Trinity College
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

NEWS from the
Libraries at Trinity College

Running to Stay in Place

Dr. Richard S. Ross,
College Librarian

Thinking of new and evolving technologies, I am reminded of the Red Queen's words to Alice in "Through the Looking Glass": "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

In the Library, we are continuously "running" as we review emerging technologies, software products, new social media, or bundles of content, just to keep up with the fast pace of developments and to evaluate how to integrate them into our services for faculty and students. Also, working on their implementation often requires running twice as fast, as so much ground needs to be covered between an initial idea and a functioning service.

Examples of new directions abound: streaming videos, e-books, and personal e-book readers such as the Kindle or Nook, smart phones and devices like the IPad2 with multi-functional capabilities, all of them with already actual or potential use for libraries. To make the Library's services and content available on mobile devices is of particular interest to us at this point as the current generation of students use these devices almost as an extension of themselves. A step in being more connected with students in ways familiar to them is the implementation of our new IM Chat service, described here in more detail.

As we evaluate and implement new technologies, we are also re-

Meet Us Online

by Rob Walsh, Social Sciences Librarian

In September 2010, the Trinity College Library introduced an instant messaging reference service. This service allows for computer-mediated synchronous communication between librarians and students. Students are able to ask librarians research questions without having to come to the library or pick up a phone. They can ask a question using a chat box found on several of the library's web pages, or they can add the library's screen name to their buddy list – the library uses the three most popular instant messaging platforms: Google Talk, Yahoo! and AOL Instant Messenger. Presently, this service is available from 9-9 Monday through Wednesday, 9-6 on Thursday, and 11-4 on Friday.

Look for this icon on our web site to chat with us online.

The adoption of instant messaging for library purposes is essential because it aligns our services with students' preferred medium of communication. According to a recent Pew Research Center report, compared with the average internet user, college students are twice as likely to use instant messaging on a daily basis. Reducing barriers of time and space, students are able to communicate with a librarian wherever there is an internet connection, including on mobile devices.

During the first semester the service was available, librarians received 133 queries from students and faculty. Some questions were simple, such as, "What are the library's hours during the weekend?" or "How can I renew a book?" Yet, many of the questions were complex research questions, such as, "I'm doing some research on the mechanical engineering of solid waste to energy, where do I start?" Nearly half of the sessions lasted more than five minutes, with the longest session lasting 43 minutes. During these extended sessions, librarians were able to recreate the traditional face-to-face reference transaction in an environment more familiar to students. As a result, the feedback from students has been positive. One student commented, "This was incredibly helpful. The librarian was able to find the problem and quickly solve it. I would absolutely use this again. Wonderful job!"

With the proliferation of technology, librarians struggle to make meaningful connections with students. Technology allows students to by-pass the research expertise of librarians. Thus, it is incumbent that we get ourselves to where the students already are; we need to connect with them on their devices of choice. With the implementation of instant messaging reference, we are able to get ourselves on the buddy lists of students, so that we are available at the students' point of need.

viewing our organizational structure. This past December, in preparation of launching a digital repository for Trinity College, we decided to dedicate a full-time professional position to this new service. By aligning the functions of media services with the access services unit, we were able to redefine a position and appoint a digital projects librarian to develop and manage Trinity's Institutional Repository. As its platform we have chosen the Be-Press Digital Commons, and we now look forward to developing its content.

I am also happy to report that recently the Trinity College Library was featured as library of the month in the Depository Library Spotlight. Much work has gone into the maintenance of Trinity's government documents, particularly in the last 5 years when we started to review our collection and initiated a transition to increased online receipt of government information. It was gratifying to see that this effort was recognized as a model for teamwork and active engagement with the collection in all of its formats.

Even with the challenges and opportunities of the new information environment, we continue to expand our Library outreach programs. We have created several new exhibits in different areas throughout the Library, and have organized a successful open house for the Watkinson Library. For this April, the Watkinson Library has planned an event with students from "The Fred" to honor the memory of professor, writer and activist Fred Pfeil. Also, work is in process on plaques for donors of book endowments, and on the Webster book collecting prize whose winner will be announced on Honor's Day.

The Trinity Library thrives as a lively and exciting place where technology is valued for it capabilities to move us forward in new directions, but where at the same time we are still engaged in direct interaction with our students and faculty, and care for the remarkable physical collections that have served as foundation of the Trinity College Library for almost two centuries. In order to continue building on the legacy of our services and collections while also implementing new programs and technologies, it will be imperative in the coming years again to strengthen our budget and recover from the cuts necessitated by the economic downturn. It is my hope that at least moderate increases will allow us to "keep running".

Staffing News:

• **Lynn Fahy**, Catalog Librarian, has retired after nine years in our Technical Services department.
• **Lori Stethers**, Systems Librarian, has taken a similar position at Wesleyan University, where she will also work on projects for the CTW consortium.
• **Amy Harrell**, formerly Music and Performing Arts Librarian, has moved into the position of Digital Projects Librarian and will oversee the Library's new institutional repository for digital collections. Amy will continue to serve as the subject liaison for faculty in the Music and Theater and Dance departments.
• **Amy Rua**, Media Collections Manager, will coordinate the daily operations of Media Services, with support from the main circulation desk staff.

Trinity College Digital Repository

by Amy Harrell, Digital Projects Librarian

This spring the Library has begun working toward the establishment of an institutional repository for digital collections. The repository will showcase and provide Web access to the scholarly and creative works of Trinity College, including selected items from the Watkinson Library. It will contain a broad cross-section of materials from around campus: faculty papers, campus publications, exhibits, performances, selected student work, and more. Institutional repositories provide authors with an alternative, openly accessible distribution outlet for their works, which is easily findable by other researchers from around the globe.

Bepress Digital Commons software has been selected as the platform on which to build the digital repository. It offers the flexibility of accommodating multiple media types, the ability to restrict access to certain materials as needed, and it offers simple tools for contributors to upload their work directly into the repository. Digital Commons is also one of the most popular institutional repository platforms among Trinity's peer institutions, and has a solid performance record.

Look for an official launch of the repository later this summer!

A Plaque to Mark Our Endowed Book Funds

by Jessica Smith, Administrative Librarian

The Library engages in a number of different fundraising activities in collaboration with the College's Advancement team, and perhaps one of the lesser known, but no less important, initiatives is our endowed book funds.

We can trace the first of our endowed book funds back to 1845, and over the years this program has grown to include over 145 different funds that support a variety of subjects across the Trinity curriculum. Income generated from these funds supports the Library in purchasing books that help sustain the research of our faculty and students.

To celebrate these important contributions and express our gratitude to the families and individuals who have given this money for these purposes, the Library is in the process of designing a commemorative plaque, listing the names of the funds and the years they were founded. This plaque will be installed in a place of prominence in the atrium of the Raether Library and Information Technology Center, where all who enter and exit the building will have the opportunity to view it.

Student Book Collector's Contest

by Richard Ring, Head Curator and Librarian,
Watkinson Library

The Trinity College Library and the Watkinson Library
Associates are pleased to announce the 2011 contest for
undergraduate book collecting. The prize was endowed
by Jerome P. Webster (Class of 1910) in the late 1950s,
and is one of the oldest collegiate book collecting prizes
in the country. The winner of this prize is automatically
eligible to enter the recently created National Collegiate
Book Collecting Contest, in which contestants can win up
to $2,500, and the sponsoring library up to $1,000! The
intention of this contest is twofold: to educate students
about the nature of book collecting, and to encourage
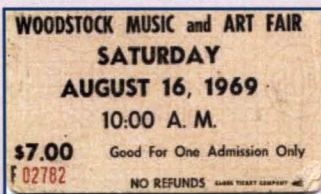collectors in the progress of their passion.

A qualifying collection is a group of items which have
been acquired (not inherited) upon a specific unifying
principle, rather than a mere "assemblage." For instance,
"children's books" is not a collection, but books for children
by a certain author, or illustrated by a certain artist, or
exhibiting a specific theme, is a collection. Similarly, one
cannot collect "history," but one can form a collection of
Russian history, or Labor history in Ohio, or the history
of art in Spain. Collections can be about the physical
object (binding, illustration, edition) as well, as long as
the unifying principle is clear and specific. To enter,
students must submit an annotated bibliography of the
entire collection, a brief essay, and 5–10 items from the
collections themselves. For more information, contact
Richard Ring in the Watkinson Library. The deadline for
submissions is April 11, and the winners will be announced
at the Honors Day Ceremony on May 6.

A Find in the Archives Inspires an Event with the FRED

by Richard Ring, Head Curator and Librarian,
Watkinson Library and Jessica Smith, Administrative
Librarian

As anyone who has had experience with archives knows, you can find wonderful things buried in the files. One of our student workers came across this fabulous artifact (four tickets to Woodstock, in fact), while organizing the personal papers of the late J. Fred Pfeil, donated to the archives by his family. Dr. Pfeil was a beloved English professor at Trinity from 1985 until his untimely death in 2005.

WOODSTOCK MUSIC and ART FAIR
SATURDAY
AUGUST 16, 1969
10:00 A. M.
$7.00   Good For One Admission Only
F 02782   NO REFUNDS

This discovery has led to a joint venture between
the Watkinson Library and students from the FRED, the
on-campus residence hall named after Professor Pfeil.
On Wednesday, April 20, the students were invited to the
Watkinson's Davis Reading Room to hear from his col-
leagues and friends with readings and personal memories.
A selection from Fred's files was also featured for display.

A Gift for the Watkinson Library

by Richard Ring, Head Curator and Librarian,
Watkinson Library

The Watkinson Library recently received a gift of about 200 books,
magazines, and printed ephemera related to the British artist John Pip-
er, collected over the course of several decades by William J. McGill,
Trinity Class of 1957. A few items from this collection are on display
in the main library, Level 2. John Piper studied at the Richmond
School of Art and subsequently at the Royal College of Art. By the
mid-1930's Piper's reputation as an abstract artist was emerging, but
by the late 1930's, he made a conscious move away from abstraction
to a more representational style.

With the coming of World War II, he painted a number of
bombed-out buildings and also produced works as part of the Record-
ing Britain project, meant to provide a visual archive in the event
significant buildings were destroyed. He designed a massive new
stained-glass window for the destroyed Coventry Cathedral, which
in turn produced a wave of commissions. Though new generations of
artists appeared and the great figures with whom he had shared the
main stage of British art died, he remained an active and still appeal-
ing figure until his death on June 28, 1992. When he was in the center
of contemporary British art he was noteworthy in this country. Now
conveniently labeled as a neo-romantic, he is simply one of the figures
of mid-twentieth century British art. According to Mr. McGill, "In
giving this collection to Trinity, where I learned much, I hope Piper's
work will catch someone's eye, someone's heart and mind, and above
all someone's imagination, as it has mine."

Trinity College Library Gains Recognition from U.S. Government Printing Office

by Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for the Collections, Research
and Instruction Division

Following a successful inspection visit in September 2010 by staff
from the Government Printing Office, the Trinity College Library was
featured in the February issue of the Depository Library Spotlight, an
online publication that selects one federal depository library a month
for particular merit. Trinity College Library has been a depository li-
brary since 1895, and the historical depth of its collection was noted as
one of its strength.

But while the oldest documents are safely preserved in the Wat-
kinson Library, it is the active engagement with the more recent collec-
tion that was recognized during the inspection visit. Over the past five
years, the Library has implemented a strategic plan for its documents
collection, promoting the transition from a mostly print-based collec-
tion to increased digital access to government information. Also, in our
efforts to make the existing collection more useful, we have tailored it
more closely to the College curriculum and have reduced our intake of
new documents to areas of interest to teaching and study at Trinity.

The implementation of these new directions has been a true team
effort, which also was noted very positively by our inspectors. But
most importantly, they recognized the Library's continued effort to
connect researchers to the riches of information contained in govern-
ment documents, regardless of their age or format, and even though it
often takes an experienced guide to discover them.

For the full text of the Spotlight citation see: http://www.fdlp.gov/
outreach/spotlight/883-trinitycollegelibrary

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NEWS from the
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A Successful Open House for New Acquisitions

by Richard Ring, Head Curator and Librarian, Watkinson Library

On Friday, February 11, we held an Open House in the Watkinson Library from 10:00am to 2:00pm, to mark the installation of an exhibition of newly acquired rare books and artifacts. It was an unqualified success. Some forty people visited, including Watkinson Board members, faculty, students, and interested members from the community. Our discussions touched upon many plans, including the renovation of an old iron printing press in the basement and the construction of a new permanent exhibition case for our stunning copy of Audubon's Birds of America. The day also yielded two volunteers (a Trinity alum and her friend, who is pursuing a library degree) who will soon be working on a digitization project, and two gifts to the collection (see the February 14 posting on my "Bibliophile's Lair" blog: http://blogs.trincoll.edu/watkinson/).

The exhibition, which runs through June 12th, features works ranging in date from 1575 to 1899, and includes the following: a two-volume history of Ireland (1795) that so interested George Washington that he bought 50 copies; a jigsaw puzzle board game (1810) played by the youth of the British Empire; a large copper plate engraved with the image of a raven, used to print a famous British ornithological work (ca. 1840); two volumes of Japanese art (1899, Ukio-e school) containing color prints of birds and flowers; and a series of "reciters"--a long-running popular culture genre which anthologized stories, skits, jokes and poems designed for oral presentation during family hours or in public (school, civic events, lodge functions, etc.). Please stop in and see these items and more, all of which have been acquired since August.

A board game depicts snippets of British history.