

Crossett Library Annual Report 2008



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 the book

Engaging technologies that enhance services and the collection

Contents

Services and Instruction

- **Philosophy**
- **Year in Review**
- **Intentional Inquiry**
- **Technology**
- **Exhibits**
- **Events**

The Collection

- **Library Holdings**
- **Circulation Overview**
- **Circulation by Patron Type**
- **Circulation of Interlibrary Loans**
- **Book Acquisition by Subject Area**
- **Book Circulation by Subject Area**
- **Book Circulation and Collection Age**
- **Electronic Resources Acquisition**
- **Electronic Resources Usage**
- **The Hottest Books**
- **The Hottest Music**
- **The Hottest Films**

Supplements

- **Staff Development**
- **Archives Special Report**
- **The 2008 Student Library Survey**
- **Peer Group Comparison**

SERVICES & INSTRUCTION

Philosophy

The library's collection of information resources is not viewed as a static body but rather an organic and vital extension of the educational experience at Bennington. Supporting the curricular needs of Bennington's students and faculty guides our principles of collection development and service. The foundation of the library's philosophy is to provide highly personalized service focused on the individual needs of the faculty and students. The library staff is committed to responding to the needs of patrons promptly, providing varied and flexible communication methods, customizing services to the individual patron, and creating a welcoming environment.

Year in Review

The gate count, circulation, reference inquiries and number of library instruction sessions all increased this year: the gate count was 93,065; the total circulation was 39,909; and there were 966 recorded reference transactions. There were 13 library instruction sessions with 153 participants. Some sessions took place in the library, others in classrooms; topics varied from broad overviews of resources to very specific research questions. The average rating for the sessions was 4.5 (1 = poor and 5 = excellent.) Students rated the effectiveness of the librarian teaching in terms of organization and clarity of presentation, the overall value of the library instruction class session, and the relevance of the information presented to the research assignment.

Intentional Inquiry

The library is developing a program of Intentional Inquiry, which is focused on directly connecting library research sessions to course content. Online research guides for specific courses are created in collaboration with the faculty. The new Design Labs offer an opportunity for the library to work with first year students. We are also expanding our presence in the classroom by attending and participating in presentations and critiques. Collaborations, such as the Library Fellows Augmented Library class, offer a fresh perspective on the role of the library at Bennington College.

Technology

The library replaced all fifteen of the public computers with new models and added four circulating Mac laptops. The update has dramatically improved the speed and capacity of the computers, as well as improved the appearance of the first floor by replacing the large outdated monitors with flat screen ones. Now that the computers are the same age and model, maintenance and updating will be significantly more efficient.

The Library has added more browser customization options to assist patrons in locating scholarly, academic resources more efficiently. We created a page to house the tools in one centralized location. The tools, commonly called widgets, have been divided into those that assist in finding resources, and those that assist in organizing and citing your research. We developed search plugins so patrons could search databases from their Firefox or Internet Explorer browser search box. Many databases we offer our patrons have plugins available; these can be downloaded from the library website and installed in one click. Google toolbar instructions are provided, providing the ability to search our college resources directly from a browser. Our research organizing widgets include: Zotero, a citation and online content management tool; an Endnote plugin, for exporting and organizing citations; and Textmarker, for highlighting and copying text from the web.

The library continues to develop content for the website focused on library services that support academic goals. New content added in the past year includes: information on the Jennings Music Library; research guides for courses; monthly lists for new books and films. A faulty portal and a student portal were developed in order to highlight and group the resources, news, and information most relevant to them. We obtained and installed a Secure Sockets Layer certificate, commonly called a SSL certificate, on to our server to provide secure access for our patrons and to provide patrons with access to personal folders on our subscription databases.

Exhibits

The library collaborated with two students to create book scavenger hunt game for the start of the fall term based on the Charles Burns portrait illustrations from the magazine *The Believer*. The illustrations and instructions for the game were exhibited in the library foyer.

Two exhibits held during the 75th Anniversary celebrations, *The Beginning of the College* and *The History of Crossett Library*, celebrated Bennington College history with displays of archival materials including photographs, student drawing, documents, and architectural sketches.



Students Sarah Whicker and Aaron Fisher exhibited their puppet and set design work from Sue Rees's Special Projects class and held a critique with the class in the foyer. Students David Archer, Dorothy Allen, Andrew Barton, Marisa Prefer, Rose Melia, Nate Luce, David Bow, and Margaret Rizzio (work seen to the left) exhibit works from Mary Lum's Small Books and Zines class in the library. The library created a corresponding [online exhibit](#), *We Heart BiblioArt*, of the Small Books and Zines exhibit. The library was happy to assist with two book-related installations created by Amelia Meath (seen above) and Eve Garf.

Student Drew Gold approached the library on behalf of the student co-op garden with the request to start seedlings in the upstairs window of the library. The library agreed to have the seedlings in the window and created a reading list and book display of favorite gardening books recommended by students, faculty, and staff.

Student David Archer, winner of the library's 2008 Book Collecting Contest, exhibited his collection of Virginia Woolf books with annotations. The library put his [winning essay](#) online to supplement the exhibit.

The books from the popular [list of faculty recommended FWT reading](#) were displayed.

Events

The library worked in collaboration with Eileen Scully's Bennington Past and Present Class to create an archival film footage screening for the 75th Anniversary Celebration. The library had approximately four hours of archival film footage restored and transferred to digital formats during the summer of 2007 which the library edited to create a thirty minute film. Class members Talyah Alpern, Jacob Bielecki, Alison Campbell, Sam Clement, Ian Dolton-Thornton, Caitlin Gambill, Emily Woods Hogue, Kimberly Keller, Travis Kline, Kathleen Mahoney, Jonathan Mederios, Helen Rose Patterson, Emma Peterson, Desiree Post, Andrew Przystanski, Kate Ritter, Justing Stames, Anne Schaffer, Marika Shyduroff, Rose Strickman, Amanda Vorce, researched the footage and wrote a script for the film with the guidance of Eileen Scully, Oceana Wilson, and Melissa Tacke. The students divided into four work team for the event: the first group selected and performed live music, including the original score for the first graduation ceremony; the second group narrated the event; the third group created costumes for the narrators; and the fourth group created materials handed out during the event. After the live event the musicians and narrators had a recording session in Jennings and the library created a DVD of the film footage with the music and narration.



On April 23 Crossett Library celebrated World Book Day. On St. George's Day in and around Catalonia people offer a flower to loved ones and in return, they receive a book. The custom started in 1926 to commemorate Cervantes' death. UNESCO has promoted World Book Day "...to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity" Students and faculty members wrote down the name of a favorite book in the library on a slip of paper, which was then attached to a flower, in return they received a flower with someone else's favorite book recommendation.

The Crossett Library Mellon Fellows Program began in 2007, offering Bennington College faculty members the opportunity to embed topics related to libraries into a course by providing: logistical support for projects; workspace in the library; and budgetary support. The purpose of the program is to create dialogues and projects that expand the role of the library within the Bennington College community, as well as highlight the importance of libraries in contemporary society.



The first Library Mellon Fellows were Robert Ransick and Joe Holt, teaching the class, *The Augmented Library: A Site Specific Installation*. The yearlong class, with students Ben Choiniere, Adam Freed, Jess Funston, Rebecca Grabman, Jason Irla, David Meresman, Luce de Palchi, Kyle Schroeder, Hannah Wolfe, culminated in the

creation of an installation called [Bennington Bookmarks](#) which encourages visitors to explore areas of the library they may have previously overlooked and to share their ideas about the books and films. The Bookmarks are translucent objects with glowing colored lights inside of them. The gently glowing beacons are found attached to books and DVD's, and contain messages left by members of the community. The messages can be accessed at one of the three Bookmark Stations, located on each floor of the library. The touch-enabled screen provides access to the entirety of messages left over time. The Bennington Bookmarks art installation was unveiled at an opening reception at Bennington College's Crossett Library on May 20. The Library Fellow program was funded by the Mellon Foundation.



The Senior Thesis & Project Reception was held on May 22. It was the 10th anniversary of the celebration. For the first time since 1936, when the library began collecting student theses and projects, the library collected both print and digital versions. The digital versions are now available through the online catalog, which is a significant improvement in access. Faculty members April Bernard and David Anderegg gave toasts.

THE COLLECTION

Library Holdings

Item	Added FY08	Total
Books -print	3382	93,715
Books - electronic	n/a	36,946
Books - Jennings	n/a	536
Movies	506	4,117
Journals - print	44	631
Journals - electronic	n/a	26,169
Multi-Media	16	390
Music - electronic	n/a	4,584
Music - CDs	n/a	1,564
Music - LPs	0	9,000
Slides	376	26,060
Slides – digital ArtStor	n/a	700,000
Microforms	0	6,117
Scores - print	n/a	15,000
Scores - electronic	2,052	2,052
Total		926,345

Circulation Overview

- Total circulation for all items: 39,909 - 7.5% increase from FY07.
- Total circulation for books: 17,196
- Annual average books checked out per student: 24.18
- Total circulation for films: 13,616
- Reserve circulation transactions: 2,958
- Total circulation – books from Williams College: 312

Circulation by Patron Type

Item Type	Faculty/Staff	Student
Books	2,341	13,143
Movies	2,792	9,676
CD, Music	396	826
Scores	132	219
Laptops	8	148
Periodicals, Circulating	15	87
Books, Jennings	18	66
Books, Reference	18	16

Circulation of Interlibrary Loans

Crossett patrons received 605 articles and 1,469 loans (books, films, scores, microfilm) through interlibrary loan. The library sent 71 articles and 838 loans to other libraries. We noted a 24% fill rate, which is the percentage of articles requested by other libraries that we ultimately send, was lower than we would like. One problem we identified is that our records in the database libraries use to locate materials do not have date ranges, therefore a library could request an article from a journal title we own but we may not have the date they need. A project is underway to update our records to include date ranges and hopefully this change will help us increase the fill rate next year.

Book Acquisition by Subject Area

Trends in acquisition followed expected patterns. Languages, Literature, and Art account for the largest percentage since books are the primary library resource used in these areas; where as Social Sciences use a mix of both electronic and print resources; and Sciences use primarily electronic resources. This data represents volumes purchased and gifts in-kind.

Call Number Range	Description	Total Volumes	Percent of Total FY08 Acquisitions
A	General Works	6	<1%
B	Philosophy, Psychology, Religion	172	5%
C	History - Biography	19	<1%
D	History – Europe, Africa, Asia	151	5%
E	History – US	57	2%
F	History – Canada, Latin & South America	41	1%
G	Geography, Anthropology, Dance, Costume	96	3%
H	Social History, Economy, Gender, Sociology	264	8%
J	Political Science	92	3%
K	Law	16	<1%
L	Education	47	2%
M	Music	126	4%
N	Art	386	12%
P	Language & Literature	1,243	38%
Q	Science	272	8%
R	Medicine	39	1%
S	Agriculture	28	<1%
T	Technology & Photography	144	4%
U V	Military, Naval	12	<1%
Z	Bibliography	32	1%

Book Circulations by Subject Area

This shows circulation patterns from August 2006 - July 2008. Because the number of books vary in each subject area it is most useful to look at the percentage of circulated volumes by subject area. Reserve circulations are not included in this data. One unexpected trend is that more of the music books are circulating from Crossett 39% than Jennings 12%. One possible explanation could be access; Jennings is open 54 hours per week, Crossett is open 101 hours per week.

Call Number Range	Description	Total Volumes	Vols. with one or more circulation	Percent of Volumes Circulated
A	General Works	120	37	31%
B	Philosophy, Psychology, Religion	7,194	1,451	20%
C	History - Biography	566	105	19%
D	History – Europe, Africa, Asia	6021	960	16%
E	History – US	3717	393	11%
F	History – Canada, Latin & South America	1486	262	18%
G	Geography, Anthropology, Dance, Costume	2599	805	31%
H	Economics, Sociology	6,418	1,213	19%
J	Political Science	2103	235	11%
K	Law	556	38	7%
L	Education	1,134	355	31%
M	Music - Jennings	536	66	12%
M	Music - Crossett	1963	762	39%
N	Art	11,296	4,372	39%
P	Language & Literature	38,316	6,443	17%
Q	Science	5,105	935	18%
R	Medicine	1,287	359	28%
S	Agriculture	680	139	20%
T	Technology & Photography	2,543	923	36%
Z	Bibliography	331	121	37%

Book Circulation and Collection Age

The factors we analyze when looking at collection age vary depending on the subject area. In Literature we are primarily concerned with the physical condition of the book; we need to ensure that we have quality hardcover editions in good condition. In Science the content does not, with the exception of seminal works, remain valuable regardless of age. Circulation patterns, when viewed with collection age, help identify areas in need of collection development. Collection development, which is both the systematic acquisition of new volumes and removal of old volumes, is vital to maintain a good collection.

Call Number	Description	Volumes pre-1990	Circulation pre-1990	Volumes 1990-2008	Circulation 1990-2008
A	General Works	83%	51%	17%	49%
B	Philosophy, Psychology, Religion	84%	63%	16%	37%
C	History - Biography	81%	58%	19%	42%
C	History – Europe, Africa, Asia	86%	63%	14%	37%
E	History – US	84%	56%	16%	44%
F	History – Canada, Latin & South America	82%	60%	18%	40%
G	Geography, Anthropology, Dance, Costume	76%	53%	24%	47%
H	Economics, Sociology	77%	38%	23%	62%
J	Political Science	81%	40%	19%	60%
K	Law	74%	27%	26%	73%
L	Education	64%	41%	36%	59%
M	Music	78%	53%	22%	47%
N	Art	77%	56%	23%	44%
P	Language & Literature	80%	60%	20%	40%
Q	Science	73%	44%	27%	56%
R	Medicine	70%	30%	30%	70%
S	Agriculture	81%	60%	19%	40%
T	Technology & Photography	62%	40%	38%	60%
Z	Bibliography	62%	25%	38%	75%

Electronic Resources Acquisitions

The library's collection of electronic resources has dramatically increased in the past five years. Our future concern will be developing access points and tools that enable patrons to find the information they need. We were able to dramatically increase our online collections, primarily with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. We have added the following online resources to our collection this year:

- [African American Music Reference](#) brings together text reference, biographies, chronologies, sheet music, images, lyrics, liner notes, and discographies which chronicle the diverse history and culture of the African American experience through music.
- [Aluka](#) is an international, collaborative initiative building an online digital library of scholarly resources from and about Africa. This resource currently offers three content areas: African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes and Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa.
- [American Film Scripts Online](#) is an ongoing digitization project aiming to provide access to many previously unpublished screenplays as well as to allow scripts to become part of the established corpus of literary works.
- [America's Historical Newspapers](#) – series 4 1756-1922 - Reproductions of hundreds of American historic newspapers, providing millions of pages of text-searchable facsimile images.
- [ArticleChoice/ScienceDirect](#) this pre-purchase journal article bundle allows the science faculty immediate access to articles in ScienceDirect, which contains science, technology, and medicine full text and bibliographic information.
- [Asian American Drama](#) contains 252 plays by 42 playwrights, as well as detailed, fielded information on related productions, theaters, production companies, and more.
- [Black Drama](#) contains approximately 1200 plays by 201 playwrights, as well as detailed, fielded information on related productions, theaters, production companies, and more.
- [Classical Scores Library](#) contains pages of classical scores from both in-copyright and public domain editions. The major composers output is represented, as well as many lesser known composers and works.
- [Credo Reference](#) offers searchable access to 100 reference sources covering a range of subject areas.
- [Encyclopedia of Life Sciences](#) Spanning the entire spectrum of life sciences, the Encyclopedia of Life Sciences (ELS) features more than 4,200 specially commissioned and peer-reviewed articles written by leaders in the field to provide comprehensive and authoritative coverage of this subject area.
- [The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music Online](#) is the first comprehensive online resource devoted to music research of all the world's peoples. More than 9,000 pages of material, combined with entries by more than 700 expert contributors.
- [Latino Literature](#) brings together more than 100,000 pages of poetry, fiction, and drama written in English and Spanish by hundreds of Chicano, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Dominican, and other Latin authors working in the United States.
- [North American Theatre Online](#) (NATO) is a major initiative to provide detailed reference information for every theatrical figure, every play, every theatre, every major production, and every production company, from Colonial times to the present.
- [North American Women's Drama](#) contains 1,174 plays by 275 playwrights, as well as detailed, fielded information on related productions, theaters, production companies, and more.
- [Theatre in Video](#) contains more than 250 definitive performances of the world's leading plays, as well as more than 100 film documentaries, online in streaming video - more than 500 hours in all.
- [Twentieth Century North American Drama](#) contains 1,122 plays by 170 playwrights, as well as detailed, fielded information on related productions, theaters, production companies, and more.

Electronic Resource Usage

While the total number of searches increased, there were fewer searches for some individual databases. We anticipated some fluctuation in search percentages due to the addition of many new databases this year; however we can't account for some of the dramatic increases and decreases. A more apparent and accurate pattern could emerge when we have a few more years of data to compare.

Database	Searches	Change from FY07
Academic Search Premier	7,780	10%
Access World News	674	N/A
American Chemical Society	1,997	35%
America's Historical Newspapers	871	79%
ArticleFirst	136	17%
ArtStor	3,480	30%
BioOne	612	20%
Business and Company Resource Center	224	33%
Credo Reference (partial-year stats)	659	N/A
Encyclopaedia Britannica	1,172	25%
Health and Wellness Resource Center	227	-14%
Infotrac Expanded Academic ASAP	1,089	-48%
Int'l Bibliography of Theatre and Dance	330	44%
JSTOR	7,451	89%
Lexis Nexis	1,978	-54%
MathSciNet	63	-32%
MLA Bibliography	426	21%
New York Times Historical	2,299	41%
Oxford English Dictionary	14,380	N/A
Oxford Reference Online	1,564	N/A
Philosophers Index	427	128%
Proquest Journals	1,231	43%
Proquest Newspapers	1,253	39%
PsycArticles	1,658	N/A
PsycInfo	1,197	N/A
WilsonSelectPlus	543	-19%
WilsonWeb	105	9%
WorldCat	5,258	-4%
TOTAL	59,084	N/A

The Hottest Books*

Sternfeld, Joel.	Stranger Passing
Borges, Jorge Luis.	Labyrinths: Selected Stories & Other Writings.
Satrapi, Marjane.	Persepolis
Guston, Philip.	Philip Guston Retrospective
Hilliard, David.	David Hilliard : Photographs
Brockway, Thomas.	Bennington College: In the Beginning
James, Christopher.	Book of Alternative Photographic Processes
Foer, Jonathan Safran.	Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close
Satrapi, Marjane.	Embroideries
Porcellino, John.	Perfect Example
Calle, Sophie.	Exquisite Pain
Fielding, Helen.	Bridget Jones's Diary: a novel
García Márquez, Gabriel.	One Hundred Years of Solitude
Smith, Keith A.	Non-adhesive Binding
Nabokov, Vladimir.	Speak, Memory: an Autobiography Revisited
Warr, Tracey, ed.	The Artist's Body
Goldin, Nan.	The Devil's Playground
Chekhov, Anton.	The Plays of Anton Chekhov
Foer, Jonathan Safran,	Everything is Illuminated : a novel
B., David,	Epileptic
Gaiman, Neil.	Anansi Boys
McCay, Winsor.	Little Nemo in Slumberland
Murakami, Takashi	Little Boy : the Arts of Japan's Exploding Subculture
Pollan, Michael.	The Omnivore's Dilemma : a Natural History of Four Meals
Kidd, Chip.	Book One : Work, 1986-2006 : Album
Parini, Jay, comp.	The Wadsworth Anthology of Poetry
New, Jennifer.	Drawing from Life : the Journal as Art
Odets, Clifford.	Six Plays of Clifford Odets
Borges, Jorge Luis.	Ficciones.
Tartt, Donna.	The Secret History : a novel
Churchill, Caryl.	Top Girls
Smith, Keith A.	Structure of the Visual Book
Brown, Chester.	The Little Man : Short Strips 1980-1995
Neel, Alice	Alice Neel
Charlip, Remy.	Arm in Arm: a Collection of Connections, Endless Tales, Reiterations, and Other Echolalia
Barry, Lynda.	One Hundred Demons
Greenberg, Clement.	Clement Greenberg: Late Writings
Lee, Nikki S.	Projects
Sontag, Susan.	Regarding the Pain of Others
Wall, Jeff.	Jeff Wall
Gaiman, Neil.	The Sandman : Endless Nights
Matta-Clark, Gordon,	Gordon Matta-Clark
Carter, David A.	The Elements of Pop-Up : a Pop-Up Book for Aspiring Paper Engineers

Grynstejn, Madeleine.	Olafur Eliasson
Davidson, Bruce.	Subway
Manco, Tristan.	Street Logos
Ganz, Nicholas.	Graffiti World : Street Art from Five Continents
Del Vecchio, Mark.	Postmodern Ceramics
Marshall, Richard.	Ed Ruscha
Burns, Charles.	Black Hole
Gaiman, Neil.	Marvel 1602
Baudot, François	Fashion: the twentieth century
Höch, Hannah, 1889-	Hannah Höch: Album
Churchill, Caryl.	Far Away
	Pressplay : Contemporary Artists in Conversation.
Peyton, Elizabeth	Elizabeth Peyton.
Murakami, Takashi	Super flat
Calle, Sophie.	Appointment with Sigmund Freud
Flynn, Nick.	Some Ether
Hempel, Amy.	The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel

*When "hotness" is defined as books with 7 or more circulations, excluding reserve circulations, from August 2006 - July 2008

The Hottest Music*

Satie, Erik.	Œuvres pour piano
Bach, Johann Sebastian.	The Well-Tempered Clavier
Reich, Steve.	Music for 18 Musicians
Bach, Johann Sebastian.	Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin
Stravinsky, Igor.	Music for Two Pianos
Ives, Charles.	Solo Piano Music
Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus.	Le Nozze di Figaro
Ravel, Maurice.	Piano Works
Pärt, Arvo.	Tabula Rasa
Scriabin, Aleksandr Nikolayevich.	The Complete Piano Sonatas
Schnittke, Alfred.	The Complete String Quartets
Ravel, Maurice.	The Complete Works for Solo Piano
Glass, Philip.	Music in Twelve Parts
Reich, Steve.	Octet ; Music for a large ensemble ; Violin phase
Bach, Johann Sebastian.	The Art of Fugue
Beethoven, Ludwig van.	Symphonies, no. 9, op. 125, D minor; The 9th Symphony
Glass, Philip.	Kronos Quartet performs Philip Glass
Tianjin Buddhist Music Ensemble Performer.	Buddhist music of Tianjin
Huun-Huur-Tu	60 horses in My Herd: Old Songs and Tunes of Tuva
Brant, Henry, 1913-	Orbits: Hieroglyphics 3: Western Springs
NY Chamber Ensemble Performer.	Happy Endings: Comic Chamber Operas.
Bach, Johann Sebastian.	French Suites
Graves, Milford.	Grand Unification

Simone, Nina.	The Very Best of Nina Simone: Sugar in My Bowl, 1967-1972.
Dietrich, Marlene.	The Very Best of Marlene Dietrich
Berio, Luciano	Sinfonia; Eindrücke

*When "hotness" is defined as music recordings with 6 or more circulations, excluding reserve circulations, August 2006 - July 2008

The Hottest Films*

Me and You and Everyone We Know	Requiem for a Dream
Sex and Lucia	Big Fish
Mulholland Dr.	Corpse Bride
The Big Lebowski	Swimming Pool
Lost in Translation	Sylvia
Withnail & I	Thirteen
The Rules of Attraction	North by Northwest
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou	Fast Times at Ridgemont High
The Graduate	But I'm a cheerleader
Coffee and Cigarettes	Lost
Good Will Hunting	Straw Dogs
Walk the Line	Your Friends & Neighbors
Mean Girls	8 1/2
Sex and the City	21 Grams
Ghost World	Todo Sobre Mi Madre
Capote	The Aristocrats
Six Feet Under.	To Catch a Thief
Art 21: art in the 21st century.	Drugstore Cowboy
Grey Gardens	Clerks
Fargo	Cold Mountain
Elephant	Dogville
A Fish called Wanda	The Yes Men
Curb Your Enthusiasm.	Hell House
Sideways	No Direction Home : Bob Dylan
Frank Miller's Sin City	The Ballad of Jack and Rose
Grizzly Man	What Dreams May Come
Good Night, and Good Luck	Lord of the Rings, the Two Towers
The Station Agent	Monsoon Wedding
The Dreamers	Breaking the Waves
The Believer	Billy Elliot
Bridget Jones's Diary	Dazed and Confused
Hustle & Flow	In the Realms of the Unreal: the Mystery of Henry Darger
Crash	The Piano Teacher
Brokeback Mountain	Love and Death
Y Tu Mamá También	Bonnie and Clyde
The Adventures of Indiana Jones	Hotel Rwanda
History of Violence	M
Blue Velvet	Amores Perros

Rent
Sopranos
Alien
Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy
Working with Time
Fanny & Alexander
House of Sand and Fog

Traffic
Much Ado about Nothing
Best in Show
Clockwork Orange
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Morvern Callar
Jurassic Park

*When "hotness" is defined as films with 28 or more circulations, excluding reserve circulations, August 2006 - July 2008.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Vanessa Haverkoch, Head of Technical Services, completed four training courses through the New England regional organization for OCLC, Nelineet. She received a Cataloging and Metadata Certificate of Professional Development from Nelineet, demonstrating an expansion of current skills and the development of a comprehensive knowledge of the subject. The Cataloging and Metadata certification course covered topics such as; authority control, batch processing, the OCLC utility Connexion Client, and MARC format.

Melissa Tacke, Project Archivist, participated in a day long workshop on moving image preservation at the New England Document Conservation Center. The workshop addressed topics related to preserving film and video format collections; such as identification, storage, handling, cataloging, and metadata.

Laura Niles, Public Services Coordinator, completed a training course on accounting fundamentals for libraries through the New York regional organization for OCLC, Nylink.

Kathleen Berry, Technology Resources Librarian, gave a presentation on Emerging Technologies in Libraries, at the Vermont Library Association annual meeting. She also completed two online training courses about Ebrary, one of our e-book providers, functionality.

Leah Giblo, Acquisitions Coordinator, completed two training courses on OCLC searching and MARC format, through the New England regional organization for OCLC, Nelineet.

Oceana Wilson, Director of Library and Information Services, attended the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries, VCAL, annual meeting and the New England regional organization for OCLC, Nelineet annual meeting.

ARCHIVES SPECIAL REPORT

As part of the Getty Campus Heritage Grant archivist Melissa Tacke was hired to focus on arranging, describing, preserving, and making available for use archival materials of interest under the guidelines of the Getty Campus Heritage Grant. When the grant ran out in December additional funds were allocated to allow her to keep working two days a week through June.

The main focus of the work was to survey the collections housed in the archives and process collections relevant to the objectives of the Campus Heritage Grant. Most boxes in the archives storage area had previously been accessioned and briefly described. However, many materials have arrived at the archives sporadically and were not examined prior to being accessioned. As a

result, a significant portion of processing time has been dedicated to weeding collections of duplicate and non-archival materials.

Collections Processed

Office of the President Records - a significant portion of processing time in the archives has been spent processing the records of the Office of the President. Due to the time constraints of the appointment, not all presidential records could be processed. The records of the Office of the President have been arranged into series by each president's administration, and then into sub-series based on the original arrangement of the office files. Records from this office include correspondence, committee files, reports, and other documents related to the planning and construction phases of campus buildings and grounds.

Board of Trustees Records - these records have been collected sporadically and the provenance and original arrangement is unclear. The collection contains relevant committee files, building specifications, and a number of architectural drawings of the Dickinson Science Building and VAPA.

Library Records - includes architectural drawings, reports, correspondence, press coverage, and committee files related to the planning and construction of the Crossett Library, as well as a smaller number of materials related to the Library located in the Barn prior to the construction of the Crossett Library.

Facilities and Construction Collection - this artificial collection consists of documents created and used by various Bennington College administrators during the course of activities relating to the planning and construction of buildings on campus. Included in the collection are materials created by various architects and Bennington College administrators. Some of these materials appear to have been used by Facilities Management. The collection also includes numerous materials of unknown origin or provenance. Correspondence, architectural drawings, and plans from architects, consultants, and contractors comprise the bulk of the collection.

Founding Documents Collection - like the Facilities and Construction Collection, this is an artificial collection. These documents were removed from their original context and grouped together as part of a "historical" collection by a previous librarian. The bulk of materials pre-dates the establishment of the college's physical plant, but the collection does include folders of correspondence of John Coss, a member of the Board of Trustees and member of the Trustee Building Committee, during the years 1931-1937.

Portions of collections - portions of office records or other collections pertaining to the planning, construction, and dedication of campus buildings were processed, including VAPA dedication files from the Development Office and Public Relations Office. Work was also done to scan, index, and improve preservation storage of historical photographs of campus buildings, construction, and grounds that are part of the general Photograph Collection. Additional records processed were: Rush Welter Papers, 1956-1993, Leigh Family Papers, 1905-1960, Dean of Studies Records, 1932-, Entering Student Photograph Collection, 1932- (some years unprocessed), Commencement Collection, 1935-, Galley Collection, 1957-2005, Presidential Inauguration Collection, 1947-1987, Bennington College Bulletin, 1932-1960 (misc. issues) Bennington College Catalogues, 1932-, College Newspapers (miscellaneous titles) Student Publications (miscellaneous titles).

Material Removed from the Archives to reduce the volume of non-archival materials currently housed in the archives, the following was removed: approximately 25 linear feet of irrelevant, non-archival, and duplicate materials from collections during processing; approximately 15 linear feet of irrelevant, non-archival, and duplicate materials from various boxes housed in archives storage area.

Preservation

As part of the course of action in processing collections simple and inexpensive preservation measures were implemented to improve the long-term storage and use of archival materials, such as the removal of staples, paper clips, rubber bands, and other unstable fasteners from vertical files, and transferred the documents to acid-free folders and boxes. Materials housed upright are supported properly, to prevent files from “slumping” or shifting in boxes. Special care has been taken in implementing preservation measures to protect newsprint and photographs.

A number of oversized materials relating to campus buildings, such as architectural drawings and blueprints, were previously improperly stored. Some of these oversized items were folded and placed in file folders, while others had been rolled inside storage tubes. Keeping in mind that the optimum storage condition for oversized paper artifacts is flat storage, a number of oversized items were rehoused in large archival boxes.

To preserve oversized paper materials that are too large for flat storage, items were rolled around storage tubes wrapped in polyester film. While not an ideal storage solution, rolling oversized documents around a tube is preferable to folding the materials or rolling them inside tubes. After rolling the oversized materials around the tube, they were then wrapped several layers of lignin-free, buffered tissue over each tube, and then wrapped each tube in an additional layer of polyester to minimize dust. Each tube was then tied with cloth tape, labeled, and stored one level deep in the archives storage room.

In addition to implementing item-level preservation measures, the storage environment was monitored to assure that the temperature and humidity levels in the archives storage room remain within acceptable levels.

Access

In order to facilitate easier access to archival materials, finding aids were created for each collection. Each finding aid includes extent information, scope and content note, organization note, historical/biographical note, and a detailed box and folder listing. These finding aids were then connected to bibliographic records and made available on the library OPAC. Access to materials was enhanced by creating high-quality scans of photographs, floor plans, architect's sketches, and other selected documents pertaining to the campus buildings and grounds. The following policy and procedure documents for the archives were drafts: Archives Reading Room Rules, Information for Users, and Terms of Access.

A photograph index was created to include all photographs in the general photograph collection. Fields include: unique identification number, indication of whether the image has been scanned, box number, general subject terms, brief image description, photographer, date, dimensions, general notes, provenance notes, and condition notes.

2008 LIBRARY STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 74 students responded to our survey. We notice a continued trend in the students' interest in print books: 94% using the library to check out books and 91% answering true to the statement "print books are important to my work"; fewer students, 84%, answered true the same statement regarding online resources. In the write-in comment section of the survey buying more books/having a larger collection was common theme.

Since Bennington is a small community with many more social spaces than private ones, it makes sense that more students, 44%, report using the library for hiding out/solitude, than for socializing/collaborating, 33%. Furniture, lighting, and other environmental aspects of the library were frequently commented on in the write-in comment section of the survey; most were positive, reflecting the recent improvements in those areas.

While 98% of students answered true to the statement "The library *should be* essential to my Bennington education" a smaller percentage, 85%, answered true to the statement "The library *is* be essential to my Bennington education." While many factors, e.g., space or staffing, could be contributing to the gap between *should* and *is*, it appears that one of major factors is the real and/or perceived lack of resources, with only 76% of students answering true to the statement "The library has resources that I need for my work." Because 95% of students agree that "The library is responsive to my suggestions/ideas" it would make sense to build on this strength to help close the gap by encouraging more students to request books and resources they need to support their work.

How many terms have you been at Bennington College?

36%	1-2 terms	12%	7-8 terms
29%	3-4 terms	2%	No response
18%	5-6 terms		

What are you studying? (Write-in with multiple responses allowed)

35%	Social Sciences	9%	Drama
28%	Visual Arts	9%	Science/Mathematics
24%	Literature	6%	Teaching
10%	Languages	4%	Dance
16%	Music	4%	Unsure/No response

Which library do you use?

71%	Crossett only	25%	Both
0%	Jennings only	0%	Neither

What do you use the library for? (check categories with multiple responses allowed)

95%	Research (text)	43%	Look at websites
94%	Check out books	37%	Read newspapers/magazines
90%	Printing	37%	Research (visual images) =
86%	Check out movies	33%	Socialize/Collaborate
77%	Study/Read for classes	25%	Check out music/scores
63%	Check email	24%	Get help with research
62%	Word-processing	24%	Nap
60%	Use the databases	22%	Research (music)
51%	Check out reserves	16%	Check out laptops
44%	Hide out/Solitude	13%	Other

What library resources have you used? (check categories with multiple responses allowed)

85%	Databases (text)	33%	Journal/Newspaper Finder
71%	Reserves	32%	Databases (visual images)
68%	Help from librarian	27%	Databases (music)
64%	Catalog	28%	Ebooks
60%	Interlibrary loan/Illiad	27%	Online research guide
40%	Electronic reserves		

Please indicate true or false for the following statements.	True	False
I know how to find books in the library.	96%	4%
I know how to use the online databases.	93%	7%
It is easy to ask the library staff for help.	96%	4%
I need library resources for my work.	91%	9%
The library has resources that I need for my work.	76%	24%
Online resources are important to my work	84%	16%
Print resources are important to my work	91%	9%
The Library has enough space to accommodate my work	84%	16%
I wish I knew more about library resources.	58%	42%
Online tutorials about library resources would be helpful.	46%	54%
The library understands my academic needs	86%	14%
My teachers expect me to use library resources.	87%	13%
I know how to cite sources in a research paper.	89%	11%
The library is responsive to my suggestions/ideas	95%	5%
The library should be essential to my Bennington education	98%	2%
The library is essential to my Bennington education	85%	15%

If you have had some aspect of the library incorporated into a part of a class (e.g., the class comes as a group to the library, you were assigned to meet with a reference librarian individually, the class had an online research guide) did you find it helpful?

32%	Very helpful	24%	N/A I've never been in a class
32%	Somewhat helpful		where this happened.
		8%	Not helpful

Do you have any of the following with you on campus? (check categories with multiple responses allowed)

86%	Laptop computer
25%	Printer
4%	Desktop computer

What would be the most effective way for the library to convey information to you? (check categories with multiple responses allowed)

70%	Email
41%	House minutes
35%	Table toppers in Dining Hall
25%	Paper in mailbox
20%	Posters on campus

What is the most convenient way for you to send the library suggestions? (check categories with multiple responses allowed)

Email 44%	
Suggestion box in library 40%	Facebook 17%
Stopping by the library 36%	Wiki 2%
Tell a friend who works at the library 21%	Phone 0%
Form from the library website 18%	

How often do you come to the library?

43% Every couple of days
41% Daily
9% Weekly
2% Monthly
1% A couple of times a term
1% Never

How often do you look at the library website?

33% Every couple of days	10% Daily
22% Weekly	8% A couple of times a term
12% Monthly	6% Never

PEER GROUP COMPARISON

In July 2008 the National Center for Education Statistics released the data from the Academic Libraries Survey: Fiscal Year 2006. Comparison colleges were selected based on similar academic programs, admission pools, and/or endowments to Bennington. For ease and accuracy of comparison, most figures are converted to per FTE.

	State	Total FTE	Librarians Per 1,000 Enrolled	All Staff Per 1,000 Enrolled	Expenditures Books Per FTE	Expenditures All Serials Per FTE	Expenditures A/V Material Per FTE	Collection Size Per FTE	Annual Circ. Transactions Per FTE	Reference Transactions Typical Week Per FTE	Hours Open Typical Week
Bennington	VT	772	5	17	\$75	\$135	\$10	147	44	0.05	101
Bard	NY	2,119	5	14	\$354	\$731	\$20	190	9	0.08	104
Colby-Sawyer	NH	953	5	12	\$89	\$749	\$15	98	11	0.31	83
Franklin Pierce	NH	2,546	4	8	\$117	\$339	\$13	70	21	0.03	95
Hampshire College	MA	1,351	13	33	\$33	\$69	\$6	96	56	0.05	108
Hobart William Smith	NY	2,039	3	15	\$111	\$86	\$2	193	16	0.10	113
Kenyon	OH	1,859	11	20	\$140	\$175	\$13	399	21	0.03	118
Reed	OR	1,201	8	32	\$256	\$440	\$50	470	54	0.20	121
Sarah Lawrence	NY	1,532	10	20	\$85	\$80	\$0	192	39	0.03	109
Skidmore	NY	2,873	5	10	\$82	\$190	\$13	166	17	0.04	109
Warren Wilson	NC	936	5	14	\$142	\$387	\$10	116	33	0.05	81
Wheaton College	MA	1,682	8	29	\$62	\$52	\$7	219	20	0.06	110