

GRINNELL COLLEGE



Grinnell College Libraries

Annual Report: July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

Spaces and Places

Science Library: After 15 years of planning, the Kistle Science Library opened for limited service at the beginning of June. The 10,553 square-foot facility, designed by Peter Landon of Chicago, includes fixed and moveable shelving for 100,000 volumes (expandable to 150,000), study spaces for 78 students, and 4 group-study rooms. When construction is complete, it will feature a stunning view of the Rosenfield Center through floor-to-ceiling windows under a vaulted ceiling. The past year was much occupied with identifying the collections that would move to Science, those that would be moved to offsite storage, and those that would stay in Burling; and with planning the physical move of collections, which was completed on the weekend of June 2 by Hallett Library Movers of Illinois. We also developed plans for staffing and scheduling the new facility. We inaugurated the new Library with a reception on the Friday of Alumni Reunion Weekend, complemented by an exhibition of materials from Archives & Special Collections on the history of science education at Grinnell.

Burling Level 1: We planned and started implementation of a reconfiguration of the computer workstations, reference desk, and reference collection areas on Level 1 of Burling Library. First conceived several years ago, the plan intends to encourage students to use all information formats – print and electronic alike – in their research and to work closely with reference librarians. We will create a new computer commons area adjacent to the reference collection and situated within the northeast alcove to take advantage of the window light and project a greater sense of liveliness to the outside, and move the reference desk closer to the new commons.

Burling Collection Arrangement: With the move of science materials to the new Science Library, Burling has more space to accommodate humanities and social science materials. The current arrangement with language and literature collections – “P” class – on Level 1 tends to confuse new students and faculty, and the “P’s” are now too large to fit on Level 1. In the new arrangement, collections will start with “A” on Level 1 and proceed alphabetically to Level 3. Level 4 will house journals and documents. Shifting will proceed through the summer of 2007.

Accessibility in Burling: Construction has also begun on features intended to make Burling more physically accessible to our community. Automatic door openers are being added to the main entrance, an accessible restroom is being constructed near the central elevator on Level 1, and lighting on the north side of Level 1 is being upgraded (many respondents to this spring’s LibQUAL survey expressed concern about the dim lighting).

Listening Room and AV Center Collection Consolidation: In July 2006, the Libraries assumed collection-management responsibility for all the media materials housed in the AV Center in ARH. We have cataloged all original recordings in the main library catalog, and made good progress on an ambitious 2-year project to purchase replacements for copies whose origin is uncertain and might represent a copyright violation. We initiated and cosponsored with ITS and Student Government a “Favorite Films Festival,” featuring films voted by 486 students as favorites in the categories

Comedy (*Dr. Strangelove*), Drama (*The Shawshank Redemption*), and Romance (*The Princess Bride*).

Facilitating Inquiry-based Learning

How We Teach and What We Teach: The librarians continue to collaborate with classroom faculty in the first-year tutorial program, assisting in the design of assignments and providing one or two sessions of focused instruction in the basic concepts of information structure and database searching and in effective use of libraries. We developed clearer goals for tutorial and other class-based instruction, and will be increasing our efforts to offer course-specific instruction in library research and information concepts to upper-level students. We also submitted and were approved to teach in the Spring of 2008 an experimental special topics course – “How Disciplines Construct Knowledge” – in collaboration with the Writing Lab. Students in this course will analyze how academic communities use genres to construct, validate, communicate, and preserve knowledge.

Primary Evidence and the EKI: Focus Groups with Faculty: We organized – in collaboration with Curricular Technology and the Faulconer Gallery and with the sponsorship of the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies – two lunch-time focus groups with faculty on the theme “Teaching from the Source: Using Digital Methods to Interrogate Primary Sources.” The aim of the first lunch was to explore the potential of digitization for increasing the interdisciplinary uses of primary evidence in teaching. The emergence of a more common set of standards and methods for describing and gaining access to digital versions of these types of collections may enhance interdisciplinary teaching and learning at Grinnell and lead students and faculty to ask new kinds of questions. The first lunch attracted 24 participants from 16 departments in addition to the six organizers. Each participant described the kinds of primary evidence she or he most commonly works with and the kinds of obstacles encountered in using them for teaching. In a follow-up meeting with faculty in the humanities and historical social sciences, we discussed specific priorities for acquiring digitized collections of primary-source documents and for future digitization of materials from library and gallery collections. That discussion guided some end-of-year acquisitions described below.

Significant Acquisitions:

Spanish Literature: In the summer of 2006, Mary-Elizabeth Debicki of Lawrence, Kansas, offered to the Grinnell College Libraries a collection of 1,000 volumes from the library of her late husband Andrew P. Debicki, professor of Spanish at Grinnell College from 1960 to 1968, and professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Kansas from 1968 until his death in 2005. Debicki has been described as “the virtual founder of the field of twentieth-century Spanish poetry in the United States.” The collection primarily consists of the works, predominantly the poetry, of Spanish and Latin American authors. At Grinnell College, this acquisition is especially important for allowing students to encounter these texts in the material form in which their original readers encountered them, rather than through later editions or textbooks. Some of the Debicki books are quite rare in U.S. libraries. The summer gift was augmented in the spring with an additional gift of 33 scarce and valuable editions, mostly from the early and middle years of the 20th century. We have already processed and cataloged over half the collection. We are grateful to the Debicki family for their generosity.

Iowa History: The Libraries hold an especially strong collection of printed and graphic materials on Iowa, offering students some of the source materials – in their original material form – out of which the history of this place may be constructed. Additions to the collection over the past few years have focused on postcards of Iowa towns and cities, and the postcard collection is now among the two or three preeminent in the state. This year we turned our attention to other sorts of Iowa-related acquisitions (while continuing the postcard digitization project that will make this

exceptional resource more readily available to the Grinnell campus and beyond; see below). A few of the scarcer items we acquired this year include: W.N. Hailmann's *Report of the Superintendent of Indian Schools, 1895* (Washington, DC.: GPO, 1895), including the proceedings of an Indian Summer Institute held at Sioux City, Iowa, July 1-6, 1895; *A Descriptive Sketch of the Spirit Lake Region Written By Messrs Holmes and Sweetland, Special Traveling Press Correspondents* (Chicago, 1884); J.H. Pearson's *Annual Catalogue Of Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, Tools, etc.* (Ainsworth, Washington County, Iowa, 1889), which demonstrates the variety of non-native plants readily available to Iowans a half-century after settlement; and B.F. Tillinghast's *Three Cities and Their Industrial Interests* (Davenport, 1884). All were purchased through funds generously provided by our donors.

Digital Collections: As the year ends, we are completing the licensing process for three digital collections of primary material in the sciences and history, based in part on the LibQUAL and focus-group results mentioned earlier.

The JSTOR Biological Sciences Collection will include at least one hundred titles when it is completed in later this year. Coverage in this collection offers greater depth in fields such as biodiversity, conservation, paleontology, and plant science, in addition to introducing new areas such as cell biology and zoology. The Grinnell College biology program is notable for its use of primary literature in undergraduate education.

Early American Newspapers (Series II), 1758-1900: 200 significant 18th- and 19th- century newspapers from all 50 present states. This collection focuses on the period between 1820 and 1860, when the number of American newspapers rose dramatically. Westward expansion and the penny press helped create thousands of local newspapers, and daily editions replaced many weeklies. In addition, the format of newspapers was transformed by an increasing emphasis on society, industry, scientific advances, investigative journalism and stories of human interest.

Empire Online (Section I: Cultural Contact, 1492-1969), examines cultural contacts throughout five centuries of Empire, from Columbus to decolonization, drawing on manuscript sources such as the diaries and eyewitness accounts of European travelers, correspondence, and periodical literature. It includes evidence from native populations and indigenous tribes in Africa, India, Canada, Australia and the South Pacific. There is material from the Papers of Englebert Kaempfer on Persia, Sloane manuscripts on Voyages of Discovery, drawings and manuscripts relating to maritime exploration in the Papers of Sir Joseph Banks, Mungo Park's African Journal and records from missionary archives documenting their first contacts at the furthest outposts of Empire. It examines how attitudes changed over time as well as the manner in which Europeans worked both with and against indigenous groups in the quest for independence and self-government in the twentieth century.

Engaging our Communities

LibQUAL Survey: During the spring semester we conducted a survey of the entire Grinnell College community's satisfaction with library service, collections, and spaces, using an instrument developed by the Association of Research Libraries and adopted by over 1500 colleges and universities since 2000. We received 281 responses, including 114 free-text comments. In many cases the results corroborated our previous sense of the Libraries' weaknesses and strengths, but some results were surprising. Some of this information has already informed planning for the Burling Reference reconfiguration, and will contribute to priorities for the 07/08 academic year.

Student Outreach: We convened a new staff/student committee in the Spring of 2006, to improve our ability both to learn about student needs and concerns and to inform students of our collections and services. Based on the students' recommendations, we instituted a bulletin board for student

comments, questions, and concerns; each posting receives a response from the Librarian of the College. Also at the students' request, we created an area for jigsaw puzzles and other quiet recreations, to encourage moments of relaxation during intensive study. The Student Outreach Committee will be merged with an expanded SEPC starting in Fall 2007, and the focus on hearing from and communicating with students will continue.

Donor Reception: In April, we collaborated with the Office of Alumni Relations and Development in hosting a reception in Burling Library to honor Mrs. Mary-Elizabeth Debicki and her family for their gift of the Andrew P. Debicki collection. Forty guests joined us for brief tributes from librarian Rebecca Stuhr and professor of Spanish Dennis Perri.

The *Concerned Black Students* group organized a commemoration of the black student takeover of Burling Library in 1971 which led to – among other changes – establishment of the Black Library.

Other Events: In addition to providing spaces, collections, and assistance for research and study, libraries host events of various kinds as contributions to their communities' ongoing intellectual life. Two such events are noted above – the reception for the Debicki family and the commemoration of the Black Student takeover of Burling Library in 1971. In addition, we hosted a poetry reading that attracted 11 student readers and two dozen listeners, in what we hope will become an annual tradition; and six “milk-and-cookies” study breaks during fall and spring finals weeks, featuring faculty and student musicians, singers, and performers. Whether serious, joyous, or just fun, events like these contribute to a holistic education of mind and emotion that we hope will leave our students with a lasting sense of the value and meaning of libraries in contemporary life.

Technology in Service of Education

Creative Computing Lab and Faculty Workshops: The Libraries and ITS continued jointly to plan the development of facilities and support for faculty and students in the use of technology. We opened the Creative Computing Lab in October, and hosted several faculty workshops on digital images (PDID and ARTStor), GIS and spatial data, and other technologies.

Digitization Projects: We continued work started 2 years ago on digitizing historic postcards of Iowa towns and cities. This year we digitized 2569 cards, and now have 3530 cards publicly available through PDID, Grinnell's Pioneer Digital Image Database (see <http://pdid.grinnell.edu/>). Another 2473 cards have been digitized but are not yet accessible. In addition, we have begun a thorough review and documentation of our standards and procedures to be sure that they are compatible both with digital collections being developed at other institutions, and the kinds of database platforms we might want to use in the future. Digitization is not a replacement for primary sources in their original formats (not all the evidence carried by a postcard or a manuscript can be captured in a digital scan) but it does extend the availability – and vastly enhance the searchability – of this material both for Grinnell College students and faculty and for the wider community.

Digital Repository: In partnership with ITS and the Dean's Office, the Libraries joined 24 other liberal arts colleges in an experimental shared digital repository hosted by National Initiative for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE). This pilot repository is a digital platform for increasing the visibility and availability of academic and scholarly work created by Grinnell students, faculty, and staff. Examples of works that could be invited for the repository include student papers and other projects, curricular materials, published articles and books (if the author has retained copyright or the publisher grants permission), scholarly publications from centers and other academic programs, and publications related to the history of the College. In addition, the repository may foster greater awareness among its contributors of the larger community of authors and readers on which scholarship is based. We have begun to develop basic policies and procedures for adding

material and will establish a few small “demonstration” collections during the summer to facilitate conversation with faculty and students in the fall.

Preserving Electronic Journals: The Libraries joined a new international project, Portico, to help us – as members of the larger scholarly community – address the challenge of maintaining continuous access to journals we subscribe to in digital formats. Portico was launched in 2005 with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JSTOR, Ithaka, and the Library of Congress. As of Dec. 31, 2006, 281 libraries – including 30 peer liberal arts college libraries – had joined, as had 27 publishers – including Elsevier, Wiley, Duke University Press, and the University of California Press – representing 5266 journal titles. Portico provides all libraries supporting the archive with campus-wide access to archived content when specific trigger events occur and titles are no longer available from the publisher or other sources.

Electronic Reserve: In June of 2006, the College adopted a new policy governing the way faculty could deliver digitized versions of copyright-protected texts in their courses, requiring that these materials be processed by the Libraries with fees paid, when fair-use and other educational exemptions to copyright protection do not apply, to the rights holder (usually via the Copyright Clearance Center). We developed new procedures and – with assistance from ITS – new database tools for accepting and managing e-reserve requests, for contacting the Copyright Clearance Center, and for contacting rights-holders directly when CCC does not administer those rights.

Copyright Policy: Since the 17th century Anglo-American law has tried to adapt to developments in the technologies that can be used to copy text, images, and other original expressions, in an effort to protect the interests of authors and artists without stifling education, scholarship, and further creativity. Digital technologies and the Internet have exacerbated this fundamental tension, and libraries have become one of the main stages on which the conflict is played out. Beginning in September, the College Libraries contributed to a College-wide task force to craft a new copyright policy to update and expand the scope of the 1995 policy currently in force. The new policy was provisionally accepted by the President’s Office and Counsel, pending further legal review and discussion among the faculty in the fall.

Thinking Ahead: Processes for Planning and Prioritizing

Service Reviews: We conducted a monthly series of reviews of our current operations and services (e.g., Circulation and Reserve, Interlibrary Services, Office of the Librarian, Cataloging, Listening Room) both to refresh staff knowledge beyond their own departments, and to identify issues and challenges that might require planning and action over the next couple of years.

Planning Retreats: Changes in student and faculty expectations for library services, in the College’s curriculum, and in the larger higher-education and technology environment require that looking ahead, planning, and prioritizing become part of the Libraries’ normal way of working. In January we experimented with a half-day planning session focused on the following 6 months and in June will hold another planning session focused on the 07/08 year. One important source of planning information will be the responses we received in the LibQUAL survey.

Richard Fyffe
Rosenthal Librarian of the College
7 June 2007

Librarian and Staff Activities, 2006-2007

Librarians

Katie Dunn

Professional Service

Member, Conference Planning Committee and Co-coordinator, Local Arrangements Committee, Iowa Library Association / Association of College and Research Libraries Spring Conference, March 23, 2007, Grinnell, IA

Community Service

Member, Grinnell Parks Board

Kevin Engel

Professional Service

Consortial Purchasing Coordinator, Iowa Private Academic Libraries

College Service

Member, Science Phase II Building Committee

Richard Fyffe

Publications

Fyffe, R. and A. Emmet. 2007. "Library Records," *Encyclopedia of Privacy*. Westport , CT: Greenwood Press: 327-330

Presentations

"The Quest for Balance in Providing Digital Materials for Teaching and Learning at Grinnell College," NITLE Copyright and Digital Materials Symposium, 9 January 2007, Claremont Colleges. With Gail Bonath

"Institutional Repositories: Scholarly Sharing and the Liberal Arts Community," NITLE DSpace Service Community Meeting, 15 June 2007, Hartford, Conn.

"Digital Preservation: Roles and Opportunities for Libraries," Portico Participants Meeting, American Library Association Annual Conference, 23 June 2007, Washington, D.C.

Professional Service

Chair, Center for Research Libraries, Liberal Arts Colleges Interest Group
 Member, Center for Research Libraries, Collections and Services Advisory Council
 Manuscript reviewer, *Bioscience* (American Institute of Biological Sciences)
 Advisory Board, NITLE DSpace Community
 Member, Association of College and Research Libraries Scholarly Communications Committee
 Member, Review Board, Association of Research Libraries/Association of College and Research Libraries Scholarly Communications Institute
 Participant, ARTstor Community Advisory Forum

College Service

Member, Copyright Policy Drafting Group
 Member, Copyright Task Force

Advisory Board, Center for the Humanities
Member (ex-officio), Instructional Support Committee

Phil Jones

Publications

Jones, Phillip. “‘Indispensable in a Civilized Society’: Manuel Payno’s ‘Las Bibliotecas de México.’” *Libraries & the Cultural Record* 42:3 (2007).

Presentations

Jones, Phil and Karla Erickson. “Learned Novices: The Value of Collaborative, ‘Basic’ Research Instruction for Students, Faculty and Librarians.” Iowa Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries (ILA/ACRL) Spring Conference, 23 March 2007, Grinnell College

College Service

Campus Representative, FYILLAA (First-Year Information Literacy in the Liberal Arts Assessment)
Member, Tutorial and Advising Committee

Cecilia Knight

Publications

"Buying Time: The Leveraged Use of a Library Storage Facility," *Technical Services Quarterly* 24 (4) 2007:29-42

Professional Service

Member, Program Planning Committee, Association for College and Research Libraries, College Libraries Section

Member, Conference Planning Committee and Co-coordinator, Local Arrangements Committee, Iowa Library Association / Association of College and Research Libraries Spring Conference, March 23, 2007, Grinnell College

College Service

Chair, Instructional Support Committee
Faculty representative, Benefits Committee
Faculty representative, Apparel Purchasing Committee
Member, Faculty Organization Committee

Catherine Rod

Publications

Rod, Catherine and Rebecca Stuhr, "Using Web-based Instruction Guides to Teach Information Literacy Concepts to First-Year Students at Grinnell College" in *The Role of the Library in the First College Year*. Larry L. Hardesty, editor. Columbia, SC: National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition, University of South Carolina, 2007.

Presentations

“Recruitment through mentoring in the Liberal Arts College Library,” ACRL 13th National Conference, 30 March 2007, Baltimore. With R.Cecilia Knight.

College Service

Museum Assessment Program team, Faulconer Gallery.

Rebecca Stuhr

Publications

Rod, Catherine and Rebecca Stuhr, "Using Web-based Instruction Guides to Teach Information Literacy Concepts to First-Year Students at Grinnell College" in *The Role of the Library in the First College Year*. Larry L. Hardesty, editor. Columbia, SC: National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition, University of South Carolina, 2007

Music for Flute and Guitar. Jorge Torres, Guitar and Rebecca Stuhr, flute. Baton Rouge, LA: Centaur Records, June 2007

Book Reviews:

From *Library Journal*:

Mixed: An Anthology of Short Fiction on the Multi-Racial Experience. Norton. Aug. 2006. 6/15/2006, Vol. 131, Issue 11

Moore, Lisa. *Alligator*. Black Cat/Grove, 2006. 7/1/2006, Vol. 131 Issue 12, p. 68

Forna, Aminatta. *Ancestor Stones*. Atlantic Monthly Press, 2006. 10/1/2006, Vol. 131 Issue 16, p57

Vaite, Celestina. *Breadfruit*. Little Brown, 2006. 9/1/2006, Vol. 131 Issue 14, p139

From *CHOICE Magazine*:

Writing African American Women: An Encyclopedia of Literature by and About Women of Color. Greenwood Press, 2006. Published November 2006

Performances

August 21, 2006 with cellist Mary Pshonik, Senator Grassley's National Women's Conference, Des Moines

October 17, 2006 with cellist Mary Pshonik, World Food Prize Dinner, Des Moines

April 18, 2007, "Satie for Two." with guitarist Jorge Torres, Lafayette College

May 24, 2007, with Mary Pshonik, cellist, Grinnell Coffee Company.

Presentations

"It Takes a College: Collaborating for Writing and Information Literacy," Poster presentation, American Library Association, 24 June 2006

"African American Autobiography: Illuminating History," Joint Conference for Librarians of Color, 13 October 2006, Dallas, Texas

Professional Service

Maintain Web page for Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium (ICPC)

Implementing HRDP grant (from the State of Iowa). Working with others to plan programs for ICPC "Preservation 102" program supported by the HRDP grant that I am directing. Completed this project in December of 2006.

President/Past-President, Iowa chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries

Chair, Awards Committee, Iowa chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries

Mentor, ACRL Dr. E. J. Josey Spectrum Scholar Mentoring Program.

Member, Paul Banks and Carolyn Harris Preservation Award Jury, Association of Library Collections and Technical Services

Member, Management Committee of the Preservation and Reformatting Section, Association of Library Collections and Technical Services

Secretary, Ethnic Materials Information and Exchange Round Table (EMIERT), American Library Association

Community Service

Music in the Park, July 26, 2007

College Service

Member, Convocation Committee

Member, Cultural Film Committee

Staff

Sheryl Bissen

Professional Service

President, Iowa Library Association

Beth Bohstedt

College Service

Chair, Support Staff Relations Committee

Randy Jones

Presentations

Panelist, "Developing Collaboration in the Preservation of the Negro Spiritual" 27 July 2006, National Association of Negro Musicians 87th Annual Conference, Norfolk, Virginia

Performances

"The Art of the Negro Spiritual," 11 November 2006, Grinnell College

"Encore! An Evening of Favorite Songs and Arias," 8 May 2007, Grinnell College

Cheryl Neubert

Community Service

Grinnell Renaissance Board (City Commission)

College Service

Grinnell College Mini Grants Committee

Librarians and Staff, 2006-2007

Lisa Adkins, Library Assistant

Sheryl Bissen, Library Systems Support Technician

Beth Bohstedt, Library Assistant (Acquisitions & Government Documents)

Gail Bonath, Associate Librarian of the College

Nancy Cadmus, Library Assistant (Serials)

Sharon Clayton, Administrative Assistant to the Librarian of the College

Katie Dunn, Reference & Instruction Librarian

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

Christopher McKee, Senior Faculty Status

Brian Mitchell, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends)

Duane Murray, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends)

Cheryl Neubert, Library Assistant (Library Administration and Special Collections)

Kathy Peterson, Library Assistant (Serials)

Jean Reavis, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Catherine Rod, Associate Librarian and Archivist of the College

Doris Selix, Library Assistant (Serials)

Sherry Shults, Desk Supervisor (Days)

Shealey Sieck, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Rebecca Stuhr, Collection Development & Preservation Librarian