1. An Excellent Library

A highlight of the year for all the Libraries' staff was receiving the 2011 Excellence in Academic Libraries award in the College Libraries category from the American Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries. We were particularly gratified that the award citation noted the student mentors program as "one example of many connecting the library with students and faculty," since the close bond between students and library staff is manifest in all our work. The award was formally presented on April 29, in an outdoor ceremony that included remarks from President Raynard Kington, Dean Paula Smith, ACRL President Lisa Hinchliffe, and Kathleen Clatanoff representing YBP Library Services, the award's corporate sponsor. The $3000 prize covered the cost of an open house on the day of the ceremony and a lunch reception for staff and invited guests, but the majority of the prize was donated to the Drake Community Library and the American Library Association's diversity effort, the Spectrum program.

2. Librarians Teaching: Information Literacy

Tutorial: Librarians collaborated with all 36 tutors to conduct 51 Tutorial information literacy sessions during the fall semester and, for the second year, based their instruction on our Tutorial learning goals: http://www.grinnell.edu/library/doingresearch. Tutorial end-of-course evaluations from 2009 indicated that 77% of tutorial students found these sessions helpful—a 12% increase over the average for the previous five years. For 2010, we refined our instruction further by focusing on three learning goals for Tutorials: identifying search terms and tools, finding useful sources, and evaluating sources through critical examination. Tutorial end-of-course evaluations from 2010 show that 81% of students found
their information literacy session(s) helpful. This is the highest satisfaction rating our instruction has received to date, which we attribute to changes made in our curriculum following a focus group of students, faculty and ARC colleagues.

**Disciplinary information literacy:** Library faculty members have also seen success in extending the reach of our teaching to classes beyond Tutorial. In the fall of 2008, we held 12 disciplinary instruction sessions, and we increased this number to 20 sessions during fall 2009. For the fall of 2010, we worked with 33 classes from 13 departments across the College’s three academic divisions. During spring 2011, librarians collaborated with classroom faculty to give an additional 40 instruction disciplinary instruction sessions in 17 departments. Our next step is to begin articulating learning goals for academic majors and to focus our instruction on relevant coursework.

**Library Labs:** These one-on-one research consultations continued to be a popular service this year as librarians met with over 174 students in individual sessions. In addition to this metric, we also gauge the service’s success and plan refinements based on the student comments we regularly gather such as:

> The library lab was very helpful! I found resources in places where I never would have thought to look. Just learning how to find information is such a valuable tool. 168

> [The librarian] was responsive and had answers to any questions that I had. However, she let me come to my own conclusions and decide whether or not a source would be helpful for my paper. I really appreciated her help.

**History 100:** Most sections of the new History 100 course – part of the History Department's newly revised curriculum – used primary evidence available in Special Collections. This fall, both Victoria Brown's course on 1968 and Elizabeth Prevost's on the aftermath of the Great War used our collections extensively. Brown's students looked at the campus culture of 1968-1972 through yearbooks, newspapers, scrapbooks, photographs and correspondence. Each of Prevost's students examined the correspondence of James Norman Hall from the pre-war, war, and post-war periods. One class period was spent on a formal introduction to the use of primary resources and the protocols of Special Collections, but most of the research was conducted outside of class time. During spring semester two of the three History 100 sections were introduced to primary source material available in Special Collections: Sara Saunders' “1968 Around the World,” and George Drake’s “From Europe to America.” Enrollment in each section of History 100 averages 20-25 students.

3. **ARC: The Academic Resource Centers Initiative**

We collaborated with other ARC members in offering two series of workshops for students and faculty members in both fall and spring semesters. Topics for faculty included Making Meaningful Media: Short Films, Graphic Novels and Academic Rigor; Using Clickers to Enhance Learning; Resources for Teaching with Images; Poster Pedagogy; Assessment at Grinnell; and others. Workshops for students included Read Easier: Developing Critical Reading Strategies; Introduction to Mind-Mapping Software; Writing in the Library: Developing Strategies for Research and Writing; What’s Your Evidence?; and a Revision Palooza which covered “quick editing strategies in what could be called speed dating for revision.” We closed the year with consideration of a draft vision statement for the initiative, to help maintain continuity after Kathleen Skerrett's departure for the University of Richmond and to help inform the upcoming campus Strategic Planning process.
We also collaborated with the Dean's Office and our ARC colleagues on deepening the College's various peer-mentoring programs. Research (including research by Grinnell's own David Lopatto and Minna Mahlab) has shown that “students teaching students” can be a powerful complement to faculty-led teaching, with significant benefits not just to the students who receive instruction from their peers but also – perhaps even more so – to the students who act as mentors to their peers. Peer mentoring takes many forms at Grinnell, and we struggled with the challenge of respecting that diversity while providing some shared support and giving student mentors a sense of common purpose and esprit de corps. ARC will facilitate a faculty workshop on Peer Mentoring in August as well as an orientation program for peer mentors in Science Learning Center, DASIL, Writing Lab, Library, Mathlab, Psychology, and Computer Science. Primary facilitator for both the workshop and the orientation will be Minna Mahlab from the Science Learning Center.

4. Co-curricular Engagement with Students

In addition to our primary role supporting students in their formal, curricular learning, the Libraries have played an expanding role in the informal, co-curricular experience of Grinnell students. The newly expanded reading and performance space in the northwest corner of Burling's first floor has proven very popular, and this year we sponsored or hosted twenty events there (not including our traditional study breaks during finals week of each semester). These readings, discussions, and performances attracted audiences that ranged from 15 to 60 students, faculty, staff, and townspeople. Events included readings by the student writers in Professor Ralph Savarese's Craft of Poetry and Creative Non-fiction seminars; readings by Grinnell High School student poets; celebrations of National American Indian Heritage Month and Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month featuring student craft demonstrations and faculty lectures; a Library/Archives/Museum Career Panel; and a lecture by Grinnell English professor Timothy Arner on the earliest English printed books, drawing on his research on William Caxton and featuring the Libraries' copy of a 1636 edition of Caxton's *The Ancient Historie of the Destruction of Troy* (followed by a sampling of Special Collections' printed treasures in the Iowa Room). We also hosted a poster display by the students in Professor Jonathan Larson's course Introduction to Linguistics. This programming enriches the students' education at Grinnell, helping them understand more directly the relationship between libraries as repositories of culture and the living culture that emerges from past accomplishment, and see themselves as part of that living culture.

5. Peer Mentoring

*Peer Reference Assistants:* As we finish its second year, our Reference Assistant program is well established. Reference Assistants (RAs) provide peer mentoring on topics drawn from our information literacy curriculum. The program has allowed us to extend reference service from 10:00 p.m. to midnight five nights a week (each RA also works a weekly ninety-minute afternoon shift in order to assure regular contact with librarians and staff). During the 2009-2010 academic year, RAs answered 242 reference questions, with each interaction averaging twelve minutes in length. This year, our RAs handled 280 questions while working at Burling’s reference desk. In addition, as part of our ongoing assessment and reflection on our services we asked the RA's to comment on their roles:

I believe that my fellow students are more likely to ask for help from a peer and feel comfortable approaching us for advice. As a student, I know the stresses associated with starting research late as well as the frustration that one can encounter when trying to navigate the uncountable resources
available to us. As such, RA's can empathize with student patrons and can educate fellow students on doing research in ways they relate to. We know when student patrons feel uncomfortable, and can easily assuage their fears.

In addition to providing benefits to the students and faculty, training to become an RA and working at the reference desk has taught me a lot of valuable skills. During the summer I worked as a research assistant in a London university, and the skills I learned as an RA were extremely helpful. I knew and had access to many databases that allowed me to find relevant and useful information for the variety of projects I was working on.

As an RA, I have sharpened my personal research skills and feel very comfortable searching the library, online databases, and reference information when working on my own projects. I understand the difference between data & statistics, primary & secondary sources, popular & scholarly sources, and many other distinctions that sometimes confuse students. What's more, I do not hesitate to pass on my knowledge to my peers when they need it. Being an RA has boosted my confidence as not only a student, but also as an independent researcher.

*Intercultural Mentors:* Peer mentoring happens in many parts of the College's program, and peer mentors (and their mentees) can often benefit from stronger understanding of library research. This year, we worked with the Intercultural Affairs Peer Mentors to train them in basic library research methods.

6. Updating the Campus Master Plan

*Academic Commons planning:* We continued to lead and participate in developing a vision for a new library in the form of an Academic Commons. We defined the core components of a Commons and estimated the space needs for each, and then developed a set of scenarios in which the Commons is focused in a single building or, alternately, distributed across new construction and a renovated Burling Library. We led discussions with faculty and academic professionals in the three divisions, and with the Student Curriculum Committee. As the academic year closed, the campus planning process paused to allow strategic planning to get under way. We look forward to helping to inform both the strategic planning and the resumed campus planning processes regarding the role of librarians and information in the liberal education of 21st century students.

The campus planning process identified two programmatic areas that required special attention, including but not limited to new spaces: data analysis and digital media. The Libraries contributed to developments on both fronts this year.

The *Creative Media Initiative* seeks to stimulate and cultivate creative uses of visual and audio materials in teaching and learning at Grinnell. Librarians and library staff worked with faculty, curricular technologists, and IT staff to implement a new service for streaming video (Kaltura) and to staff a space in ARH where faculty could find assistance in identifying media for use in teaching and incorporating them into lectures or assignments. We collaborated with colleagues in Faulconer Gallery, CTS, and ITS to host a visiting team from Reed College (including a technologist, a librarian, and a professor of history), who described and demonstrated their work on digital media management and integrating images into the curriculum. We also initiated a proposal to redesign space in Burling Library to allow for open browsing of DVD, VHS, and CD collections (currently, items must be
requested from the Listening Room service desk). The proposal was funded and, at this writing, we are preparing for renovation of the Listening Room and Microform storage and reading spaces to begin after Memorial Day. We consulted with faculty and students on collection arrangement, reserve policies, and similar matters.

Data Analysis and Social Inquiry Lab: Librarians also took a leading role, in concert with faculty and instructional technologists, in developing this new service which provides support for the use of data in classroom exercises, student research, and student and faculty research collaborations.

Consultation spaces: We installed two semi-private consultation spaces in Burling Library to encourage greater collaboration among students and academic professionals. Writing Fellows held regular office hours in these spaces, and students have used them for group study.

7. Supporting Grant-seekers through Data-sharing Plans

The National Science Foundation announced in October that beginning in January 2011 grant applications must include a plan for sharing experimental data with other researchers. We have developed a general set of guidelines for the support the Libraries can offer faculty in data-sharing, and have worked with two faculty in the Chemistry Department to suggest ways of meeting their grant needs.

8. Developing Collections and Improving Access to Support Teaching and Learning

Subscription review: During the spring semester 2010, faculty collectively reviewed every library journal and database subscription and recommended a large number of changes. Through the summer and into the fall, librarians and staff analyzed and implemented these recommendations, canceling 145 and changing formats for 309. As a result – and with a level-funded budget for 2010-2011 – we gained the budget flexibility to add a significant number of new journal and database subscriptions – 85 journals and 17 databases – which were specifically requested by individual faculty and then thoughtfully prioritized at the department or concentration level. Overall, through a thorough review of our subscriptions we have significantly increased the number of resources to which the campus has access within this year's budget allocation. The Libraries thank the faculty for their participation in the 2009-10 serials review.

Pay-per-view articles: In addition, the Libraries added a second pay-per-view service to complement the ScienceDirect pay-per-view service that has been in operation since June 2008. The new Wiley pay-per-view service provides article- and chapter-level access to approximately 1,500 journals, 9,000 books, and hundreds of multi-set reference works and other publications of John Wiley & Sons, Blackwell, and other well-known scholarly publishers owned by the Wiley corporation.

Stonewall Resource Center: Student groups often have valuable library collections that could be more useful to the college community if they were better known. In a pilot test, we worked with the Stonewall Resource Center to develop a process for including their collection in the Library catalog. Issues that needed to be resolved included ways for the students to catalog the collection in a format compatible with the library catalog, how to keep track of additions and withdrawals to the collection, and how to remind users that hours and other terms of availability for student-managed collections might differ from those of the Libraries.
9. Developing Technology to Support Teaching and Learning

Relais: We contracted for a new Interlibrary Services system. Grinnell is the first US academic customer not part of a large consortium to use this software, which will offer user-focused features like status reports for requested items, as well as streamlined workflows for staff. We implemented the lending module (through which we lend Grinnell materials to other libraries), and have seen increased efficiencies to workflow, as more of the process is now automated. We are participating as a co-developer in improving the borrowing functions (through which we acquire materials from other libraries for Grinnell students, faculty, and staff). We expect to complete implementation in 2012.

Archon: We implemented new software for searching and displaying finding aids for manuscript collections in Special Collections & Archives, making the collections much more accessible for teaching and student projects. Most of the web-based finding aids, and many of the card files, can now be cross-searched through this tool, including local history and biographical files.

Integrating our Acquisition Systems with our Vendors' Systems: In 2010, we began using automated services provided by two of our primary book vendors, YBP and Midwest Library Services, to streamline the process of selecting and importing bibliographic information for books ordered and received. Librarians can receive electronic notifications of newly published books based on individual selection profiles. The librarians submit their selections electronically to Acquisitions for approval, and the bibliographic information is imported into the Libraries' catalog when the order is placed. Also, when the books are shipped to us from the vendors, the invoice is electronically loaded into the Acquisitions record keeping system. This entire process eliminates paper requests, and reduces the time and labor previously required to handle each request, searching and importing one record at a time, keying individual order records, and keying each invoice and item received.

Drupal: We completed migration of our Web site – which previously was hosted on a library server – to the College's Drupal site and participated in the selection of a consulting firm to audit the College web services platform and the organization and design of the College site.

Texting: We added text messaging to the means by which students, faculty, and staff may contact the Reference Desk for assistance (along with instant messaging, email, telephone, and walk-up hours).

Next-generation catalogs: We did extensive research on currently available discovery systems to determine which – if any – are appropriate for implementation at Grinnell. Discovery systems or next-generation catalogs are software systems that permit more flexible searching of catalogs and other databases, present the search results in more informative ways, and often permit simultaneous searching of multiple catalogs and databases. Next-generation catalogs are intended to appeal to users who are accustomed to the simplicity of Google and similar searches. More important, the way results are displayed is intended to assist users further clarify and refine their research questions, helping us advance our information literacy goals. At this writing, we remain dissatisfied with the current commercial offerings and will continue to monitor the marketplace.

VuFind Beta: We introduced a new, experimental version of the library catalog with "next-generation" features intended to help users clarify their research questions or discover new resources more easily. Along the right side of the results screen search results are categorized (faceted) in ways that might
focus a search further. At the top of the results screen are suggestions for related searches. This beta catalog is powered by VuFind, open-source software originally developed at Villanova University.

10. Staff Changes

As the year closes, we are poised for a significant set of changes in the Libraries' staffing. During the summer, Gail Bonath will begin Senior Faculty Status, Rebecca Stuhr will leave the College to become Coordinator of Humanities Collections in the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, and Sherry Shults will begin her retirement. Together, they represent three of our most senior colleagues. Rebecca's and Sherry's expertise, collegiality, and spirit will be missed, but Gail, fortunately, will continue to work with us over the next five years. The deep impact all three have had on the Libraries' services and the College's programs will continue for many years. We recruited Becky Yoose from Miami University in Ohio to succeed Gail as Systems Librarian, have begun recruitment for a term replacement for Rebecca, and will recruit Sherry's replacement this summer.
Appendix I: Notable New Collections and Databases (Print, Digital, Video, and Audio)

Publications of the Amana Colonies: We received a gift from Professor Jon Andelson of 94 books printed by the Amana Society or its predecessors between 1750 and 1920, making ours one of the premier collections for the study of this important separatist religious community.

The Publishing History of Don Quixote: We received a large collection of materials on Spanish literature from the Estate of Emeritus Professor Helena Percas de Ponseti, including multiple editions of Don Quixote and other works by Cervantes. The Cervantes editions have been cataloged for Special Collections, as documentation of the changing cultural significance of this master work of world literature.

New Database Subscriptions: Besides the new journal subscriptions, new database/full text subscriptions include Art & Architecture Complete, BioOne, China Academic Journals Database, Congressional Record Permanent Digital Collection, Digitale Bibliothek Deutscher Klassiker, JSTOR (four additional collections), Latin American Newspapers (through the Center for Research Libraries), LION (Literature Online), The Literary Encyclopedia, National Newspapers Core, New York Times Historical, Pravda Digital Archive, and PsycBOOKS. We also purchased the microfilm collection Red Stockings (an archive of the Feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s).
Appendix II: Librarian and Staff Activities, 2010-2011

Lisa Adkins

Community Service:

Grinnell Garden Club

Grinnell Historic Commission

Julia Bauder

Publications:


Presentations:


College Service:

Teacher Education Committee

Co-leader, Academic Technology Development Team

Grinnell College Web Committee / Drupal Functions and Shared Apps Subcommittee

Professional Service:

Steering Committee, Iowa Private Academic Libraries Consortium
Chair, Government Documents Round Table of the Iowa Library Association

Virtual Member, Communications Committee, College Libraries Section of the Association for College and Research Libraries:

**Sheryl Bissen**

*Professional Service:*

Iowa Library Association Awards Committee

*Community Service:*

Board Member, St. Mary’s Parish Foundation

**Beth Bohstedt**

*Publications:*


*Presentations:*


"Muchos Mentores en Iowa: The Pedagogy of Student to Student Mentoring in Information Literacy," Beth Bohstedt, Julia Bauder and Phillip Jones, 2011 LOEX Conference, Fiesta de Excelencia, Fort Worth, TX, May, 2011.

*College Service:*

Supervisors’ Study Group

*Community Service:*

Christian Education Director, Grace Community Church, Grinnell

*Continuing Education:*

Studies toward M.S. in Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Gail J. Bonath**
Publications:


Presentations:


College Service:

P-Card Committee

Professional Service:

People to People Citizen Ambassador Information Professionals Delegation to Beijing and Shanghai, China, April 2010.

Nancy Cadmus

Community Service:

Grinnell Human Rights Commission

Grinnell League of Women Voters

Mediator (volunteer), Poweshiek County Small Claims Court

Sharon Clayton

Publications:

The Eclectic Review (http://eclecticreview.wordpress.com/)

College Service:

Disability Committee

Continuing education:

Studies toward B.S. in Library and Information Science, University of Maine-Augusta
**Kevin Engel**

*Presentations:*


*College Service:*

Public Events Committee

*Professional Service:*

Purchasing Coordinator, Iowa Private Academic Libraries Consortium

**Richard Fyffe**

*College Service:*

Art Acquisitions Committee

Campus Plan Update Steering Committee (member) and Task Force on Academic Commons (leader).

Technology Assessment and Planning Committee

Web Audit Committee

Vice-President/President-elect, Phi Beta Kappa

Instructional Support Committee (ex officio).

*Professional Service:*

Board of Directors, Center for Research Libraries

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

Vice-President/President Elect, Iowa Private Academic Libraries

NITLE Advisory Board

Oberlin Group Coordinating Committee

Advisory Panel, School of Library and Information Science, University of Iowa
Leslie Gardner

College Service:

Benefits Committee

Community Service:

Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Milo Public Library

Chris Gaunt

Community Service:

International peace delegation to Afghanistan, March 15-26, 2011

Kim Gilbert

Community Service:

Grinnell Newburg School Counselors Advisory Committee

Grinnell Newburg School Planning Committee

President, Grinnell United Methodist Women

Chairperson, Grinnell United Methodist Missions Committee

Donna Hoeksema

Presentations:


Professional Service:

Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium
State Board member
Save our Stuff Planning Committee
Chair, Events and Marketing Committee

Community Service:
1st Friends Church in Grinnell
   Sunday School Teacher for the Adult Quarterly
   Library Committee – Chairman
   Christian Education Committee – member
   Choir member
   Choir accompanist (on rotation)

**Chris Jones**

*Presentations:*

“Building an Active Learning Community through Student Collaboration,” ILA/ACRL spring conference, Central College, Pella, IA, March 18, 2011

*College Service:*

Ad-Hoc Digital Asset Management Task Force

**Phillip Jones**

*Publications:*


Phillip Jones and Catherine Rod, "Wow--I Can Touch That?" Using Special Collections to Expand Information Literacy," *38th Annual LOEX National Conference*, (2010).

*Presentations:*


"Advice, Empathy and Education: Student to Student Mentoring in Reference Service," Jones, Phillip, Julia Bauder and Beth Bohstedt, ILA/ACRL Spring Conference, Central College, Pella, IA, March 2011.

"Muchos Mentores en Iowa: The Pedagogy of Student to Student Mentoring in Information Literacy," Jones, Phillip, Julia Bauder and Beth Bohstedt, 39th LOEX National Conference, Ft. Worth, TX, May, 2011.

*College Service:*

Campus Assessment Task Force

Eco-Campus Committee
Rita Cecilia Knight

Presentations:


"Interdependence of General Education and Information Literacy: Three Models of Integration," R. Cecilia Knight, Janet Fore (Saint Mary’s College) and Julia Dickinson (Berea College), ACRL National Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 2011.


College Service:

Benefits Committee

Institutional Animal Care and Use

HR Task Force to develop an equitable and sustainable staff performance development process

Professional Service:

ACRL Invited Papers Committee: 2011 National Conference in Philadelphia

Iowa ACRL: Nominating Committee

Community Service:

Treasurer, Grinnell Newburg Band Boosters

Karla Landers

College Service:

Staff Council

Community Service:
Co-Director of the adult choir at First Friends Church

Volunteer, Drake Community Library

Jean Reavis

Community Service:

Chairperson, City of Grinnell’s Park & Recreation Board

Continuing Education:

Rare Book School, Charlottesville, VA, June 6-10, 2011

Catherine Rod

Presentations:

“Faculty/Librarian interaction; Interacting with the larger community” Panel presentation. Wermager, Kristi (Carleton), Catherine Rod, (Grinnell) and Ed Vermue, (Oberlin), Book Studies and the Liberal Arts, Oberlin, OH, October 2010.


"Building an Active Learning Community Through Student Engagement," Catherine Rod, Rebecca Stuhr, Christopher Jones, Iowa Association of College and Research Libraries, Pella, IA, March, 2011.

"Bringing History to Life: Teaching with Primary Sources. The Grinnell College Experience," Catherine Rod, Midwest Archives Conference, St. Paul, MN, April, 2011.

College Service:

Center for Prairie Studies Board
Appendix III: Librarians and Staff, 2010-2011

Lisa Adkins, Library Assistant (Interlibrary Services)

Julia Bauder, Data Services Librarian

Sheryl Bissen, Library Systems Support Specialist

Beth Bohstedt, Manager of Access Services

Gail Bonath, Systems Librarian

Nancy Cadmus, Library Assistant (Serials)

Sharon Clayton, Administrative Assistant to the Librarian of the College

Nathan Clubb, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends) (term position)

Kevin Engel, Science Librarian

Richard Fyffe, Rosenthal Librarian of the College

Leslie Gardner, Library Assistant (Interlibrary Services Coordinator)

Chris Gaunt, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends)

Kim Gilbert, Library Assistant (Acquisitions)

Lauren Hester, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends) (one-year term appointment beginning June 2010)

Donna Hoeksema, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Christopher Jones, Library Assistant (Special Collections) (starting August 2010)

Phil Jones, Reader Services Librarian

Randye Jones, Library Assistant (Listening Room)

R. Cecilia Knight, Associate Librarian of the College and Catalog Librarian

Karla Landers, Library Assistant (Acquisitions)

Christopher McKee, Senior Faculty Status

Brian Mitchell, Desk Supervisor (Evenings/Weekends) (resigned April 2011)

Kathy Peterson, Library Assistant (Serials)
Jean Reavis, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Catherine Rod, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist of the College

Doris Selix, Library Assistant (Serials) (retired July 2010)

Sherry Shults, Desk Supervisor (Days) (retired June 2011)

Shealey Sieck, Library Assistant (Cataloging)

Rebecca Stuhr, Collection Development & Preservation Librarian (resigned June 2011)