

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

CROSSETT LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2012 – JUNE 2013



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, librarian visits to classes, library tours, online research guides, and more.



Library Instruction

There were 870 reference interactions.

Joe Tucker, research services librarian, taught 16 library instruction sessions scheduled within courses. The sessions were attended by 178 students.

The average of students' evaluations of the sessions rating instructor effectiveness, overall value, and perceived relevance was 4.78 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 as the highest rating.

CAPA Embedded Librarian

This year Crossett Library began a pilot embedded librarian program. The model of the embedded librarian works well with the CAPA curriculum because of the collaborative approach and the necessity for timely, accurate information. Jared Della Rocca, technology resources and outreach librarian, worked with two CAPA classes. He provided research and further reading suggestions within class discussion, as well as meeting individually with students planning their term-long projects. He corresponded with students to check their progress and assist with any research problems they encountered. The students developed a familiarity with a librarian which put them more at ease when requiring assistance outside of the classroom. Between the two classes, Jared had 22 research meetings in the library, answered 37 reference questions via e-mail providing 55 different resources, and during discussion in-class and on the class Facebook page answered 52 queries and shared 110 resources.



Crossett Library owns approximately 183,000 books in print and electronic format and 6,000 movies. Over 3,000 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 920 requests (516 faculty members, 404 students) representing 50 percent of all purchased book and film acquisitions for the year.

A three-year project led by Collection Services Librarian Vanessa Haverkoch, inventorying almost 100,000 items in the collection has concluded this year. The loss rate of 1.5 percent was lower than expected, particularly because the collection had not been inventoried in over a decade. Incorrectly shelved items identified in the inventory were shelved correctly and over 200 titles were ordered as replacements for lost copies.



"Crossett Library can be a dangerous spot for explorations. It readily provides answers to questions, but it simultaneously encourages more lines of inquiry to develop. It is dangerous because it is cyclical: searching leads to discoveries, and those discoveries always lead to more searching. Crossett provides me with everything I need to travel on this challenging and exhilarating search."

Amalia Wiatr Lewis '16

Donations to the Collection

This year the Library received 1,013 donations which accounted for 32 percent of all items added to the collection. Donations often allow the library to add depth to specific areas or obtain works which would otherwise be unaffordable. Two notable examples from this year are books from the estate of Carolyn Crossett Rowland '37 with particular focus in visual arts and the works of Thomas Mann, and the donation by Bruce and Suzie Kovner of a limited edition Pennyroyal Caxton Bible designed and illustrated by Barry Moser.



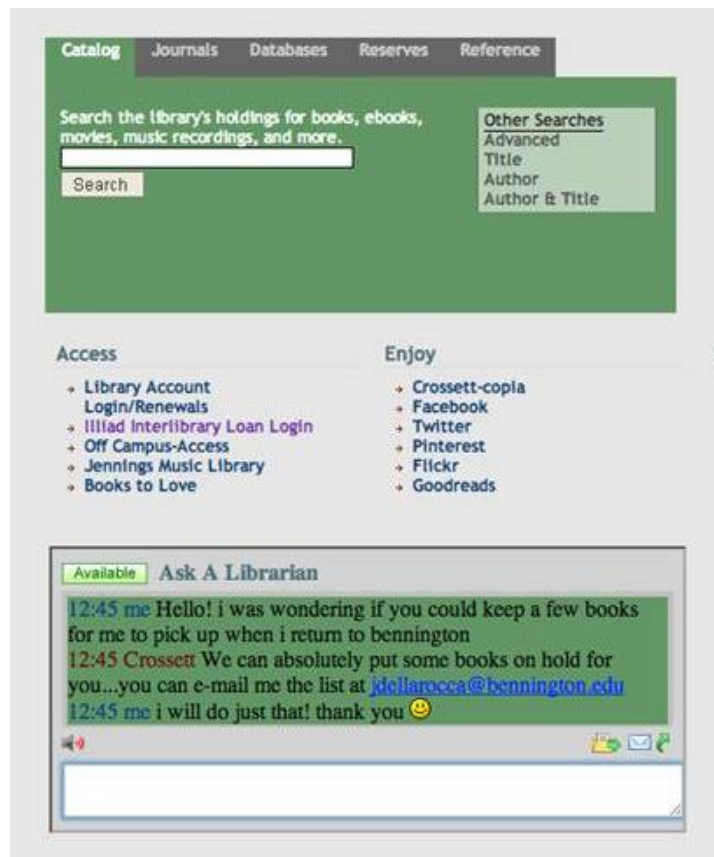
Crossett Library provides access to approximately 50 databases in a range of subjects covering all the disciplines taught at Bennington College. The library's circulating laptops were checked out more than 650 times this year.

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.

A new chat box was added to the main page of the library website. The initial launch was positively received and this year there were approximately 150 chat sessions. The questions varied from quick informational inquiries to more in-depth questions about research projects. Due to the success of the pilot the library has decided to retain the feature on the library's front page.

The library server was upgraded increasing the memory capacity and providing more secure backups.



Social Media

Crossett Library's Tumblr page has added almost 150 new followers and received 4,000 visits from non-followers. A new Facebook page has received over 200 "likes" since January 2013 and has reached almost 75,000 people through friends of fans of the page. The library's Twitter account has over 400 followers and Pinterest has 200. The library's collection of 3,000 photographs on Flickr receives an average of 250 views a day.



People entered Crossett Library 97,000 times this past year. The library is open 102 hours a week. There is an all-night study room which remains open after the rest of the library is closed.

Access

The library actively pursues ways of expanding access and integrating library services and resources into the life of the College; activities include faculty-suggested reading lists, displays related to campus programs or lectures, film screenings, and student-created events and displays.

In her role as public services coordinator, Laura Payne oversees the scheduling and daily activities crucial to maintaining Crossett Library's philosophy of accessibility.

Crossett Library holds several celebrations every year such as World Book Day. The day originated in Catalonia on St. George's Day, where the tradition of exchanging a flower for a book began. This year Crossett's celebration included giving out flowers, food, raffles, photo ops with Shakespeare, and live fiddle music.



"Crossett isn't so much a library as it is its own dimension of learning, with or without intention. It defies the idea of a library as a quiet and static place. Rather, something is always happening at Crossett. Crossett is where fun and knowledge converge; where knowledge takes the form of fun and vice versa."

Daniel Braun '14



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.

Resources

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 50,000 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 1,128 articles requested through interlibrary loan as well as 1,450 books, CDs, and films. Crossett Library also contributed to the reciprocal spirit of interlibrary loan by loaning almost 1,100 of our items to other libraries.

"Early in my first year at Bennington I requested access to Digital National Security Archive, the largest collection of declassified government documents available on the internet. This request was met with genuine interest and even excitement by the staff of the library. They were more than willing to find room in the budget for the ProQuest site, and helped me learn how to use the database itself. The support and excitement my request received, in my freshman year, was a fantastic illustration of the nurturing character of all staff working at Crossett."

Ben Simpson '16



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 one faculty member per year with a course release in order 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.

There are many possibilities, but two specific outcomes are intended: first that the students develop a sophisticated understanding of the purpose and use of a library; and second that students create projects and dialogues to both highlight and expand the role of Crossett Library within the Bennington College community.

Ann Pibal, a member of the visual arts faculty, was this year's recipient. Ann's proposal centers on bringing students' awareness to primary documents of art history and contemporary art criticism.



Student Library Research Grant

Crossett Library announced a new student research grant this year to support students traveling to a library or archive in order to use a specific research collection. The grant funds the reimbursement of travel, meals, and miscellaneous expenses associated with the research. Walker Mimms, a third-year student studying literature, was the recipient. Walker used the grant to travel to Columbia University's Butler Library for his research on James Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson* and Edward Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.



The Jennings Music Library has more than 10,000 scores, 2,500 music CDs, and 2,000 LPs.

Jennings Music Library

The Music Library holds approximately 18,000 items which include scores, CDs, LPs, books, reference volumes, films, and periodicals. The collection's emphasis is on classical, jazz improvisation, 20th- and 21st-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.

This year music scores circulated more than 1,000 times and music CDs were checked out 528 times. Faculty members and students made 56 purchasing requests, which accounts for 61 percent of all purchased items.

Based on faculty and student feedback a major LP cataloging project was completed this year making the LPs easily searchable in the library's online catalog.

"The Jennings Music Library can be deceptively quiet for a place that facilitates so much sound, but it is always a calm and warmly welcoming place for students of every discipline at Bennington."

Alexandria Hovet '14



"Jennings Library is a chamber of the heart of Bennington's music program. It is one of the most essential resources for independent work in music at Bennington, a place capable of pulling students every which way through the amorphous structures of music history. It is a place for listening, being pulled into worlds, and investigating and understanding connections. The more directions it can pull students, the more effective it is."

Alec Gear '15



The average number of printed books checked out per student was 17 this year.

The Hottest Books

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

1. *Habibi* by Craig Thompson
2. *The Walking Dead* by Robert Kirkman
3. *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut
4. *Pretty Guardian: Sailor Moon* by Naoko Takeuchi
5. *This Is How You Lose Her* by Junot Díaz
6. *Gone Girl: a Novel* by Gillian Flynn
7. *The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman
8. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* by Judith Butler
9. *Too Good to Be True: A Memoir* by Benjamin Anastas
10. *How to Make a Japanese House* by Cathelijne Nuijsink





The average number of films checked out per student was 7 this year.

The Hottest Films

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

1. *The Secret World of Arrietty*
directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi
2. *I Heart Huckabees*
directed by David O. Russell
3. *Fantastic Mr. Fox*
directed by Wes Anderson
4. *Annie Hall*
directed by Woody Allen
5. *The Cabin in the Woods*
directed by Drew Goddard
6. *Beginners*
directed by Mike Mills
7. *Funny Ha Ha*
directed by Andrew Bujalski
8. *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*
directed by Hayao Miyazaki
9. *Argo*
directed by Ben Affleck
10. *Big Fish*
directed by Tim Burton



Library Holdings

Books – print	96,630
Books – electronic	86,347
Movies	5,992
Journals – print	254
Journals – electronic	47,230
Music – electronic	4,582
Music – CDs	2,553
Music – LPs	2,700
Scores – print	4,208

Crossett Acquisitions

Faculty Requests	516
Student Requests	404
Gifts	1,013
Replacements	213
Other Purchased Books	913
Other Purchased DVDs	157

Overall Borrowing

All Items	35,009
Books	15,944
Movies	7,564
Reserves	2,543
Scores	1,077
CDs	530

Student Borrowing

Books	11,603
Movies	4,519
CDs	343
Laptops	659
Scores	633

Faculty Borrowing

Books	2,583
Movies	2,607
CDs	185
Laptops	4
Scores	434



Interlibrary Loan Activity Borrowed from Other Libraries

Articles	1,128
Books, Films, CDs, etc.	1,450
Total	2,578

Interlibrary Loan Activity Loaned to Other Libraries

Articles	59
Books, Films, CDs, etc.	1,039
Total	1,098

Journal Finder Searches

Title Searches	3,751
Subject Browsing	1,482
Other Searches	6,943
Total	12,167

Database Searches

Academic Search Premier	6,793
Access World News	386
America's Historical Newspapers	1,312
ArtStor	7,063
Avery Index	266
BioOne	324
Credo Reference	1,312
Encyclopaedia Britannica	2,240
GALE Expanded Academic ASAP	911
GALE Health Wellness Resource	301
JSTOR	9,617
LexisNexis	875
MathSciNet	59
MLA Bibliography	783
OmniFile Select H. W. Wilson	728
Oxford English Dictionary	8,337
Philosopher's Index	792
PNAS	152
Proquest Databases	5,141
PsycARTICLES	2,406
PsycINFO	1,588
WorldCat	3,007

