

Kathleen (Kate) Siebert Medicus

Special Collections Librarian – Cataloging & Metadata Lead
Kent State University Libraries

Special Collections and Archives
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LIBRARIANSHIP

2012- present. Special Collections Librarian – Cataloging & Metadata Lead, Professor. Kent State University Libraries

Oversees all cataloging functions of the Special Collections & Archives unit. Manages and provides leadership for metadata functions for access and description. Performs original and copy cataloging of materials in all formats to make them discoverable for students and researchers using the Kent State University Libraries' online catalog

- Materials include rare books, hand-press era books, incunabla, manuscripts, and other non-book formats
- Applies all national cataloging standards, including *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* and *Resource Description & Access (RDA)*. Uses the OCLC bibliographic utility and the Innovative Interfaces integrated library system (as part of the OhioLINK consortium). Prepare controlled access headings for Encoded Archival Documents (EAD) finding aids as well as collection-level bibliographic records for archival collections

Provide public services

- Provides outreach, instructional, and research support for Kent State students and faculty, and other users such as alumni and national and international researchers. This includes research consultations, both in-person and virtual, service point duties, and development and production of learning objectives and tutorials
- Prepare exhibitions about the collections and create articles and posts highlighting Special Collections and Archives resources

Recent projects

- Managed the migration of Special Collections & Archives bibliographic data to the ExLibris Alma platform
- Served as lead for the [Kent State Shootings Oral History Project](#) during the 50th commemoration year (2019-2020)

1993-2012. Special Collections Cataloger, Assistant Professor. Kent State University Libraries

Part-time term faculty position with cataloging duties as described above.

2001-2013. Librarian, Hudson Montessori School

Part-time position. Responsible for all aspects of the library's operation. Provided research assistance and library instruction to preschool through middle school students. Recruited and trained library volunteers. Responsible for collection development and ordering of all library materials. Worked with the architects and the library design firm to design the current library facility. Selected the software for the online catalog and provided retrospective cataloging of the collection of approximately 10,000 books.

1989-1992. Cataloger, Ingalls Library, Cleveland Museum of Art

Cataloged books and exhibition catalogs in western languages using the RLIN bibliographic utility and the DYNIX local automation system. Provided reference services to museum curators and staff and graduate students at Case Western Reserve University. Special projects included editing the artist index for the Cleveland Museum of Art's 1991 *Handbook*.

1985-1989. Senior Reference Coordinator, Lilly Library, Indiana University

Provided reference and informational services to users of the manuscript collections. Created indexes and wrote descriptions of manuscript materials. Other projects included assisting in the development of a computerized index of the photographic collections and curating exhibits of manuscript materials.

1983-1985. Manuscripts Assistant, Lilly Library, Indiana University

Duties and responsibilities included supervising reproduction of manuscript materials, providing reference assistance to manuscript users, assisting in the installation and preparation of special exhibits, and maintaining departmental files.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1991-2012. Assistant Professor, School of Art, Kent State University

Part-time adjunct faculty position. Taught semester-long bibliographic instruction courses for art history undergraduates and MA students. The class covered research resources available in print as well as online research databases. The undergraduate course was a designated writing intensive class and included readings, discussion, and assignments focused on issues students face when writing about the visual arts.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate of Proficiency in a Specialized Area: The Book in Continental Europe and Great Britain. Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, 2022.

M.L.S. Indiana University, Bloomington, 1988. Completed dual masters' program in Library Science and Art History.

M.A. Art History. Indiana University, Bloomington, 1988. Master's thesis title: "An Album of Preparatory Sketches by Giovanni Agostino Ratti (1699-1775) in the Indiana University Art Museum."

B.A. with Distinction, Fine Arts. Indiana University, Bloomington, 1981.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[The Illustrated Scientific Book to 1800](#). Course at Rare Book School, held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Caroline Duroselle-Melish (Folger Shakespeare Library) and Roger Gaskell (independent antiquarian bookseller in the U.K.), instructors (July 10-15, 2022)

[Why Black Bibliography Matters](#). Rare Book School at the University of Virginia online seminar. Kinohi Nishikawa (Princeton University), instructor (July 26-28, 2021)

[Collections Up Close: The Digital Collection as a Tool for Close Examination](#). Webinar sponsored by the Huntington Library (December 10, 2020)

[Race and the Boundaries of the Book: Seven Early American Perspectives](#). A Rare Book School online panel discussion (October 20, 2020)

[A Fractured Inheritance: The Problems, Challenges, and Opportunities of Collecting Manuscript Fragments](#). A Rare Book School online panel discussion (September 15, 2020)

[Black Print Culture](#). A Rare Book School online panel discussion (September 1, 2020)

[An Alternative History of the Atlas](#). A Rare Book School online lecture by Ayesha Ramachandran, Yale University (July 2, 2020)

[Books as Bridges](#). A Rare Book School online panel discussion (June 23, 2020)

[A Curator's Look at Indigenous Mapping in the Early Americas, 1500-1575](#). A Rare Book School three-part webinar series by John Hessler, Library of Congress (May-June, 2020)

Opening Doors: Outreach with Archives and Special Collections. Society of Ohio Archivists and ALAO Special Collections and Archives Interest Group virtual spring workshop (May 14, 2020)

[Introduction to the History of Bookbinding](#). Course at Rare Book School, held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Karen Limper-Herz (British Library), instructor (June 10-14, 2019)

[The Book in the Manuscript Era](#). Course at Rare Book School, held at Yale University. Raymond Clemens (Beinecke Library), instructor (June 11-16, 2017)

Preserving Scrapbooks in the Archives. Workshop sponsored by ALAO Special Collections & Archives Interest Group and the MAC Speakers Bureau. Jennifer Hain Teper (University of Illinois Library), instructor. Held at the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio (June 9, 2017)

[The Printed Book in the West to 1800](#). Course at Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. Martin Antonetti (Northwestern University), instructor (August 1-5, 2016)

Preservation Workshop: Learn to Make Book Cradles for Reading Rooms, Exhibits, and Digitization. Sponsored by the Ohio Preservation Council. Columbus, Ohio (October 15, 2015)

[The Printed Book in the West since 1800](#). Course at Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. Eric Holzenberg (Grolier Club, New York), instructor (July 20-24, 2015)

RDA in NACO Training for AACR2 Catalogers. Online training course offered by the Library of Congress, Paul Frank and Melanie Polutta, instructors (2014)

Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) workshop: What is That and How do I Catalog It?! RDA and Special Formats Cataloging. Patty Falk (Bowling Green State University), Michelle Mascaro (University of Akron), and Masha Stepanova (Miami University), presenters. Columbus, Ohio (June 11, 2014)

Northern Ohio Technical Service Librarians (NOTSL) program: Linked Data and the Library. Dr. Marcia Zeng (Kent State University) and Jennifer Bowen (University of Rochester), presenters. Held at Kent State University (November 22, 2013)

ALAO workshop: Outreach in Special Collections & Archives. Arjun Sabharwal (University of Toledo), Dr. Melanie McGurr (The Ohio State University), and Jacky Johnson (Western College Memorial Archives), presenters. Columbus, Ohio (May 10, 2013)

Northern Ohio Technical Service Librarians (NOTSL) program: Coming to Terms with Genre/Form Access. Janis L. Young (Library of Congress), Karen Anderson (Backstage Library Works), and Paige G. Andrew (Penn State), presenters. Held at Kent State University (December 9, 2011)

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL (RBMS) workshop: Latin for Rare Materials Catalogers. Jennifer McDonald (Univ. of Delaware) and Jennifer Nelson (U.C. Berkeley), instructors. Held at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (October 22, 2010)

RBMS workshop: Reference Sources for Rare Books. Joel Silver (Lilly Library, Indiana University), instructor. Held at RBMS Conference, Philadelphia (June 22, 2010)

RBMS workshop: Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Serials. Randal Brandt (U.C. Berkeley), Annie Copeland (Penn State), Jane Gillis (Yale Univ.), and Stephen Skuce (M.I.T.), instructors. Held at RBMS Conference, Charlottesville, Virginia (June 17, 2009)

Society of American Archivists (SAA) workshop: MARC According to DACS: Archival Cataloging to the National Standard. Lynn Holdzkorn (U.N.C. at Chapel Hill) and Katherine Wisser (Duke University), instructors. Hosted by Special Collections & Archives, Kent State University (April 2-3, 2009)

[Rare Book Cataloging](#). Course at Rare Book School held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Deborah Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library), instructor (June 5-9, 2006)

PRESENTATIONS

The Borowitz Crime Collection at Kent State. Presentation for the Ohio Library Support Staff Institute (OLSSI) held at the University of Dayton, July 28, 2025 (Invited)

There and Back Again: Reuniting Accession Books at Kent State University. Poster session co-presented with Jim Kuhn (Associate Director, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin) at the ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference (RBMS), held at Yale University, June 27, 2025 (Refereed)

The May 4 Collection, Kent State University Libraries. Co-presented with Cara Gilgenbach for the Kent State University Division of Institutional Advancement. November 8, 2019 (Invited)

How Our Village Raised its Genre/Form Index. Presentation at ALAO Annual Conference, Wilmington, Ohio. Co-presenters: Laurence Skirvin, Amey Park, and George Leggiero. October 28, 2016 (Refereed)

Day for Tech Services Focused on Special Collections. Full-day workshop presented for Northeast Ohio Regional Library System at the NEO office in Hudson, Ohio, August 14, 2014 (Invited)

After the Interview: Completing the Closing Stages of an Oral History Project. Half-day workshop co-presented with Craig Simpson (Kent State University) at the Midwest Archives Conference annual meeting, Chicago, April 22, 2010 (Refereed)

Kent State Shootings Oral Histories. Presentation given at "Can You Hear Me Now? Digitizing Voices of the Past: A Conference on Digitizing Oral History." Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, September 20, 2007 (Invited)

Session moderator and presenter: Delivering Oral History On-Line. Joint Midwest Archives Conference/Society of Ohio Archivists annual meeting, Columbus Ohio, May 4, 2007 (Invited)

PUBLICATIONS

Discover Special Collections in KentLINK: Library Guide. Published August 2020.

[*You CAN Judge a Book by its Cover!*](#) Handlist to accompany the exhibit co-curated by Kathleen Siebert Medicus and Anita Clary, 2019.

[*From Crime to Culture: The 25th Anniversary of the Borowitz Collection at Kent State University*](#). Curated by Kathleen Siebert Medicus, Elizabeth Traina, Samantha Kapp, and Cara Gilgenbach. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Libraries, 2013.

[*The Nature of Natural Science: An Exhibition of Books and Archives in Special Collections, Hand-List of Items & Collections Exhibited*](#). Curated by Kathleen Siebert Medicus and Cara Gilgenbach. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Libraries, 2011.

"Reading the Book: A Report on a Recent Symposium." Co-authored with Edith Serkownek. In *NOBS Newsletter*, vol. 24: no. 4 (Fall 2007), p. 1-3.

"Sketchbooks." In *Master Drawings from the Vincent Price Collection*. Bloomington: Indiana University Art Museum, 1987, p. 16-18.

"Giovanni Agostino Ratti." In *Master Drawings from the Vincent Price Collection*. Bloomington: Indiana University Art Museum, 1987, p. 64-67.

"Piranesi at Work." In: *Piranesi Prints from Indiana Collections*. Bloomington: Indiana University Art Museum, 1986, p. 5-7.

"The Lippi-Pessellino Follower." In: *Italian Art at the Indiana University Art Museum*. Bloomington: Indiana University Art Museum, 1984, p. 5-8.

EXHIBITIONS CURATED

(held at Kent State University Libraries unless noted otherwise)

Book by Book: How Kent State Built a Library. Co-curated with Graduate Student Assistant, Gillian Canacci (January-April 2026)

The Cleveland Poetry Scene. Co-curated with Read Graduate Assistant, Abby Fife (January-April 2025)

[*Spotlight on Special Collections & Archives at Kent State*](#) (ongoing exhibit in the Special Collections and Archives reading room and online)

You CAN Judge a Book by its Cover! Co-curated with Anita Clary (July-October, 2019)

50 Years of Special Collections & Archives at Kent State (October 2017-December 2018)

Code Makers vs. Code Breakers: Cryptography in History, Literature, and Popular Culture. Co-curated with Edith Serkownek (January-August, 2016)

Rita Dove and the US Poets Laureate. Co-curated with Tammy Voelker (March 30-April 30, 2015)

[From Crime to Culture: The 25th Anniversary of the Borowitz Collection at Kent State University.](#) Co-curated with Cara Gilgenbach, Elizabeth Traina, and Samantha Kapp (2013-2014)

U.S. Poets Laureate (Spring 2013)

Edith Wharton: 150th Birthday of a Great American Novelist (Fall 2012)

Black United Students at Kent State, 1968 (Spring 2012)

500 Years of Architecture Books, 1511-2011 (Fall 2011)

[The Nature of Natural Science: Historical Books and Archives in Special Collections.](#) Co-curated with Cara Gilgenbach (Spring-Summer 2011)

Painted Books: Fore-Edge Paintings from the University Libraries' Collection. Supervised Honors Thesis student, Carolyn Corrigan Pinney, in preparing this exhibit (Spring 2010)

Musical Mysteries. Supervised Graduate Student Assistant Erin Valentine in preparing this exhibit (2010-2011)

Crime Fiction Dust Jackets (2009)

Paul Laurence Dunbar (2006)

Ian Fleming's James Bond Manuscripts (Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1989)

Women at Work: Photographs from Manuscript Collections (Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1987)

Victorian Photographs (Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1987)

Jorge Luis Borges, 1899-1986 (Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1986)

Black American Authors (Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1986)

Costume Design for Theater and Opera (Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1985)

The Capra Press (Co-curated with Cheryl Baumgart, Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1984-1985)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Chair, Special Collections and Archives Interest Group of Academic Library Association of Ohio (2025-2027; 2014-2017)

Kent State University Faculty Marshals Committee (2024-2027)

ACRL Rare Books & Manuscripts Section, Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group (2021-2025)

Dean's Review Committee for Dean Burhanna (2022-2023)

College Advisory Committee (KSU Libraries, 2021-2023)

Rare Book School Scholarship Committee (University of Virginia, 2020-2026)

Co-Chair, Faculty Professional Development Committee (KSU Libraries, 2020-2022)

Kent State Votes Coalition (Kent State University, 2018-ongoing)

College Advisory Committee, Secretary (KSU Libraries, 2018-2019)

NTT Provost's Advisory Council (Kent State University, 2015-2017)

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY H.R. TRAINING WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Title IX Training (2018)

Understanding Depression and S.A.D. (2017)

Safe Space Ally Training (2017)

Mental Health First Aid (2016)

ACIREMA workshop (2016)

First Aid/CPR/AED Certification (2016)

A.L.I.C.E. Training (2015)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Kent State University, Winebrenner Professional Development Excellence Award. Received five separate awards to attend a series of continuing education courses at Rare Book School, University of Virginia (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

Academic Library Association of Ohio (Special Collections and Archives Interest Group)

American Library Association

Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society

Ohio Preservation Council

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries