



LEADERSHIP

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LIBRARY: Bridging the history of medicine, humanities, and the arts

The Academy is home to one of the most significant historical libraries in medicine and public health in the world, safeguarding the heritage of medicine to inform the future of health. The Library's collections contain many of the formative texts of medicine and allied fields from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. It is equally renowned for its extensive journal collection comprising medical serials from around the world, and for its ephemeral materials that are now proving of immense historical value.

Archival holdings also document the practice of medicine in New York from the 18th century to the present including preserving the records of over 35 professional medical societies.

The Library is dedicated to building bridges among an interdisciplinary community of scholars, educators, clinicians, and the general public. It fills a unique role in the cultural and scholarly landscape of New York City through its collections and by providing research services and public programming.

COLLECTIONS

Initially established as a medical collection for the use of physicians, the Library opened to the public in 1878. As a working professional library, the collection's primary focus was first in contemporary medicine, but soon extended to rare and historical materials. The current focus has shifted to building on our historical holdings, including current works in the history of medicine.

With over 550,000 volumes, including an extensive rare book collection, as well as unique historical medical artifacts of historical importance, the Academy Library is a true national resource.

Special subject strengths of the collections include:

Anatomical atlases

Cardiology

Cookery

Dermatology

Healthy living regimens

History of medicine of the City of New York

Homeopathy & alternative medical systems

Medical Americana

Medical botany

Neurology

Surgery

Women's and children's health

Poetry, fiction, and philosophy also figure prominently in the library collection, along with natural histories and early scientific texts reflecting the ways in which physicians saw themselves as part of a broad intellectual community. Manuscript strengths include medical and culinary receipt books, student notebooks, hospital casebooks, and the personal diaries, daybooks, and correspondence of prominent New York physicians.

The Library houses much of its rare book collection in the Drs. Barry and Bobbi Collier Rare Book Reading Room, which also contains many secondary sources in the history of medicine and the history of books and printing.

PROGRAMMING

Through its Center for the History of Medicine and Public Health, the Library is home to a wide-ranging roster of public programming, integrating health and medicine with history, the humanities, and the arts. The Center's lectures, workshops, seminars, and other events deliver unique and enriching experiences to thousands of New Yorkers every year.

SERVICES

In addition to providing access to the collections and reference support, the Library convenes professional meetings in medical humanities and history, and provides tours, workshops, and seminars for diverse audiences, including students and professionals. The Library also collects and curates a Grey Literature Report, provides research support for Academy staff and Fellows, and supports two endowed historical fellowships for research in its collections. The Gladys Brooks Book and Paper Conservation Laboratory, founded in the 1980s to care for the Library's collections, also offers conservation internships.

FRIENDS OF THE RARE BOOK ROOM

The support of the Friends of the Rare Book Room ensures the vitality of the Library and its collections. Friends help underwrite the Library's public programs and outreach activities; the acquisition, conservation, and cataloging of remarkable historical materials; and digitization of our key Library treasures. Friends receive access to special lectures, programs, excursions, and receptions, including private viewings of the collections. For more information, call 212.822.7301, email frbr@nyam.org, or visit NYAM.org/frbr.

OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10:00 AM – 4:45 PM

Wednesday

10:00 AM – 6:45 PM

212.822.7315

library@nyam.org

For more information on the Library and its services and collections, visit:

NYAM.org/library | Blog:nyamcenterforhistory.org | facebook.com/nyamcenterforhistory

Twitter and Instagram: [@NYAMHistory](https://twitter.com/NYAMHistory)