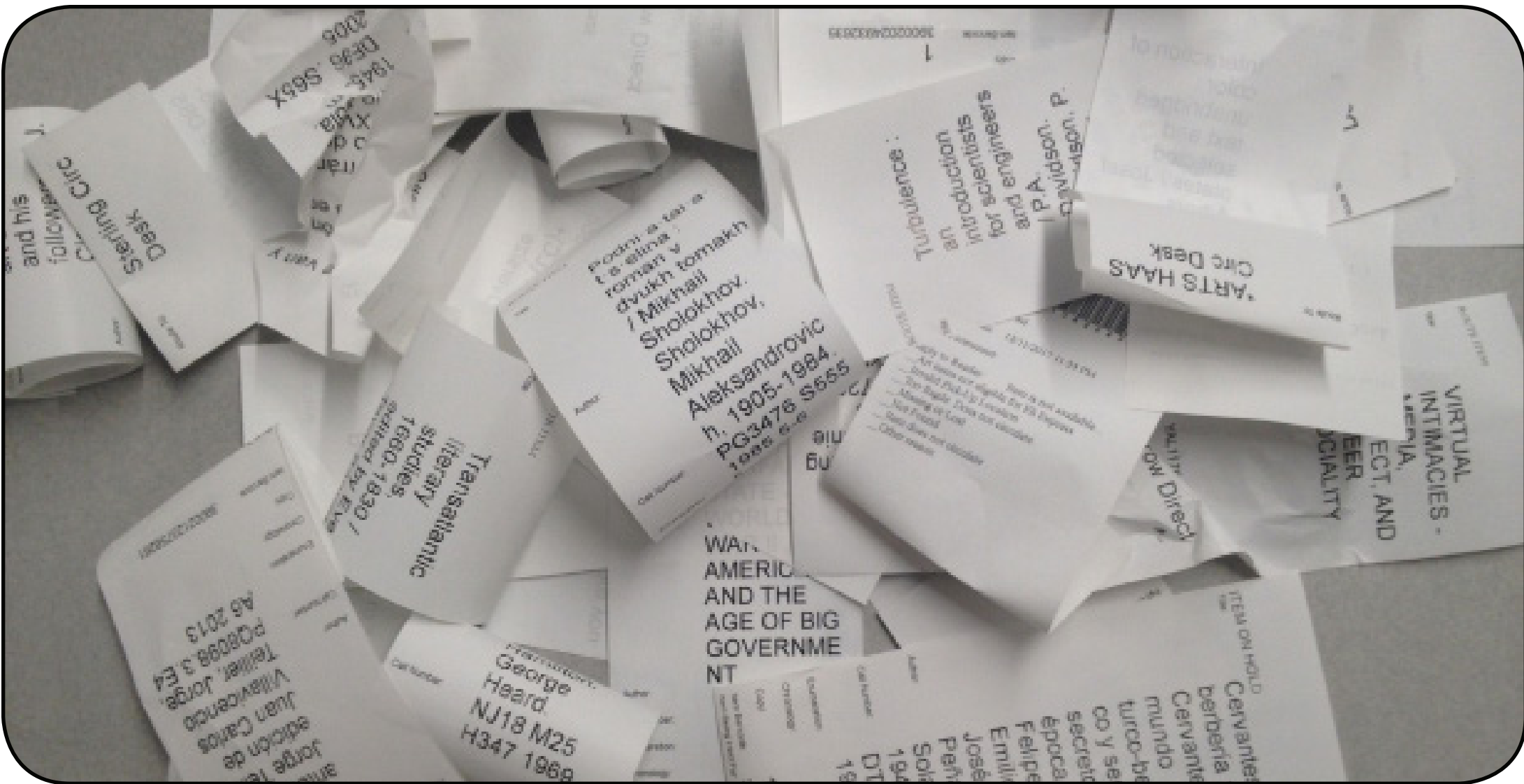


LIBRARY SUSTAINABILITY



MISSION STATEMENT At the heart of the university, the Yale University Library provides outstanding support for teaching, learning, and research at Yale, and for the world-wide scholarly community, through staff, collections, programs, spaces, and services.

CONNECTION TO SUSTAINABILITY We aim to reduce the use of paper in the Library by 10% within 3 years. This year we decided to specifically target the use of toxic thermal paper, which contains phenol-based acids that are hazardous to humans and animals.



Library check-out receipts made of thermal paper

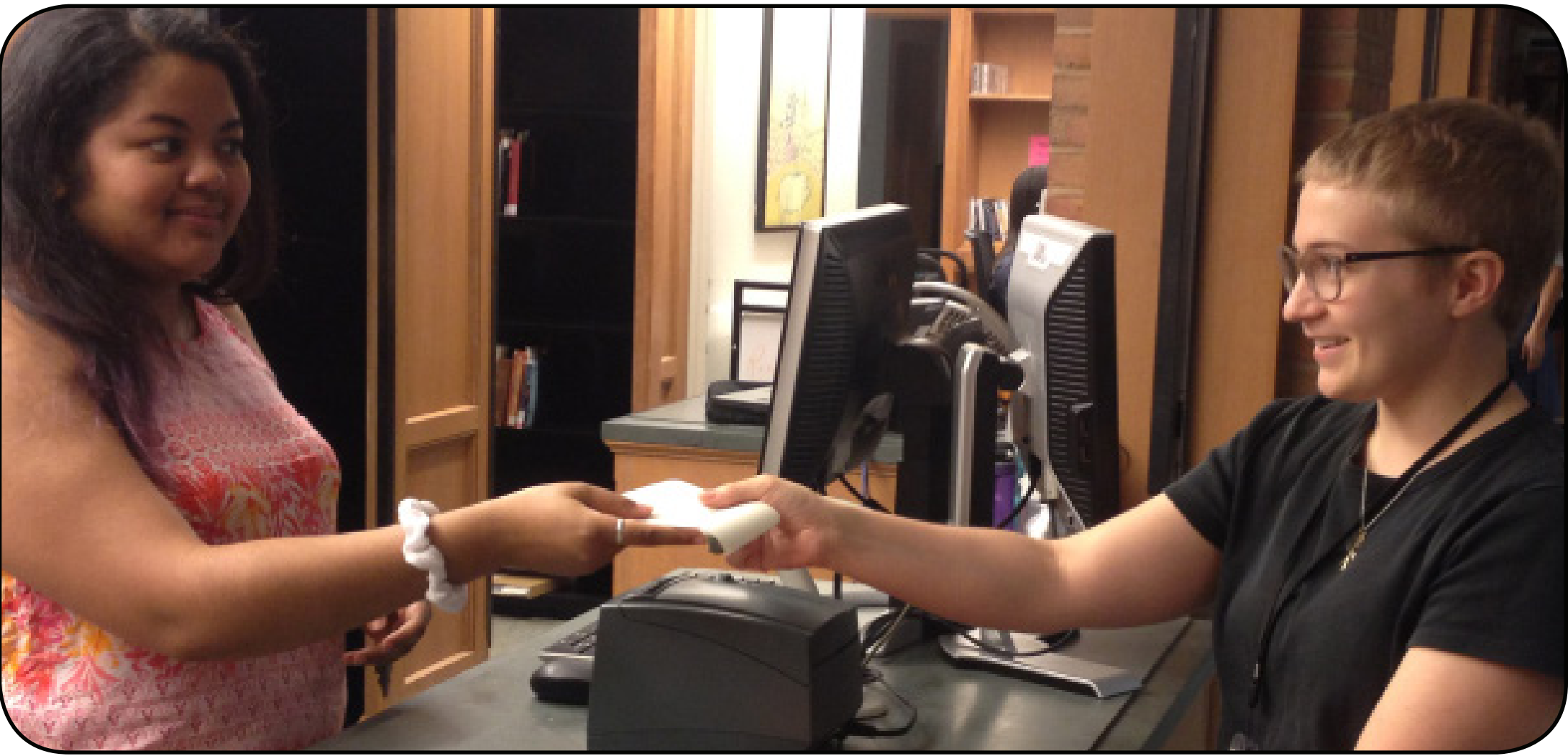
THERMAL RECEIPT PAPER

A receipt from a grocery store, a library, or any number of other common locales may seem innocuous, but it's likely made of thermal paper coated with chemicals harmful to human and animal reproductive systems. To address these health issues, the Yale Library Sustainability Advisory Group focused on replacing the thermal paper formerly used within campus libraries with a healthier and more sustainable alternative.

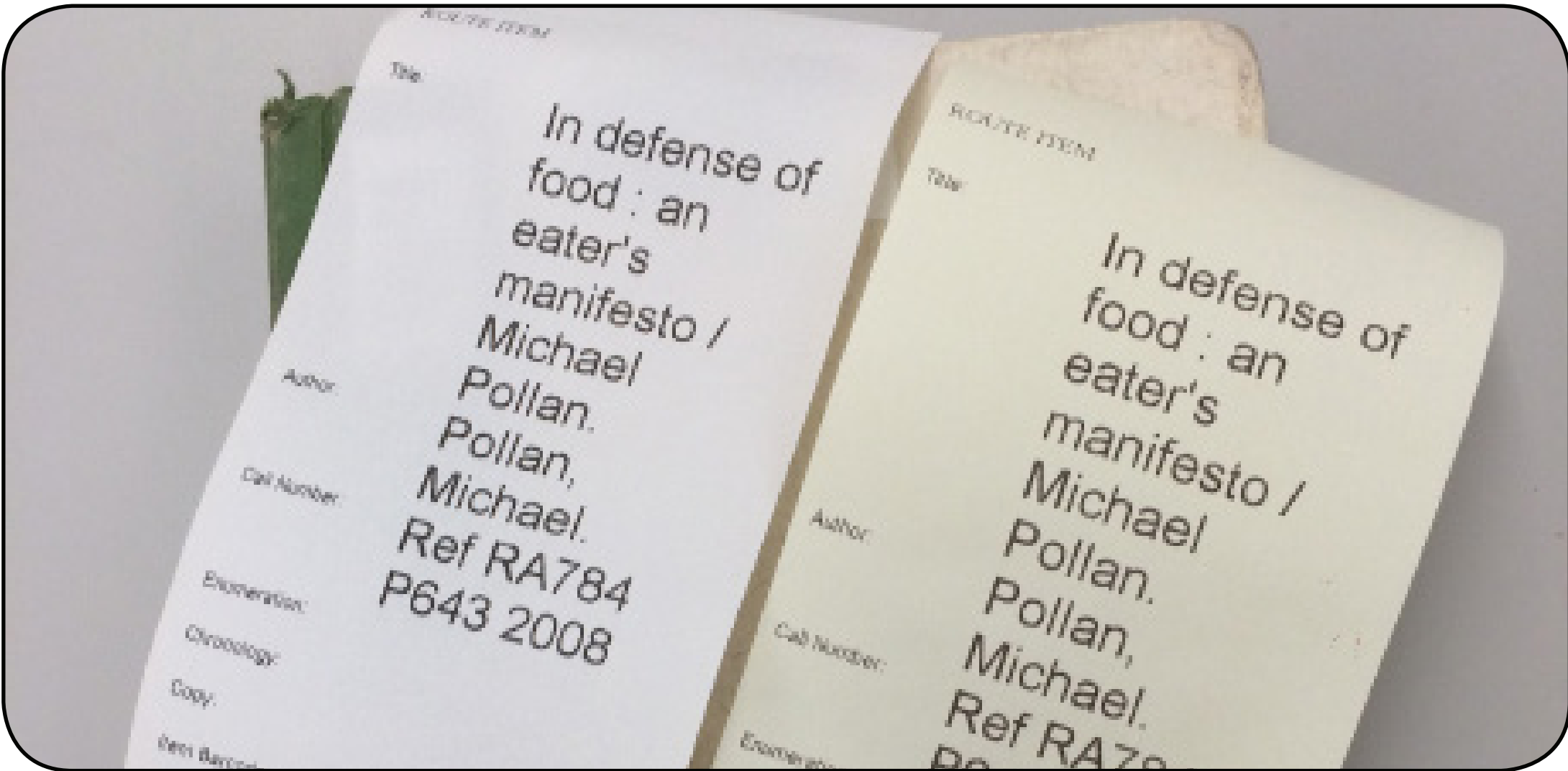
HUMAN AND PLANETARY RISKS

A recent study found that 93 percent of receipts contained Bisphenol A (BPA) or Bisphenol S (BPS), endocrine-disrupting chemicals that have been associated with reproductive problems. Even briefly touching the receipts can lead to BPA and BPS absorption into the body. Moreover, these receipts can't be recycled because BPA and BPS can contaminate other materials in the recycling stream.

Source: <https://www.ecocenter.org/healthy-stuff/reports/receipt-paper-study-2018>



Thermal paper is used both for internal routing and for receipts given to library users



Non-toxic Appvion thermal paper (right) can be recognized by its yellowish color.

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

In 2018, Library Sustainability Advisory Group identified an alternative source for thermal paper which works with existing printing equipment, but which relies on Vitamin C rather than toxic phenol-based acids for the reaction that causes images to appear on the paper. This alternative, known as Appvion Alpha Free, is not only non-toxic but fully recyclable, and is now being used at all of Yale's libraries.

GROUP DETAILS The Library Sustainability Advisory Group is composed of staff who value and implement sustainable practices and guidelines in the day-to-day operations at the Library.