

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Danielle Fuller, SHARP President



Welcome to the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM). I am very happy that many members can join together online for this year's meeting during the inaugural SHARPIES Book History Festival.

As always, I would particularly like to acknowledge those of you for whom this is your first SHARP AGM. To help with the AGM's proceedings and to provide you with a copy of the agenda, we produce this annual report to summarise the Society's activities over the past year. We hope this will help you identify the various officers of the Society, and if you are interested in more information about anything we do, any member of the Executive Council (EC) will be happy to answer your questions; just email them at the address that follows each report.

THE SOCIETY'S STRUCTURE & CONSTITUTION

SHARP is governed by an Executive Council of elected officers, a Board of Directors (chaired by Colleen Barrett for this year and the next one, board.chair@sharpweb.org), and a Nominating Committee (led by Corinna Norrick-Rühl, nominating.committee@sharpweb.org). We will see the Nominating Committee in action in 2027 because it is an election year for SHARP (various EC roles and many vacancies on the Board of Directors will be up for election). Descriptions of these roles can be found on the SHARP website. Do take a look and, hopefully, you will see yourself in one or more of these descriptions. SHARP's activities are made possible through the further efforts of numerous appointees (most obviously the editors of *Book History*, *SHARP News*, *Lingua Franca*, but also the various review editors, the moderators of SHARP-L, the Book History Book Prize judges, Archie L Dick Research Development Grant evaluators, and the archivist), as well as, of course, the membership as a whole. As always, we are very grateful to all those members who volunteer their time to support the Society. A wide range of members contribute in some specific volunteer role to enable SHARP to carry out its activities. If you would like to be more involved in SHARP, please contact any of the EC officers. One of SHARP's strengths is its collegiality, but that also rests upon generous service by many members.

Finally, I would like to thank our two hard-working consultants: Executive Assistant, Amanda Lastoria, once again provided excellent assistance with the Book History Book Prize process, ensuring that all parties involved received what they needed to complete their roles. Anna Muenchrath, our part-time Executive Director, was this academic year (2025-6) a recipient of a prestigious research fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).

The ACLS were supportive of Anna continuing in her SHARP position on a reduced hourly basis (approximately 5 hours per week as opposed to the previous 15 hours per week), and this ensured continuity in our organization's communications, in particular. Anna's report is below.

PRESIDENT

I am fond of saying that if life gives you lemons you should make French 75s (my favourite cocktail which has the dubious honour of being named after a piece of artillery). Fortunately, working with the members of SHARP, in particular the Executive Council and the Board of Directors, is more like the champagne component of a French 75 and rarely as bitter as a lemon. I've now been President of SHARP for three years. This year has been especially productive and I am grateful to the EC in particular for working very hard on behalf of us all. Some of the outcomes of our busyness are not especially "sparkling" in nature, but are necessary to the organization's sustainability. These include various updates to the policy handbook; work on a Code of Conduct (currently sitting with a lawyer) and ongoing efforts to secure liability insurance. In many of these necessary tasks we are ably supported by thoughtful input from the Board of Directors whose members also volunteer to sit on prize juries, committees for new editors, and the SHARPIES. It's a great pleasure to work with so many enthusiastic, clever and modest people.

Some of the champagne moments are when members of the EC are coming up with new ideas or discussing how to solve various problems. We meet virtually every other month, but there are many tasks that we work on asynchronously, sharing ideas, giving feedback on draft documents and proposals, and helping each other out with specific issues and tasks. At the Rochester, NY conference in July 2025, the EC held a hybrid retreat meeting where we considered the results of the membership survey that ran in May-June that year. These proved to be very inspiring. As a result of our discussions, we made an action plan divided up into short, medium and long term goals with a continued focus from the previous year of making SHARP more international in its activities, membership and languages. One of our immediate actions was the establishment of the Archie L Dick Research Development Grants for scholars from or working in the Global South. Asha Rogers, outgoing Director of Awards, highlights these in her report below. Other short-term actions that we achieved before 2025 ended, included: reviewing and revising the website so that terms that might be familiar to some members but opaque to others would be changed; development of a welcome package for new members; earlier and more frequent renewal notices; in the call for SHARP News editor, inviting candidates to think about how to include non-English and geographically diverse contributions. We have also made some progress with our medium-term plans (2025-2027), including the development of a pilot for a mentoring program; and renaming the Lightning Seed Grants as Lightning Grants and communicating activities supported to members. At our virtual retreat meetings during the SHARPIES week, we plan to discuss our long-term goals (2025-2028): ideas for activities that can be conducted in multiple languages and how we might use the funds previously allocated to *Lingua Franca* to support translation that enables more membership inclusion in existing and new SHARP projects.

If you are familiar with the ingredients of a French 75 (and yes, I realize that I am overworking this metaphor), you will know that, in addition to lemon juice and champagne it also includes gin and simple syrup. Here, our outgoing EC member, Asha Rogers will, I hope, forgive me for saying that she is both spirited in intellect, and sweet in terms of her compassion. As Director of Awards, Asha has, among multiple tasks, chaired two working groups on awards; revised the eligibility criteria for the book prize; ensured that the Archie L Dick Research

Development Grants got underway in a tight timeline, and as her tenure ends there is still more to come: some of her most recent initiatives will be announced during the SHARPIES.

Additionally, Asha has been an advocate for decolonial book history and for ensuring that the EC keeps EDID values at the heart of our plans. Thank you Asha for being a valued and active member of the EC!

I will end with a further reminder that 2027 will be an election year. If you enjoy anything about being part of SHARP, please consider standing for the Board of Directors or taking on a role on the Executive Council. As the year 2026-2027 rolls out there will likely be other opportunities – to join short-term working groups or juries, for example. SHARP is a dynamic and capacious scholarly organization known for its generous intellectual atmosphere and friendly, collegial approach. You can see this on SHARP-L where folk are quick to offer help and answer questions, but it is also evident during our in person and virtual meetings and events. As we celebrate global book history through our first SHARPIES festival, please consider getting more involved. You won't regret it.

Danielle Fuller: president@sharpweb.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

In the last 12 months, I have mainly been involved in three areas of work supporting the SHARP EC. The first is Chairing SHARP's regular EC meetings, which take place online, every 2 months (there are usually 6 per year). As Chair, I make sure all the agenda items are given enough time for discussion and keep the meeting to time. The second area of work has been in providing temporary cover during any periods of interruption between outgoing and incoming appointments on the EC, or in case of any absence. The third area of my work has been in the recruitment process, as a member of search committees, usually as a panel member and also sometimes by chairing committee meetings. In the last 12 months, I have contributed in this capacity (working with the Director of Publications) to the appointment process for the new editor of *SHARP News*, and for the replacement of one of the three editors of *Book History*. As someone who has now served on multiple search committees and interview panels for SHARP, I now have some institutional history about best practice in recruitment. Since becoming VP, I have contributed to standardising the shortlisting and interview process (with set questions and a scoring grid against the criteria) to ensure fair selection takes place. Further to this, I have also been working with EC members to ensure that all future roles have clear job descriptions with some estimations of expected workload. I have also been involved in the selection process for SHARP's Lightning Seed grants. As always, I am looking forward to meeting new members, and renewing my acquaintance with existing SHARP members, at the annual SHARPIES online conference this summer.

Shafquat Towheed: vp@sharpweb.org

Executive Director

Anna Muenchrath spent most of her time this year chairing the SHARPIES committee tasked with the planning of the inaugural SHARPIES global book history festival. Together, the committee developed a budget, created the program, enlisted SHARP members and award-

winners to act as presenters and chairs, recruited sponsors, organized volunteers, promoted the festival, and set up Zoom Events. Anna is very grateful for the commitment of the SHARPIES committee, which includes Chandni Ananth, Colleen Barrett, Jolie Braun, Michelle Michel, Rachel Noorda, Shafquat Towheed, and DeNel Rehberg Sedo.

Although the planning of the SHARPIES meant that she put on hold some new projects, she continued with her regular communications work supporting the work of SHARP's EC by sending newsletters, disseminating information via SHARP-l and bluesky, and producing special member emails. She also attended the American Council of Learned Societies' (ACLS) annual meeting in Seattle, WA at the end of October.

Other ongoing projects include the acquisition of insurance and the related acquisition of a permanent address for SHARP, which was voted on by the EC in May.

Anna Muenchrath: executive.director@sharpweb.org

FINANCES

SHARP finances remain in very good shape. The transition from Colin Ramsey to Jeremy (Jem) Webster in July 2025 went smoothly in no small measure due to Colin's conscientious work.

Balances across all SHARP accounts are \$514,210 rounded to the nearest whole dollar, which is an increase of about \$33,500 since June 2025. In the past year, we have increased our Book History royalties slightly, and our expenditures came in significantly under budget due to a temporary change in administrative costs. We have also invested in a CD, which has earned a modest income. Finally, the 2025 conference travel expenses came in under previous projections, which meant that SHARP did not provide travel grants in addition to our budgeted amount, which was fully repaid by the University of Rochester.

So far in 2026, we have awarded just under \$13,000 in fellowships, awards, and lightning grants. We have approximately \$1,700 left in our budget for any additional lightning grants this year. Overall, we are currently on track to end 2026 once again under budget.

The treasurer is currently working with Bank of America to invest in a second CD with a higher interest rate and shorter term. When our current CD matures in October 2026, we will likely reinvest most of it in a second higher interest rate/shorter term CD.

Jeremy Webster: treasurer@sharpweb.org

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SHARP is the inclusive, insightful, and intellectually rigorous organization it is because of its members, and we warmly thank you all for your continued support. SHARP membership dues and charitable donations from our members enable many initiatives promoting the global study of book history. Memberships help fund our publications, awards, and grants, including the Archie L. Dick Research Development Grants, which ran for the first time in 2026, and which support the training and career development of scholars from or in the Global South. In 2026, memberships also made it possible to run the SHARPIES, our first, fully online book history

festival, free to members with the program of talks, book clubs, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities featuring leading researchers, bestselling authors, and more.

Through your generous support, we are able to offer discounted memberships to students and independent scholars, and members from non-OECD countries; these accounted for 39% of memberships.

We give particular thanks to our Patron Members, Sustaining Members, and other donors for their generous additional support. If you are interested in making a donation (which may be eligible for tax deduction), or in a Patron or Sustaining membership (for which the amount over \$100 can count as a donation) you can learn more via <https://sharpweb.org/membership/> or by contacting the Membership Secretary, Millicent Weber at members@sharpweb.org.

2026 Patron Members are Ann Blair, Margaret Ezell, Joan Friedman, Gary Frost, Lisa Maruca, Julie Rak, Michelle Warren, and Sarah Werner, and our Sustaining Members are Dee Andrews, Janika Bischof, Meaghan Brown, Christopher Dahl, Laura Dietz, Danielle Fuller, Ian Gadd, Alan Galey, Lisa Gitelman, Leslie Howsam, Noreen Humble, Tamara Hunt, Prashant Iyengar, Matthew Lavin, Ellen Pozzi, Alan Rauch, Asha Rogers, Sydney Shep, Shafquat Towheed, Jeremy Webster, and Elaine Zinkhan. There are also many other donors who made contributions outside of membership levels: John Culver, Barbara Ellertson, Tamara Hunt, Jessica Linker, Nancy Mace, Dale Potts, Julie Rak, Colin Ramsey, Karen Reeds, Betty Schellenberg, Caroline Sloat, Ruth-Ellen St. Onge, Shannon Supple, Alexandra Wingate, Dandan Xu, Kim York, and Georgianna Ziegler.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Millicent Weber: members@sharpweb.org

CONFERENCES

In this first year of the biannual SHARPIES event, Rachel Noorda would like to give a huge thanks go to Anna Muenchrath who led the effort fiercely with her keen organizational skills, as well as the SHARPIES committee: Chandni Ananth, Colleen Barrett, Jolie Braun, Michelle Michel, and DeNel Rehberg Sedo. SHARPIES is a great value to SHARP members, who can attend the conference for free. The SHARPIES is also an opportunity to further highlight Book History Book Prize and Fellowship winners. The plan is to offer the SHARPIES every other year in between in-person or hybrid conferences.

Rachel continues to be in conversation with potential hosts for future conferences. If you're interested in hosting a SHARP conference, please be in touch with her (conferences@sharpweb.org).

Rachel is continuing in her role as Director of Conferences and will be working with the team who are planning the 2027 in person conference.

Rachel Noorda: conferences@sharpweb.org

TRANSNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Dr Marina Garone Gravier was elected to this role in 2025 but had to take medical leave shortly after assuming the post. In May 2026, Marina resigned. Although happily in better health, time and calm are needed to support her recovery. Danielle would like to thank Marina for her brief but enthusiastic and thoughtful tenure.

The EC is pleased to announce that Dr Danne Ojeda Hernandez (Nanyang Technical University, Singapore) will take on the role of Director of Transnational Affairs, beginning at this AGM, for a period of one year. She brings with her robust scholarly networks within Asia and South America. The EC is hopeful that the regional liaisons initiative which has lain dormant for several years now, will be re-imagined under her leadership.

Lightning Grants remain available to support regional conferences and various types of event. These are currently managed by a small sub-committee of EC members. We aim to give you a timely response – maybe not as fast as lightning travels - but within a month of receiving an application. During 2025-6, SHARP has, through this scheme, been able to contribute funds to support social events at symposia, travel for early career scholars to conferences, and graduate work on a special issue of an Italian journal (among many other exciting book history activities). Events have been held, for example, in the USA, UK, Thailand, and France. This is a great way in which your SHARP membership supports other members, helping them to bring a book history event into your geographical proximity. If you would like to apply, please see SHARP's website for details, and email president@sharpweb.org. Later in 2026, Danielle will pass this task on to Danne Ojeda Hernandez: transnational@sharpweb.org

PUBLICATIONS

This was and is a year of transformation for the publications of SHARP.

Book History had a strong and solid year, co-edited by Greg Barnhisel, Yuri Cowan, and Alexandra Dane. Over the past fall and spring, the journal published, like last year, a total of 14 articles, divided equally between issues 28.2 and 29.1. Topics ranged from the publication of Phyllis Wheatley's poems to Manchu-Language books, and from 19th-century letters to 21st-century AI. In the context of such an invigorating spread of research, it is particularly sad to have to say goodbye to Greg, who has reached his term limits after almost twelve years with the journal. The search for his replacement has been underway since spring, with hopes that the new editor can shadow Greg for his last fall issue.

In early 2026, the EC appointed a new editor for **SHARP News**, Jocelyn Hargrave, replacing Andie Silva. Jocelyn brings a breadth and depth of knowledge to the role, with her scholarly work on historical and current publishing, including *Evolution of Editorial Style in Early Modern England* (2019) and *Teaching Publishing and Editorial Practice: The Transition from University to Industry* (2022). While currently a Senior Lecturer in Publishing at the University of Derby, UK, she has spent almost thirty years working in the publishing industry, most recently as Editor in Chief of *Publishing Research Quarterly*. She looks forward to expanding the *News* with geographically-diverse contributions, including non-English publication. One of her first new appointments has been Anushmita Mohanty as Editor for the SHARP in the Classroom section.

Anushmita is a final-year PhD Candidate in the English Department in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee working on the intersection of reading cultures and the history of education in the context of India.

Lingua Franca, our journal of international scholarship translated into English, is also undergoing change. The editors are finalizing the 2025 issue, “A History of the Jewish Book in the Diaspora,” and hope to soon then publish the 2026 issue on African book history, with translations from Swahili. However, this latter issue is planned to be the journal’s last. Ceasing publication was a tough decision, made between the editors and the EC, and approved by the Board. It was based on a number of factors: high expenses; declining readership; technology issues; a new emphasis in SHARP on publishing in languages other than English; and the changing role of translation in the AI age. It was agreed by all that *Lingua Franca* was an exciting project, significant to SHARP’s history and mission, but that the time seemed right for its natural conclusion. SHARP looks forward to celebrating LF’s past role and future issues throughout the next year, and finding new ways to highlight multilingualism as we go forward.

Lisa Maruca: publications@sharpweb.org

AWARDS

The awards, fellowships and prizes supported by SHARP member dues continue to underpin, accelerate and celebrate a raft of new work in book history.

The 2025 SHARP Book History Book Prize was awarded to Martin Paul Eve for his *Theses on the Metaphors of Digital-Textual History* (Stanford University Press, 2024) with Mark Lester’s *Deuteronomy and the Material Transmission of Tradition* (Brill, 2024) and Priyasha Mukhopadhyay’s *Required Reading: The Life of Everyday Texts in the British Empire* (Princeton University Press, 2024) both highly commended. The 2026 prize will be awarded at the SHARPIES 2026 from among twelve final titles by Matthew P. Brown, Sarah Bull, Eike Exner, Joan Judge, Sara Kippur, Anne Lawrence-Mathers, Simone Murray, Krista A. Milne, Susan Pickford, Thomas Sawyer, William Stroebel and Teresa C. Zackodnik.

SHARP was able to award two annual fellowships of \$3000 for members to conduct research anywhere in the world. These grants support Ellen Forget’s (University of Alberta) postdoctoral project “A History of Tactile Writing and Reading” to learn more about how and why braille won the code wars and Harrison Mmerenu’s (Texas Tech University) PhD project, which examines the mechanisms through which Farafina magazine in Nigeria established and negotiated literary value.

This year, SHARP awards underwent significant changes: the Research Development Grants for BIPOC Scholars, which has awarded twenty-five grants over 5 years, were formally concluded.

An exciting new development was launched: the Archie L. Dick research development grants support the training and career development of all scholars from or in the Global South. These grants align to SHARP’s commitments to internationalise book history research and deconstruct ‘ideologies that privilege Western thought and approaches to book history above all others’, as we say in our [EDID statement](#). These research grants are named in honour of Archie L. Dick, Professor Emeritus at the University of Pretoria (South Africa), a scholar of manuscript, print and reading cultures of South Africa and the Indian Ocean world and a longtime SHARP

member and mentor. The inaugural Archie L. Dick grants were awarded to Rajarshi Das (Librarian & Coordinator, Banwarilal Bhalotia College; Asansol Curator, Digital Archive of Rarh Bangla) for his work on Santali knowledge systems and their place in book history, Doseline Kiguru (University of Bristol) for her work tracing the history of African literary prizes and their influence on the continent's literary landscape, Anushmita Mohanty (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) for her project "The Role of Digital Piracy in Shaping Reading Practices", Aderivaldo Ramos de Santana (Independent Researcher) for his project investigating the maritime circulation of books and printed matter in the nineteenth-century Atlantic and Pedro Toniazio Terres (UNICAMP – State University of Campinas) for his project "A Thistle in the Tropics: The Barsa Encyclopedia and the Editorial Market during the Brazilian Military Dictatorship (1964–1975).

On behalf of SHARP Asha would like to thank all who have acted as jurors this year for their diligent reading and careful decision making: Abhijit Gupta, Kanupriya Dhingra, Adam Smyth, Kathy Peiss, Ruth Bush, Priyasha Mukhopadhyay, Nicola Wilson and Kristen Doyle Highland. Amanda Lastoria's exemplary work overseeing the complex logistics of books in the world required by our grants prizes keeps SHARP's awards running smoothly.

Asha has continued to develop the findings of the 2024 Awards Working Group in discussion with the Executive Committee and Board. Further developments will be announced at the SHARPIES in July 2026, where Asha will stand down as Director of Awards to be succeeded by Swara Shukla: awards@sharpweb.org

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The main milestone of this year has been the transition of the Director of Electronic Resources role from Sarah Werner to Francesca Benatti. Many thanks to Sarah for her long service to SHARP and for her exemplary handover documentation.

The main completed tasks for this year have included: updating the main SHARP website to reflect the introduction of new awards; activating the new site for *SHARP News*; pausing the *Lingua Franca* redesign; reviewing the implementation of AI in the SHARP workspace.

Ongoing tasks include: implementing 2-step verification for all SHARP accounts; archiving past SHARP resources.

Thanks to all the sharp-eyed EC members and SHARP members who have identified items in need of correction or update. Please keep them coming!

Francesca Benatti: Electronic.resources@sharpweb.org

ARCHIVES AND RECORD-KEEPING

As Recording Secretary, Ellen Barth is tasked with maintaining SHARP's internal records as well as archives, which are housed at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Over the course of the year she minuted Executive Council and Board of Directors meetings, ensured that the Policy Manual was kept up to date and accurate, facilitated the approval of electronic motions, and provided organizational assistance for appointments.

Ellen Barth: secretary@sharpweb.org

SHARP BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 2025-6

Colleen Barrett was elected to a two-year term as Chair of the Board in June 2025. The Board held its annual synchronous meeting on December 4, 2025. Agenda items included introductions of new Board members and a presentation focused on the budget and SHARP's financial picture by President Danielle Fuller, followed by questions and discussion. At the same meeting the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026 SHARP budget. Other business has been transacted asynchronously (via email) over the course of the year, and Barrett has remained in regular contact with the President to liaise between the Board and EC.

Colleen Barrett: chair.board@sharpweb.org

AGM Agenda

Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports (Danielle Fuller, President)

Welcome to the new Executive Council officers (Danielle Fuller, President)

Goodbyes and commendations (Danielle Fuller, President, and Lisa Maruca, Director of Publications; Yuri Cowan, *Book History* editor)

Announcement of SHARP prizes (Asha Rogers, Director of Awards)

Thanks to the SHARPIES Team (Rachel Noorda, Director of Conferences)

News about conference planning (Rachel Noorda, Director of Conferences)

Members' Questions / Announcements / Discussion (e.g. arising from the annual report)