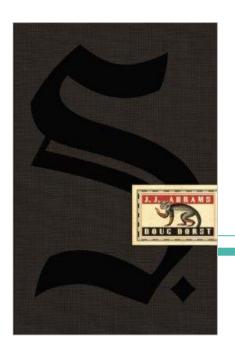
#### S is for Special: Adventures with the



#### **Ship of Theseus**

**MIT Libraries** 

Presented 10/29/15 at the Vermont Library Association College & Special Libraries Section conference



Book trailer for S. on YouTube: https://youtu.be/kiJJ02RBEac

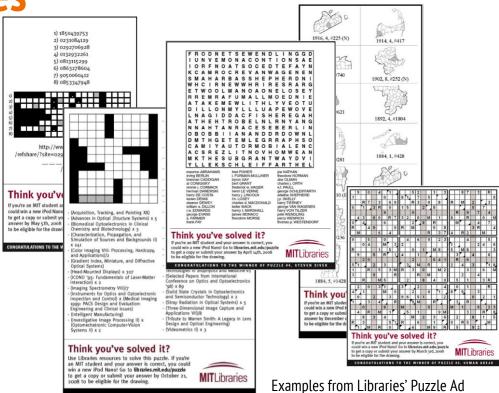




MIT, reading, and puzzles

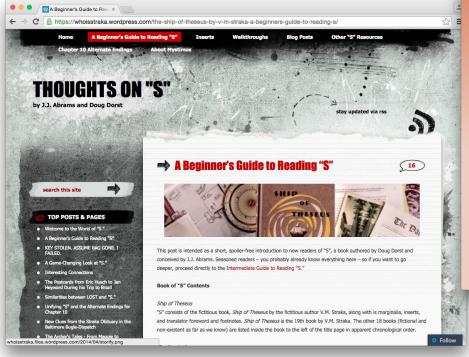


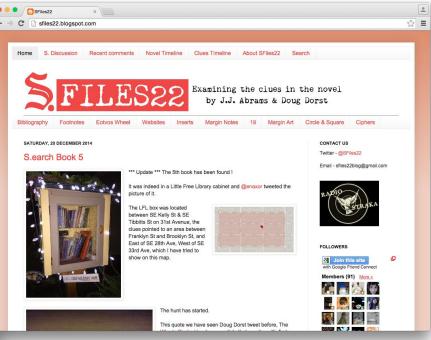
Mystery Hunt, 2011
Photo: David M. Templeton, *The Tech*http://tech.mit.edu/V130/N63/graphics/hunt.html



Campaign, 2008-2009

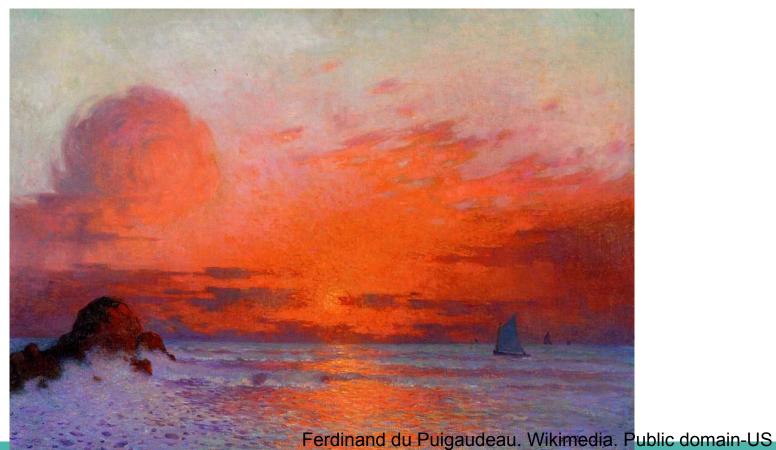
The reader's perspective



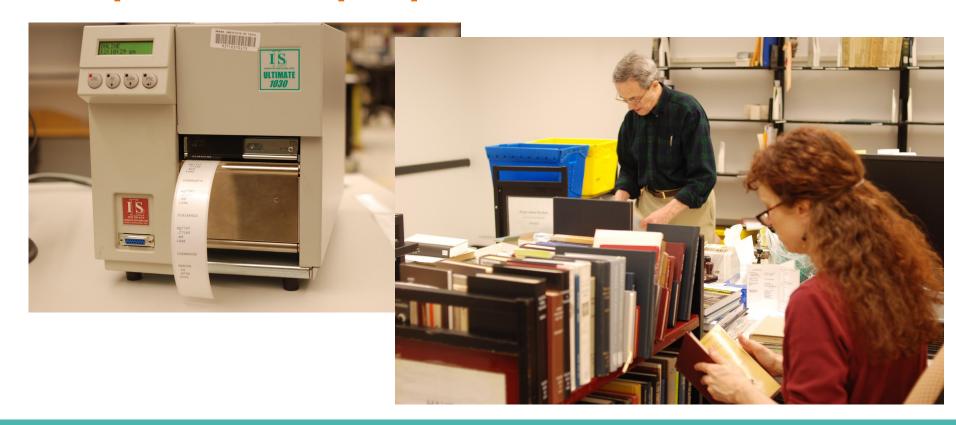


http://sfiles22.blogspot.com/

## The selector's perspective



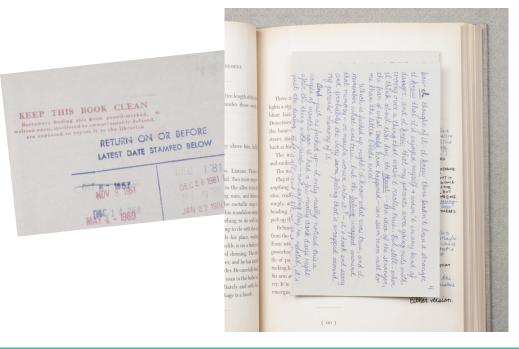
## The preservation perspective

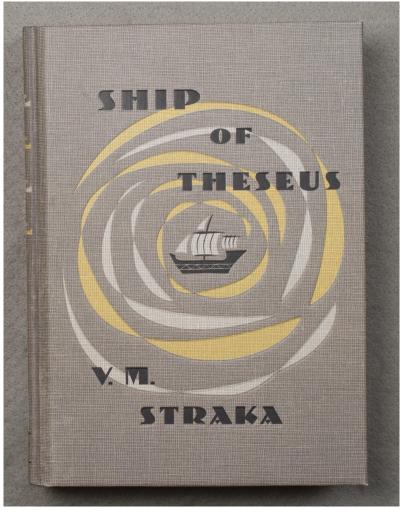




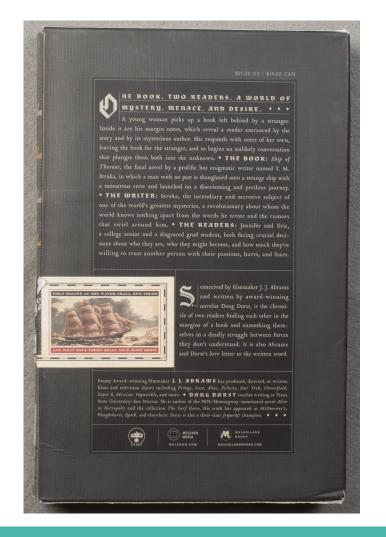


# The Ship docks in Wunsch Conservation Lab





A young woman picks up a book left behind by a stranger. Inside it are his margin notes, which reveal a reader entranced by the story and by its mysterious author. She responds with notes of her own, leaving the book for the stranger, and so begins an unlikely conversation that plunges them both into the unknown...

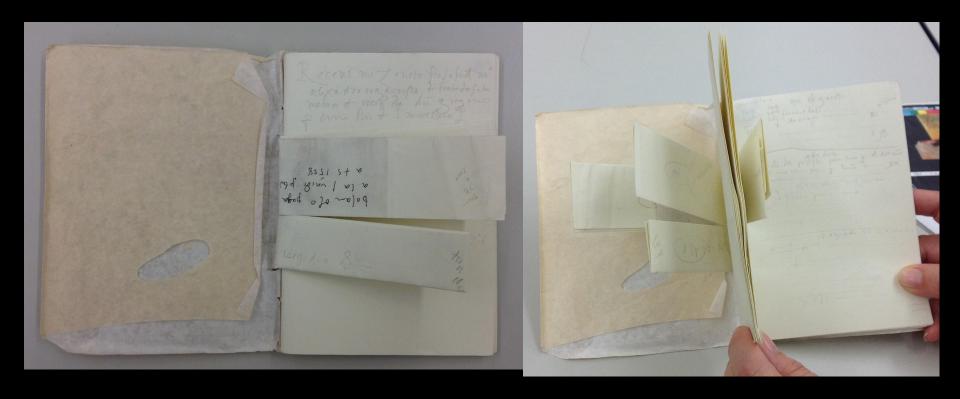




no dia 19 de Maio, na sua casa na periferia de Feira Nova, Sergipe, O

# The collections perspective

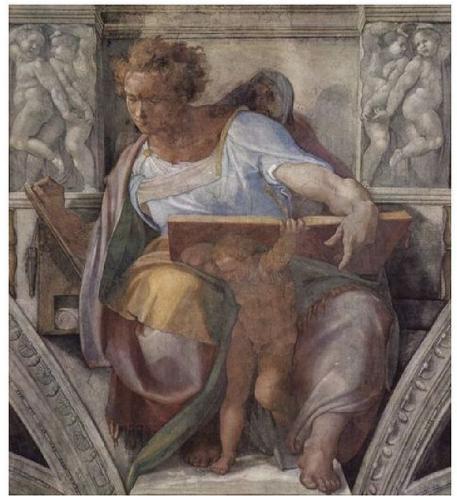




Model of a 15th-c. archival notebook (sewn as a blank book and later written in) with inserted letters around text block. Inserts exists today because the record group was minimally processed. Evidence engages critical thinking about user experience.

Modeled after original housed in the Vatican Secret Archives, Fondo Veneto, Sezione II, Container 421. Created by J. Dambrogio. 2000.







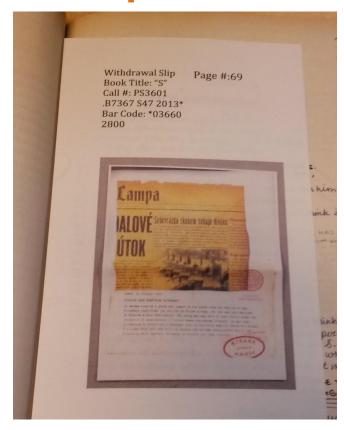
"Sistine Chapel Daniel beforandafter" by Michelangelo - Webgallery of art, Bartz and Konig. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons

#### A paradox:

Ship of Theseus



# **The Experiment**







#### The Ship arrives at cataloging

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Description xiv, 456 pages: illustrations; 24 cm + Konfidentiell letter (2 leaves), [ins between p. 32 -33]; Telegram (2 leaves), [insert between p. 54-55]; 1 N p. 112-113]; 1 photograph of stone wall [insert between p. 130-131]; 1 [insert between p. 202-203]; 1 photograph of woman [insert between p. [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]; Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 376-377]
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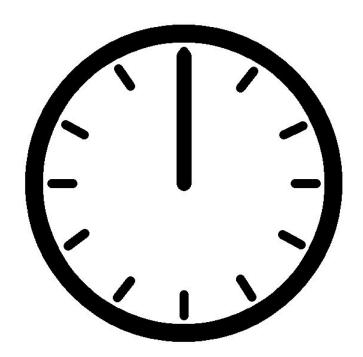
#### Format Book

Note Issued in slipcase.

Title and statement of responsibility from slipcase.

Title page and cover title: Ship of Theseus / V. M. Straka. Imprint on title

# Time passes...



HUMANITIES COPY PS3601.B7367 S47 2013	2/1/2014	3/21/2014	10/29/2014	4/29/2015	10/14/201
Has slipcase		у	getting crushed and dinged	possibly a little more squashed than last time	no change since 4/29/15
Konfidentiell letter (2 leaves), [insert between p. viii-ix]		у	у	p. 442	p. vi-vii
Pollard State University : VMS accused of (1 leaf), [insert between p. 10-11]		у	у	у	p. 14-15
Xerox copy of journal article (1 leaf), [insert between p. 20-21]		у	у	у	y
Newspaper clipping (2 p.), [insert between p. 32 -33]		у	у	у	p. 10-11
Telegram (2 leaves), [insert between p. 54-55]		у	p. 56-57	p. 56-57	p. 56-57
1 Newspaper clipping/memo (1 leaf), [insert between p. 68-69]		у	у	y.	у
Letter from Desjardins (1 leaf), [insert between p. 86-87]		у	у	у	у
Letter from Jen (4 p.), [insert between p. 100-101]		у	y:	у	у
1 Brazil postcard [insert between p. 112-113]		у	у	у	у
1 photograph of stone wall [insert between p. 130-131]		у	у	у	у
1 Birds of Brazil postcard [insert between p.178-179]		у	у	у	у
1 Postcard of palms [insert between p.190-191]		у	у	y.	у
1 Postcard of a beach [insert between p. 192-193]		у	у	у	у
1 postcard pictoral brazil [insert between p.200-201?] jd added this one		200-201	у	у	y.
So My Uncle Zeke (5 p. on yellow, legal paper), [insert between p. 202-203]		у	у	у	у
1 photograph of woman [insert between p. 242-243]		244-245	244-245	p. 442	inside back cove
1 newspaper clipping within 1 greeting card [insert between p. 256-257]		у	У	p. 442	inside back cove
1 map on napkin [insert between p. 306-307]		у	у	у	у
1 In memoriam card [insert between p. 360-361]		у	у	у	у
Letter from J [4 p.], [insert between p. 376-377]		у	у	y:	у
Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 416-417]		у	у	у	у
1 decoder wheel [insert between end leaf and p. 3 of cover (i.e. between end leaf and back cover)]		у	у	p. 442	behind title page

# **Public library copy**



В	С	D	
Green means that the item is still between the o moved and to where.	lesignated pages; gre	y means it was	
HUMANITIES COPY PS3601.B7367 S47 2013	9/19/2015		
Has slipcase			Ī
24 cm + Konfidentiell letter (2 leaves), [insert between p. viii-ix]	between vi - vii	Maynard public library says it's supposed to be at page vi.	
Pollard State University : VMS accused of ( 1 leaf), [insert between p. 10-11]			
Xerox copy of journal article (1 leaf), [insert between p. 20-21]			
Newspaper clipping (2 p.), [insert between p. 32 -33]			
Telegram (2 leaves), [insert between p. 54-55]			
1 Newspaper clipping/memo (1 leaf), [insert between p. 68-69]			
Letter from Desjardins (1 leaf), [insert between p. 86-87]			
Letter from Jen (4 p.), [insert between p. 100-101]			
1 Brazil postcard [insert between p. 112-113]			
1 photograph of stone wall [insert between p. 130-131]			
1 Birds of Brazil postcard [insert between p.178-179]			
1 Postcard of palms [insert between p.190-191]			
1 Postcard of a beach [insert between p. 192-193]			
1 postcard pictoral brazil [insert between p.200-201?] jd added this one			
So My Uncle Zeke (5 p. on yellow, legal paper), [insert between p. 202-203]			
1 photograph of woman [insert between p. 242-243]			
1 newspaper clipping within 1 greeting card [insert between p. 256-257]			
1 map on napkin [insert between p. 306-307]			
1 In memoriam card [insert between p. 360-361]	between 348-349		
Letter from J [4 p.], [insert between p. 376-377]			ĺ
Letter from Esmerlinda Pega (1 leaf), [insert between p. 416-417]			
1 decoder wheel [insert between end leaf and p. 3 of cover (i.e. between end leaf and back cover)]			

#### **Impact**

- Rethinking policy
  - acquisitions procedures
  - conservation treatment
  - archives processing
  - general collections preservation
- Underscores the value of discussion and collaboration across library departments & roles
- Role of libraries in influencing readers' experiences



#### **Discussion and Q&A**

- Are libraries obligated to support the reader's experience?
- Is circulation necessary to produce the appropriate reading experience? Can patrons have an immersive experience in a monitored reading room?
- Providing an immersive experience requires all of the pieces...how do libraries ensure that the pieces stay with the item? What does your library do?

#### **Contributors**

Ben Abrahamse, Cataloging Coordinator

Kate Beattie, Preservation Associate



Jana Dambrogio, Thomas F. Peterson (1957) Conservator

Ayako Letizia, Conservation Assistant

Lorrie McAllister, Digital and Special Collections Strategist

Mark Szarko, Literature, Global Studies and Languages, and Theater Arts Librarian

Ann Marie Willer, Preservation Librarian