

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Booth Library welcomes you to our latest traveling exhibit, Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine. It is with great pleasure that we open our doors to visitors to explore the medieval context of the world of Harry Potter. This exhibit offers an exciting opportunity for muggles and medievalists alike to discuss the historical roots of the topics found in this popular series of books by J. K. Rowling.

This traveling exhibit comes to us from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, the world's largest medical library. The historical materials highlighted in the exhibit come from the collections of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine. Selected portions of rare texts on alchemy, medicine, zoology, botany, and other Renaissance sciences that serve as a basis for some parts of the world of Harry Potter are collected for you to examine. We invite you to view other historical texts through Early English Books Online, a resource available on the Library's website.

Whether your interests lie with incunabula or incantations, we hope you enjoy the exhibition and that you participate in the programs offered during the exhibit. Scholars from the fields of literature and medieval studies, anthropology, journalism, tourism research, and library science will be offering their unique perspectives on Harry Potter's world. I extend thanks to my colleagues who are participating in exhibit programming, our local exhibit curators, the faculty and staff of Library Services, and our educational partners at Eastern Illinois University and area libraries.

Enjoy your flight and return with your friends.

Best wishes,



Allen Lanham, Ph.D.
Dean of Library Services

— a traveling exhibition



to America's libraries —