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NEWS from the Libraries at Trinity College

Director's Column: Trinity's Hybrid Library

Dr. Richard S. Ross, College Librarian

The term "hybrid library" was first coined back in 1998, coinciding with the birth of the internet as we know it. For librarians, the hybrid library is a mix of traditional library materials and electronic downloadable resources. This model has rapidly evolved into an online environment of abundant content available 24/7, from remote locations, and increasingly on a variety of personal devices. Within the past few years, the hybrid library has become a reality at Trinity: in FY2102 over 50% of the materials budget was spent on e-resources and is projected to be higher for this year.

As publishers and vendors attempt to develop a viable economic model for e-formats, librarians have demanded more cost-effective content in the face of declining library budgets. This negotiation is leading to an "embarrassment of riches," with thousands of e-books, journals and databases now available. However, these "riches" bring their own costs, requiring new infrastructure to support these formats. Librarians must track enormous amounts of data about these electronic information resources, including e-licenses, consortial arrangements, various platforms and interfaces, usage statistics, and access provisions.

As Head of Technical Services Tom Zaharevich notes, the hybrid model has shifted the library's distinguishing feature from collections to the ease and variety of access to our materials. The Trinity College Library must stand out by "how well we connect our students and faculty to the resources they need," which includes adopting new discovery tools, personal research guidance, and easy ways to request resources for fast delivery.

Clearly, the requirements of the hybrid library allow no simple financial savings. For the time being, the College Library must support the legacy collection while it simultaneously purchases new infrastructure software and carries ongoing staff expenses to make it all work. Our staff technical requirements are much higher today, and current professional librarians and staff undertake continuing education. Highly trained and knowledgeable librarians and staff are basic requirements for maintaining our support of the College's academic mission.

The Library staff is once again developing a strategic plan for the next three years. As we plan for the future, it is important to realign our focus to meet the changing expectations of our users. This greater user-centered focus in our future planning is a direct result of our recognition here at the Trinity Library that we have achieved hybrid library status and our growing understanding of its significance in our collections, operations and outreach to the Trinity community.

Student Outreach: Online and In Person

by Kelly Dagan, Outreach Librarian

Beginning in the fall 2012 semester, the Library launched a coordinated outreach effort to international students, a fast-growing group of undergraduates on campus. This outreach program serves as a pilot project for future initiatives to connect with all our students, as we learn more about how Trinity students research, navigate, and use the library in their classes.

The Library's involvement began during Orientation Week, with a presentation of our resources and services to students in partnership with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS). We provided a quick-start guide to the Library and encouraged students to explore the Library further during our required First-Year Library tours, run by First Year Mentors and our Research Associates.

Later in September, we invited First-Year international students to an evening social, welcoming them to the Library and discussing their expectations for their first classes at Trinity. The Outreach Librarian created an online International Student library guide designed to help students navigate our building and resources, emphasizing areas of student interest such as American academic research methods, proper citation formats, and how to get research help.

In partnership with the Writing Center, the Library continued to strengthen international student academic support, co-presenting a writing workshop in October on the proper use of sources and citation styles for research papers. As the semester gained momentum, we held a Drop-In Research Break in our Phelan Room, providing snacks and open tables with laptops staffed by librarians. We received a wide variety of research questions, and the 'pod' layout of the room encouraged personalized interactions between students, librarians, and Research Associates. This model proved so successful that we expanded the event, holding a second Drop-In Research Break a few weeks later welcoming all students.

Finals were an ideal opportunity to support busy students with their assignments, and our offerings included open research hours as well as stress relief breaks, as Rob Walsh describes in his column for this issue.

Outreach efforts continued even after the finals period had passed; since many international students stay on campus during the winter break, the Library co-sponsored a dinner at the iHouse, where students reflected on their fall semester experiences and shared what they valued about the Library, as well as new features they would like to see develop.

Moving into the spring 2013 semester, we are continuing to engage further with our diverse, talented students, providing campus-wide services and events tailored to Trinity's academic needs in a shifting resource environment.



Social Sciences Librarian Rob Walsh providing help at a Drop-In Research Break

The Information Age and the Digital Divide

by Erin Valentino, Research Education Librarian

This past fall, I taught a First-Year seminar, “The Information Age and the Digital Divide,” in which students and I looked critically at some historical, social and conceptual foundations for the study of information. The course provided us with interesting opportunities for collaborative teaching and learning with departments across campus and for multiple and varied engagements with the research process.

First, we concentrated on how the human brain processes information, with particular attention to the controversies surrounding the influence of digital information on the brain. The common reading for the Class of 2016, Nicholas Carr’s book, *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains* provided a springboard for this part of the course. In this first part of the course, we established the theme that shaped the course as a whole, that of understanding and articulating the relationship of physical and digital worlds. Rob Walsh, our Social Sciences Librarian, introduced the class to the library databases that would begin their research for the course.

For a section of the course devoted to the history of the book, students and I worked closely with Richard Ring, Director of the Watkinson Library, to produce an exhibition and web site. For our work on the exhibition, succinctly entitled “The Book,” students studied rare books from the Watkinson’s collection. Each student researched and wrote a short essay for an exhibition label. The exhibition itself was held in the Library’s lobby from October to December. The students were proud of their research and writing for this collection, and for the web site that accompanied it. The students’ essays are reproduced on the web site, where you can also listen to brief audio clips about their experiences working with rare books, and learn more about each student’s biography: (<http://commons.trincoll.edu/thebook/>).

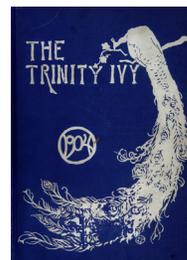


Library Director Richard Ross, Watkinson Director Rick Ring, Research Education Librarian Erin Valentino and the FYSM class

A third part of the course delved into the workings of computers, networks, and the internet, to grapple with both their conceptual and physical realities. Andrew Blum’s book, *Tubes: A Journey to the Center of the Internet* describes the internet in social and geographical terms, to ask the questions: Just where exactly is this thing we call the internet? What are its components? Who is responsible for its care and feeding? ITS members Greg Matejcik (Instructional Technologist), Bryan Adams (Director of Systems and Networking), Angela Wolf (Director of IT Planning and Operations), and David Chappell (Application Development Programmer) showed us the actual physical and social infrastructure of Trinity College’s own network.

Finally, our course explored some of the social issues related to how people access and disseminate information, knowledge and

meaning. First, unequal access to digital technologies globally has created what information workers call the digital divide, “the gap between those individuals and communities that have, and do not have, access to the information technologies that are transforming our lives” (edutopia.org). To explore issues related to the digital divide, we worked with the Trinfo Café (<http://www.trinfo.org/>) at Trinity College, which is a place where community residents can access and learn about computer technology. Carlos Espinosa, the Director of Trinfo, and Rachael Barlow, the Director of the Social Sciences Center, worked with us on conducting interviews and making ethnographic observations of the activities and spaces of the Trinfo Café. Our collaboration with Trinfo made an abstract concept like the digital divide real, and deepened students’ understandings of the intellectual, emotional and material aspects of the research process.



Trinity’s Digital Repository: A Treasure-Trove of Tradition

by Amy Harrell, Digital Projects Librarian

The Digital Repository is steadily growing with materials from Trinity’s past! Those interested in Trinity College history will find a wealth of photographs, stories, and first-hand accounts of our rich heritage in digitized versions of *The Trinity Ivy* and the *Trinity Reporter*.

The college’s yearbook, *The Trinity Ivy*, has been published annually since 1875. Its pages contain faculty and student portraits, photos of the campus, short literary works, cartoons, summaries of major events, and plenty of advertisements. As a historical collection, these volumes reveal an invaluable record of student life at Trinity. The yearbooks are organized by date and are browsable at (<http://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/ivy/>).

The college’s alumni magazine has been published under several names since the late 1930s, taking on its most recent title, the *Trinity Reporter*, in 1970. In contrast to the *Ivy*, stories within the *Reporter* focus on big-picture issues such as the curriculum, budget, technology, administration, and the physical plant. Digitized issues of alumni magazines can be viewed at (<http://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/reporter/>).

This pair of historic publications offers a fascinating view of the individuals and events that make the college what it is today.

Expanding the Library’s Mayan Collection

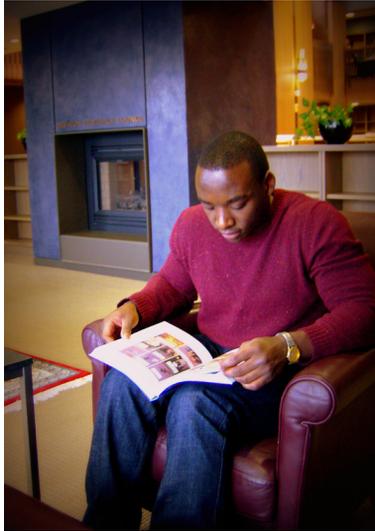
by Doris Kamradt, Head Librarian for Collections, Research and Instruction

Trinity College Library recently received a sizeable collection of books, pamphlets and museum publications on Mayan culture and archaeology. The collector was the late Richard Wagner, whose son had approached Professors Dario Euraque and Martha Risser about Trinity’s potential interest in the collection. With their help, we reviewed the material, parts of which have already been used for a First Year Seminar in fall 2012. A small exhibit on Library level 2 showcases some samples from this rich collection.

Trinity College Library's New Leisure Reading Collection

by Kelly Dagan, Outreach Librarian

In response to repeated requests from students for leisure reading materials in a central location, the Library began the development of a small separate collection to satisfy this interest. The project started with an ad-hoc group of three librarians, who met a few times before the fall 2012 semester to decide some basic questions about the new collection: its location, scope, budget, selection, cataloging and circulation policies. By mid-September, the first 50 titles were ready for use on shelves in the Library's Grand Reading Room, next to the fireplace and near groups of comfortable armchairs.



To solicit student input on titles they would like to read, the Outreach Librarian placed a call for suggestions on our library whiteboard and our Facebook page. The board filled up with recommendations in the first week, and many were eagerly "seconded." Encouraged by this enthusiastic response, we extended the period for submissions, and replied to comments with suggestions on where to find additional "fun" reading materials in the Library.

By the beginning of the spring 2013 semester, the Leisure Reading collection had grown to more than 90 titles, including graphic novels, autobiographies, best-selling fiction and popular nonfiction works. Many of them were drawn from the wealth of student responses. Here is a sample of our selections:

- *Bossypants* by Tina Fey
- *A Game of Thrones* series, by George R.R. Martin
- *Alif the Unseen*, by G. Willow Wilson
- *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling
- *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins

Thanks to the work of Catalog Librarian Todd Falkowski, the collection can be easily browsed online through our Library Catalog by using the keywords (including quotation marks):

Staff News

by Tom Zaharevich, Head Librarian for Technical and Access Services

We are pleased to welcome Paul Clark to Trinity as our new Systems Librarian. Paul holds an MLS from Florida State University and has spent the past 15 years as a systems librarian in Florida at Wilderness Coast Public Libraries and Clay County Public Library. His former colleagues felt so strongly about his work advocating for libraries that he was Florida Library Association's 2011 Librarian of the Year and received a 2012 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker Award. His primary assignment will be to work with our readers and staff in the ongoing development of our Library's information technology systems.

We are also pleased to announce that Rick Ring, Director of the Watkinson Library, has received a three-year appointment to the editorial board of *College & Research Libraries* as book review editor.

"Leisure Reading Collection." You can also browse the Leisure Reading collection remotely by copying this link into your browser: (bit.ly/TheVVK). At the main Library entrance, a book display showcases some of the new titles, including a QR code that smartphone users can scan to explore the collection on their mobile devices.

We look forward to continuing to build this collection and to enhance a welcoming library space where students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to recharge in the midst of their busy schedules.

A New Purchase Model for E-Books

by Doris Kammrad, Head Librarian for Collections, Research, and Instruction

In collaboration with our CTW consortium partners at Connecticut College and Wesleyan University, Trinity College Library has launched a new e-book project that introduces short-term loans before a book is actually purchased. Building on the experience of our previous e-book project, the premise of this new model is that many e-books are accessed only once or twice and only for a short period of time. Rather than incurring a steep cost for an e-book up front, a short-term loan offers access to it at about 15% of the purchase price. Trinity has opted for 3 short-term loans of 7 days before a purchase is triggered the 4th time a book is accessed.

A few numbers will illustrate how this model works: Over the past 6 months, librarians at Trinity selected 393 e-book titles for addition to our catalog using a new process set up by our main book vendor, YPB. An outright purchase of those titles would have cost us \$51,000. So far, only 19 of these titles have been accessed as short-term loans, for a total of \$147, and only one of these titles has been purchased.

While the potential savings are significant, the main drawback experienced so far is that not nearly as many titles are available in this model as we would like add. The Library therefore continues to rely on a hybrid approach to building its monographic collections, with a mix of individually selected print titles, e-books to augment that selection as far as possible, and larger collections of e-books that we subscribe to at a low per-title cost to serve as both back-up and extension of our print collections.

Research Workshops and Study Breaks

by Rob Walsh, Social Sciences Librarian

As the fall semester came to a close, the library organized two well-received events meant to help students successfully complete the term.

On Tuesday night of the last week of classes, the library hosted a drop-in research workshop. The idea of this workshop was to provide an informal setting in which students could meet one-on-one with librarians and Research Associates, outside of regularly-scheduled research consultation hours. Nearly two dozen students took advantage of this opportunity to get last minute research and citation help, not to mention a much-deserved snack.

A week later, during the finals period, the library held its second Study Break. Over two hundred students took a break from their studies to join librarians and Research Associates for pizza, snacks, drinks and some festive music. Both of these events demonstrate the Library's continued commitment to engage our students in innovative and meaningful ways. Based on feedback, students greatly appreciate our efforts to make the end of the semester a little less stressful.

The creation of this publication is due, in part, to the support the Library receives from the Library Associates, a vital group of alumni, parents, and friends who share their love of learning by supporting the Library. We welcome your comments and questions about this publication or the Library Associates through the College Librarian's office: (860) 297-2255.



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Spring at the Watkinson Library

The Watkinson Library is humming with activity this semester. An opening reception was held on January 28 for two exhibitions curated by Brent Bette and Jenn Brasfield, graduate students in the American Studies program. “Christmas Traditions” (Brasfield) and “A Tale of Two Colleges: Bates & Trinity, 1890-1930” (Bette) will be up through the end of March. From April to June we will mount an exhibition on Hyam Plutzik '32, a poet and Trinity alumnus who died at the age of 50 in 1962, after the publication of his long poem “Horatio,” which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

On Thursday evenings, Head Curator Richard Ring is teaching a graduate course on the history of collecting Americana, and on Monday afternoons he is co-teaching (with professor Tom Wickman) a research seminar entitled “History from Above: Birds and People in the New World, 1492-1962.” The Watkinson staff has presented materials to several English, History, Art History, Education, and American Studies classes since the semester began.



Professor Alden Gordon and his “Prints & Printmaking” class



Two gift collections have come in since the New Year. We are pleased to welcome over 4,000 record albums (mostly 78-rpm) dating from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, from the collection of Bennett “Bud” Rubenstein (1917-2000), a decorated World War II veteran, pianist, and jazz/swing enthusiast, donated by his surviving family. The gift doubles our collection of this material, and we will be setting up a listening station in the Watkinson for patrons who wish to hear these original recordings.

The second gift collection comprises the papers of Geraldine S. Caughman (1933-2012) of Wethersfield, an amateur historian who served for decades as a docent at the Old State House and the Capitol building in Hartford. In 2006 she produced a multi-volume work on the regimental battle flags of Connecticut from 1856-1920, and her research papers will be invaluable to students studying Connecticut's role in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I.

