



TOM BAIONE APPOINTED HAROLD BOESCHENSTEIN DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES AT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MUSEUM'S NEW HEAD LIBRARIAN BUILDS ON FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

NEW YORK—Tom Baione has been appointed Harold Boeschstein Director of the Department of Library Services at the American Museum of Natural History. Baione, who has worked in the Museum's Library since 1995, has had a special focus on the Museum's Rare Book Collection and served as both the Special Collections Librarian and as the Acting Director of the Library.

"Tom has a keen recognition and knowledge of the importance of our Library's traditional holdings, including its beautifully illustrated rare books, photographs and other special collections," says Michael Novacek, Senior Vice President and Provost of the Museum. "Tom has also provided the management and commitment that ensured a very responsive, efficient, and forward-looking Library staff and operations, and we are confident that he will ably lead the Library as it becomes even more increasingly reliant on digital technology."

"In my new role as Harold Boeschstein Director of Library Services, I plan to continue to build on the Library's strengths and previous successes, such as expanding the use of our online institutional repository and increasing access to our rich Special Collections," says Baione. "I also hope to continue overseeing the acquisition of important collections and maintain our position on the cutting edge of modern information services that can assist anyone visiting through the Internet or in person."

Tom Baione graduated from Pratt Institute's School of Library and Information Science in 1993. Baione began working at the Museum's Library as the Special Collections Librarian in 1995, and, within a year, he became the Senior Special Collections Librarian. Between 1998 and 2002, Baione developed online and printed educational materials for audiences outside the

Museum as part of the Museum's new National Center for Science Literacy Education and Technology. He returned to the Library in 2002 and was quickly promoted to Assistant Director for Client Services. In recent years, Baione has created a new secure collections space for Rare Folios and expanded the scope of the Rare Book Collections.

Baione has received a grant from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation to fund the digitization of the 121,000 card index which provides access to the Museum's Central Administrative Archives—a rich history of the Museum during most of the 20th century and a veritable who's who of science during the first century of the Museum's history. Baione will continue his involvement with the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL; biodiversitylibrary.org), of which the Museum Library is one of the founding members. BHL is an international effort to make the world's published biodiversity literature freely available online.

The Library at the American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History's Library (library.amnh.org)—one of the largest natural history libraries in the world—was established in 1869 with the founding of the Museum. The Library supports the work of the Museum's scientific staff and also serves scholars in natural history from around the world.

The Library initially expanded its book and serial collections through such gifts as the Ornithological Library of Daniel Giraud Elliot, the Hugh Jewett collection of Voyages and Travel, and the Jules Marcou Geology Collection. In 1903 the American Ethnological Society deposited its library in the Museum, and in 1905 the New York Academy of Sciences followed suit by transferring its collection of 10,000 volumes. The Library added astronomy to its natural history collections by incorporating over 8,000 volumes, 55 journal titles, over 10,000 photographs, and archives of the former Hayden Planetarium.

The Library's holdings are primarily comprised of the research collection (books and journals). All of the Museum's scientific publications and annual reports have been digitized and are available through the Library's web site at digitallibrary.amnh.org. One interesting feature of the digital collections is the online exhibit of Museum archival photographs, *Picturing the Museum*). The Library's expensive special collections include Photographs, Archives, Manuscripts and Personal Papers, Art, and Memorabilia.

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