BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR

The end of construction is in sight, and our new Library and Information Technology Center (LITC) will soon be complete. All of us on the Library staff along with faculty, students, and the administration look forward to that day. We need to stress once more how very grateful we are to the many alumni, friends, and charitable foundations for their generous support that has made this project a reality. Much is expected from this new facility.

Last fall we welcomed you to the renovated Trinity College Library building. Early this spring, the whole LITC complex will open its doors. The excitement is tangible as the staffs of the Computing Center and Library prepare to move. Two deliveries of furniture are scheduled, one the week of March 17 and other the week of May 12. With each delivery, more staff will be able to move into the building. By the beginning of the fall term, the whole LITC should be fully occupied and operational.

While our day-to-day attention has been focused on the construction project, we have also been working beyond the “bricks and mortar” to enhance technology and programs. I am pleased to announce that Trinity as a member of the CTW Consortium has signed a contract with the Endeavor Company to purchase the “state of the art” Voyager library system to replace the current Unicorn system. Endeavor’s focus on academic libraries, its web based online public access catalog, advanced search features, sophisticated modules, and interoperability makes it a superb choice. Our plan is to migrate to the new system by early summer of 2003 and have it operational by the beginning of the fall semester. With the system’s new capabilities, we foresee the transformation of the traditional online library catalog into a true “information gateway.”

As the College continues to review the curriculum, the Library is developing an information literacy program that is flexible and adaptable to any curriculum reform. Information literacy is a key component in a strong liberal arts education. This is recognized in the newest standards of the College’s accrediting agency, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which explicitly require information literacy instruction.

I am delighted to report that our commitment to information literacy was advanced in a major way this past summer by the award of a $600,000 grant to the CTW consortium by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant supports collaborative information literacy projects at the three colleges. See page 3.

In the past, the Library community has been reluctant to give up print periodical subscriptions for many valid reasons. Recently, many of the concerns have been resolved. The Library expects an increase in digital journals as more faculty and students rely on full-text articles 24/7. See page 2.

Music Librarian Amy Harrell calls our attention to yet another development as she documents the high use of media and visual library resources in the classroom at Trinity and describes their transition to digital formats. See page 2.

In closing, I would like to note that this is a year of milestones for the Trinity Library. We look forward to celebrating the dedication of the new Library and Information Technology Center. We will also see a belated 50-year anniversary commemoration of the Watkinson Library at Trinity and the acquisition by the Trinity College Library of its 1,000,000th volume.

I thank all of you for your understanding and cooperation during this period of construction. Please continue to check our home page for the latest news on library activities and schedules.

Dick Ross, College Librarian
GOING BOLDLY FORWARD: ONLINE-ONLY SCIENCE JOURNALS

Trinity College Library continues to expand its access to electronic journals, making more content available 24/7. Over the past year, we have worked with faculty in the sciences and have converted more than a dozen of our print subscriptions to online-only format. Ease of access and, in many cases, an increased number of available journals at a cost lower than print make this an attractive option that we will continue to explore across all disciplines.

A major expansion of access to chemistry literature is our recently purchased subscription to the American Chemical Society (ACS) Web Editions. ACS Web Editions provides electronic access to the full text and graphics of the latest five years for over 30 titles in the ACS journal collection. This has allowed us to cancel our nine paper subscriptions to ACS journals. The Library has also purchased the newly available ACS Journal Archive, a searchable full-text version of the complete run of ACS journals, dating back as far as 1879. The Archive will continue to grow as current material is rolled over from Web Editions.

For the Life Sciences, the Library has purchased the online-only journal package from the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). Instead of continuing separate print-only subscriptions to a handful of ASM titles, we now have full-text online access to all 11 ASM journals at a significant savings. Online coverage begins from the mid-1990s. Again, with this conversion we are able to provide convenient access to added content at a lower cost.

Finally, last fall, the Library added online access to two of our most in-demand science journals by subscribing to Nature Online and Science Online. The online versions are an enhancement to our continuing print subscriptions. Science Online is also available via JSTOR, and we now have electronic access to the entire backfile. The purchase of Nature Online and Science Online would not have been possible without the cancellation of several expensive life science titles, and we thank the biology faculty who participated in this review.

We are excited about this new direction in our periodicals service and will continue to explore further migrations to online-only subscriptions. For questions about online journals, please contact Jennifer van Sickle, serials librarian, at x 2250.

WHAT'S IN A LIBRARY? BOOKS, YOU SAY? THINK AGAIN.

Currently located in the lower levels of the Austin Arts Center and Hallden Hall are the Music and Media Services (MMS) and Visual Resources (VR) departments of the Library. Though their facilities may be out of sight, they are hubs of activity for many students and faculty. Circulation statistics for both collections reveal an active campus-wide use.

Music and Media Services maintains the Library’s videos and sound recordings collections that are specifically selected to support teaching and learning at Trinity. During the fall 2002 semester, there were more sound recordings and videos on course reserve than print materials. Overall, last year MMS items accounted for 22 percent of the total circulation of Trinity library materials to faculty (excluding slides). Materials in the MMS collection run the gamut of subjects. One can view a video on alien abductions or compare five different filmed versions of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. Likewise, the audio portion of the collection contains everything from the expected (a 33-CD set of the complete Haydn symphonies) to the unexpected (Xylophone Music from Ghana). The collection is searchable through the library catalog, and most materials circulate to both students and faculty.

The Visual Resources Collection comprises approximately 200,000 slides, which support teaching in all academic departments, although their greatest use is obviously in art courses. During the past five years, an annual average of over 30,000 circulation transactions took place for classes in 24 departments. The slides in VR primarily cover the history of art and architecture, but also include a broad range of other subject areas, such as archaeology and transportation. Slides circulate to faculty and to students in upper-level art history seminars.

Both facilities are actively involved in providing digitized course materials. Listening assignments can be delivered as streaming audio via Blackboard, and images are digitized as online course review units. Students are enthusiastically using these online study alternatives, and their demand for digital services continues to grow. Also, faculty members increasingly rely on access to these digital formats in their teaching and assignments.

For questions about Music and Media Services, please contact Amy Harrell at x 2193. For questions about Visual Resources, please contact Nancy Smith at x 2194.
ACQUISITIONS AND PROGRAMMING IN THE WATKINSON LIBRARY

Most Watkinson programming is driven by our collection strengths. Two areas in which we have outstanding holdings are ornithology and private press books, and we continue to develop these collections. Through the Ostrom and Alice Talcott Enders Ornithology Endowment, we have been able to add on a continuing basis both new books and periodicals as well as antiquarian materials. We also regularly add materials to our large collection of private press and artists books. In the past year, two very generous donations have enabled us to acquire additional titles from the famed Golden Cockerel Press, one of the finest of the English private presses. In a gift from the New Haven law firm of Jacobs, Grudberg, Belt & Dow, which included many other wonderful books, we received eight Golden Cockerel titles, including works by T. E. Lawrence and Somerset de Chair. In addition, the late John M. K. Davis, retired Watkinson Library trustee, presented us his copy of the Golden Cockerel Four Gospels, designed and illustrated by Eric Gill and one of the most beautiful books of the 20th century.

Our two programs this spring are celebratory of these two collecting areas. On March 25, Dr. Kimberly Smith, professor of biological sciences at the University of Arkansas and editor of the Auk, one of the leading ornithology journals, will present the Third Enders Memorial Lecture, an illustrated talk entitled: "Conservation Priorities for Birds at Risk in Latin America."


Both talks will be presented in Trinity College's McCook Auditorium and will begin at 8 pm.
CTW MELLON GRANT FOR INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

In the summer of 2002, Trinity College together with Connecticut College and Wesleyan University, was awarded a three-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the development of collaborative information literacy projects. The grant, written by library and academic computing staff from the three CTW institutions, provides a framework of collaboration that allows each institution to develop its own programs and also supports ongoing information exchange and shared projects. We are excited about the opportunity this grant gives us to further shape and strengthen our already very active instruction program.

The first consortium-wide project funded by the Mellon Grant was a two-day Information Literacy workshop in November that included three outside speakers experienced in information literacy development. The first day of the workshop brought together librarians and information technology staff from the three CTW institutions for presentations and dialogue. On the second day, a group of about 80 faculty from across all disciplines gathered in Old Saybrook to learn about the concepts of information literacy and to discuss specific information skills of students in the sciences, social sciences and humanities.

At Trinity, the first information literacy project has been a comprehensive outreach to all first-year students. Nine Trinity librarians worked closely with the first-year faculty, the faculty of Guided Studies, and the Interdisciplinary Arts and Science programs, along with their mentors, to create library instruction that served the goals of each individual seminar. In the first weeks of the semester, the students had a physical tour of the Library and an instruction session on the CTW catalog taught by the mentor and the seminar librarian. Later in the semester, 90 percent of all first-year seminars and special programs had an instruction session on the academic electronic databases most appropriate to the subject of the class. In addition, over a quarter of the classes took advantage of a third instruction session on Internet search techniques and website evaluation. For the rest, a web evaluation tutorial was available through Blackboard or on the Library homepage. By the end of November, the seminar librarians had conducted 91 instruction sessions for the Class of 2006!

With this overwhelming participation, professors can build on the skills that almost all first-year students have practiced. Students have an understanding of the complexity of academic library resources and a personal connection to a librarian who has worked with them for the semester. The CTW Mellon Grant for Information Literacy will ensure that the Information Literacy component of the first-year program will continue to grow and evolve.

The next step in the development of Trinity’s information literacy program will be to explore what discipline-specific information skills students are expected to develop in their declared majors. This semester, we are beginning our first upper-level project with faculty from the chemistry department together with the academic computing specialist for the sciences and the two library liaisons for chemistry. To inform all Trinity faculty about the concepts of information literacy and the Mellon grant projects, we are planning a presentation on April 1, 2003 at 4 pm in the McCook Auditorium.

NEW COLLEAGUES IN THE LIBRARY

We are pleased to announce that Amy Olson has joined the Library staff as our new Acquisitions Assistant. Amy holds a B.A. in Art History from Saint Joseph College and also spent two years at Hamilton College. Prior to coming to Trinity, Amy worked at the Connecticut Historical Society as Senior Library Assistant and mostly recently as NEH Project Assistant for the processing and preservation of broadsides. Welcome to Amy, who can be reached in the Acquisitions Unit (x5120).

We also welcome as temporary staff members Katy Hart and Margaret Mair, both professional reference librarians, who as part of the Mellon Grant, assist with coverage of the Reference Desk while our full-time librarians are involved in information literacy projects; and welcome back to Barbara Goodwin who during this academic year brings her experience with previous library projects to assist part-time with cataloging and other tasks in the Visual Resources Collection.