

project: COLD STORAGE

Submitted October 1, 2014 by Jeffrey Schnapp

In 2013, the Library Lab provided \$9k in support to an effort underway that built upon two years of work in the Library Test Kitchen design studio that culminated in a documentary entitled Cold Storage. Cold Storage is a documentary in two interconnected senses.

It is a classic linear documentary short that reworks and updates Alain Resnais's classic 1957 portrait of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France *Toute la mémoire du monde* in the form of an institutional portrait of the Harvard Depository. The film in question was shot during the spring and summer of 2014. A 4 minute trailer was published in the early summer, and it is now nearing completion as a full 22 minute film. A full "fine cut" will be available within weeks; a final cut in December 2014. We have been invited by Bruno Racine, the director of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, to hold the European premiere of the film in the freshly restored Salle Richelieu, where Resnais's film concludes.

Cold Storage is also an experimental "database documentary," a kind of animated archive of the HD that was developed not only by the metaLAB team, but also the student participants in a design studio that was held last spring semester. This more extended representation of the life of the HD will include a wide array of interviews, field ethnographic work, materials from the university archives, and curatorial projects carried out in various media (sound, video, etc.) over the course of the past year: all this, bundled up within a website ([librarybeyondthebook.org](http://librarybeyondthebook.org)) whose navigational system is built around the HD's floorplan. We have completed editing of all of these materials, built a placeholder site, and are in the process of finishing up the wire-framing of the site. We expect completion no later than January 2015. The BNF premiere will also feature the database documentary.

Also under discussion is an on-campus premiere either to be held at the Carpenter Center or at the GSD (Piper) in tandem with the inauguration of an exhibition on library architectures.

Needless to say, none of this would have happened without the Library Lab's support.