Laurence Urdang was a major contributor or modern lexicography, who passed away at age the of 81 in 2008. Utilizing a program developed under his leadership, Mr. Urdang edited the first edition of the *Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, the first dictionary to be organized with the aid of a computer. In 1974, he founded *Verbatim*, a newsletter which was an amalgam of scholarly writing and popular treatments. He edited this periodical for many years. The archive contains materials dealing with these undertakings in addition to copies of the many books which he wrote or compiled. As well, the collection contains correspondence and books written by others that were either published by Urdang or received as gifts from well-known individuals such as Erica Jong and William Safire. Correspondence to and from such individuals along with books signed by these and other individuals is part of the archive. A unique item is an external hard drive which has research material for the maritime dictionary on which Urdang was working at the time of his death.

The Laurence Urdang Archive joins the Cordell Collection, the Mitford Mathews Papers, the J. Edward Gates Papers, the Warren Cordell Papers, the Dictionary War Collection, and several manuscripts both of published and of unpublished dictionaries as a significant addition to the lexical materials already housed in Special Collections. Research fellowships are available. Please check on our main web page for information about the fellowship and related holdings.

Contents are listed by container below. Each container—whether a shelf, a cabinet drawer, or carton—is indicated by a designator, or identifier. Please cite this location information when contacting us. E-mail the department or write to a staff member designated on the home page.
Shelves contain artifacts, media, and some documents. Cabinet drawers contain books. Cartons have primarily articles, notes, and other paper-based material.

A searchable database of the archive contents is available via our website. Users are welcome to request additional data to be added to the database or the document.

While an effort has been made to correctly reflect the names of individuals for whom files exist, some of the names may be misspelled. Please let us know about such errors so that we may correct them.

—January 14, 2010
URDANG ARCHIVE – SHELF 1

• Athenaeum membership certificate
• Credit Cards
• Folder of Miscellaneous Materials
  o Correspondence re: Navy Service
  o Letter to Yale Press
  o Letter from David Barnhart to J. Edward Gates (printout)
  o Citations of sources in maritime lexical research
  o "17th Century Maritime and Naval Dictionaries" [annotated bibliography]
  o "18th Century Maritime and Naval Dictionaries" [annotated bibliography]
  o "Electronic files pertaining to the HISTORICAL NAUTICAL DICTIONARY (planned) . . ."
  o From LUARTS (hard drive) re: banksias
  o Correspondence between Urdang and Claudia Loren re: horse latitudes
  o Letter from Urdang to David Proctor with word lists of nautical terms
• Laurence Urdang interview on audio tape
• Unidentified audio tape
• “Making of a Dictionary” - short film
• Notes on various dictionaries
• OUP English language word game sent to LU for editing in U.S. market
• Passports
• Phi Beta Kappa certificate
• Pidgin English playing cards
• Random House coffee cup
• Random House folder (promotional material)
• Three-ring binder from his linguistic studies at Columbia; particular emphasis on Sanskrit
• Flag or Pennant depicting whale
• Folder
  o Yale University Alumni magazine with article about Urdang and publicity photos
  o Undated news article (*The Day*)
URDANG ARCHIVE – SHELF 2

• Brass *Verbatim* registered office plaque
• English/English advert on Foam core
• "Genius" t-shirt published by Random House (In Box)
• High school transcript
• John Bull advert on Foam core
• Large envelope of family photographs
• Photograph of Laurence Urdang -- many copies in box, probably for autographing
• Photographs of Laurence Urdang in envelope
• Laurence Urdang Associates Ltd. Registered office brass plaque
• Laurence Urdang Dictionaries Ltd. Registered office brass plaque
• Laurence Urdang Reference Book bookplates (on roll)
• Packet of logo designs for LU Inc. Projects.
• Miscellaneous photographs of Lawrence Urdang
• New York Academy of Sciences certificate
• Painted carved *Verbatim* office sign
• Painted carved wooden sign of Laurence Urdang Associates
• Random House dictionary pencil holder
• Flash Cards in box (Sanskrit)
• Address book with business cards
• Rolodex
• ---. A Basic Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms. 1978. Two copies.
• ---. The Pan Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms. 1991.
• ---. Literary, Rhetorical, and Linguistics Terms Index. 1983.
• ---. Loanwords Index. 1983.
• Urdang, Laurence, and Janet Braunstein. Every Bite a Delight and Other Slogans. 1992.
• ---. The Pan Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms. 1980.
• ---. ---. 2nd ed. 1986.

• *Urdang Dictionary of Current Medical Terms for Health Science Professionals.* 1981.


URDANG ARCHIVE – DRAWER C

- ---. *Verbatim Diary MCMLXXXI.* 1980. [Blank]
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 1

- Random House promotional materials.
- *Verbatim* Index: Bibliographia: Author/Title Indexes
- *Verbatim* Index: Epistolae: Word/Subject and Epistolae: Authors
- *Verbatim* Index: Orbiter Dicta: Word/Subject and Anteng & Engeng Subject/Word.

• *Verbatim:* Volumes I - XXX
  - Lacks: Volume VI, #1; Vol. XXIV, #2-4; Vol. XXVI, #2-3; Vol. XXVII, #1, #3; Vol. XXVIII, #2-4; Vol. XXIX; Vol. XXX, #2-4;

• *Verbatim* Promotional Material.
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 3

- Miscellaneous correspondence for *Verbatim*
- File for Longman Publishing
- File for Grafton/Collins "Names & Nicknames"
- File for Hammond Contract "Almanac"
- File for New American Library
- File for Toppan Printing
- File for "Define Your Terms"
- File for Bloomsbury
- Business Correspondence with Bloomsbury
- Correspondence for Synonym Dictionary
- *Verbatim* marketing file
- Bound Volume of reference works on dictionaries
- Article fodder for *Verbatim*
- *Verbatim* Correspondence 1989-1990
✔ Miscellaneous correspondence for *Verbatim*

✔ Better Known Writers for *Verbatim*

✔ *Verbatim* Correspondence Files A-M
  o Advertising in *Verbatim*
  o Artwork in *Verbatim*
  o Analogies in *Verbatim*
  o *Verbatim* Subscriber Breakdown
  o *Verbatim* book clubs
  o Request for Review Copies
  o Book Reviews in *Verbatim*
  o Euphemisms
  o Feminism and Other Nonsense
  o Hall, Hazel
  o Howard, Philip
  o Lederer, Richard
  o Kilpatrick, James
  o Middleton, Thomas
Verbatim Correspondence Files N-Z
  - Permissions for Reprints
  - Puzzles
  - Pairing pears
  - Rate cards
  - Rejected manuscripts
  - Structural graphics
  - Shephard Poorman
  - Truby, Henry
  - Turner, George
  - Waldron, T. P.

File of Idioms & Phrases

File on "Joys of Verbatim"

ISBN

Copyright files

Reviews of Verbatim Books

File on Colonial American English

Collocations

Trademarks

Patents

Rejects
• Fiscal Year 1985 (notes, correspondence, book orders, etc.)

• Oxford University Press (correspondence re: *Oxford Thesaurus*)

• Speeches
  o "Problem of Meaning"
  o "You Have Only Your Asterisk"
  o "Dictionaries"
  o "A Word about Word Processing"
  o "More on Oaktag"
  o "Will the Manufacturing Clause in the Copyright Law . . . "
  o "What Do We Expect from Dictionaries?"
  o "Words Like 'Like' in -- Like Modern English"

• Articles
  o Review of Ladislav Zgusta's *Manual of Lexicography*
  o "The Use of Typographic Coding in Information Retrieval"
  o "Lost Causes"
  o "I Wanna Hot Dog"
  o "Telecommunications"
  o "Human Use of Human Indexers"
  o "Meaning: Denotative, Connotative, Allusive"
  o "Earlier & Later Words"
  o "Perennial Plagues."

• Idioms & Phrases
Verbatim, Vol. I, 1-2, 4
Verbatim, Vol. II, 1-3
Verbatim, Vol. III
Verbatim, Vol. IV, 1-3
Verbatim, Vol. V, 1, 3-4
Verbatim, Vol. VI-VII
Verbatim, Vol. IX, 3-4
Verbatim, Vol. X-XV
● Nautical Dictionary correspondence
● Usage Index
● Oxford University Press thesaurus index
● Oxford University Press correspondence
● *Oxford Synonyms* dictionary correspondence
● Oxford royalty statements
● Omnigraphics -- F. G. Ruffner correspondence
● New OED correspondence
● Simon & Schuster correspondence
● *New York Times* Difficult Words
● Noun, proper
● *Synonyms and Antonyms, 2nd ed.*
● Barry Tunic, Possible Puzzle
● Usage Dictionary
● Wyld's *Universal Dictionary*
● Viking/Penguin Correspondence
● Warner paperback
● Gambling
European Association for Lexicography (EURALEX)

Willard Espy

Exeter Conference

Robert A. Fowkes

Edward Gates (J. Edward)

R. K. Hartman

Heteronyms

Philip Howard & LUI Project

Charles King, Jr.

Langenscheidt

Linguistic computing

International Linguistics Association

Linguistics for the ILA

Linguistic Papers

Linguistics -- LACUS

Linguistics -- LSA

OED mailing list via dBase

American Association of State and Local History Libraries

Museum Store Association

Routledge and Kegan Paul

Conference of Scientific Editors

SRI International -- Dr. Donald E. Walker

William Safire

Scholarly PU Association

Idioms

National Tech info services

W. Nelson Francis

Simon Nathan
• Alan Walker Read
• Ronald A. Wells
• Mrs. Stanley Wegrzyn
• Roger Wescott
• Field Enterprises Education Corp
• Robert Wilkerson -- Boston Globe
• Worterbucher/Dictionary
• Merald Wrolstad - Visible Language
• Jess Stein (letter to Urdang, 17 Aug 1966)
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 10

- Laurence Urdang Incorporated
  - Letter to periodicals and magazines after 1986
  - Submissions of articles
  - Writings (notes for articles etc.)
  - Century Club
  - Credits (how to acknowledge individuals etc.)
  - Published articles and letters in newspaper and magazines

- Urdang vitae and biography (brief)

- Verbatim authors (listing)

- Oxford thesaurus

- Thesaurus updates

- Nautical dictionary

- Research (various topics)
  - Reference materials
  - Illustrations
  - Specifications
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 11

- Nautical Dictionary
- Gale Merriam-Webster Unabridged files
  - Promotional mailing info
  - List and Biblio
  - General File
  - 4th edition files
  - Webster comparison
  - Old and superseded editions
  - Correspondence
- Handbook of Lexicography
- Oxford University Computing Service
- Linguatech
- Business Dictionary
- *Verbatim* published Articles
- DeNyse Pinkerton
- Oxford University Press / New York English
- Oxford Companion to the English language
- Oxford Thesaurus
  - Manuscripts and Printouts
  - Sports terms
- International Journal of Lexicography
- Illustration File
- Constance Urdang
- Encyclopedia of Ireland (folder)
- Definitive Quotations
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 12

- Article: "Impact of Mass Media on Language" (by Urdang)
- Offprint: "Technology Potentials" (by Urdang)
- Offprint: "Word Frequent Count of American English" (by Urdang)
- Offprint: "Problems in Lexicography" (by Urdang)
- Files on "Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming" (notes)
- Correspondence 1991-1992 (various writers to and from Urdang)
• Files on the Richard Allsop's *Caribbean Dictionary*
• Files on Curme's *Grammar of the English Dictionary*
• Files on *Chambers Dictionary of Science and Technology*
• Files on *Definitive Quotations*
• Dissecting words
• Kindred languages
• Norton vocabulary program
• Possible projects
• Files on "Joys of Minis and Micros"
• Sources of English vocabulary
• Hartmann textbook
• Word roots
• Hammond and Cox
• Browser's dictionary
• Projects Under Consideration
  o *Allusions*, 1st and 2nd ed.
  o *Biographical Dictionary* 3rd ed.
  o *Biographical Dictionary*
  o *Collective Nouns*
  o Coding
  o Days and Dates
  o Fine arts index
  o *Dictionary of Fine and Applied Arts*
  o *GAUR*
  o *SUDS: Specialized Unabridged Dictionary Series*
  o *GAUR Unabridged* procedures
  o *GAUR Unabridged* correspondence
  o *GAUR Unabridged* printouts
  o *GAUR Unabridged* sample pages
  o *GAUR* printouts
  o *GAUR reference material*
  o *Gale Unabridged*
  o *Gale Unabridged* meeting in September
  o Holidays and anniversaries
  o Holidays for the *London Times*
  o Holidays *Times* terms.
• American Association for Applied Linguistics
• Center for Applied Linguistics
• American Association for Artificial Intelligence
• Advertising
• John Algeo
• American Dialect Society
• American Names Society
• Association for Computers and Society
• Association for Computational Linguistics
• Linguistics/BAAL
• R. R. Bowker Co.
• Citation instructions (how to create a definition citation)
• EquiCom Computer
• Database sources
• *DARE (Dictionary of American Regional English)*
• Louis DeBakey
• Online databases
• Discover Vision info
• DSNA (Dictionary Society of North America)
• Leslie A. Dunkling
• Literary, rhetorical and linguistic terms
• Loan words dictionary
• Multilingual and general dictionaries
• Multilingual and financial dictionaries
• Modifiers
• Mottoes
• Names/GALE
• *Ologies and Isms* 4th edition
• *Ologies and Isms* 1986
• *Prefixes*, 2nd ed.
• *Private Lives*, next ed.
• Proverbs
• Reviews/GALE books
• Symbols and symbology
• Suffixes
• Report on Distribution of Surnames in the S.S. Number file
• Slogans
• Surnames
• Whaling dictionary (folder)
• *American Usage Manual.* Pre-publication version. (Spiral-bound notebook)


• Corporate Records for Laurence Urdang Inc. (Three-ring binder in case)


• *Materials for the Formation of a Company to Manufacture a High-Speed Machine for Setting Type.* Circa 1965. (3-ring notebook marked The Outlook - S. L. Goldsborough)


• Unidentified photocopies "Yellow Cards Made"

  o LUI Consulting Proposal
  o LUI/STC/DG Proposal
  o LUI/Honeywell Proposal
  o LUI/Univac Proposal

• Photocopy of *Tandy Corporation vs. Video Shack*

• Two files of Laurence Urdang Inc. marketing materials

• Legal records on land purchases in England

• Publishing proof of *The Private Lives of English Words*

• Publishing proof of *Picturesque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary*

• Laurence Urdang Inc. ledger book for 1974
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 17

- Royalty Information
  - NAL
  - Times/Random House
  - Simon & Schuster
- Correction file for various published books
- Complimentary letters
- Correspondence for 1993
- Correspondence for 1994
- Pronunciation rules (bound in notebook)
• Correspondence with scholars
• Correspondence for Historical Nautical Dictionary
• SLIPS Database Application User Guide
• Files on loanwords
• "Joys of Verbatim"
• Proof of *The English Language: Opinions and Prejudices* by Laurence Urdang
• Correspondence for 1993
• Correspondence for 1994
• Page proofs for *Suffixes* by Laurence Urdang, published by *Verbatim*
• Page proofs for *Prefixes* by Laurence Urdang, published by *Verbatim*
• Page proofs for *Numerical Intrigue* by Laurence Urdang, published by *Verbatim*
• Conference in Pisa, May 19-23, 1986: "A Workshop on Automating the Lexicon"
• "Reference Works in Progress: A Historical Nautical Dictionary" in *Dictionaries*
• Category breakdowns for *Times Everyday Reader's Dictionary*, 1985
• Various proofs and reviews
• "Dictionary Style Guide"
• Correspondence for *Dictionary of Caribbean English*
• Files of examples of incorrect usage
• Conference in Budapest, September 4-9, 1988: EURALEX.
• Conference in Waterloo, Ontario, October 26-28, 1988: "Information in Text"
• Conference in Grinnell, Iowa, June 22-24, 1985: "International Conference on Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences"
• Unsolicited suggestions for *Dictionary of Differences* (by Urdang).
• Correspondence with Pan Books on synonym dictionary
• Correspondence with Oxford University Press on names & nicknames dictionary
• Conference articles
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 21

- *Verbatim* "Diamond Jubilee Issue" copies
- *Verbatim* submission manuscripts
- *The English Language: Opinions and Prejudices* (manuscript)
- Worksheets for Historical Nautical Dictionary
- McFarland Publishers 1997 *General Catalog of Books*
• *Allusions* - British edition (folder)
• *Allusions* - Expanded, not Gale (folder)
• Modern allusions (folder; additions for future ed. of *Allusions*)
• Barnes & Noble (folder)
• Bloomsbury Press (folder)
• *Bulletin of the Illinois Name Society*
• Citation file – general (vocabulary for unnamed dictionary)
• *Collins Concise English Dictionary* (folder)
• Collins Publishing and the *Canadian English Dictionary* (folder)
• Computers and Lexicography
• Dictionary Research Center
• Dictionary Society of North America newsletter (folder)
• Examples of misuses of words
• Infoterm - *Termia*
• *Lexicographica 4*
• Macmillan Publishing Company (folder)
• Miller, George A. (cross-ref Peter Wegner)
• Miscellaneous files
• *Names & Nicknames* - G. K. Hall and miscellaneous correspondence
• *Names & Nicknames* - Grafton/Collins publishers correspondence
• *Underground Grammarian*
• Advertisement for *Index of the English Dictionary*
• Annotated copies of the *Oxford Thesaurus*
• Corrected proofs from *PSI[?]*
• Fiction by Laurence Urdang (unpublished stories)
• *Historical Nautical Dictionary* word lists
• List of nautical terms from the *Oxford English Dictionary*
• Medicare forms for Laurence Urdang
• Miscellaneous word lists
• *Prospectus '96* of the National Maritime Museum
• Studies of other dictionaries compared to Gale's *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*
• Appointment books of Laurence Urdang -- 1976-2001
• Bank statements from Chemical Bank 1984-85
• Computer printouts of word lists
• *Concrete Culture*, Vol 1, Issue 1, January 1991
• Definition slips
• Dictionary comparisons
• Empty checkbooks from Lloyd's Bank Limited – total: 13
• Memo books (ideas, citations) – total: 31
• Miscellaneous papers
• Paid bills 1982-1984
• Papers relating to L. Urdang vs. Hertz Corporation (lawsuit)
• Stationery (letterhead)
• American Documentation Institute -- 1967.
• Articles from 1965 International Conference on Computational Linguistics
  o Edmundson, H. P. "Mathematical Models of Synonym."
  o Harper, Kenneth E. "Measurement of Similarity between Nouns."
  o Joseelson, Harry H. "Automatization [sic] of Lexicography."
  o Kleinecke, D. "Models of Lexical Decay."
  o Skalmowski, Wojciech. "On a Certain Distribution of Semantic Units."
• Articles by Allen Walker Read.
  o "American English: Is Modern Usage Debasing It?"
  o "Could Andrew Jackson Spell?"
  o "Dreamed Words: Their Implications for Linguistic Theory."
  o "The First Stage in the History of 'O.K.'"
  o "Linguistics and the Sense of Mission."
  o "The Second Stage in the History of 'O.K.'"
  o "The World of Joe Strickland."
• Articles by Laurence Urdang
  o "A Proposal for a Semantic Parameter."
  o "The Use of Typographic Coding in Information Retrieval."
• Correspondence re: published articles, proposed articles, etc.
• Booklet of 25th Reunion of Fieldston School in 1943.
• Cambridge University Press in-house dictionary files and correspondence
• Confidential file on the Compositron, including original drawings for Compositron punch -cards
• Fingesten, Peter. "The Six-Fold Law of Symbolism"
• Gordon Research Conference, July 1968
• Leech, Geoffrey. "The Linguistic and the Literary"
• Manuscript of unnamed article
• Olney, John, Carter Revard and Paul Ziff. "Toward the Development of Computational Aids for Obtaining a Formal Semantic Description of English"
• Program of the Women's Press Club of New York City, Saturday, November 19, 1966
• Rubenstein, Herbert. "Some Problems of Meaning in Natural Languages"
• Study on the Compositron by Arthur D. Little, Inc.
• Various Conference Materials
• *Verbatim* promotional materials
• Weinrich, Uriel. "Webster's Third: A Critique of Semantics"
• Computer materials: hard drive, adapter, and 7 CDs
URDANG ARCHIVE – BOX 26

- Pinkerton, Edward C. *Some English Word Families*. Boxed manuscript
- Bound volumes of *Verbatim*
  - Two copies of Volumes I & II—one copy is Urdang's personal copy
  - Two copies of Volumes III & IV—one copy is Urdang's personal copy
  - Three copies of Volumes V & VI—one copy is Urdang's personal copy
- Laurence Urdang's dairy for 1953
- Report on a Survey of Readers of *VERBATIM, The Language Quarterly*[flyer]
- Extra printed but unbound sheets for *Verbatim* volumes V & VI.