For many years now, I have been intensely interested in scholarly communication and the research being in Academia requires. Ultimately, it is this interest that has lead to my specializing in academic librarianship, and my goal after graduation is to join the rank of faculty librarians so that original research may be a component of my everyday workflow. Similarly, since childhood, I have been fascinated with the discipline of history, so this class offered me the opportunity to combine three aspects I love (i.e. history, librarianship, and research) into a final project that has been formatted to the submission requirements outlined by the scholarly journal, *Information and Culture* (formerly, *Libraries & the Cultural Record*). It is my hope to continue working on this manuscript throughout the summer and eventually submit it to the journal so that it may undergo its peer-review process. Even if the journal decides to not include it in their publication, the experience engendered by this process will be invaluable to my growth and development as a library scholar.

The specific topic of the research conducted, which focuses on three major components (i.e. language, cultural domination, and library history), is an elaboration of the work done in one of the *Actio* assignments written earlier in the semester. I decided to take this *Actio* and expand on the general theme’s content in order to develop the kind of fledgling research seen within the final product. Not only does the content draw from library history, but it also is heavily dependent on the social scientific discipline, anthropology. Anthropology, a fascinating discipline in its own right, ended up being my undergraduate major at the University of Louisville, and I completed some graduate work within the same discipline at the same university. As the discipline charged with studying all biocultural phenomena rendering human life possible, its lessons are appropriate to the study of libraries as microcultural expressions within macrocultural processes. It is my belief – and, it is the point of the paper to demonstrate this – that a fusion of the two disciplines, library history and anthropology, will result in better, deeper research for both. Therefore, the goal of the final product is to demonstrate how anthropological theory can contribute to the understanding of library history, and how library history, as the study of important cultural institutions, can open up a new possible area of relevant research for anthropologists.

More specifically, I utilize several theories advocated by anthropology to demonstrate this process of mutual need. Firstly, I analyze relevant theories within the subfield, anthropological linguistics, to show the importance of language within the human biocultural condition. Linking language with libraries and information, which are really no more than encoded forms of language patterned in specific ways, I go on to demonstrate how dominant cultural powers have utilized libraries as
important tools within hegemonic processes of cultural subjugation. Not only is theory provided, but so too are three examples from library history demonstrating how libraries have been used to control the thought and cultural patterns of subjugated groups. Again, as the paper stresses, the ability to accomplish this stems from the fact that libraries are no more than coded forms of collected, organized, and disseminated patterns of language. Thus, the overall research question can be correctly divided into several parts. Firstly: How can library history and anthropology help one another in their respective research goals? Secondly: Can legitimate anthropological theories be applied to the study of library history? Thirdly: How have libraries been used by dominant culture-groups to control the demotic masses being subjugated?

To accomplish this, I utilized the research read throughout the progression of this course and then coupled it with relevant anthropological theory pertinent to the aforementioned areas of investigation. Thus, the research process was relatively straightforward: it consisted of a synthesis of research already conducted within both disciplines. The problem with this approach is that it applies theoretical paradigms to examples outside of the context within which they were originally formulated, but that does not render extrapolation impossible; researchers must merely exercise caution when moving between disciplines. However, the goal of the final product is to encourage library historians (library scientists in general, actually) and anthropologists to join forces in the development of new research hypotheses that may yield greater insights for both disciplines. The need for this harkens back to something I have said for years about the tendency within Academia to reduce complex human phenomena into discreet, discipline-specific theoretical paradigms. This reductionist model precludes understanding because it diminishes the very complexity it tries to explain. Therefore, in the end, a greater interdisciplinary approach should be adopted so that complexity may be accounted for, and the purpose of this project is to demonstrate the possibility of such an approach to the field of library history.