With the new academic year well on its way, we can now take stock of the accomplishments and changes of this past summer and early fall. The most visible project has been the transformation of the Library’s reference area on Level A. We are very pleased by the immediate and positive response to the newly configured space that combines the Library’s reference desk with an expanded 24-hour study area, replete with additional computer access, study carrels, large tables for groups or individuals, and clusters of leather seats for quiet and comfortable reading.

A little more hidden, but of long-term benefit, is the establishment of an on-site storage area for about 50,000 volumes on Level C. Titles to be transferred there will be selected based on past and anticipated low use. They will continue to be accessible during the Library’s service hours. The on-site storage collection will allow for less crowded shelves throughout the building and will help accommodate growth space for new books in the main collection until 2020.

Even less visible, yet equally significant, is the transition to digital format of our image, music, and parts of our special collections. We have transferred over 38,000 of our own digital images into ARTstor, a host facility that by itself offers well over 500,000 images for Trinity College’s use. We have also added subscriptions to the following three online audio....
The Class of 2012 Hits the Books
Erin Valentino, Research and Instruction Librarian

The Library welcomed the Class of 2012 with a fair on Sunday, September 7. Students in each of the 42 First-Year and Gateway seminars attended the library fair, for a grand total of approximately 500 students.

The incoming students attended the fair with their academic mentors, who toured them around our building, described the services available to them, and introduced them to our librarians. On their way out of the building, students eagerly grabbed from the piles of snacks that we offered by way of thanks for their participation—nosh for frost.

For the First-Year Program, the library fair is part of a larger program of information literacy that also includes specialized research instruction sessions with electronic databases, scholarly Web sites, and reference materials. For our part, we enjoyed meeting the Class of 2012, and look forward to working closely with them over the course of their college careers.

Staff News
This past year saw two resignations from the Trinity Library. In late May, Vince Boisselle, head librarian for information and systems and services resigned from the Library, after 10 years of outstanding service, to become college librarian at Hobart & William Smith Colleges Library. In addition, Donna Small, administrative assistant in the College Librarian’s Office, left Trinity in June 2008 after nearly two years of service and after acquiring her M. A. degree in library science.

Promotions/New Assignments
Thomas Zaharevich, formerly technical services librarian, was promoted to head librarian for the technical services division and will supervise access services, acquisitions, cataloging and systems. Yuksel Serindag, cataloging assistant, recently received his M.L.S and was promoted to acquisitions librarian. Doris Kammradt, formerly head librarian for collection development, was appointed to head librarian for the collections, research, and instruction division. She will supervise reference and instruction, media services, visual resources, the social sciences data unit, and collection development. George Graf, formerly acquisitions librarian and social sciences bibliographer, has been named chief bibliographer/reference librarian in collection development. Jessica Smith, formerly outreach librarian, has been promoted to administrative librarian.

We also welcomed two new people to the staff. Janine Kinel joins the library administration office as the administrative assistant and Sean Coleman becomes the latest addition to our cataloging unit.

From the Director...
continued from page 1...
collections: Smithsonian Global Sound, Classical Music Library, and African American Song. These, together with our ongoing subscription to the Naxos Online Music Library, provide a rich selection of digitally available music for teaching, study, and recreation.

The Watkinson Library supplied 1,000 of its books to an onsite digitization project conducted by Cengage (formerly Thomson Gale) for their online Eighteenth Century Collection. As the material becomes available as part of the Eighteenth Century Collection package, the Library will receive royalties for the content we provided. We have also completed the digitization of the Trinity Tripod from academic years 1960-1961 through 2007-2008. This project addressed preservation issues of the increasingly brittle newspaper stock and prepared the content, currently captured on CD-ROM, for eventual online access as funding becomes available.

Finally, let me report on some organizational changes. They were precipitated by two staff vacancies in June and a re-envisioning of future library services, the on-going treatment of print materials, and our plans for, and continued transition to, digital resources. With these factors in mind, we re-organized or promoted existing staff within newly configured Library divisions. A chart noting the new divisions and the new positions and titles is inserted in this newsletter.

We also saw a change in the leadership of the Watkinson Library Board of Trustees as Jim Lyon stepped down after two consecutive, very productive terms as chair of the Board. We are now happy to welcome Nancy Grover, who has been unanimously appointed as the Board’s new chair, and we look forward to her ongoing engagement and leadership. We also welcome Charles A. Dana Professor of English Literature, Barbara Benedict, to the Board. She succeeds Henry A. DePhillips, Jr., the Vernon K. Krieble Professor of Chemistry, as the faculty appointment to the Watkinson Library Board of Trustees. Dr. DePhillips stepped down from the Board after nearly 10 years of service, and we thank him for these years of dedication to the Library.

With my best wishes for the remaining weeks of the semester.

Dr. Richard S. Ross
College Librarian
Facsimile of the Aleppo-Codex Donated to the Library

Jeffrey Kaimowitz, Head Librarian, Watkinson Library

Through the generosity of the Religion Department and the John Andrew Gettier Book Fund, the Library has received a beautiful facsimile of the Aleppo Codex. Housed in the Watkinson Library, the book was presented in memory of beloved Professor of Religion Theodor M. Mauch, who taught at the College from 1957 to 1987.

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament is the central text of Judaism. It was natural, therefore, that the Masoretes, pioneer Jewish Biblical scholars of the early Middle Ages, took great pains to establish and preserve the Bible’s Hebrew text as accurately as possible. This effort in textual transmission reached its culmination in a manuscript known today as the Aleppo Codex. It was written in Palestine, probably in the city of Tiberias, by Solomon ben Bouya’a ca. 935 CE and then checked and provided with the Masoretic system of vowel points and accents by Mosheh ben Asher, one of the last of a great family of Masoretic scholars. The foremost Jewish philosopher of the Middle Ages, Moses Maimonides, considered it the most authoritative of all the texts edited by the Masoretes.

The Aleppo Codex’s later history was somewhat hair-raising. In the 11th century it was taken to Egypt, probably by robbers. By the 14th century it had arrived in Aleppo in Syria, where it became a treasured possession of the Jewish community. With hostilities between Jews and Arabs, when the Palestine Mandate came to an end in 1947, there was rioting in Aleppo and the Codex was partially destroyed by fire. Most of the Pentateuch was lost, but the remainder was brought to Israel, where it is preserved today.

Watkinson Materials Digitized

Sally Dickinson, Special Collections Librarian

During the fall and spring of 2007-2008 the Watkinson Library provided approximately 1,000 items for imaging by Primary Source Media, an imprint of Gale/Cengage Learning, for its English Short Title Catalogue/Eighteenth Century Collections Online project. The 18th-century books and journals were scanned on site at the library for reproduction in digital and microfilm formats. The Watkinson Library will be paid in royalties for distribution of copies of the titles. The digital version of the Watkinson materials, as well as the comprehensive collection of 18th-century publications cited in the ESTC, will be available to the Trinity community through the library Web site under TOR “Eighteenth Century Collections.”

Large Gift of Books on Buddhism

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

In the spring of 2007, the Library received a donation of about 400 books of primary texts and scholarship on Buddhism. The collection came to us from a private collector in New Haven who had contacted us with a list of titles he had purchased over more than a decade. Upon checking the list and consulting with Professor Ellison Findly, scholar and teacher of Buddhism at Trinity, the Library gratefully accepted the entire collection. It will significantly strengthen our resources for this area of study, and we are excited to make this collection available at Trinity and within the CTW consortium.

Major Expansion of Online Journals

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

The Library steadily continues to progress from print to online subscriptions for its journal titles. Over the past year, we shifted all of our subscriptions from two major publishers, Sage and Springer, to online only. The electronic journal packages we now subscribe to include the titles we previously held in print and offer about 1,780 additional journals, many of them of immediate interest to Trinity’s curriculum. For both packages, the online archives are secure and go back to 1997 for the Springer titles, and to various dates for the Sage titles, often covering the entire run of the journal.

We have also been able to pick up at very reasonable cost a subscription to a package of 42 digitally borne journals published by Berkeley Electronic Press. The journals focus on the social sciences, particularly economics and political science; health and medicine; and science and technology. The articles offer peer-reviewed scholarship; however, most of them are written to be accessible to undergraduate students. These three new online collections make yet another rich layer of journal literature easily accessible to our faculty and student researchers.
Fall 2008
Watkinson Exhibition

Peter Knapp, College Archivist

On display in the Watkinson Library through January 12, 2009, is an exhibition of original architectural drawings and other material from the Trinity College Archives related to the College’s historic 19th-century Long Walk buildings, which are considered among the finest examples in America of the High Victorian Collegiate Gothic style. Entitled “They Should Stand For Ages”: William Burges, Francis Kimball and Trinity’s Long Walk Buildings, the exhibition was planned and described by Peter J. Knapp, special collections librarian and college archivist, and celebrates the completion of an extensive 14-month project to restore and renovate the buildings.

William Burges, one of England’s most eminent architects, accepted the commission in 1872 to design the buildings for Trinity’s Rocky Ridge campus, present site of the College, south of Hartford’s business district. Since its founding in 1823, Trinity had been located on a small campus adjacent to Bushnell Park. The City of Hartford’s purchase of the campus as the site for the State Capitol building enabled the College to move to a spacious location with ample room for growth. Submitted in 1874, Burges’s final design called for construction of buildings in quadrangles, following English collegiate practice. Francis Kimball, the supervising architect from Hartford, adapted the design with Burges’s approval by building one side of a central quadrangle. Seabury Hall (lecture rooms and offices) and Jarvis Hall (dormitory rooms) were completed in 1878, and Northam Towers, a four-story connecting gateway, was completed in 1883.

The Long Walk exhibition is free and open to the public, and can be viewed Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It can also be viewed from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays from November 1 through December 13, except for November 29. The formal opening of the exhibition took place at a Watkinson Library open house on October 7 in the Raether Center’s 1823 Room, when architectural historian Darrin VonStein lectured on the planning and construction of the Long Walk.

Volume 2, Issue 1

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NEWS from the Libraries at Trinity College

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