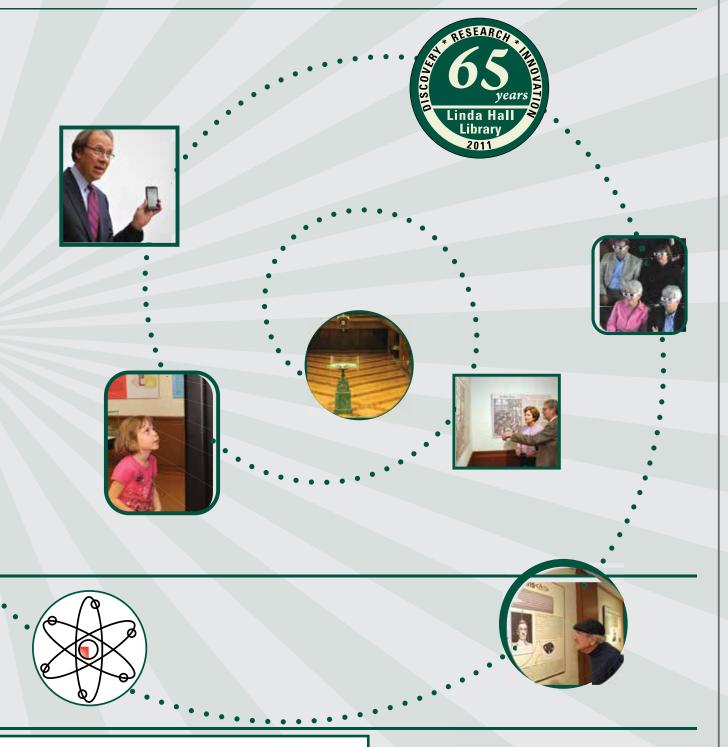


# Linda Hall Library 2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



# in·no·va·tion

- 1. the introduction of something new
- 2. a new idea, method, or device

The Linda Hall Library 5109 Cherry Street Kansas City, Missouri 64110

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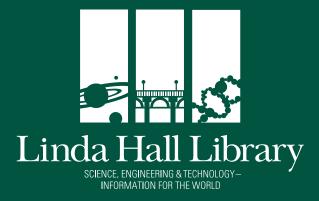
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# Linda Hall Library 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Year of Innovation

The Linda Hall Library is a guardian of the collective intellectual heritage with regard to science, technology, and engineering disciplines; a destination for advanced research and scholarship, and a center for public education in the sciences.

Additionally, the Library's grounds are maintained as an urban arboretum that is open to the public for education and enjoyment.





"No book was ever bound by its covers. The book, in all its forms, enters history only as evidence of human behavior, and it remains active only in the service of human needs."—D. F. McKenzie, Bibliographer

The pervasiveness of digital technology and the associated acceptance of electronic books have given additional resonance to D. F. McKenzie's observation. What is a book? Is it printed pages sewn together between two covers, or is it a text recorded in any tangible or intangible format? Powerful arguments that will not be resolved easily or soon have been constructed on both sides of this question.

The work of numerous scholars and science professionals has been enhanced by the Linda Hall Library's printed and digital collections which are prized for their depth and completeness. The availability of digital surrogates extends the usefulness of printed works to those working at a distance. Many Library visitors may never use the collections for research or scholarship, yet these books remain a focal point of their experiences here. For those individuals, the interpretive programs that have a thematic relationship to the Library's holdings – the exhibitions, lectures, and film series – establish a strong connection to the collections that reside at the core of the Library's mission.

Analytical and textual bibliographers engaged in the study of the book as object and the interpretive effects associated with the transmission of texts from one edition of a work to the next notwithstanding, the question "what is a book?" is of less consequence than its companion inquiry "what does this book mean to me?" Whether your engagement with science or the history of science is through research or a love of lifelong learning, the books of the Linda Hall Library will remain active in the service of those who need and want to know more about the world around us.

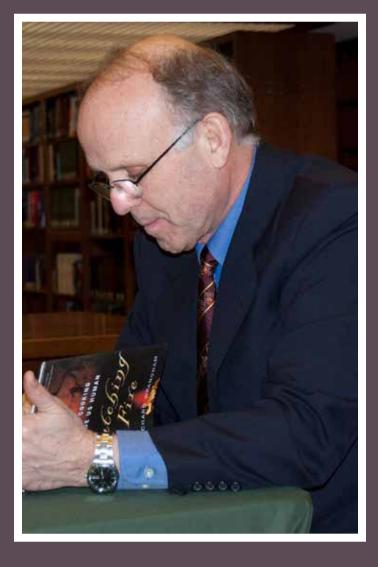
Lisa M. Browner

Established in 2003, the annual Paul D. Bartlett, Sr. Lecture is the Linda Hall Library's most noteworthy public program. The Bartlett Lectures are named in honor of Paul D. Bartlett, Sr., who was elected chairman of the Linda Hall Library Board of Trustees at its first meeting in 1941. Under his leadership, Herbert and Linda Hall's bequest for the creation of a public library in Kansas City was used to establish this library devoted to science, engineering and technology. Mr. Bartlett served on the Board until his death in 1964. Presented in association with the Harvard/Radcliffe Club of Kansas City, the Princeton Alumni Association of Greater Kansas City, and the Yale Club of Kansas City, the Bartlett Lectures feature some of the country's most eminent scientists and historians discussing their research. The Bartlett Lectures are made possible through generous support from Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Bartlett, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hebenstreit.

Facing page, from left: Richard Wrangham, Ruth Moore Professor of Biological Anthropology at Harvard University, signed copies of his book, *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human*, following his lecture at the Eighth Annual Bartlett Lecture on February 25, 2010; Michael Gordin, Professor of History at Princeton University, discussed the discovery of the periodic table at the Ninth Annual Bartlett Lecture on April 13, 2011.

The consequences of the control of fire and cooking...has been an amazingly potent force... for this extraordinarily successful species.

Richard Wrangham, Harvard University
Author of Catching Fire





# Thinking Outside the Sphere Exhibition April 22 - September 18, 2010

The relatively modern concept of a limitless universe comprised of an infinite number of stars and galaxies was developed as recently as the 18th century. Aristotle, Ptolemy, and other ancient philosophers believed that the stars, all located at an equal distance from the Earth, were situated in a crystalline sphere forming the boundary of an Earthcentered universe propelling the other planets in our solar system on their courses. Exhibition curator Cynthia Rogers selected major astronomical works from the Renaissance through the 19th century to explain the genesis and demise of this ancient concept. The stunning illustrations, maps, and charts included in the exhibition explained the emergence of a cosmos in which the Earth revolved around the Sun at the edge of a vast universe. Dr. William B. Ashworth, Jr., Associate Professor of History at the University of Missouri - Kansas City, delivered the opening lecture on April 22 entitled, "Star Struck! Sidereal Messages from Galileo to Herschel." The exhibition was made possible by generous support from Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hebenstreit and Mrs. Lathrop M. Gates.

Facing page: The West Exhibit Hall displayed several works and images from the Library's collection of 15th to 19th century astronomy books, including works by eminent scientists Tycho Brahe, Giordano Bruno, René Descartes, William Gilbert, and Christian Huygens, among others.

Ultimately, people realized that the sun was just one of 100 billion stars orbiting our galaxy and that our galaxy was one of upwards of 100 billion stars.

Sara Seager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



# Are We Alone? Lecture Series Spring 2010

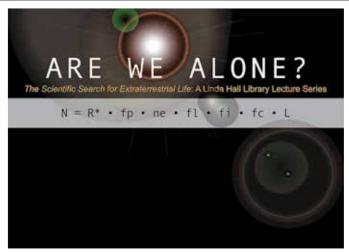
During the first decade of the 21st century, scientists greatly expanded the search for extraterrestrial life. The exploration rovers Spirit and Opportunity landed on Mars in 2004 to determine whether life exists on the red planet. In 2007, the SETI Institute's Allen Telescope Array, a cluster of small dish antennas funded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, went online in Northern California, searching the skies for alien radio signals. In 2009, NASA launched its Kepler spacecraft to survey a portion of the Milky Way galaxy for earth-like planets residing in a habitable zone orbiting a sunlike star. With nearly 800 exoplanets discovered to date, the centuries old question, Are we alone? has become anything but rhetorical. Discovering a planet that has the potential to support life or receiving an extraterrestrial signal raises another important question: Is it possible to travel quickly across the universe? The Are We Alone? lecture series featured three important areas of scientific research in the quest for intelligent life in the universe: the search for habitable exoplanets, the SETI Institute's radio astronomy research, and the theory of time travel. The lecture series was made possible through the generous support of Dr. James and Mrs. Francie Flynn.

Right, clockwise from top left: On May 5, Sara Seager, Professor of Planetary Science at MIT, discussed the search for exoplanets; Lecture series poster featuring the Drake Equation; on May 10, Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the SETI Institute, discussed the search for intelligent life in the universe; Sean Carroll, Senior Research at the California Institute of Technology, explained the theories of time travel in the final lecture of the series on May 19.

We can imagine making time machines by warping space-time, but we don't actually know a foolproof way of doing it.

Sean Carroll, California Institute of Technology









On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb exploded at the Trinity Test Site, New Mexico. For most people, the nuclear age began on that date, but the road to Trinity had been under construction for decades. In The Atomic Age exhibition, curators Nancy V. Green and Eric Ward described the earliest discoveries by pioneering physicists with a time line of scientific discoveries and advances, from x-rays to energy, which surrounded the West Exhibit Hall. In the East Exhibit Hall, compelling wall panels illustrated the concepts and terminology used in the time line. For those visitors who were curious about their annual exposure to radiation, an interactive computer kiosk allowed them to calculate their risk by answering questions about where they live, work, and play. Many were surprised to learn that radiation is a routine part of our daily lives. The curators highlighted this concept with a display of common household items that are known to be radioactive, such as water softener salts, cat litter, Brazil nuts, and salt substitutes. The exhibition was made possible through the generous support of Kansas City Power & Light.

Right: *The Atomic Age* time line spanned the late 19th century through the Manhattan Project and onto modern nuclear applications during the 1950s-60s. As part of the time line, a photomontage featuring prominent scientists and their associates illustrated the transitions.

Nuclear fission was discovered accidentally in Nazi Germany on December 21, 1938...a discovery that, in the long run, would...change forever the relationship between nation states.

Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* 



Leading scientists and historians participated in a lecture series on the history of nuclear physics and the latest research in the field. From the potentially game-changing technology of fusion energy to the improvements of traditional fission nuclear power generating stations, the lecture series explored the nuclear infrastructure that is a part of our daily lives. A highlight of the lecture series was a return to the Library by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Richard Rhodes. He told the standing-room only crowd that he conducted most of his initial research for The Making of the Atomic Bomb at the Linda Hall Library and noted that, "many of the fundamental scientific papers in the field of nuclear physics, even some from Germany during the Second World War, were here in physical form-not digitized or on microfilm-[so that] you could handle the material." The lecture series was made possible through the generous support of the Victor E. Speas Foundation, Bank of America Trustee; Swiss Re, and the Linda Hall Library Annual Fund.

Right, clockwise from top left: On October 6, Jeff Wisoff, Deputy Director of the National Ignition Facility, spoke on fusion energy; Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, discussed the history of the Manhattan Project on October 13; Dwight Williams, a science advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy, outlined current research developments in nuclear physics on October 20; and Marvin Fertel, President and CEO of the Nuclear Energy Institute, discussed the future of nuclear energy in the U.S. in the final lecture on October 27.

The search for fusion energy has been going on for 50 years... Now we believe we're on the verge. I think we're living in that moment of the Wright Brother's plane.

Jeff Wisoff, Deputy Director National Ignition Facility









# What's the Big Idea? A History of Innovation Exhibition March 31 - September 16, 2011

In 2011, the Library commemorated its 65th anniversary. To celebrate its distinguished history and acknowledge this milestone, the entire year's lectures and exhibitions were dedicated to the theme of innovation. Two exhibitions were devoted to scientific discoveries and innovations. In the first, What's the Big Idea?, curators Nancy V. Green and Eric Ward chronicled the broad spectrum of scientific and technical innovations that followed the print revolution of the 15th century. From Isaac Newton's laws of motion and William Gilbert's discovery of electricity in the 17th century, to Alfred Wegener's 20th century theory of continental drift, the exhibition invited visitors to explore some of the most important innovations and discoveries of the modern world. A highlight of the exhibition was The Gutenberg Century, which explained how Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press while developing a mirror-making business. The Gutenberg Century also provided an opportunity to view some of the Library's incunabula, including a selection of books printed by Johann Gutenberg's contemporaries. The exhibition was made possible through the generous support of the William T. Kemper Foundation - Commerce Bank, Trustee; the Evalyn Clough Endowment, and the Linda Hall Library Annual Fund.

For 65 years the Linda Hall Library has been a key part, and a solution, for many innovators because of its terrific repository of information, research material, and knowledge...

Dan Hesse, CEO Sprint Nextel Corporation



# The Nobel Laureate Lecture Series Spring 2011

Born in 1833 in Stockholm, Sweden, Alfred Nobel held 355 patents worldwide, including an 1867 patent for dynamite. Nobel died in 1896, bequeathing a fortune that would fund annual prizes for those "who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind." Since 1901, the Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded 161 times and the prize for physics has been awarded to 192 laureates. As part of its 65th anniversary celebration, The Year of Innovation, the Linda Hall Library hosted three Nobel laureates who offered their perspectives on the creative processes employed by scientists, and commented on the problematic future of scientific discovery and innovation in the 21st century. The lecture series was made possible through the generous support of Dr. James and Mrs. Francie Flynn and the Linda Hall Library Annual Fund.

Facing page, clockwise from top left: On April 19, Kary Mullis, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in chemistry, discussed the history of the experiment; Martin Chalfie, recipient of the 2008 Nobel Prize in chemistry, argued for an increase in basic research in the April 26 lecture; a capacity crowd awaits the beginning of a lecture in the Main Reading Room; and on May 4, Robert Laughlin, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in physics, warned of trends in legislation, patents, and advertising that restrict access to and the use of knowledge.

There's a lot more out there for us to discover... We're taking a much too narrow view of what should be studied and what should be funded.

Martin Chalfie, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Columbia University









The Library's year-long celebration and examination of the history of innovation continued with This Time It's Personal: Innovation in Your Home, opening on September 28, 2011. Visitors to the exhibition were surprised to discover technology's influence in every aspect of their lives from the mundane to the sophisticated. Wall panels in the West Exhibit Hall represented rooms in a contemporary family home including a kitchen, living room, bedroom, bathroom, kid's room, and garage. Curators Nancy V. Green and Eric Ward highlighted more than 65 household inventions used daily, and illustrated how these items are the result of decades, and sometimes centuries, of technological innovation. Journal articles, rare books, and patents from the Library's collection demonstrated the pathway of innovation for these common household items. Visitors left with a sense that even a quiet night at home can be a walk through the history of modern innovation. The exhibition was made possible through the generous support of the Harry Portman Charitable Trust, UMB, n.a., Trustee; Husch Blackwell LLP; and the Linda Hall Library Annual Fund.

We could end up making some very bad policy decisions that limit the tremendous entrepreneurial spirit...Google's not the enemy here. We are. And that's kind of spooky.

Siva Vaidhyanathan, University of Virginia Author of *The Googlization of Everything* 



The U.S. government began issuing patents in 1790. By the end of the 20th century, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office had issued over 6,000,000 patents for inventions that were the handiwork of mostly unknown inventors who had created and/or improved upon the products that make home and work lives comfortable, enjoyable, and productive. More than a decade later, on August 16, 2011, the government issued patent number 8,000,000. This rapid pace of invention underscores the value of innovation in contemporary society. The Fall 2011 lecture series was devoted to three modern inventions that have become a familiar part of the digital age: the personal computer, the digital camera, and digitized music delivered via the Internet. Though each of these products had its own creation story, the lectures revealed the traits shared by each inventor. This lecture series was made possible through the generous support of the Dwight D. Sutherland Family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Spaulding III, Polsinelli Shughart PC, and the Linda Hall Library Annual Fund.

Clockwise from top left: Siva Vaidhyanathan delivered the opening lecture on September 29 about the global impact of Google; on October 26, Steve Sasson, inventor of the digital camera, discussed his game-changing invention; on October 19, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley spoke about her latest book, *The Man Who Invented the Computer*; and composer Nolan Gasser, chief musical architect of Pandora Radio's Music Genome Project, explored the intersection of music and science on November 2.

A displacement technology...will not displace the existing technology unless it meets every single critical attribute of the existing technology and exceeds it in at least one.

> Steve Sasson, Eastman Kodak Company Inventor of the digital camera.









# **Exhibitions and Lectures 2010**

# **EXHIBITIONS**

Thinking Outside the Sphere: Views of the Stars from Aristotle to Herschel April 22 - September 17, 2010

*The Atomic Age: The Discovery and Evolution of Nuclear Science* October 6, 2010 – March 11, 2011

# **LECTURES**

February 25	Paul D. Bartlett Sr. Lecture "Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human" Richard Wrangham, Harvard University
March 10	"Tangled Web of Spider Evolution" Paul Selden, University of Kansas
March 24	"We Can Now Solve the Oldest Environmental Problem" Wes Jackson, The Land Institute
April 22	"Star Struck! Sidereal Messages, Galileo to Herschel" William B. Ashworth, Jr., University of Missouri-Kansas City
May 5	"Exoplanets and the Search for Habitable Planets" Sara Seager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
May 10	"When Will We Find the Extraterrestrials?" Seth Shostak, SETI Institute
May 19	"The Paradoxes of Time Travel" Sean Carroll, California Institute of Technology
June 23	"Robots That Care: Can Socially Assistive Robotics be a Part of the Solution to the Growing Healthcare Problem?" Maja Mataric, University of Southern California
October 6	"Making Star Power on Earth: Is Fusion Energy in our Future?"  Jeff Wisoff, National Ignition Facility, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
October 13	"The Bomb's Early Light" Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer Prize-winning author
October 20	"The Future of Nuclear Research" Dwight Williams, Department of Defense
October 27	"The Future of Nuclear Energy in the United States" Marvin S. Fertel, Nuclear Energy Institute

# **Exhibitions and Lectures 2011**

# **EXHIBITIONS**

What's the Big Idea?: A History of Innovation

March 31 – September 16, 2011

This Time It's Personal: Innovation in Your Home

September 28, 2011 – March 15, 2012

# **LECTURES**

March 3	"Breakthrough Thinking: Challenging What We Know" Brian Greene, Columbia University
March 31	"The Future of Cell Phone Innovation" Dan Hesse, Sprint Nextel Corporation
April 13	Paul D. Bartlett Sr. Lecture  "Who Discovered the Periodic Table? An Anatomy of a Priority Dispute"  Michael Gordin, Princeton University
April 20	"Celebrating the Experiment" Kary Mullis, Nobel Laureate
April 21	"Nuclear Safety: America's Approach" Michael Chesser, Great Plains Energy and Kansas City Power & Light Matt Sunseri, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
April 26	"GFP: Adventures in Nontranslational Research"  Martin Chalfie, Columbia University
May 4	"The Crime of Reason and the Closing of the Scientific Mind" Robert Laughlin, Stanford University
September 28	"The Googlization of Everything (And Why We Should Worry)" Siva Vaidhyanathan, University of Virginia
October 12	"The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined" Steven Pinker, Harvard University
October 19	"The Man Who Invented the Computer: The Biography of John Atanasoff, Digital Pioneer" Jane Smiley, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist
October 26	"Disruptive Innovation: The Story of the First Digital Camera" Steve Sasson, Eastman Kodak Company
November 2	"Pandora Radio and the Music Genome Project: What Musicology and Science Reveal About Our Musical Tastes" Nolan Gasser, Pandora Radio Music Genome Project

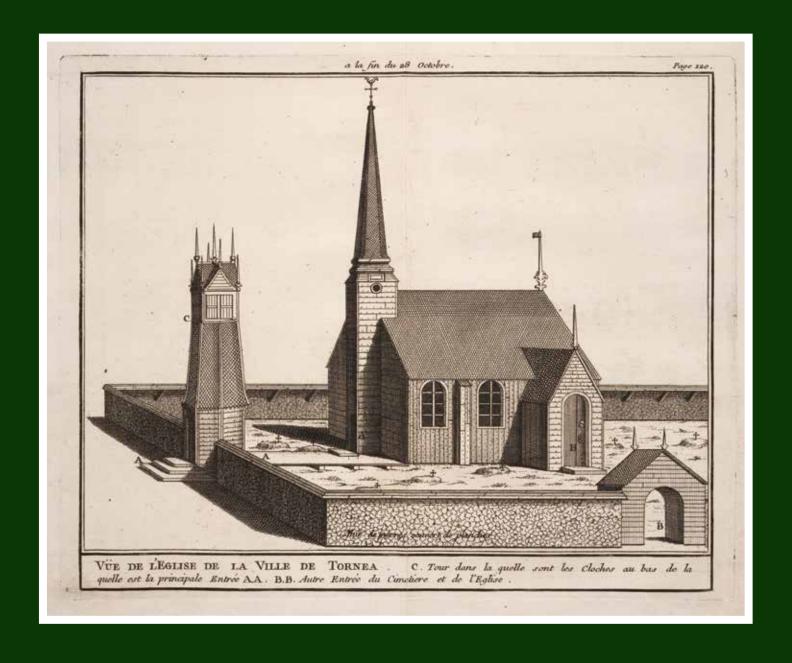
# Selected Recent Acquisitions in the History of Science

The Linda Hall Library's History of Science Collection is internationally famous for the depth and breadth of its holdings. Scholars from around the world visit each year to examine rare texts that are held by few libraries. Closer to home visitors from local schools and community groups travel to the Library to experience presentations on aspects of the history of science and the history of books and printing. Recent notable acquisitions include an early edition of Macrobius's 5th century commentary on Cicero's In Somnium Scipionis (Paris, 1524), St. George Mivart's On the Genesis of Species (London, 1871), and a gift of seven works from the collection of Elinor and Gustave Eisemann including an 18th century almanac by Nathaniel Ames, a rare 17th century English book on surveying, and a book of astronomical lectures by the Newtonian scientist, William Whiston.

Facing page: Image of a church in the city of Tornea from the first edition of Réginald Outhier, the *Journal d'un voyage au nord*, en 1736 & 1737 (Paris, 1744). The book describes the French expedition to Lapland to measure the length of a degree of latitude near the North Pole. This volume is the first purchase made with the D. Brook and Karen Iverson Bartlett Book Fund.

I was very impressed with the Library and the great rare books. How often is it that one can touch a book from the 1500s written by Robert Boyle!

Richard Hanson, Case Western Reserve University



# **Building the Digital Collections**

Providing access to historically significant materials that support scholarship and lifelong learning is one of the Linda Hall Library's top priorities. During the past two years, the Digital Collections database has been enhanced with the addition of the noted works of astronomy featured in the exhibition, Thinking Outside the Sphere, and hundreds of images that complement the 2009 exhibition, The Grandeur of Life, along with rare and valuable 19th century American railroad journals that were digitized as part of a larger project funded by the BNSF Foundation. In 2011, the National Park Service and the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities awarded the Library a Save America's Treasures Grant. The grant will enable the Library, through the services of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, to clean, repair, and treat the A.B. Nichols Panama Canal Collection, and subsequently, to digitize these materials. The ability to make some of the most important works in the history of science available at anytime to anyone with an Internet connection makes the digital collections of the Linda Hall Library an increasingly valuable source of information to an ever-expanding constituency of users.

Facing page, clockwise from top: Header of the January 3, 1880, issue of *Railway Review*, one of the journals digitized as part of the railroad history scanning project that began in 2010; blueprints from A. B. Nichols Panama Canal Collection prior to conservation treatment; sea anemone from Philip Henry Gosse, *Actinologia Britannica* (London, 1860).

The A.B. Nichols Panama Collection is an important addition to the repository of valuable information for researchers interested...[in the] issues that surrounded the construction of the Panama Canal.

Enrique Chaves-Carballo, University of Kansas Medical Center

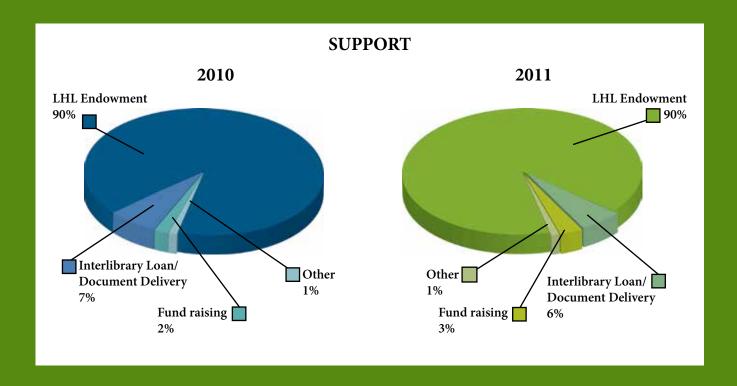


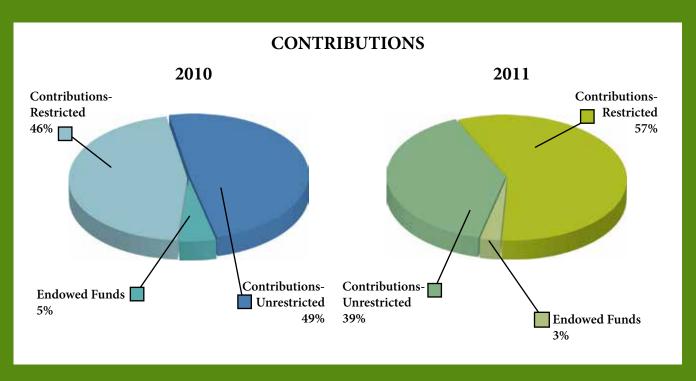




# Resource Allocation

The Library remained financially stabile throughout the recent economic downturn. Prudent investment oversight of endowment resources and careful expense management enabled the Library to continue offering quality services and programs to the public and scholarly communities. The introduction of Second Saturdays has become a popular opportunity for the general public to visit the exhibit galleries and the William N. Deramus III Cosmology Theater. Even during a recession, the Library continued to benefit from the generosity of the people of Kansas City. The success of the Library's engaging public programs, exhibitions, and enhancements to the grounds in 2010 and 2011 were made possible by the contributors listed on the following pages.





# Philanthropy

The Board of Trustees and the Library Staff appreciate the support of our friends and benefactors. Your interest, participation, and advocacy help sustain the Library as a cultural and intellectual resource.

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This page, top: Michael and Susan Chesser at the opening of *The Atomic Age* exhibition; bottom: Jonathan Kemper and Dr. James and Mrs. Francie Flynn attend a lecture. Facing page, top: Hal and Wilma Sandy tour the Thinking Outside the Sphere exhibition; bottom: Nobel laureate Kary Mullis visits with Barbara and Burt Smoliar.

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This page, top: Norma Sutherland reads about the history of the microwave oven patent, one of 65 inventions featured in the *This Time It's Personal* exhibition; bottom: Helen Ace visits the Rare Book Room. Facing page, top: Marilyn Hebenstreit and Paul Bartlett, Jr. attend a reception in the Drawing Room; bottom: Dr. Gustav and Mrs. Elinor Eisemann await the beginning of a lecture.

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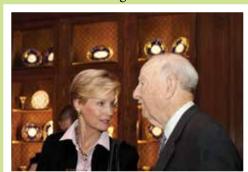
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The Herbert and Linda Hall Legacy Society was created to honor friends who have remembered the Library in their estate plans. The following individuals are current members.

Mrs. Helen Ace Mr. and Mrs. Alan Deaver Dr. Ruth Patrick Mr. and Mrs. David Ringle

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Contact Kimberly Allen, Development Director, at 816-926-8792 for corrections.

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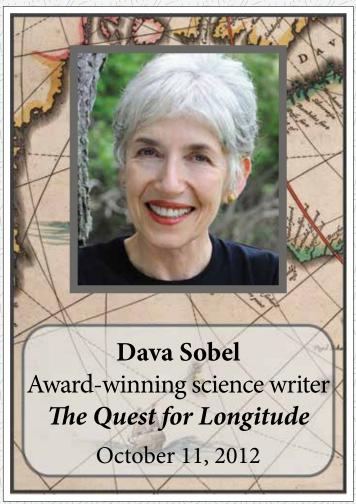
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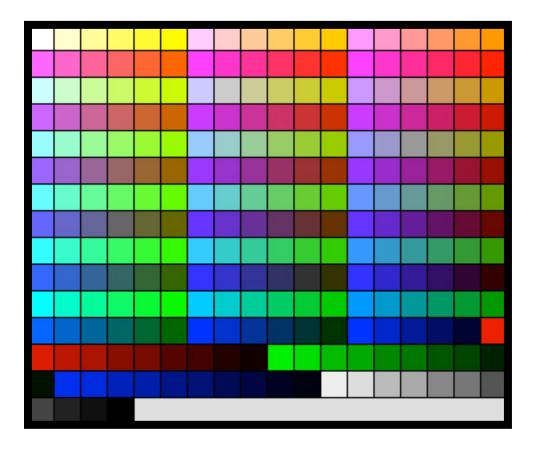
Eric Ward

Staff pictures facing page, top: Ali Modarres, Accounts Receivable Clerk; bottom: Jerri Campbell, Reference Assistant; this page, top: Keri Cascio, Director of Innovative Technologies and Library Resource Management; bottom: Julie Brinkman, Head of Technical Services.

# COMING FALL 2012







Above: The colors used in this *Annual Report* are based on the Mac OS system swatch palette, a computer-based standard that reflects the importance of the digital age in color science.

The two typefaces used in this report are a tribute to recent exhibitions on innovation and the history of nuclear science. The serif typeface is Minion, which was developed in 1990 by Robert Slimbach at Adobe Systems. Futura, the sans serif typeface, was designed in 1927 by German typographer Paul Renner. Futura was a common font utilized in atomic safety pamphlets published by the U.S. government during the 1950s.

Front cover, middle image spiraling outward: the malachite Tazza, a focal point in the Library's Main Reading Room; Robert and Sally West tour *The Gutenberg Century* exhibit hall; a young visitor learns about radiation exposure at an interactive kiosk in *The Atomic Age* exhibition; Dan Hesse delivers a lecture on cell phone innovation; the Library's 65th anniversary "Year of Innovation" logo; Matt and Carol Sunseri and, foreground, Barbara and Burt Smoliar watch a 3-D video during a lecture on fusion energy; Isaac Jonathan explores the history of the Internet in the exhibition, What's the Big Idea?; the iconic symbol of an atom featured in material for *The Atomic Age*.

Back cover: The main entrance to the Linda Hall Library.

Facing page: Dava Sobel photograph by Mia Berg.





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