EXHIBITING WOMEN’S STUDIES
Using Women’s Archives to Showcase their Lives and Achievements

Connie Lamb, Maggie Kopp, Kristi Young, Valerie Buck
Brigham Young University Library

ULA Conference, 2016
WOMEN’S STUDIES

An Interdisciplinary field of academic study that examines gender as a social and cultural construct, the social status and contributions of women, and the relationships between power and gender.
Why use Women’s Collections?

1. Create awareness of women and their lives, especially in local communities
2. Make them part of the historical record
3. Understand their contributions in both domestic and public spheres
4. Honor their legacies
Small Exhibits

- Two to four cases
- Papers, documents, letters, artifacts, biographies
- Many women are “hidden” under father’s or husband’s names
- Emphasize a specific person, group, or event(s)
- Short-term
Ways to Record Life Stories

- Oral Histories
- Published Memories
- Manuscripts
- Pictures
- Artifacts
- Scrapbooks
- Media
Women's History Month
March 2012

"Women's Life Stories"
Selections from
L. Tom Perry Special Collections
Possible Occasions to Exhibit

• Women’s History Month (March)
• Conferences or Workshops
• City Celebrations
• Historical Dates or Anniversaries Related to Women
• Honor Particular Women
GETTING YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS:
TIPS ON EXHIBIT DESIGN
BAD BIG IDEAS:

• This exhibit is about women authors.
• In 1816, the first of the famous Brontë sisters was born. This exhibit celebrates 200 years of their legacy.
**Better Big Ideas:**

• Learn about the life of Charlotte Brontë, who wrote the famous English novel, "Jane Eyre."

• See how author Charlotte Brontë’s friends and admirers preserved her life and writings for modern readers.
Common museumgoer concerns:

◦ I don’t know where to start.
◦ I don’t know what to look at first.
◦ Have I looked at this long enough?
◦ What does circa mean?
◦ Your labels make me feel stupid.
◦ How did the artist make this?
◦ Why would a museum put this on display?
◦ Is this really art?

-- Gail Gregg, “‘Your Labels Make Me Feel Stupid,’” *ArtNews*, 7/1/2010
EXHIBIT STRUCTURE & ITEM SELECTION

What I end up packing.

What I end up wearing.
LABEL WRITING

Object labels:
No more than 50 words

Section/case labels:
No more than 150 words

Introductory labels:
No more than 300 words

AAM award winner, 2013
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Visitor Center, Abingdon, VA
OPINIONS OF THE PRESS
ON MR. BELL'S FIRST NOVEL.

"Very fine. We are not contributed say any thing in the
 Laundry Hall. Here has been discovered a young lady who
 is thought to be a very promising writer. The story is
 very interesting, and the characters are well drawn. We
 recommend it to our readers." — Evening World.

"A novel that will please the public. The plot is
 well constructed, and the characters are
 well drawn. We have no hesitation in
 recommending it to our readers." — Times.

"We heartily recommend this novel. It is
 well written, and the characters are
 well drawn. We have no hesitation in
 recommending it to our readers." — Daily
 Mail.

LONDON:
T. C. NEWBY, PUBLISHER,
75, MOSTER STREET, CAYEDISH SQUARE.
1848.


Anne’s second novel shocked and entranced Victorian audiences with its portrayal
of a woman fleeing an abusive marriage. Though a bestseller, Charlotte suppressed
the work after Anne’s death in an attempt to protect her sister’s reputation.
Additional Resources

- American Alliance of Museums Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition
MATERIAL CULTURE
How To Make Your Women’s Studies Exhibits Live On
Holograph letter to Mrs. Dodge, Boston, Dec. 2 – Louisa May Alcott

Bedtime, original pen & ink drawing, 24 Feb. 1893 – Beatrix Potter
INTRODUCTION

From the mid-1930s to the mid-1960s the name Rose Marie Reid was synonymous with beautiful, functional, and innovative women’s fashion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select an author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisa May Alcott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Ashman Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orson Scott Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Carroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.K. Chesterton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Dickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Conan Doyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Fay George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Graves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zane Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Larson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Bulwer Lytton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aubrey Mace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Malet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Norris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Nighthale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aprilynne Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrix Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janette Rallison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Rossetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William M. Thackeray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Thayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.G. Vandagriff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Weyland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walt Whitman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orson F. Whitney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literary Worlds is an exhibition in the L. Tom Perry Special Collections of the Harold B. Lee Library running August 2010 through June 2011.

Reading the work of an author, it is not typical to think about what a writer does to produce a poem or a book. This exhibition focuses on the creative processes that writers go through from the idea, to the writing, to the working with publishers, to the editing, to the selling of the work. Manuscripts, letters, drafts, editorial comments, and websites are ways in which the craft of writing is shared. Learn more >>

• [http://exhibits.lib.byu.edu/literaryworlds/](http://exhibits.lib.byu.edu/literaryworlds/)
DIGITIZING
EXHIBIT
MATERIALS
(+ more)
Create links to materials digitized by someone else:

http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/authors/p#a292
http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/authors/r#a7041

Internet Archive:
https://archive.org/details/taleoftwobadmice001904pott
https://archive.org/details/poeticalworksofc00ross
Questions?

• Connie Lamb
  connie_lamb@byu.edu

• Kristi Bell
  kristi_bell@byu.edu

• Maggie Kopp
  maggie_kopp@byu.edu

• Valerie Buck
  valerie_buck@byu.edu