

# GRINNELL COLLEGE



## **Grinnell College Libraries Annual Report, 2008-2009**

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### *Summary*

2008-2009 was a year of intensive self-examination in the Libraries, at the same time that we continued our focus on supporting inquiry-based learning and using technology to support student and faculty learning.

In November 2007, we started work on a self study which occupied much of our attention in 2008-2009. The process culminated in late April with a campus visit from two External Reviewers, Victoria Hanawalt, the Norman F. Carrigg College Librarian at Reed College and Jonathan Miller, Library Director at Rollins College. The self study report is publicly available at <http://www.lib.grinnell.edu/selfstudy/>.

We continued to refine our approach to integrating information literacy into student learning, with a special focus this year on Tutorial. Our goal is to develop a progressive series of instructional contacts which help our students learn the critical inquiry skills and concepts necessary for success at Grinnell and thereafter.

The Libraries also support inquiry-based learning at Grinnell by facilitating access to various kinds of primary evidence. We initiated Grinnell's use of DataVerse to help students and faculty share the data that they produce both within and beyond the Grinnell community. For historically oriented disciplines and topics, we acquired several important online databases of primary-source documents, including *Early English Books Online* (1473-1700), the *London Times* (1785-1985), and others. And we increased the visibility of the rich but under-used holdings of the Libraries' Special Collections through a new exhibition program and through outreach to classes.

We identified several ways to improve services using new technologies. We introduced Web delivery of articles obtained for students and faculty through Interlibrary Loan. We introduced a new tool -- *Research Pro* -- for searching several databases at the same time and viewing all results from a single

page. And we expanded the series of subject-based "Getting Started" pages on our Web site and moved them to a new platform that integrates instant messaging and related services.

Details on these and other important initiatives follow.

### ***Self Study and External Review***

In November 2007, the Libraries started work on a self study which occupied much of our attention in 2008-2009. In each of its eight sections -- Information Literacy and Reference Services, Information Discovery and Access, Collections and Collection Development, Special Collections, Digital Initiatives, Partnerships and Collaboration, Cultivating Engagement, and Staffing and Organization -- the report identifies a key challenge facing the Libraries, proposes steps we can take to meet that challenge, and analyzes the strengths we can draw upon and the weaknesses or obstacles we shall have to overcome. The report engaged librarians and library staff alike in research and writing, along with many campus colleagues from outside the Libraries. The process culminated in late April with a campus visit from two External Reviewers, Victoria Hanawalt, the Norman F. Carrigg College Librarian at Reed College and Jonathan Miller, Library Director at Rollins College. Our annual planning retreat in July 2009 focused on the recommendations in both the self study report and the reviewers' report. The self study report is publicly available at <http://www.lib.grinnell.edu/selfstudy/>.

### ***Facilitating Inquiry-based Learning***

*Information Literacy Instruction:* To guide our work with Tutorials, librarians drafted a curriculum and a series of online materials to pilot with students and tutors. By articulating goals for first-semester information literacy instruction, we hope to make our teaching more effective and to lay a foundation for subsequent teaching. Librarians also began a series of discussions with academic departments intended to articulate expectations for their students in terms of information literacy. Our goal for both these efforts is to develop a progressive series of instructional contacts which help our students learn the critical inquiry skills and concepts necessary for success at Grinnell and thereafter.

*Developing DataVerse:* Students who engage in inquiry-based learning often perform research that generates useful data—data on which future students could draw for their own research, if the data was shared. DataVerse, a service of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University, will help students and faculty share the data that they produce both within and beyond the Grinnell community. The Libraries, the Institutional Review Board, and others spent 2008-09 developing policies for sharing data in DataVerse. We hope to begin uploading data into DataVerse in 2009-2010.

*Developing Collections and Access:* Inquiry requires evidence -- research findings, scholarly interpretation, historical documents and other records of prior intellectual and cultural activity -- and one of the core missions of a library is to facilitate access to this material for faculty and students through local collection development and other means and to contribute to national and international efforts to preserve it. Significant acquisitions are detailed below. We greatly expanded access to the journals of the large multidisciplinary publisher Elsevier by shifting from a subscription model to a pay-by-the-download model, we increased the range of financial and economic data accessible in digital formats, and we acquired several important online databases of primary-source documents.

*Special Collections:* We also increased the visibility of the rich but under-used holdings of the

Libraries' Special Collections through a new exhibition program and through outreach to classes. *Galileo's New Sciences: Origins and Aftermath* was mounted to coincide with the Department of Theater and Dance's production of Bertholt Brecht's play *The Life of Galileo*. The exhibit featured books printed between 1561 and 1776 that documented both the Renaissance origins of Galileo's revolutionary ideas in astronomy and physics and the wide-ranging impact of those ideas on early modern science, politics, and culture. Students in Philosophy 233, History of Early Modern Philosophy, spent a class period working with these books. We also hosted David Harrison's class French 312: French Literature from Knights to Libertines, which was interested in the development of print culture from the early modern period through the 19th Century.

For the summer exhibition, we marked the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection* (and the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth) with an exhibition that showcased our first edition of *The Origin of the Species* along with works which influenced or were influenced by Darwin's theory of evolution. Two Tutorial classes are scheduled to work with these materials in the fall semester.

### ***Engaging Our Communities***

**Evenings @ Burling** The Libraries continued to host readings that featured local writers (community members, faculty, and students), highlighting the library's role in preserving works of the past and inspiring works of the future. A total of 11 literary events, including Open Mic nights co-hosted with the Faulconer Gallery, took place as part of the Evenings @ Burling series, each engaging 15-20 students, faculty, staff, and community members. Students were prominently featured in this year's schedule, with three writing classes reading as a group and seniors Molly McArdle and Amanda Gotera co-headlining a reading in April.

**Film presentations** The Libraries also helped to sponsor two film events, "Re-Discovering *Roots*" in the fall and the Favorite Films Festival in the early winter. These events engaged the campus community intellectually and socially. "Re-Discovering *Roots*" presented the 1977 television miniseries across six evenings in September, with each episode introduced and discussed by a faculty or community member with expertise in themes the episode addressed. Panel discussions were also held to introduce and conclude the series. The Favorite Films Festival gave the entire campus a chance to vote on their favorite animated, film noir, and foreign film and culminated in group viewings of the selected films in the Harris Cinema in January.

### ***Technology in Service of Learning***

*Web Delivery of ILL:* In March we started providing Interlibrary Services journal articles by Web delivery rather than by paper. Instead of printing out a copy of an article that we receive electronically from another library and then sending that print-out through campus mail, our software automatically sends an email to the requester with information that allows the article to be retrieved through a Web browser. This service allows us to speed delivery of articles and reduce paper waste.

*ILL Requests Are Also Easier:* Most of the Libraries' citation databases now link directly to an interlibrary request form if the Libraries do not have a print or online copy of an article -- and the citation information is automatically entered into the form.

*Book Jackets and Google Preview:* Our catalog now displays book jackets (courtesy of Google Book Search) and links to the Google Book Search page for some books. From the Google Book Search page, a user can click on the "Preview this book" tab at the top of the page to view a digital scan of all or part of the book.

*The LibX toolbar* gives students and faculty easy access to many of the Grinnell College Libraries' resources, directly in their Firefox or Internet Explorer browser.

*Research Pro* is a tool for searching several databases at the same time, rather than searching each database individually. Known as "federated searching" or "meta-searching" this is an efficient way to explore unfamiliar databases to see which ones might be worth searching in greater depth.

*Subject Guides: A New Look and New Features:* From each subject guide page, students can now browse a list of databases and reference books directly related to the subject; search for books in the Library catalog, WorldCat, and Google Books; search for a journal; or chat with a librarian using IM. The subject pages are now hosted on an open-source database platform called Subjects Plus. The database format allows us to maintain the guides more efficiently.

### ***Improving our Services with User Feedback***

*New Web homepage:* The Libraries launched a new homepage in late June to provide faster access to the most commonly used research tools through quick search boxes and drop-down menus that make the page less cluttered. Comments from our users were incorporated throughout the re-design process, including consultation of a library website usability study conducted by students in Janet Davis's Human Computer Interaction course. We expect that more extensive re-structuring of the Libraries' Web site will be undertaken as the College moves to a new CMS.

*Workflow Analysis and Improvement in Acquisitions and Cataloging:* In response to user concerns (voiced in LibQUAL and elsewhere) about the speed with which new acquisitions appeared on the shelves, we conducted an analysis in the spring of 2008 of our various workflows in acquisitions, cataloging, and processing, looking for ways to streamline procedures and optimize our use of time-saving techniques. As the "digital library" becomes increasingly intertwined with the traditional library, we need to be sure that we can direct staff time into important new work while maintaining many of our existing services. Starting July 1, 2008, Technical Services implemented a new workflow. We designed a new "cataloging slip" to facilitate a different sorting of new receipts, and we developed new procedures to make it possible for student employees to catalog at least half of the current receipts (those items that have full-level Library of Congress cataloging records). We call this procedure "Rapid Cataloging." Cataloging staff, supplemented by Circulation staff and others, also tackled the backlog of materials that had been received before July 1, completing the Library of Congress copy cataloging (DLC) backlog by early September. The non-DLC backlog has also been diminished, from ca. 3000 books and 1200 scores to ca. 950 books and 400 scores. New non-Rapid cataloging receipts are cataloged on the same day if there is good cataloging copy. These items will not stay in cataloging more than 6 months. In the time from July 1 to October 31, 2007 we cataloged 4,261 books. In the same time period for 2008 we cataloged 5,233 books. Our long-term goal is to have most materials spend as no more than a day from the time of receipt to being shelf-ready. To support the new workflow, we reconfigured the Technical Services work areas.

*Open Books in Open Stacks:* We continued the process initiated in 2007 to transfer most books previously located in the closed-stack "Cage" into open circulating stacks, and expect to complete this in Fiscal Year 2010.

### ***Spaces and Places***

*New Furnishings in Burling:* We continue the modest renewal to Burling's interior that started in the summer of 2007. Working with Facilities Management we created some new lamps in the center "living room" and in the Current Periodicals reading area, which are modeled after original designs created by the architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill for the Forum in 1964. Skidmore was also the architect for Burling Library in 1959. We continue to offer complimentary hot water and tea, now located on an attractive "tea cart" in Current Periodicals. And we introduced a vending machine for cold drinks (basement level), white boards (level 1), and laptop tables (level 2).

*Kistle Group Studies:* A computer and ceiling-mounted projector were installed in one of the group study rooms in Kistle Science Library to provide a convenient spot for small groups of students who need to practice presentations or have other audiovisual needs.

### *Notable New Collections and Databases*

*AP Images* provides access to the photo archives of the Associated Press with over 4.9 million primary-source photographs and other images from 1825 to the present documenting significant moments in history, news, sports and entertainment.

*Early American Newspapers, Series I and III*: We added these series to our existing subscription to Series II, extending coverage back to 1690 (the beginning of newspaper publishing in North America) and forward to 1922.

*Early English Books Online* contains digital facsimile page images of 100,000 works printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British North America, as well as works in English printed elsewhere, between 1473 and 1700. It complements Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) which we purchased the previous year.

*Education Research Complete*. A database covering scholarly research and information relating to all areas of education. Topics covered include all levels of education from early childhood to higher education, and all educational specialties. This replaced *Education Abstracts*.

*Elsevier's Science Direct Article Download Service*: Faculty and students may now access any article from any journal in any year that is part of Elsevier's ScienceDirect database. We discontinued 55 Elsevier subscriptions in January 2009 to fund the pay-per-view service, and maintained print subscriptions for 15 journals that faculty recommended we keep in that format.

*Nature* and *Science*: We established online subscriptions to the two premier science journals. *Science* includes a backfile to 1997 (issues before 1997 are included in JSTOR). The *Nature* subscription goes back to 2004.

*Nineteenth Century UK Periodicals*: 1.2 million pages of periodicals published in Great Britain between 1800 and 1900. It includes publications on women, children, leisure and sport, and humor.

*Oxford Reference Online* provides online access to 200 specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries useful to both student and faculty research.

*Roper Center Public Opinion Data*: Grinnell's subscription to the Roper Archives provides access to over 60 years of polling data from surveys conducted around the world. Roper's iPoll Database allows users to search for results for over 400,000 questions asked in the United States; RoperExpress allows users to download over 15,000 full datasets, including over 6,000 datasets from outside the United States, for analysis.

*Times Digital Archive*: Access to the complete backfile of the London *Times*, 1785-1985, including text, images, editorials and advertisements.

*Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS)*, produced by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, provides comprehensive tariff and trade information for over 140 countries. Grinnell users have access to TRAINS through the WITS (World Integrated Trade Solutions) software client.

## *Librarian and Staff Comings and Goings*

*Julia Bauder* joined the Libraries in July 2008 as the new Data Services Librarian (in plain English, that means she's the librarian to see when you need numbers—statistics, data, facts and figures, etc.). She is also the Libraries' resident techno-geek. Prior to joining the Grinnell College Libraries she was a Detroit-based freelance writer. She received her B.A. in Politics from Simon's Rock College of Bard in Massachusetts, and her M.L.I.S. from Wayne State University.

*Beth Bohstedt*, formerly Library Assistant in Acquisitions, was appointed to the new position of Manager of Access Services after a competitive search. In this new position, she will coordinate circulation, reserve, and interlibrary services in Burling and Kistle libraries.

*Karla Landers* re-joined the Libraries' staff in November as Library Assistant in Acquisitions. She had previously worked in Acquisitions in 2005 and 2006, and most recently was an Academic Support Assistant in the College's Dean's Office.

*Catherine Rod* took sabbatical leave during the fall of 2008, focusing her research on the history of books and printing in preparation for developing a more robust exhibition program for Special Collections. As part of this work she traveled to Edinburgh, York, and London to see examples of early printed texts and to gather ideas for curating exhibitions.

*Liz Rodrigues* joined us for the year as a term Reference & Instruction Librarian, replacing Rebecca Stuhr during Rebecca's sabbatical. Liz has a Master of Arts in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida and an MFA in poetry at Florida Atlantic University. She received her BA in English from Kenyon College. In September 2009 she will enter the PhD program in English Literature at the University of Michigan.

*Rebecca Stuhr* spent her sabbatical year in Philadelphia focused on a study of urban public library systems and how they serve their diverse communities, and working with the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Queens Borough Public Library. Through observation, interviews, and conversations, she learned about the work of these library systems and then created a proposal for integrating these ideas into academic setting. She is also working on an article on this topic.

***Librarian and Staff Activities, 2008-2009***

***Julia Bauder***

*Presentations:*

(With Liz Rodrigues) “Embedded in the Future: Integrating Library Tools in Students’ Online Research Environments,” Iowa Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries Spring Conference, Waterloo, IA, April 17, 2009.

“Folksonomies, Wikipedia, and the Semantic Web: Facilitating Culturally Appropriate Subject Access to Information on the Web,” The Ethics of Information Organization, Milwaukee, WI, May 22, 2009.

*College Service:*

Content Management System Selection Committee.

*Professional Service:*

Vice chair and chair-elect, Government Documents Round Table of the Iowa Library Association

***Sheryl Bissen***

*Professional Service:*

Past President, Iowa Library Association

Member, Iowa Library Association Governmental Affairs Committee and Awards Committee

Member, Midwest Library Technology Conference Planning Committee

***Beth Bohstedt***

*College Service:*

Participated in ADA Audit of College policies and procedures

*Community Service:*

Director of Christian Education, Grace Community Church, Grinnell, IA

Presentation (with Ralph Bohstedt), “The Holy Land” May 26, 2009, Grace Community Church, Grinnell, IA

***Nancy Cadmus***

*Community Service:*

Chair, Grinnell Human Rights Commission

Mediator, Poweshiek County Small Claims Court

Grinnell League of Women Voters: budget committee, immigration local impact study



***Sharon Clayton***

*College Service:*

Member, Disability Committee

*Professional service:*

Moderator, OBEGROUP Administrative Assistants listserv

*Continuing education:*

2 college-level library science classes and 1 college-level psychology class through the University of Maine-Augusta

***Kevin Engel***

*College Service:*

Member, Public Events Committee

*Community Service:*

Youth Soccer Coach, Newton Area Soccer Association

Youth Basketball Coach, Newton YMCA

***Richard Fyffe***

*Presentations:*

Invited presentation: "The Evolving Landscape: Addressing Access Issues in Academic and Research Publishing Today," Faculty Research Institute, Marquette University, 26 Sept. 2008.

Invited Presentation: "Making the Case: Scholarly Repositories at Liberal Arts Colleges," NITLE Digital Repository Strategy Series, 9 April 2009.

*College Service:*

Member, Center for the Humanities Advisory Board

Member, Ecocampus Committee

Phi Beta Kappa Chapter: Reader for the annual Phi Beta Kappa Award

*Professional Service*

Co-chair, Scholarly Communication Committee, Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Chair, Liberal Arts Interest Group, Center for Research Libraries

Member, Collections and Services Policy Committee, Center for Research Libraries

Panelist, discussion session on undergraduate research, Oberlin Group annual meeting, October 2008.

Manuscript reviewer for *College & Research Libraries*

***Phil Jones***

*Conferences attended:*

Reference Renaissance, August 4-5, 2008, Denver CO

Iowa Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries (ILA/ACRL) Spring Conference, April 17, 2009, Waterloo, IA

LOEX (Library Orientation Exchange) Annual Conference, April 30-May 2, 2009, Albuquerque, NM

*College Service*

Member, Tutorial and Advising Committee

Participant, Host Family Program, Office of International Student Affairs

Member, Iowa Library Association/ACRL Newsletter Committee

***Randy Jones***

*College Service:*

Support Staff Relations Committee

Diversity Task Force

Coordinator, Re-Discovering *Roots* Program

*Community Service:*

Floods of Praise and Giving Recital, October 2008. Raised \$2000 for Iowa flood relief.

Launched Afrocentric Voices Radio, December 2008. First Internet station to focus solely on AA classical vocalists

## ***Cecilia Knight***

### *Publications:*

“Adams, Mary Newbury (or Newberry)” and “Murray, Janette Lindsay Stevenson,” biographical essays in: *Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*, ed. David Hudson, Marv Bergman and Loren Horton. Iowa City: The University of Iowa Press, 2008.

### *Presentations:*

Peer-reviewed panel presentation: "Extending the Conversation: The Liberal Arts Scholarly Repository," with Sam Demas and Michael Paulus. ACRL National Conference, Seattle, Washington, March 13th, 2009.

Peer-reviewed panel presentation: "But How will we pay for it?" Timberline Acquisitions Conference, Timberline, Oregon, May 16th, 2009.

### *College Service:*

Wellness Committee

Ad-hoc Committee to redesign the staff performance review process

Gender and Women's Studies Committee

Science Division Personnel Committee

### *Professional Service*

Appointed member, Association of College and Research Libraries. Bylaws Committee

Appointed member, Association of College and Research Libraries, College Libraries Section..  
Program planning committee for Summer 2010 conference.

Elected member, Bibliographical Center for Research Board of Trustees.

Elected member, Iowa Private Academic Libraries Board.

## ***Jean Reavis***

### *Community Service*

Grinnell's Parks & Recreation commissioner

## ***Catherine Rod***

### *College Service*

Executive Board, Center for Prairie Studies

Chair, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee (to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the college's move to Grinnell).

## ***Rebecca Stuhr***

### *Publications*

Stuhr, Rebecca. "Self-Published Autobiographies by African Americans: Illuminating the Historical Record," in *Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. Proceedings of the First National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color Gathering at the Waters, Embracing Our Spirits, Telling Our Stories: October 11-15, 2006, Dallas, Texas*. United States?: s.n, 2006. Available: <[http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/hall-erickson/jclc\\_2006conf/](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/hall-erickson/jclc_2006conf/)>. Paper presented in 2006, conference proceedings published in 2009.

### *Publications in Press:*

*Reading Khaled Hosseini*. Invited book, commissioned by Greenwood Press/ABC-CLIO. Manuscript submitted to publisher and due to be published in September or October of 2009.

Several articles in *Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music*, ed. George Torres; to be published by Greenwood Press/ABC-CLIO.

### *Presentations*

Presentation to Swarthmore College Library Staff presenting a description and findings for sabbatical project

### *Performances*

With La Fiocco:

"On the Corner" series, concert featuring harpsichord, gamba, and baroque flute at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brooklyn, NY, February 22, 2009 (invited)

St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Lambertville, NJ, on April 4, 2009 (invited)

R. Stuhr Baroque Flute

Lewis Baratz, harpsichord

Lynn Fergusson, gamba

Michelle Cosgrove, baroque flute (St. Andrews only)

With Anna Maria Marzullo, piano and Nobuo Kitagawa oboe, Kirkland Community Center, Bethlehem, PA March 10, 2009 (Artists Series concert, invited)

Mercy Ridge Community Center, Baltimore, MD, May 25, 2009 (Invited Artists concert)

Guest Artist with the Marquis Renaissance Ensemble, Lafayette College, Easton, PA, directed by George Torres

### *Professional Service*

Secretary, EIMERT (American Library Association)

Member, Nominating Committee, Iowa Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries

***Librarians and Staff, 2008-2009***

Lisa Adkins, Library Assistant (Interlibrary Services)

Sheryl Bissen, Library Systems Support Technician

Beth Bohstedt, Library Assistant (Acquisitions) (through August 2008), Manager of Access Services (beginning Sept. 2008)

Gail Bonath, Associate Librarian of the College

Nancy Cadmus, Library Assistant (Serials)

Sharon Clayton, Administrative Assistant to the Librarian of the College

Kevin Engel, Science Librarian

Richard Fyffe, Rosenthal Librarian of the College

Leslie Gardner, Library Assistant (Document Delivery)

Chris Gaunt, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends)

Kim Gilbert, Library Assistant (Acquisitions)

Donna Hoeksema, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Phil Jones, Reader Services Librarian

Randy Jones, Library Assistant (Listening Room)

R. Cecilia Knight, Catalog Librarian

Karla Landers, Library Assistant (Acquisitions) (beginning Nov. 2008)

Christopher McKee, Senior Faculty Status

Brian Mitchell, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends)

Duane Murray, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends)

Cheryl Neubert, Library Assistant (Special Collections)

Kathy Peterson, Library Assistant (Serials)

Jean Reavis, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Catherine Rod, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist of the College (on leave, Fall 2008)

Elizabeth (Liz) Rodrigues, Reference and Instruction Librarian (1-year term appointment)

Doris Selix, Library Assistant (Serials)

Sherry Shults, Desk Supervisor (Days)

Shealey Sieck, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Rebecca Stuhr, Collection Development & Preservation Librarian (on leave, 2008-2009)