What sets the Hyde Library apart from other libraries in the United States? School librarians have multiple jobs, and supporting teachers and students is the most important one. Our staff excels at serving teachers and students. But one thing that makes that possible is our collection: a trove of digital and print treasures that few school libraries in the country can match.

The digital revolution is well represented in the virtual Hyde Library. A simple keyword search on “George Washington” in our integrated “Smart Search” returns over a million articles, books, and primary sources from our 121 databases and our catalog. The results differ from Google or Yahoo results in that they are academic: they’re written by scholars and professionals, and then vetted by editors. College professors expect students to use acceptable sources provided by their libraries, so we teach students to conduct research using the library website and academic databases. Our online MUS Research Guides, based on a design from the library at Tufts University, help pinpoint sources for specific assignments.

The Hyde Library also owns an outstanding print collection. We continue to provide print reference, nonfiction, and fiction books because the print format still works better for many people and for many purposes. The senses of touch and sight are important to humans. Being able to hold a book at any angle, turn and browse through pages, and see illustrations up close and in person often outweighs the convenience of looking at a screen. Our students can access their information either way in many cases.

Visit the Hyde Library to see for yourself, and take advantage of this powerful resource!

Coming soon to MUS, Hampton Sides (’80) will speak in chapel on Friday, April 1 as a guest of the History Department. Mr. Jason Peters received the John M. Nail Award at graduation last year and is using the proceeds to host the visit. Hampton Sides’s latest book, In the Kingdom of Ice, was a national bestseller, a Time magazine Best Book of the Year, and an Amazon Best Book of the Month in August 2014. Mr. Sides is also an acclaimed journalist and Editor-At-Large of Outside Magazine. Check out one of his earlier nonfiction titles: Americana, Ghost Soldiers, Blood and Thunder, and Hellhound on His Trail.
Swimming With Piranhas at Feeding Time by Richard Conniff.

In this thrilling foray into the animal kingdom, Richard Conniff takes readers on an adventure-packed journey as he courts the most dangerous animals and lives to tell the tale. He lets African wild dogs sniff his neck to test the idea that they are vicious man-eaters, sticks his hand in a fire ant mound, and flings chicken carcasses into piranha-infested waters to clock how quickly they disappear—before diving in himself. This collection offers a rare chance to go along on these death-defying treks and see life through the eyes of a bona-fide field naturalist.

Inventology by Pagan Kennedy. Kennedy, former innovation columnist for the New York Times Magazine, examines the process of invention, wondering whether there is any formula for success. Kennedy interviews more than 100 inventors in different fields, asking who really does the work of invention, what we can learn from data on successful inventions, and what can be gained from emerging technologies such as 3-D printers.

Cyberphobia by Edward Lucas. Lucas outlines major types of security threats, their causes, and preventive or corrective measures. Using a wide range of analogies, he explains personal threats such as phishing, cookie-tracking, and identity duplication, as well as their connection to larger dangers in corporate and governmental networks, including data breaches, espionage, and cyberwarfare.

The Boy Who Could Change the World by Aaron Swartz.

In his too-short life, Aaron Swartz reshaped the Internet and questioned our assumptions about intellectual property. His tragic suicide in 2013 at the age of twenty-six after being aggressively prosecuted for copyright infringement shocked the nation and the world. This collection of Swartz’s writings reveal his thoughtful and humorous insights on intellectual property, copyright, and the architecture of the Internet.

Just My Type by Michael J. Rosen.

A guided tour through the ages demonstrates how philosophers, scientists, and doctors have tried to understand “the workings of human personality.” Astrology, humorism, the nature-vs.-nurture debate, Freudian theories of the unconscious, and various modern means have all been ways to gain insight into human personality.

The President Is a Sick Man by Matthew Algeo.

In 1893, during his second term, President Cleveland went on a yacht trip from New York City without providing details to his cabinet, his vice president, the press, or the public. Cleveland, known for honesty, secretly had a cancerous tumor removed from his jaw. Algeo makes good use of primary and secondary sources to give general readers a full history of these circumstances, known to presidential and medical historians but to few others.

Van Gogh’s Ghost Paintings by Cliff Edwards.

Some of the most significant and revealing paintings by the world famous artist Vincent van Gogh have never been seen. Cliff Edwards argues these lost works are important to understanding the artist himself.