



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
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# Building our Brand:

Researchers supporting Research

Teachers supporting Teaching

Elsevier Digital Library Symposium  
Boston, January 16, 2010



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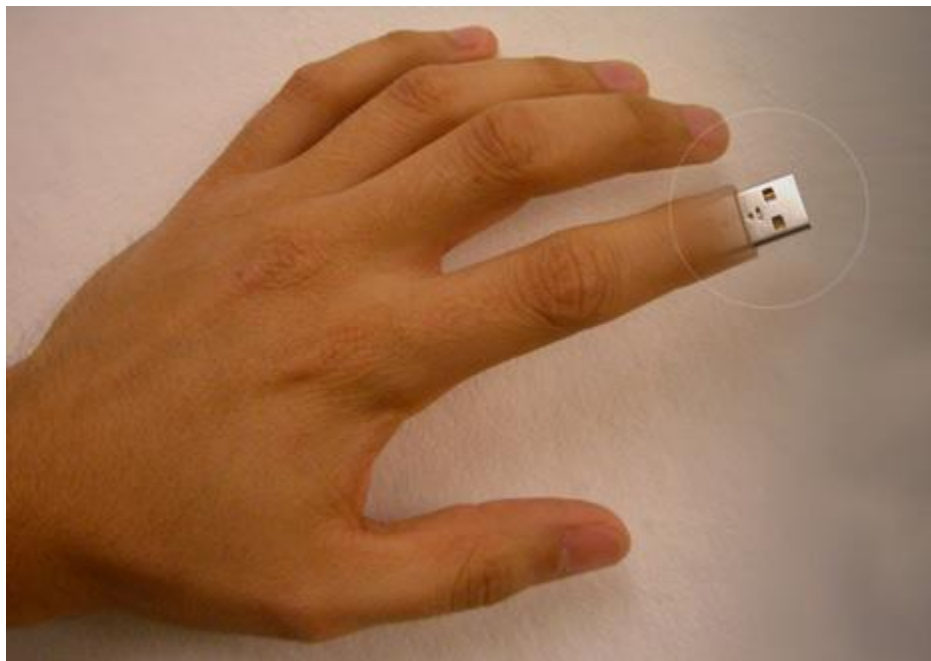
# The Research Library





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# Do Not Try This!



*The Sheridan Libraries encompass the Milton S. Eisenhower Library and its collections at the Albert D. Hutzler Reading Room, John Work Garrett Library and the George Peabody Library at Mt. Vernon Place.*



# Rebranding Initiatives

Data Conservancy

Roman de la rose Digital Library

Heritage Conservation Science

Afro-American Newspaper  
Archive



# Data Conservancy

The Data Conservancy embraces a shared vision: data curation is not an end, but rather a means to collect, organize, validate, and preserve data to address grand research challenges that face society.



# Goal

The overarching goal of DC is to support new forms of inquiry and learning to meet these challenges through the creation, implementation, and sustained management of an integrated and comprehensive data curation strategy.



# Partner institutions

Johns Hopkins University (Lead institution)

Cornell University

DuraSpace

Marine Biological Laboratory

National Center for Atmospheric Research

National Snow and Ice Data Center

Portico

Tessella, Inc.

University of California Los Angeles

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



# Additional partner institutions

- Australian National Data Service
- Australian National University
- British Library
- Digital Curation Centre
- Microsoft Research
- Monash University
- Nature Publishing Group
- Optical Society of America
- Sakai Foundation
- Space Telescope Science Institute
- SPARC
- [Sun Microsystems \(Data Curation Center of Excellence\)](#)
- University of Queensland, Australia
- Zoom Intelligence



# Objectives

Infrastructure research and development

Technical requirements

Information science and computer science  
research

Scientific or user requirements

Broader impacts

Educational requirements

Sustainability

Business requirements



# Implications for Libraries

- Libraries as part of a distributed network
- Data as collections
- Data as services
- Librarians as data scientists
- Data centers are the new library stacks



# Roman de la Rose

DIGITAL LIBRARY

 Search

[Advanced search](#)

## Home

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## Select book by

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## Project

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## Roman de la Rose Digital Library

Welcome to the *Roman de la Rose* Digital Library, a joint project of the Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University and the Bibliothèque nationale de France. The creation of this resource and the digitization of the manuscripts from the Bibliothèque nationale de France was made possible through generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The goal of the *Roman de la Rose* Digital Library is to create a digital library of all known manuscript copies of the *Roman de la Rose*, which number around 300. We expect to have full digital surrogates of about 150 of these manuscripts available here by the end of 2009.

This Library features new content and enhanced functionality, and builds upon the previously developed prototype *Roman de la Rose: Digital Surrogates of Medieval Manuscripts*. We will continue our relationship with the founding partners of the Digital Surrogates project, including the Walters Art Museum, the Bodleian Library, the Morgan Library & Museum, and the J. Paul Getty Museum. We look forward to working with a number of new institutions and private collectors who have contributed digital images of their manuscripts to the Library. Through the leadership of our scholars and advisory committees, efforts have been made to develop this resource to address an interdisciplinary array of scholarly requirements. Users are required to review and accept the [terms and conditions](#).



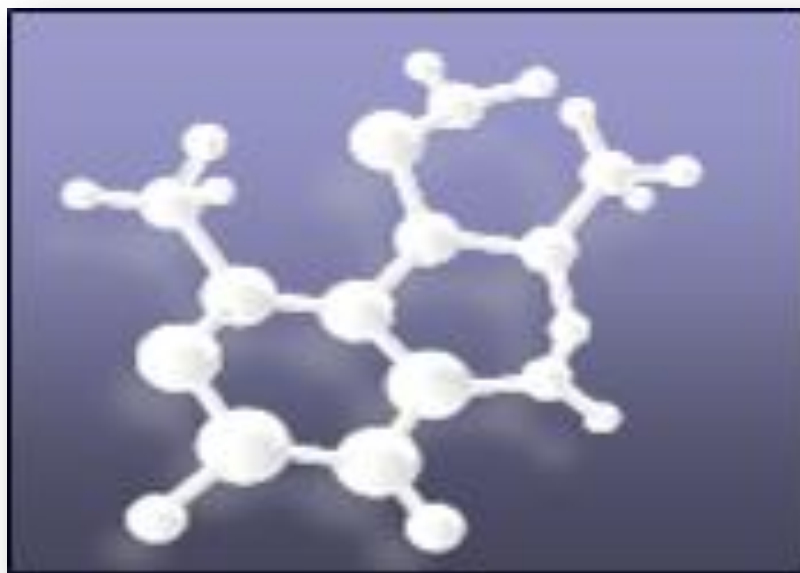
The collections, services, and infrastructure of the *Roman de la Rose* Digital Library are intended to be dynamic. We look forward to engaging the community to help us consider new content and different features to be added over time, which will be discussed on the site's [blog](#). In order to maintain and build the *Roman de la Rose* Digital Library, we will need support from this community. Please consider making a donation.



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# SHERIDAN LIBRARIES: BUILDING COLLABORATIONS WITH THE WHITING SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

## HERITAGE SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION



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Sheridan Libraries convened a meeting of scientists, conservators, industry, funding agencies, the Whiting School of Engineering, and area museums & libraries to explore gaps in knowledge and future partnerships to fill them.





Library collections still need the hands-on skills of the conservator, but increasingly conservators need scientists working along side them. This project will change the ways conservators address the needs of our research library collections.



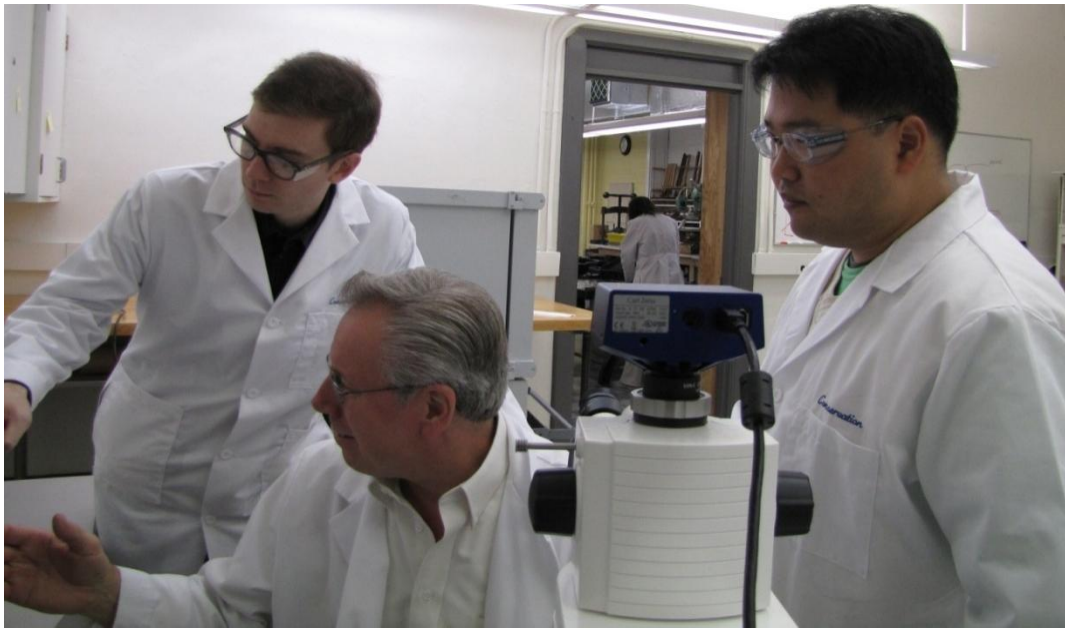


# 2009 Heritage Science for Conservation (funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)

Partners: Whiting School of Engineering, other JHU Departments, cultural institutions, industry, and research centers - transnational

First model of its kind within a university library setting

2 Post-Doctoral Fellows, Senior Project Conservator, Project Coordinator





At Sheridan Libraries, the post-docs and conservators are

- using new tools and equipment
- engaging with other JHU scientists in asking different questions of our collections,
- searching for new solutions for familiar problems, such as iron gall ink corrosion.



## HSC has already embarked on collaborations with

- Smithsonian Conservation Center
- British National Library
- Baltimore Museum of Art
- Canadian Conservation Institute
- Homewood House
- Zeiss Instruments
- Brucker Electronics
- North Carolina State University
- Applied Physics Lab
- Department of Pharmacology, JHU
- Glatfelter Company
- Applied Research Photonics

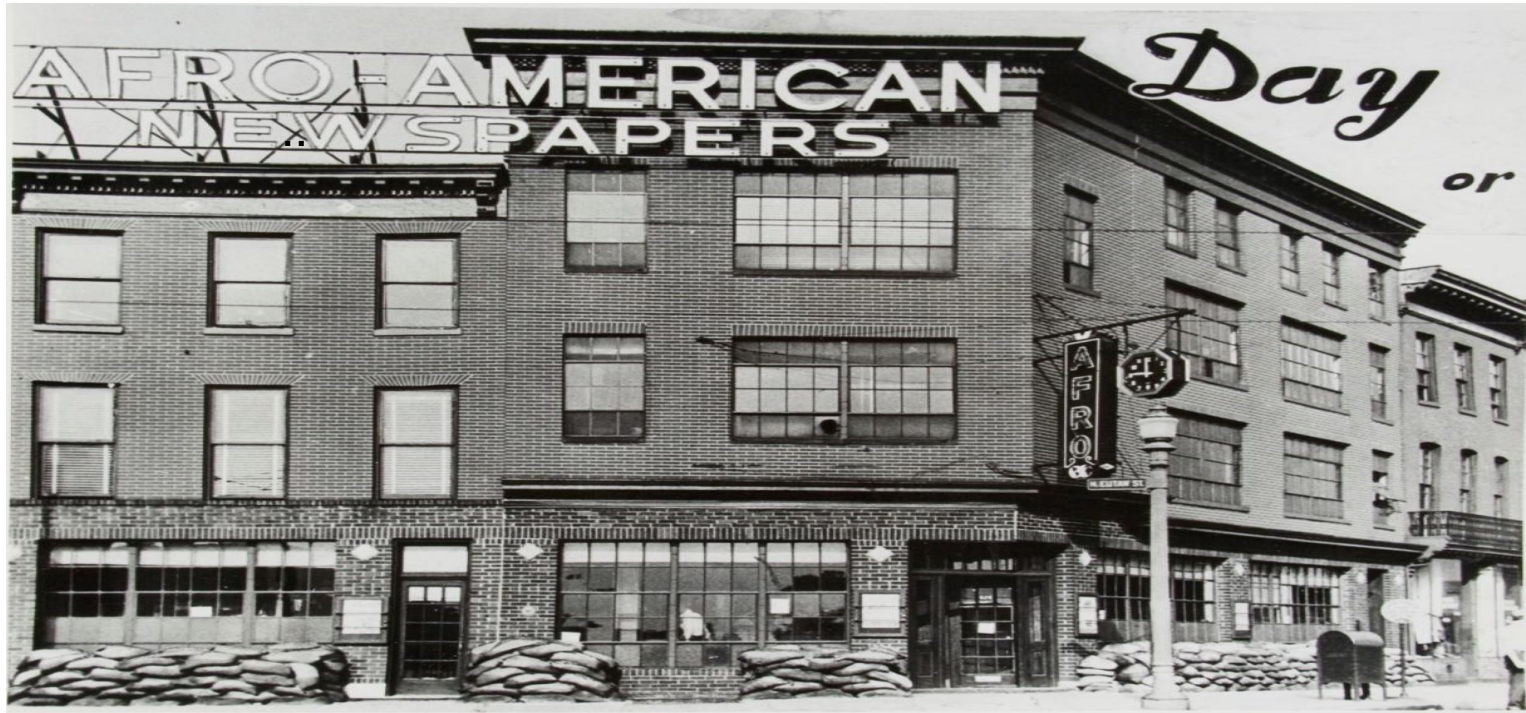


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# Uncovering a Baltimore Treasure: Johns Hopkins University and *The Afro-American Newspapers*

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# The Afro-American Newspaper, founded 1892



The Afro-American Newspaper is currently the oldest continuously operating African American family-owned newspaper in the United States. The Afro-American Newspaper Archives and Research Center comprise 2,000 linear feet of material including the Afro's newspaper morgue (1920-present), the records of the newspaper, and personal papers of people associated with the Afro.



# Baltimore Community History

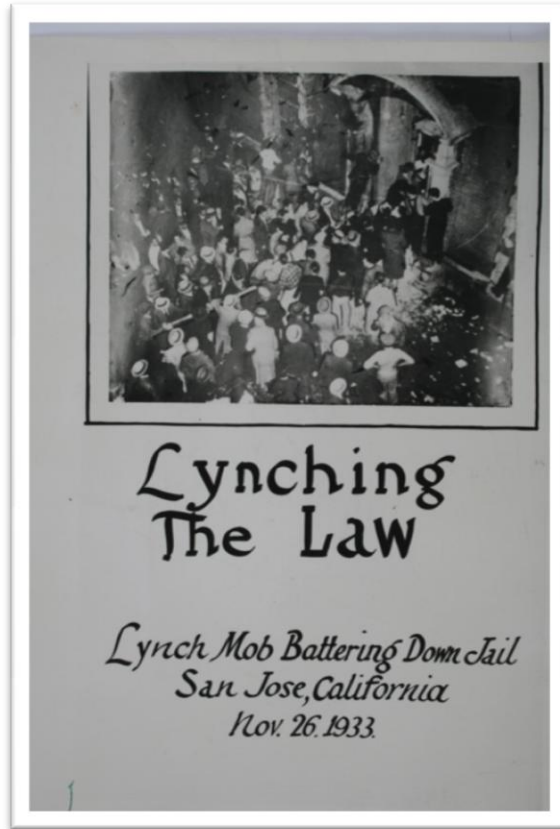


The archives include a huge volume of clippings, photographs, correspondence, and reports related to the history of Baltimore, which remains a relatively understudied city. This photograph from the early 1940s shows a group of children participating in the Afro-sponsored Clean Block Club, a community clean-up project.

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# National and International History



The collections document the contributions of African Americans to the political, economic, social, and artistic life of the United States; but also include reporting on African countries as well as countries of the Black Diaspora.



# Completing work with student interns

- Johns Hopkins University
- Morgan State University
- Goucher College
- Howard University
- University of Baltimore
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Pennsylvania





# The Afro Archon Database



This freely available online database provides public access to descriptions of the materials in the Afro Archive; is now used by the Afro's archivist to locate materials and respond to researcher requests; and (an unexpected secondary benefit) has demonstrated Archon's viability for holding descriptions of collections maintained by Special Collections in the Sheridan Libraries



# Concluding Thoughts

- Institutional culture matters
  - Collaboration is essential
- Libraries lead, but users must drive
- Expect and revel in unanticipated outcomes



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with thanks to Sayeed Choudhury, Candice Dalrymple, Sonja Jordan-Mowery, and their staffs

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