THE LIBRARY IN CONTEXT: CHALLENGES AND PLANS

Dr. Richard S. Ross, College Librarian

In recent years, digital technology has fundamentally changed how information is disseminated. In addition to indexes and journals, we now find reference works, scholarly monographs and government documents increasingly distributed in online format, while digital image collections supplement if not supplant the traditional slide collections. The evaluation, purchase, and management of electronic resources have become an integral part of library operations. While the care and development of physical collections will continue to be a central part of the Library's mission for the foreseeable future, new challenges and opportunities are arising from the digital information environment. Over the next few years the Trinity College Library will continue to adapt to this environment, by leveraging both our physical and online assets, as well as our staff and location, to maximize the use of resources as we progress into the 21st century.

Of immediate concern over the past three years have been the increasing costs of journal subscriptions paired with a decreasing Library budget. Periodicals pricing is affected by a number of factors that, when taken together, have generated average increases at or above 8 percent annually for years. This past year has been especially difficult, and FY06 looks to be even worse as the dollar has not kept pace with the increased strength of both the pound and the Euro. The Trinity College Library is not alone in facing escalating journal costs. Over the years the excessive increase in periodical pricing has led to significant journal cuts even at large research libraries and has spawned the Open Access Movement that is beginning to transform the scholarly publishing community.

Open-access journals are digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. National organizations like SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), PLoS (Public Library of Science), and BioOne represent the leading initiatives of this movement. Currently, Trinity is a member of PLoS and BioOne in conjunction with an alliance of other like-minded Oberlin Libraries. At Trinity, our goal is to support the Open Access Movement with its long term goal of reducing scholarly journal costs and making these journals freely available online.

The U.S. Documents program is also undergoing radical changes. The shift to electronic delivery of government information has been under way since the mid-1990s and already 95 percent of the current titles in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) are available electronically. According to the Federal Depository Library Program's publication, "A Strategic Vision for the 21st Century," 50 percent of all its publications are now born digital and have no tangible equivalent. In addition, the FDLP is planning to have all Government Printing Office Documents available online by 2007.

The Trinity College Library plans to maintain our depository status but will adapt its approach to managing and servicing government documents in response to the anticipated changes. Foremost, we will ensure that our documents librarian, in conjunction with the reference librarians, will continue to facilitate the use of government documents, both digital and tangible. The Library will also evaluate both its holdings and the receipt of new documents and tailor them more closely to the Trinity curriculum. In doing so, we will take into account our location and relationship...
CUTTING SUBSCRIPTION COSTS ...
Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian – Collection and Bibliographic Services

Between FY 2003 and FY 2005, the Library's materials budget decreased by 6 percent or $108,000, not counting the most recent cut of January '05. In the same time period, the cost of journal subscriptions rose by an average of 8% per year. Additionally, the price of the Euro raised the cost for the Library's approximately 350 European subscriptions. Since 2003, the invoice from our main European vendor has increased by a total of 18 percent.

To deal with this situation, the Library began a systematic review of its journal subscriptions. In August of 2003, a letter went out to all department chairs and program directors explaining the need to cut journal titles. Subsequently, the Library's liaisons started to work with faculty of their assigned departments to identify titles that are no longer essential to support teaching, student assignments, and ongoing faculty research.

The first round of cuts for 2004 eliminated a total of $67,200 in subscription costs, mostly through cancellation of a relatively small number of very expensive science journals. For 2005, an additional 47 titles – the same number as the previous year – were cancelled, mostly in the humanities, reducing subscription costs by another $17,400. Currently, the librarians are working with the Social Sciences departments to reduce their subscription costs for 2006. Depending on the development of the Library's budget, further cuts in all areas may be necessary.

... ENHANCING ONLINE JOURNAL ACCESS

Whenever feasible, the Library replaces print subscriptions with their online equivalents. This format change can significantly reduce costs while at times adding even more content. For example, all of the 50 titles published by the American Psychological Association (APA) are available through the Library's subscription to PsycArticles at $3,400 less than previously paid for 20 print subscriptions. Also, most of the cancelled religion and philosophy titles are available in full text without embargo via the online Religion and Philosophy Collection (RPC). Some titles are even covered in several other databases, such as Wilson Omnifile and Literature Online (LION).

All online journal titles are represented in the Library's catalog. The full text can be accessed directly by searching the journal title and connecting to a link in the catalog record. Monthly updates from the contracted service Serials Solutions provide current cataloging information for all journal titles available online through the Library's database subscriptions. While the number of the Library's print subscriptions is being reduced, the availability of online journal content has increased in the last three years from 944 titles in FY02 to 9,722 titles in FY04. This increase clearly indicates the trend of journal literature in the 21st century.

SPOTLIGHT: NEW ONLINE RESOURCE AT THE TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY
Lorri Huddy, Reference Librarian and Electronic Resources Coordinator

The Library now has a subscription to the New York Times Historical Archive. The archive is a full-text/full-image database of the New York Times, "every page of every issue from cover to cover, with full-page and article images," providing coverage from 1851 to 2001. The database is updated annually, when a new year's coverage is added.

One of the best features of this product is that the images have been enhanced using digital technology that de-skews and de-speckles the scanned images to provide better quality images than those available on microfilm.

The Trinity community can get to the archive through Trinity Online Resources' History and News & Current Events sections.

If you would like assistance using the archive, please contact the reference librarians at 297-2252.
NEW COURSE TRAINS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
FOR NEW FIRST-YEAR FOCUS PROGRAM
Patricia Lord Clark, Reference Librarian and Instruction Coordinator

Every Monday night this semester, 10 undergraduates have been working with Pat Clark in a new half-credit college course, "Research Methodologies and Information Resources." Based on ACRL's five information literacy competencies, the course teaches students about the role of information in society, practicing information-seeking behaviors and skills, and learning to mentor first-year students through the research process. Upon completion of this research course, the students will be eligible to apply for research associates positions in the new First-Year Focus Program for academic year 2005-2006.

In the new Focus Program, first-year students enroll in fall and spring seminars that are thematically linked. The additional spring seminar provides a venue for first-year students to practice and expand the information literacy skills they learned during their fall seminar. They will demonstrate these skills through a major research project and presentation. The role of the research associates is to assist the students through the projects and to work with the faculty on developing the appropriate process. The research associates join the academic mentors and writing associates as strong peer support to the first-year students.

The response of the students in the "Research Methodologies and Information Resources" course has been very positive. One student wrote: "I think this is a great course that should be offered to everyone attending Trinity. I thought I knew my way around the library well enough to do effective research papers and projects, but once I realized how much information I was missing because of my lack of understanding about the library's functions, I was so happy I took this opportunity. Even being taught the basics of how information is organized and distributed helps in knowing what is available and where to look for it; I only wish I had had this course/a research associate around to help me with my first-year seminar."

NEWS FROM THE WATKINSON LIBRARY
Jeffrey Kaimowitz, Head Librarian – Watkinson Library and Curator of the Enders Collection

From January 24 through February 28, 2005, the Watkinson Library hosted a loaned exhibition of prints from the collection of Vincent J. Buonanno, arranged and curated by architectural historian Professor Kristin A. Triff of the Trinity College Department of Fine Arts. The show was entitled, Staging Diplomacy in Eighteenth-Century Rome: The Festival of the Chinea. The exhibition comprised a beautiful series of prints of the architectural constructions created for the yearly celebration of the Chinea, which marked the annual tribute paid to the Pope by the ruler of Sicily and Naples, along with select, complementary books from the Watkinson Library's holdings. Dr. Triff also prepared an explanatory catalog, complete with images to go with the show. With support from the Trinity College Friends of Art and the Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture, the show was inaugurated by an illustrated talk by Princeton architectural historian Professor John Pinto on January 24.

The Watkinson Library's current exhibition is "Now Let Us Never From Duty Shrink": The Civil War Through the Eyes of the Brothers Cornelius, Union Soldiers, planned and described by Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist Peter J. Knapp and University of Hartford political science instructor Anne H. Knapp. The exhibition is planned and described by Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist Peter J. Knapp and University of Hartford political science instructor Anne H. Knapp. The Watkinson Library's current exhibition is "Now Let Us Never From Duty Shrink": The Civil War Through the Eyes of the Brothers Cornelius, Union Soldiers, planned and described by Special Collections Librarian and College Archivist Peter J. Knapp and University of Hartford political science instructor Anne H. Knapp. The exhibition is

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with the Regional Depository (State Library) as well as the other two CTW institutions and the University of Connecticut depository holdings.

Related plans include a written collection development policy for all the collections of the Trinity College Library, including a comparative collection assessment. This effort will provide a planning document for the Library's long-term needs and will guide the allocation of resources. Consulting with faculty, we will also gain a better understanding of new curricular developments to shape our collections and resources. As a result of the challenges arising from the overabundance of information on the Internet, the teaching of information literacy skills continues to be of critical importance. The Trinity College Library will aim to evaluate the level of information literacy skills of incoming students and assess their progress over time. We will also focus our efforts on the development of discipline-specific information literacy skills for upper-level students.

Finally, this summer the CTW Library members will meet to re-imagine the role of the CTW consortium, and rethink our organization and programs for the future. Ideas under consideration include cooperative purchasing of library software (other than the library automated system software); the development of staff expertise in areas of digital imaging; metadata development; institutional repositories; co-operative collection development and storage planning; and active collaboration with other consortia.

As the Library heads into a busy season full of projects and planning, I wish all of you a successful conclusion to the academic year and a productive summer.

News from the Watkinson Library
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show presents a view of the Civil War from the perspective of two brothers who, between them, fought at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Savannah, and the siege of Charleston. War-time letters, sent by the brothers to their teenaged sister, were saved and handed down through the Knapp family, provide a rare glimpse into the life and struggles of Union Army enlisted men. A large group of books, newspapers, and maps from the Watkinson Library's strong Civil War holdings, also on exhibit, provide a broad context in which to understand the letters and the progress of the war. The Knapps have also prepared a checklist of the exhibition and opened the show with an illustrated lecture at a Library Associates Open House on March 15.

"Now Let Us Never From Duty Shrink": The Civil War Through the Eyes of the Brothers Cornelius, will be on display in the Watkinson Library from March 15, 2005 to May 28, 2005. The hours for the exhibition are: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., while the College is in session. The exhibition is free and open to the public.
In response to requests and suggestions made by students, faculty, and staff, Level B of the Raether Center now boasts a comfortable study area with improved collaborative work space, fully-equipped technological capabilities, and modified acoustics, creating the desirable gathering place originally envisioned for this information zone.

The facelift includes new furniture to provide a more comfortable and welcoming place to sit, read, and study. Four three-foot tables have been installed in the "hallway" area along the curved section of the wall, each with additional free-standing chairs. Electrical and data outlets for these tables are available along the bench seating.

Four banquettes with upholstered seats and backs have been installed further down this hallway area. Two of these booths have new 37-inch LCD panels mounted on the adjacent wall, allowing those with a laptop computer the opportunity to share their display and work collaboratively with others. All of these tables furnish electrical and data connections hard wired into the tables. The hookup to the LCD screen is via a connection in the table, and the screen is designed to automatically detect a signal and turn itself on. When done, the user disconnects the laptop, and the screen goes into standby almost immediately.

Colorful sound dampening panels have been installed in this area as a means to improve the acoustics as well as the aesthetics of the space. Additionally, new lighting fixtures have been hung from the ceiling over the seating area, providing better study light for the banquettes and tables.

All of these changes complement the renovations that have been completed in the computer labs. The labs have also had sound dampening panels mounted on the wall, which not only help muffle the noise level, but also add some color. The ventilation has had sound dampening foam installed to help control background noise.

Vending machines are now located by the exterior doors to provide snacks and beverages for students looking for a quick nosh when they are burning the midnight oil, or just looking for a fix during the day.

Initial reaction to the renovations has been favorable, as students and faculty use the space to sit, read, and work individually or in groups. As these collaborative spaces prove successful, the LITC will be looking for additional spaces that enhance the learning experience here at Trinity.
INAUGURAL WINTER INSTITUTE ON TEACHING
Steve Veshosky, Web Editor and Copywriter, Department of Communications

In an effort designed to explore and highlight the many academic and technology-based resources and support services available to Trinity faculty, the Raether Library and Information Technology Center hosted the First Annual Winter Institute on Teaching. More than 40 professors participated in the January event, which featured presentations such as “Enhancing the Classroom Experience through Student Presentations” and “Better Read than Dead: Encouraging Student Preparation with Learning Contracts.” In addition to the faculty-led sessions, the day-long symposium included information and training workshops coordinated by the Library, the Writing Center, Academic Computing Services, and Media Technology Services. Discussions during the morning session centered on the theme “Helping Students Take Responsibility for Their Learning.”

“Working together with faculty and various centers and offices was especially productive,” says Beverly Wall, associate professor and director of the Writing Center. “I hope to see us do more of this in the future as it helps to generate a positive culture of conversations about teaching across the campus.” Added Judith Moran, associate professor of quantitative studies and director of the Math Center, “The Winter Institute provided an opportunity for faculty and programs to showcase their activities and supply examples of innovative uses of Trinity’s resources that can be adapted for their colleague’s courses.”

“This was a really useful event—useful in making us think about things we all too often take for granted in the grind of day-to-day teaching,” says Mark Franklin, John R. Reitemeyer Professor of Political Science. “I came away with some new ideas and with a new belief in some of my own older ideas about how to be a better teacher.”

The Winter Institute was sponsored by a variety of campus organizations, including Academic Computing Services, the Office of the Dean of Faculty, the Library, the Math Center, Media Technology Services, the Trinity Center for Collaborative Teaching & Research (TCCTR), and the Writing Center. Plans are already under way for the next event, a spring institute scheduled to take place shortly after the spring classes end. The topic for the May 19 event will be Technology Online Evaluation of Student Writing and Assignments. To register for the Spring Institute, go to http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/cc/acad/forms/SITTform.htm

To view presentations from the January event, as well as for additional information about the Winter Institute, please go to www.trincoll.edu/RaetherCtr/ComputingCenter/Faculty/WIT.htm.

LUNA ARRIVAL
Phil Duffy, Director, Media Technology

As the semester winds to an end, the Raether Center is preparing to test a new service for the Trinity community. For some time now, Information Technology and the Library staffs have been looking to implement a digital image database. After reviewing a number of alternatives, the Luna program has been selected to provide this service to the College.

During the spring and summer, a few faculty members will serve as test cases, with a larger implementation intended for the fall semester. When fully implemented, faculty and staff will be able to search a digital image database by artist, topic, keyword, or combinations of the above. Users can also search other collections and save images for future reference and study.

Another attractive feature of Luna is that it works with more than just digital pictures. Video and audio files can also be entered into the database for search purposes, and the user will be able to then link to the files to either see and/or hear the appropriate pieces.

Anticipated usage of the database is eagerly awaited by faculty in as disparate fields as fine arts and economics, by librarians, and academic computing resource specialists. If you have any questions about Luna or its use, contact Scott Vanek at x2109.