From the Director
Dr. Richard S. Ross, College Librarian

Over the past few months, the Library said its farewell to five colleagues who had signed up for Trinity’s Retirement Incentive Program (TRIP): Patricia Bunker, chief reference librarian; Mary Curry, interlibrary loan librarian; George Graf, chief bibliographer and reference librarian; and Eles­tine Nicholson, library processing assistant, retired in December 2009; and Jeffrey Kaimowitz, head librarian and curator of the Watkinson Library in February 2010. Together, these five colleagues represented over 150 years of service to the Trinity Library!

The Library staff sponsored two celebrations for our retirees, their families, friends, and colleagues, the first on December 11, 2009, and the second, for Jeffrey Kaimowitz, on February 18, 2010. These were occasions to look back on and give thanks for the long-term dedication, professional contributions, and remarkable accomplishments of these five colleagues. Memories were rekindled about card cata­logs, print indexes, and a library world that mostly consisted of paper, and reflections were shared about the speed of change that has transformed almost every aspect of library services.

Our retiring colleagues have helped to design the road map for many of these changes over the years. Now it is up to the current library staff, and those who will soon begin their work lives here, to

The Library Goes Mobile
By Amy Harrell, Music and Media Librarian and Lori Stethers, Systems Librarian

Smartphones and mobile computing are becoming increasingly popular among students, and we anticipate that Trinity students have growing expectations for mobile access to library resources. To serve the mobile audience, the library undertook the following three projects:

In November 2009, the library launched its first mobile initiative that allows Trinity College Library users to text a title and call number to their mobile devices right from our library catalog. When a visitor to the catalog finds an item they would like to make a note of, they can simply click on the “Text me the title and call #” link, then provide their mobile service provider and cell phone number. The title and call number will be immediately sent to their phone as a text message, providing a portable record of the item of interest without requiring them to keep track of yet another slip of paper. Since its implementa­tion, we have received numerous comments from students indicating the popularity of this new service.

Building on the success of this first mobile initiative, in January 2010 the library launched its own mobile Web site. Students who have Web-enabled phones now have mobile access to portions of the regular site, including the catalog, library accounts, hours, staff contacts, and more. The interface they encounter is designed specifically for comfortable viewing and navigating on the smaller screens of their devices. When mobile users visit the regular library Web site, they are automatically given the option to use the mobile site. The mobile site can also be reached from any browser by going to http://library.trincoll.edu/m.

A third mobile project is still in development, expected to be available this spring. We aim to provide a mobile interface to our library catalog. The catalog can already be accessed from some mobile devices, but its current design is not optimal for viewing on a small screen. This new mobile version of our catalog will be specifically designed for quick loading and easy viewing on small-screen devices. We look forward to providing this ability for students to search the catalog while they are in the library stacks, or anywhere they can use their cell phone.

continued on page 2
Textbook Reserve Project

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

The rising costs of required textbooks are a significant financial burden for students as the price of a single textbook can go well over $200. Joining an initiative of the Student Government Organization (SGA), the Library collaborated with the Dean of Faculty’s Office and the SGA’s Academic Affairs Committee on a textbook pilot project that provides students an alternative to purchasing required course material.

The disciplines chosen for this first phase of the project are chemistry, economics, language & culture studies, and psychology. With additional funding from the SGA and Dean of Faculty’s Office, the Library purchased 22 required textbooks, each of them over $100, and made them available as part of a textbook reserve collection.

Within the first six weeks of the spring semester, 16 of the 22 textbooks have circulated at least once; more than half were checked out 10 times or more; and overall circulation came to 172 charges. These numbers point to a successful start! We will explore the expansion of the project for the fall semester.

Director... continued from page 1

carry forward Trinity Library’s tradition of progress and service, while maintaining the “human touch,” valued in library interactions when our colleagues started their careers and still so important in today’s online environment.

Several contributions in this newsletter describe new ways in which Trinity Library reaches out to, and works with, students and faculty. Two of our more technologically savvy librarians, Amy Harrell, music and performing arts librarian, and Lori Stethers, systems librarian, have enabled access to library information from mobile phones by developing a mobile version of the Library Website and the Library catalog. They also made it possible to send a title and call number as a text message from the catalog. This brings Library information to our busy students and faculty wherever and whenever they need it.

Thanks to the innovative leadership of Research Education Librarian Erin Valentino, the Library is developing new approaches to teaching the retrieval, evaluation, and use of information resources. Students now can employ an online appointment scheduler to set up a meeting with a librarian of their choice; a separate consultation space has been furnished for one-on-one or small group teaching sessions; and in-class paper hand-outs have been replaced by online course guides.

The Library has also collaborated with the SGA (Student Government Association) and the Dean of Faculty’s Office on a textbook pilot project to ease the financial burden of expensive textbook purchases. In addition, a new federal law, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, requires any institution receiving federal financial assistance to make available on their course schedules the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) of any required textbook. The law was passed in August 14, 2008, and will be effective as of July 1, 2010.

In our collaboration within the CTW Consortium, we continue to explore ways to share our collections and to offset the reductions in our materials budget. Supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the three CTW libraries have developed a project for building a shared e-book collection that allows users from all three institutions access to any of the purchased titles. Records of titles available in this new program have been loaded into the three catalogs and are immediately available for viewing. Over the next year, we will evaluate this project and determine its cost and practicality.

Even from these few examples, you can probably see that despite reductions in staff and budget, the Trinity College Library continues to develop innovative services and programs. We thank you for your interest and support of these initiatives, and welcome your participation and feedback as we move forward with them.
Expansion of e-book titles
By Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for the Collections, Research and Instruction

The pilot project of sharing online books within the CTW consortium moved forward in early February by loading 2,600 records of recent or new e-book titles into the three library catalogs. Each month, an additional roughly 550 e-book records will be added.

The titles are published either by a university press or one of about 20 major academic trade publishers that are regularly included in our selections. The content is based on a subject profile developed from the teaching curriculum at the three CTW schools.

The full-text of the books is immediately available from a link in the catalog record. However, none of the books is actually bought until the second time their content is accessed, which triggers a purchase with a multi-user license for the CTW consortium.

This new approach has several advantages: it offers a wide range of potential titles while limiting purchase to those that are actually used; all titles are automatically shared across the consortium without having to be shipped between libraries; and they are available simultaneously to multiple users instead of being checked out to a single borrower.

We will continue our print collection of core titles for undergraduate study and research, however, some of the more specialized titles that may or may not be used will be offered as e-books, with the option of providing paper copy via an on-demand printing service.

Library Research Education: New Ways of Working with Students
By Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for the Collections, Research and Instruction

"The question may be quick; the answer often isn’t." This observation by recently retired Chief Reference Librarian Pat Bunker summarizes what all librarians who work with our students have been experiencing over the last few years.

With the abundance of information available, not only in the Library’s collections and databases, but on a much broader scale than ever before, finding and evaluating the most pertinent sources for a topic has become increasingly complex. Most subjects can no longer be researched solely from traditional reference sources, but require a process of multiple steps, with the librarian acting as coach or often co-learner. This is the starting point of the Library’s new research education program, spearheaded by Research Education Librarian Erin Valentino.

Three recently added features help in developing this new direction:

- The online appointment scheduler allows students to book a meeting time with a librarian, each of them listed with their area of specialty. Students can choose among different appointment types and lengths, from a brief consultation to a research session for their thesis. A short description of the project gives the librarian a chance to check into the topic before the student arrives. From the start, the appointment scheduler has been in high use and the challenge will be to meet the rising requests for meeting times.

- The consultation space is a former staff office adjacent to the reference desk that has been furnished and equipped for small group consultations: a table to spread out papers, a white board, and most importantly, a wall-mounted computer screen for easy viewing. The space allows for more privacy and comfort than the reference desk, particularly for in-depth consultations with one or more students. It is also an ideal small-scale teaching space where the students themselves can conduct searches rather than watching how to do them at the reference desk.

- The online course guides, introduced last fall to replace our paper hand-outs, have turned into highly successful teaching tools. Versatile in how they can be developed, they have served as orientation portals for First-Year seminars and as guides to more complex research in advanced courses. Students can find the guides on the Library’s homepage, or may have access to them on Blackboard or Moodle. The usage numbers speak for their success: During the fall 2009 semester, the online course guides were accessed 6,753 times, and in the first two months of spring 2010, we recorded 3,160 hits!
News from the Libraries at Trinity College

Raether Library and Information Technology Center
300 Summit Street
Hartford, CT 06106-3100

Spring 2010

Watkinson Exhibition

As part of Trinity’s yearlong celebration of the 40th anniversary of the admission of women, the Watkinson Library is hosting an exhibition that features photographs, articles, memorabilia, documents, and other items about the thought processes contributing to the decision to admit female students and the impact that women have had on the College.

The coeducation exhibit is on display from February 1 to June 28, 2010. Viewing hours are Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Exhibition Lecture

A highlight of the event was an Open House lecture by Robin Sheppard, professor of physical education and associate director of athletics. She spoke to an enthusiastic crowd on “Coeds and Competition – the Evolution of the Female Bantam.”

The lively talk took place Wednesday, March 3, at 5:00 p.m. in the Joslin Family 1823 Room of the Raether Library and Information Technology Center.

Information provided by Michele Jacklin, director of media relations