Lecture 14: libraries

VISIT TO HANDPRESS: TBA (Thurs April 13 or 27; open house every Tues 6-9pm)
All sections on Friday April 21 are cancelled (in exchange)—watch for adjustments to
the reading

I. Survey of the evolution of libraries:
- Antiquity: large ones sponsored by rulers; or private
- MA: monastic libraries
- Renaissance: 15\textsuperscript{th} 1\textsuperscript{st} private libraries open for more or less public use
- 16\textsuperscript{th}–17\textsuperscript{th} origins of many of today’s major European libraries.
- 18\textsuperscript{th} origin of subscription libraries (Franklin’s Library Company)
- 19\textsuperscript{th}: state as major sponsor of libraries
- overall: GROWTH. A typical French magistrate would own 50 bks in
15\textsuperscript{th}, 500-1000 in late 16\textsuperscript{th}; 3000 in early 18\textsuperscript{th}

II. Early modern libraries
- Institutional libraries: rel orders and universities—depradations of
Reformation; sold books; grew by bequest only.
- Kinds of private libraries: professional/learned; more select library:
belles-lettres, current events; for show—curiosities, sociability;
collectors’ libraries from 18\textsuperscript{th}. Office furniture!
- Context of Gabriel Naude: library of Jacques-Auguste de Thou (ca 6000
in 1617); then librarian of Mazarin. Professionalizing the library: paid
librarian, regular cataloguing, diff systems of arrangement (BN system;
Garnier system. Mazarine library catalogs.

III. The Harvard College Library
- John Harvard’s bequest of 329 books in 1638 (destroyed in fire of 1764)
- First catalogue 1723; after fire: by donor; first catalog for students 1773
- Interchangeable sheets of paper, then glued. 1840: card catalogue; 1860:
first card catalogue for use of library readers.
- 1912 Widener. From less than one mill books in 1888 to 12 mill today.