decade in the William M. Rains Library at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, CA. She held various librarian positions in both the public and technical services departments. She also took a mini hiatus from librarianship to work at CalArts, one of our nation’s top art schools, as the Director of Prospect Management and Research in their fundraising department where she put her competitive intelligence research skills to use.

Dawn has many obsessions including all things Harry Potter (she has visited both US theme parks in Los Angeles and Orlando), the Hamilton musical, ice cream, documentary movies, and consuming entirely too much political news to be healthy.

Dawn spent nearly a decade as a Sunday school teacher at her church and is a member of a discipleship group that formed the non-profit Foreverkids.org which developed a program called Case for Character, that is working toward the goal to make sure that foster kids all across America get suitcases (rather than trash bags) and reading materials about positive character traits that they can take with them when they move from home to home.

Dawn holds a BS in Political Science as well as an MS in Library Science, and currently has her eye on pursing further academic interests.

A Texas girl through and through, Dawn avoids being disowned by her family by continuing to cheer for the Dallas Cowboys, and refusing to satter her barbequed meat with gallons of bbq sauce.

New Rare Book Room Exhibit

Legally Binding: Fine and Historic Book Bindings from the Yale Law Library

Many of the historic volumes in the Lillian Goldman Law Library are significant not only for their texts, but also for their extraordinary bindings. Over thirty of these are featured in the Rare Book Collection’s Spring 2019 exhibition, "Legally Binding: Fine and Historic Book Bindings from the Yale Law Library.”

The curators of the exhibition, Michael Laird (Michael Laird Rare Books, Lockhart, Texas) and Michael Widener (Rare Book Librarian, Lillian Goldman Law Library), selected bindings for their beauty, craftsmanship, functionality, and historical significance. On display February 4 - May 30 in the Rare Book Exhibition Gallery, Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School.

Important Dates


New Book Acquisition

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hank Green is an absolutely lovely piece of speculative science fiction. When aliens arrive by way of giant robots (named Carl), they only want to interact with one person, April May. April has to navigate her instant fame, relationships, identity, and the mysteries surrounding just what the Carls want from humanity. AART is a quick, fun read. Perfect for a cold winter weekend. (Remarks by Jordan Jefferson)

Welcome Linkage Students

A visit to the Paskus-Danziger Rare Book Room of the Lillian Goldman Law Library was enjoyed by the 12 students visiting from Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. In this picture, Rare Book Librarian Mike Widener is showing off some of the treasures from our South American law collection.