

“Mobile money” services permit cell phone users to send small amounts of money via text message to their friends and relatives. There are over 90 mobile money services in the world today, mainly in emerging economies.



Google Wallet is a virtual wallet that securely stores your credit and debit cards. Allows payments in-store using Google Wallet anywhere MasterCard® PayPass™ is accepted.

For the full exhibit checklist with annotations, online exhibits, and past exhibits, please see:
exhibits.lib.uci.edu.

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FALL EXHIBIT | LANGSON LIBRARY

**GOLD TO THE PAST,
GIGABYTES PRESENT
AND FUTURE
OF MONEY**



OCTOBER 2012 - APRIL 2013
MURIEL ANSLEY REYNOLDS EXHIBIT GALLERY

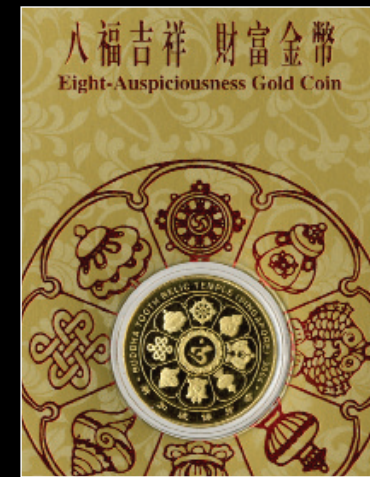
Welcome to the UC Irvine Libraries' fall 2012 exhibit, *Gold to Gigabytes: The Past, Present and Future of Money*. This exciting exhibit explores the evolution of currency from ancient beginnings to its present state and illuminates new trends in the exchange of money and alternative currencies. Materials on display are from the Libraries' collections and from UCI's Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI) in the School of Social Sciences. The exhibit is curated by staff in the UCI Libraries and IMTFI.



Catherine Eagleton

We are delighted to have Catherine Eagleton, Curator of Modern Money at the British Museum, as the featured speaker for our exhibit opening event on October 5. I hope you enjoy the exhibit and return to view others in the future.

Lorelei Tanji
University Librarian



"Eight-Auspiciousness Gold Coin." Singapore. 2011. A coin purchased to serve as an offering at the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore.

special "social currencies" are used to make and to mark important relationships or events. Money can become a lucky token, an offering, a source of safety, or a symbol of stability. Money can also inspire artists, poets, and musicians to illustrate the

complex relationships we have with it, with each other, and with the very idea of value itself.

Any item can be invested with monetary



Cowrie shells. Nigeria. c. 19th CE. "Cut back" cowrie shell, and *Cyprea annulus* (ring cowry), imported into Africa by European traders. The cowrie has been used as a medium of payment from China to India to the Americas.

properties. Some societies have used shells or beads for exchanges to signify the making or breaking of important relationships. Human societies, in their search

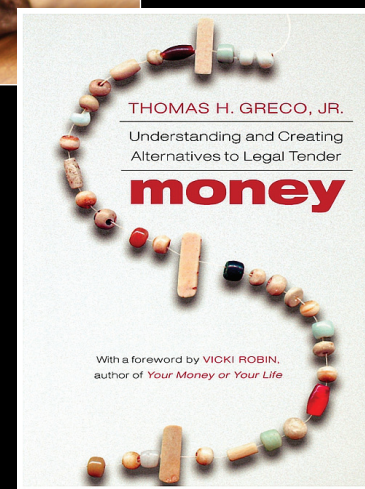
for effective mediums of exchange, have transitioned from coins to paper currencies to objects that serve as surrogates for money. Today credit cards, online bank accounts, and the automation of financial transactions through electronic fund transfers have ushered in what many believe is a "cashless society."



Cuneiform tablet (reproduction). Larsa, Sumer. 18th c. BCE. This is a reproduction of an ancient Sumerian tablet recording a grain transaction.

Money does not have to come from the government or only be

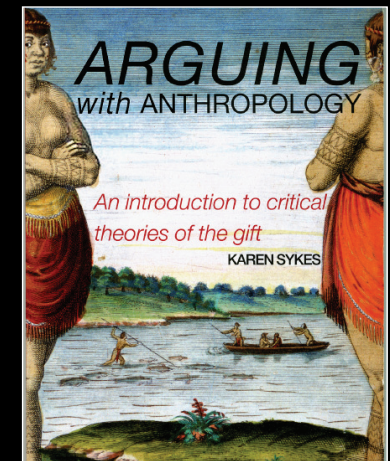
used for commerce. Throughout history, people have created alternative currencies. Some do so in opposition to the state or to assert their own political aspirations. In other societies,



Money: Understanding and Creating Alternatives to Legal Tender. Thomas H. Greco, Jr.

UCI's Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion is a clearinghouse for anthropological research on mobile money and poverty alleviation worldwide.

One area of research is the study of how the mobile phone is becoming an essential financial tool in areas where banks are few and far between.



ARGUING with ANTHROPOLOGY: An Introduction to Critical Theories of Gift. Karen Sykes.