

# BENNINGTON COLLEGE

## CROSSETT LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2013 – JUNE 2014



Teaching the knowledge needed to create intentional inquiries

Promoting opportunities to experience the joy of serendipitous discovery

Building collections and services in collaboration with the community

Creating environments for solitary contemplation and gregarious collaboration

Facilitating the appreciation and celebration of books

Engaging technologies that enhance services and the collection



The heart of the academic community at Bennington College

## Research

The foundation of Crossett Library's research services is to provide highly personalized service focused on the individual needs of faculty and students. The library offers a variety of information resources and services relevant to the ongoing and evolving curriculum. A variety of instructional services are available including individual consultations with librarians, library instruction sessions for a class, librarians working in classes for the entire term, library tours, online research guides, and more.



## Library Instruction & Research Support

There were 854 reference interactions.

Joe Tucker taught 15 library instruction sessions scheduled within courses. Two hundred students attended the sessions. The average of students' evaluations of the sessions rating instructor effectiveness, overall value, and perceived relevance was 4.68 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 as the highest rating.

Jared Della Rocca worked as an embedded librarian in six courses this year with a total of 75 students. He conducted 42 research meetings, answered 52 email reference questions providing 98 research resources. During class discussions and on class Facebook pages he shared an additional 187 resources.



Crossett Library has approximately 200,000 books in print and electronic format and 6,000 movies. Over 3,800 items were added to the collection this year.

## Collection

The library's collection of information resources is not viewed as a static body but rather as an organic and vital extension of the educational experience. The collection is carefully curated in collaboration with the community to maximize relevance and use.

This year we received 1,332 requests (589 faculty members, 743 students) representing 63 percent of all purchased book and film acquisitions for the year.



"I really love Crossett Library. It does have everything I need in the world, and if the thing I need might not be there, it will be in just a few days. I just wish I had more than 24 hours per day to spend more time in the library!"

Quynh Vo '17

## Donations to the Collection

This year the Library received 3,146 donations, which accounted for 60 percent of all items added to the collection. Donations often allow the library to add depth to specific areas or obtain works that would otherwise be unaffordable.

This year Charles Henderson, professor of classical languages and literatures emeritus at Smith College, donated a large collection of books. He visited Bennington College in the 1970s while touring with his banjo band and decided one day he would donate his personal library to Crossett Library. He donated hundreds of books with a bookplate he designed and gave funds to help expand Crossett's Loeb Classical Library book collection.



Crossett Library circulated more than 35,000 items this year. The library's approximately 50 databases provide access to more than 47,000 journals and newspapers.

## Access

One of the library's most fundamental roles is to provide access to resources. There is no reference collection of books; almost all books circulate, as do journals and newspapers. Extended loan periods are easily arranged with the library staff and borrowing over the Field Work Term and summer is encouraged.

Crossett Library provides access to approximately 50 databases in a range of subjects covering all the disciplines taught at Bennington College. Off-campus access to the vast majority of our databases is available to all current students and members of the faculty and staff. The databases were searched more than 54,000 times this year.

## Interlibrary Loan

Kathy Williams, interlibrary loan coordinator, helps Crossett expand access to resources for faculty members and students by borrowing from thousands of other libraries around the world.

This year students and faculty members received 1,124 articles requested through interlibrary loan as well as 1,288 books, CDs, and films. Crossett Library also contributed to the reciprocal spirit of interlibrary loan by loaning almost 1,156 of our items to other libraries.



## Everything Under the Sun

No one library could ever contain all the interests of the Bennington Community. Thankfully interlibrary loan expands the possibilities. Here are a few of the thousands of loan requests Kathy obtained for the College community this year: *The Office Swivel Chair* by Klaus Franck, *Learning Mountain Dulcimer* DVD, *In the Fascist Bathroom: Punk in Pop Music, 1977-1992* by Greil Marcus, *Storia del Formaggio di grana Parmigiano-Reggiano: 1200-1990* by Mario Iotti, *Galileo goes to Jail: and Other Myths about Science and Religion* by Ronald L Numbers, and *Everybody Sees the Ants* by A.S. King.



Students employed by the library worked 3,050 hours this year providing essential services and assistance.

## People

Crossett Library believes that a productive and joyful library experience relies as much on personal interactions as the collections and environment. The dedicated staff and enthusiastic student employees create a welcoming and helpful experience for everyone who comes into the library.

"WELCOME! That's the word that first comes to mind when I think of the Crossett Library where everyone is friendly, polite and helpful. The exhibitions in the foyer, the photographs and the book displays catch your eye; and the wide range of books and DVDs would make Dewey proud. My most memorable experience was spending all the time I wanted with Barry Moser's version of *The Holy Bible*. I can only say, "Don't miss it". Yes, there is coffee. No, it's not Alice's Restaurant. But, you can probably get anything you want."

Charlie Bargamian, local community patron

## The Librarian Who Reads Everything

Jared Della Rocca read all 141 books the Class of 2017 recommended when they applied to Bennington. He emailed each student individually with his review of the book and asked them what they thought of his review and if they had more books to recommend. People can read more about the project and follow along as he embarks on the reading list from the Class of 2018 on Tumblr [The Librarian Who Reads Everything](#).



## Library Staff & Student Employees

Staff: Jared Della Rocca, Alex Diaz, Vanessa Haverkoch, Laura Payne, Susan Reiss, Joe Tucker, Kathy Williams, Oceana Wilson

Students: Alex Allmark, Madison Alexander, Ryan Baltor, Sharon Batamuriza, Molly Case, Liz Corley, Sander Houk, Malia Guyer-Stevens, Chloe Heymans, Sarah Johnson, Susan Kennedy, Nathan Liu, Maev Lowe, Mercedes Maurice, Kate McCann, Evangeline Neuhart, Thuy Nguyen, Sean-Patrick O'Brien, Madison Roesse, Clara Rotter-Laitman, Mai Tran, Mieke Vrijmoet, Madeleine Weatherhead, Julia Wilcox, Sara Wilson.





The library's circulating laptops were checked out more than 1,500 times this year.

## Technology

Crossett Library is committed to engaging technology to enhance services and collections, approaching technology as a tool rather than a solution. An open attitude to emerging digital opportunities, in combination with a responsive College community willing to use new features, allows the library to adopt the best solutions.

Crossett Library's two Tumblr pages, Crossettcopia and The Librarian Who Reads Everything, were both selected as Trending Tumblr blogs. Crossettcopia is followed by almost 4,000 users and The Librarian Who Reads Everything is followed by 5,700 users. The Facebook page has over 300 followers now, and reached approximately 38,327 people this year. The library's Twitter account has about 500 followers and Pinterest has 340. The library's collection of photographs on Flickr receives an average of 2,200 views a day.

## New Research Guides

The library has adopted a new content management system for creating and disseminating research guides. The new platform allows the librarians to highlight databases and journals, display print and electronic books, incorporate web content, and embed slideshows and video and real-time news feeds. They are adaptable to tablet and mobile technology. The guides can be used as a starting point for students researching a general subject, such as architecture, or can be tailored to a specific course.

### American Theater Now

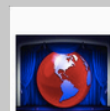
A guide to Crossett Library's resources related to DRA2151.01, American Theater Now, taught by  
Last Updated: Apr 29, 2014 : URL: <http://libraryguides.bennington.edu/americantheaternow> : [Print Guide](#)

<a href="#">Background and History</a>	<a href="#">News and Journal Articles</a>	<a href="#">Web links including Video Interview</a>
<b>Background and History</b>	<a href="#">Comments(0)</a>	<a href="#">Print Page</a>

#### Online Reference Sources and E-books



**The Oxford Companion to American Theatre (3rd ed.)** - Gerald Martin Bordman; Thomas S. Hischak  
ISBN: 0195169867  
Publication Date: 2004-05-06  
Gerald Bordman's Oxford Companion to American Theatre is the standard one-volume source on American theatre. This online edition was reviewed and updated by the original authors in 2011.



**American Theatre : History, Context, Form** - Theresa Saxon  
ISBN: 9780748631278  
Publication Date: 2011-01-01

#### Books at Crossett Library



**The Cambridge Guide to American Theatre** B. Wilmeth (Editor)  
Call Number: PN222  
ISBN: 0521835380  
Publication Date: 2004



**The Cambridge History of American Theatre** B. Wilmeth (editor)  
Call Number: PN222  
ISBN: 0521679869  
Publication Date: 2006



The library circulates free admission passes to MASS MoCA, the Clark Art Institute, Bennington Museum, and Vermont State Parks.

## Opportunities

The Faculty Library Fellowship is a competitively awarded fellowship that provides faculty members with a course release to develop a new course incorporating the resources and services of Crossett Library. The purpose of the fellowship is to enable the development of courses that integrate the opportunities offered by the library into course work in a significant way.

This year's recipient, Mary Lum, developed and taught the class "Library City: A New Atlas for Crossett." The course had students "inhabit the library as a 21st century city of knowledge." After introductory lectures and readings about contemporary cities and libraries, students spent the term mapping highly individual paths of research through the collections of Crossett Library. Intensive directed reading and looking resulted in the creation of written and visual essays through which relationships were built between a range of subjects and forms.



### Student Library Research Grant

Crossett Library supports student travel to research libraries and archives through competitively awarded grants. This year's recipients were Forest Purnell, Jamie Weaver, and Hilary Whitney.

Forest studied the Russian avant-garde movement and its artists. He traveled to New York conducting research at the Eva Zeisel Estate, as well as the Museum of Modern Art Library, where Zeisel's 1948 exhibition was held.

Jamie traveled to the Biblioteca Nacional de Chile (pictured above) where she researched official documents about artists who were incarcerated during the Pinochet regime. Her examination of the documents supported her research for a Spanish language play she is writing.

Hilary researched recent legislation and policy related to brain science at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.



This year music scores circulated more than 1,000 times and music CDs were checked out 387 times.

## Jennings Music Library

The Music Library collection has more than 10,000 scores, 2,500 CDs, 2,000 LPs, books, reference volumes, films, and periodicals. The collection's emphasis is on classical, jazz improvisation, 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century music, and world music. The library contains numerous works of former and current faculty composers and recordings of students' concerts. Susan Reiss, head of the music library, creates a welcoming space and useful collection for students and faculty members.

"The Music Library at Bennington has been a great resource to find new music and music related materials when I've been looking for something new to play, or something that I can't find anywhere else, and if I can't find it, Susie will help find it somewhere and get it! The atmosphere is really relaxed, comfortable, and helpful, and I've often found myself going in to the library as a study area before a class, or to go through the files of recordings of on-campus music workshops and recordings so that I can support and listen to the works of my friends on campus. I would describe it as: convenient, welcoming, useful, helpful, resourceful, accommodating – if you're looking for a piece they'll help you get it!"

Christopher DeFilipp '15

## A Sampling of New Acquisitions in the Jennings Music Library



### Scores:

Stockhausen: Piano Piece 1, Piano Piece 8, Nr. 4  
Stephen Foster for Dulcimer  
Torch Songs

### Books:

*The Contemporary Singer: Elements of Vocal Training*  
*Sounding the Margins: Collected Writings 1992-2009*  
*In the Field: The Art of Field Recording*  
*Sufi Music of India and Pakistan*

### CDs:

Cancion Protesta: Protest Songs of Latin America  
Susie Ibarra: Songbird Suite  
Elgar: Enigma Variations

### Films:

Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings  
The Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins





The Bennington Digital Archive & Repository contains more than 3,200 items.

## College Archive & Special Collections

Crossett Library collects, preserves, and cultivates opportunities for the exploration of archival material related to the history of the college and maintains special collections that enhance the teaching resources of the college.



## Artists' Books Collection

Crossett's recently formed collection of artists' books is designed to supplement the curriculum. The collection, comprised of newly acquired material as well as items identified from the open stacks, ranges from simple photocopied booklets to elaborately crafted works of art.

## A New Digital Archive for Bennington

Crossett Library launched the [Bennington College Digital Repository](#), a system for the collection, preservation, and distribution of scholarly work and historical material. Crossett Library is part of a pilot group for the first hosted-version of DSpace, the open source software created by MIT and HP Labs, used for creating open access repositories. The hosted-version is an affordable solution with technical support that can preserve and provide access to faculty and student papers, projects, and research as well as archival materials. Written material is keyword searchable and indexed by Google Scholar, making the information vastly more accessible.

Laura Payne and Alex Diaz added several major collections to the digital archive this year including entering class photographs, the student music concert collection, and several complete runs of various student newspapers.





The library exhibited over 65 displays of books and films this year, many of which related to campus events and lectures.

## Celebrations & Exhibitions

The library actively celebrates the academic life of the college and achievements of students and faculty members. Activities include faculty-suggested reading lists, displays related to campus programs or lectures, film screenings, and student-created events and displays.



The Crossett Concert Series, planned and managed by Alex Diaz, kicked off with an outdoor concert on a beautiful September night.

## Senior Thesis & Project Reception

Held annually in May, the reception celebrates the work of graduating seniors with a viewing of the projects and theses and a toast this year given by Philosophy Faculty Member Karen Gover.



## Our Bennington: a tour through the College's history



Laura Payne and Oceana Wilson collaborated with faculty member Robert Ransick and several students to create an interactive campus history tour as part of the festivities during the inauguration of President Mariko Silver. Twelve stations around campus marked moments selected as a window into the many experiences that have shaped Bennington. Each station offered the opportunity to view original documents, read or listen to a story, and invited people to respond through social media.



The average number of books checked out per student this year was 20.

## The Hottest Books

The most frequently circulated books this year. Circulation statistics for books on reserve are not counted on this list.

*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

*How Music Works* by David Byrne

*Taipei: a Novel* by Tao Lin

*Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* by Hayao Miyazaki

*The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

*Madness, Rack, and Honey: Collected Lectures* by Mary Ruefle

*Boxers & Saints* by Gene Luen Yang

*Borderlands: the New Mestiza* by Gloria Anzaldúa

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

*The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh

*Flow: the Psychology of Optimal Experience* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

*Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple

*This is How You Lose Her* by Junot Díaz

*The Walking Dead* by Robert Kirkman

*The Voice Imitator* by Thomas Bernhard







## By the numbers

### Holdings

Print books	89,063
eBooks	114,788
Films	4,671
Print journals	238
Online journals	48,077
Online music	4,584
CDs	2,799
Scores	4,065

### Acquisitions

Faculty requests	589
Student requests	743
Gifts	3,164
Replacements	107
Other purchased books	638

### Borrowing

All items	29,230
Books	17,014
Movies	7,000
Reserves	2,079
Laptops	1,541
Scores	1,070
CDs	387
Books – faculty	2,981
Movies – faculty	2,112
CDs – faculty	141
Scores – faculty	531
Books – students	12,548
Movies – students	3,791
CDs – students	188
Scores – students	513

### Interlibrary Loan Borrowing from Other Libraries

Total	2,412
Articles	1,124
Books, Films, etc.	1,288

### Interlibrary Loan Lending to Other Libraries

Total	1,269
Articles	180
Books, Films, etc.	1,156

### Database Searches

Academic Search Premier	5,634
Access World News	340
America's Historical Newspapers	488
ArtStor	5,560
Avery Index	505
BioOne	143
Encyclopedia Britannica	1,247
Gale Academic ASAP	949
Gale Health Wellness	103
JSTOR	9,221
LexisNexis	841
MLA Bibliography	545
Omnifile Select Wilson	682
Oxford English Dictionary	4,145
Philosopher's Index	1,022
ProQuest	4,931
PsycARTICLES	2,243
PsycINFO	737
WorldCat	3,935