

# Bissell Library in the Digital Humanities Era

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## Of Digital Humanities and other Demons

What is Digital Humanities?

“Digital humanities—what used to be called “humanities computing”— is an emerging, collaborative field in which digital tools and technologies are applied to the traditional objects and methods of the humanities. For academic subject librarians, digital humanities has the potential to lead to new partnerships with faculty to support their research, teaching, and scholarship”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Laura Braunstein, and Liorah Golomb (eds), (2015) *Digital humanities in the library : challenges and opportunities for subject specialists*, Chicago ACRL, p. xiv Available at [http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org/acrl/files/content/publications/booksanddigitalresources/digital/9780838987681\\_humanities\\_OA.pdf](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org/acrl/files/content/publications/booksanddigitalresources/digital/9780838987681_humanities_OA.pdf) (Accessed 15/4/2016)

## Digital Humanities & Libraries

### How libraries are involved with Digital Humanities

- Digital collections / libraries
- Digital scholarly publishing
- Real life study spaces
- Digital pedagogy
- Text mining
- Data visualization

## How Bissell Library supports DH

### Current

- Digital Archives & Special Collections (historical photos)
- Anatolia Archives & Special Collections (administrative documents, correspondence, material relating to alumni)

### Future

- Learning Hub (website as communication / information hub / RSS snippets of info / blog for educating community)
- **Evaluating our support** (Holistic approach: use both quantitative and qualitative methods / monitor throughout the year all aspects of support / adjust accordingly)

## Brief SWOT Analysis

### Strengths

- Plethora of information sources
- Collaborations with other institutions
- Voluntary support

### Weaknesses

- Limited staff & financial resources
- ACT is not a research oriented institution

### Opportunities

- Chance to further strengthen relations with faculty
- Enhance IL education across the institution
- Promote library to the wider community

### Threats

- Resistance to change
- Humanity researchers and faculty show an inherent distrust of using technology

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## Digital Archives and Special Collections

Aim of the collection: to collect and preserve the valuable historical photos of Anatolia College ; to properly document its long history through photographic memories

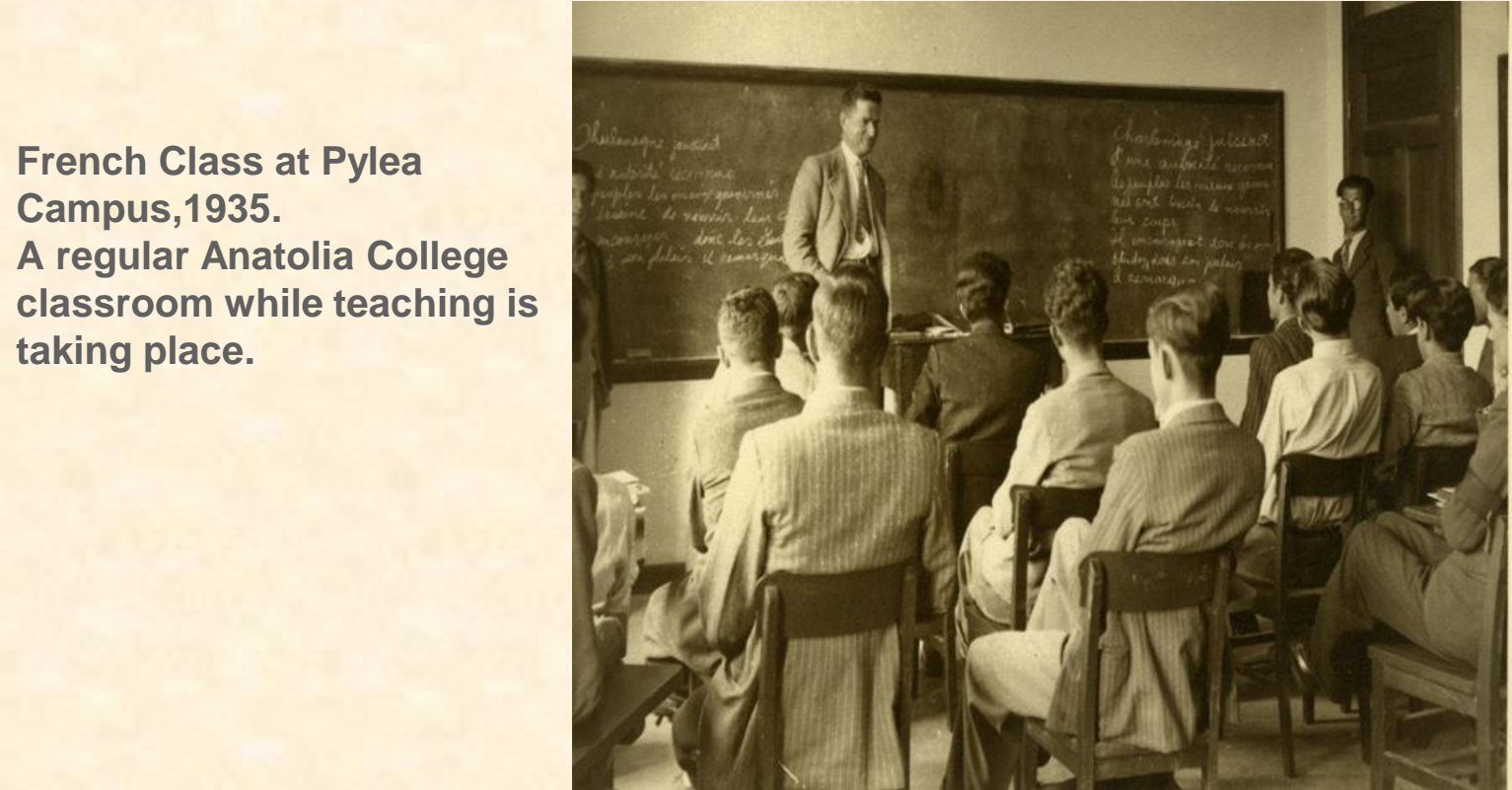
The collection contains around 400 items. All are available also through Europeana

- Subdivided into three categories
- Merzifon Campus (1886 – 1921)
  - Charilaou Campus (1924 – 1934)
  - Pylaia Campus (1934 onwards)

The archival photos are available at <http://dspace.act.edu/jspui/>



Anatolia College Main Gate, 1928. President George White with two other gentlemen standing before the new gate. In 1928 the fencing for the new Anatolia College was constructed on the current site between Pylea and Panorama.



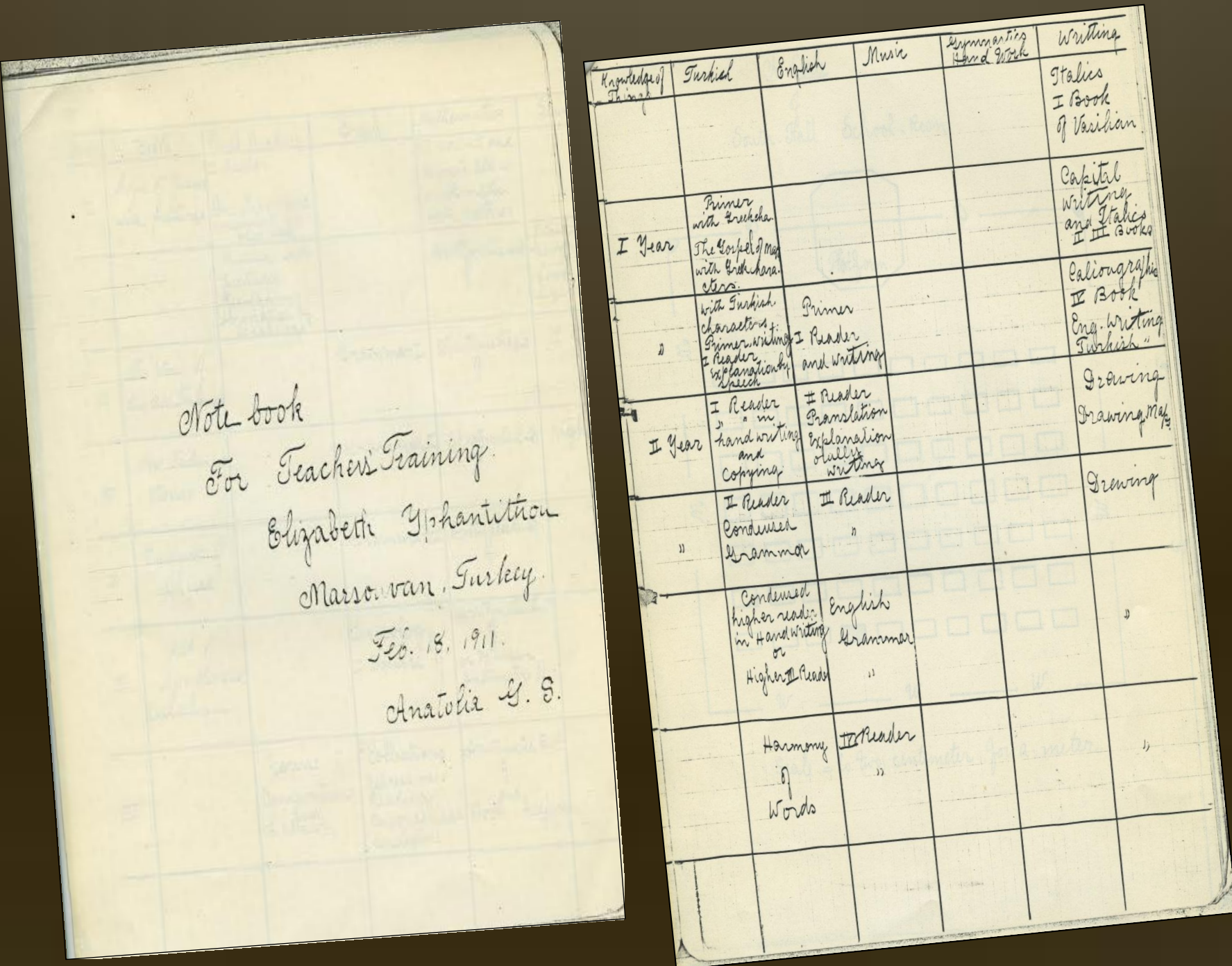
Anatolia College Merzifon Building Post Card, 1912  
North building, Anatolia College, Marsovan, Turkey. This gymnasium ( and office building) is standing on the spot where the young tutor, Charles Tracy Jr. fitted up in 1899 a woodshed for the first gym of the college boy's athletic club



The Merzifon Campus Library, 1890  
Studying area and reference desk with stacks

## Anatolia Archives and Special Collections

- **Aim** : to collect, describe, and promote all types of information regarding Anatolia College and its communities
- **Consists of two sub collections**:
  - Historical ( photographs from daily life at the College, activities, lessons, journals, magazines, etc)
  - Current / Active (all correspondence of Presidents, Deans, many administrative documents)
  - The Special Collections include books and periodicals dating back in the 1900s



Notebook for teachers' training from girls' school in Marzovan, 1911

## Anatolia Archives & Special Collections II

- A General Record Retention Schedule is being disseminated across campus
- ISAD is the standard used for the record's description (General International Standard Archived Description)
- AtoM (Access to Memory) is the Web-based archival description software which is based on ICA. This was selected after consulting with Greek National Archives and Department of Balkan, Slavic & Oriental Studies of the University of Macedonia.

## Learning Hub

The Web presence of the Learning Hub will be used as a means of communication with tools that will enhance and support the learning process:

- User guides on various software and more
- Blog dedicated exclusively to support faculty and students alike with a wide range of digital tools
- RSS feeds with snippets of information.

## Evaluating our support on DH

- We will collect quantitative data both on resources and users (frequency, no. of users, type of resources accessed, user profile, etc.)
- We will collect qualitative data, interview supporters of DH, faculty staff and students, plus micro-qualitative data on a more frequent basis.
- In an effort to establish a smooth and effective running of services we will continue to monitor the support.

Please share here your feedback and suggestions for future DH initiatives