Nineteenth-century Americans created scrapbooks to document, share, critique, and participate in a rapidly changing world of information overload. Like us, they felt overwhelmed by the written material in their lives. Their ways of coping with data and paper offer new ways to understand the history of LexisNexis, bookmarks, Google, and other methods of managing textual abundance.

Professor Garvey is the author of Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks form the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance, Oxford University Press, 2012.