

The Updike Collection on the History of Printing is one of the country's finest typographical resources. Founded in 1937 in honor of Daniel Berkeley Updike, the collection today includes thousands of books, artifacts and items of ephemera documenting the history of printing, especially typography.

The collection is particularly rich in type specimen books and broadsides, ranging from the sixteenth century to the twentieth. As originally intended, the collection is open to all, especially those looking to become better printers or designers.



The annual Updike Prize rewards undergraduate and graduate type designers whose work has been influenced by materials in the Updike Collection at the Providence Public Library. Whether students choose to revive a historic typeface or to create a new typeface inspired by an earlier design, applications will be judged on the quality of the specimen, the quality of the typeface submitted and how creatively and thoughtfully it interprets a historical model.

How to Enter

1. Visit the Updike Collection

Visit provlib.org/special-collections for more information about visiting. You'll find a wealth of materials in the collection to inspire your design.

2. Design a typeface

You might decide to revive a long-forgotten typeface. Or you could create something completely new that borrows details from a typeface from the past.

3. Write a (very short) essay

Describe how your new typeface came to be and in particular how it was influenced by your research in the Updike Collection. Submit your essay with a type specimen sample of your typeface.

Prize

Winners will receive a \$500 prize and gift certificate from our sponsor, Paperworks. The names of finalists will be recorded on the Library website, and they will also have the opportunity to display their work at our annual exhibition and lecture in October. Copies of their type specimens will be added to the Updike Collection.

The
Updike

Prize



For
Student
Type
Design

Rules

Applicants must conduct at least one on-site visit to use materials in the Updike Collection within the two years prior to the application deadline, and they must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program during the time of their visit. Only one typeface family may be submitted per year, per entrant; re-submissions, especially of typefaces that have been further-refined, are encouraged.

Submission Guidelines

Applications will include:

1. This entry form

also available at the competition website

2. A type specimen

with a representative character set, submitted as a PDF of up to four pages and designed to be printed at either 11x17" or 8.5x11"

3. A 250-500 word essay

describing the typeface as well as the designer's use of the Updike Collection and the role it played in the development of the typeface.

Deadline

Applications must be received by **5:00pm, September 10th, 2021**. Applications may be submitted by email (jgoffin@provlb.org) or mail:

Special Collections, Updike Prize
Providence Public Library
150 Empire Street
Providence, RI 02903

Entry Form

Name

Address

Email

Phone

University or College

Typeface (or Typeface Family) Name

Historical Typeface Influence(s)*

Date(s) of Updike Collection Visit

* Applicants are encouraged to provide citations (or photographs) of materials they used so that they may be more easily identified for exhibition.

For More Information

To learn more about the prize, the Updike Collection, and how to use the collection, visit: www.provlb.org/special-collections

For answers to specific questions, you can contact Jordan Goffin at jgoffin@provlb.org or 401.455.8021.

You can also find full prize information, as well as examples of type specimens, at: www.provlb.org/updikeprize

Celebration

We'll celebrate the competition's finalists at a special event at the library, timed to coincide with an exhibition of typographic materials from the Updike Collection and the specimens produced by the finalists.

For more information about the event (including the guest lecturer for the evening), follow us on Twitter ([@TheSpecial-est](https://twitter.com/TheSpecial-est)) or join our email list (<http://tinyletter.com/ProvSpecial>).

This brochure uses *Mojari* (a typeface designed by Mallika Nanda, winner of the 2019 Updike Prize), *Frisk* (by Gene Hua, 2018 Updike Prize winner) and *Raleigh Condensed* (by Erica Carras, 2017 Updike Prize winner).

Special Thanks to our sponsors, Paperworks and Occupant Fonts.

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