

Crossett Library Bennington College

Annual Report July 2010 - June 2011



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

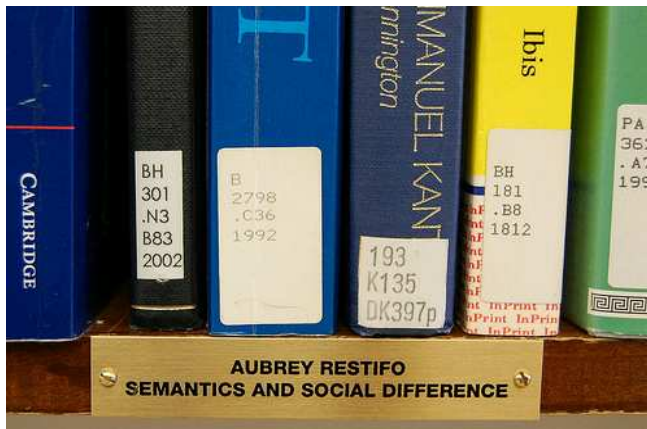
Year in Review

The gate count recording people entering the library was 107,175; the total circulation 34,733; there were 921 reference interactions and 1,589 acquisition requests from faculty and students. The annual average of books checked out per student was 18.

Services

There were 14 library instruction sessions with 177 students. 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 4.6 (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.



In August 2010 Jared Della Rocca joined the library staff as the outreach and technology services librarian.

The library continues to solicit input about services and the collection from students. A student focus group was held during the fall and a new student advisory library panel was formed during the spring term.

Seniors working on a thesis or project had the opportunity to reserve a personal shelf in the library. Each reserved shelf had a plate labeled with the student's name and research topic. The plates were given to the students at the end of the year.



The Collection

Collaborative collection development continues to be a top priority for the library. We received 1,589 acquisition requests from faculty and students (862 faculty, 727 students) representing 58% of all purchased acquisitions for the year.

The children's picture book and literature collection was moved to the lower level to increase the visibility and appeal of the collection. This change was made based on feedback from a student focus group.

The library continues to promote books and reading through displays, the web site and reading lists. For the fifth consecutive year the faculty provided reading recommendations for Field Work

Term reading. The library also had [readings lists](#) from artist Steve Lambert and writer Aimee Bender.

The library added Early English Books Online, commonly referred to as EEBO, to its collection of electronic resources. It contains digital facsimile page images of virtually every work printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and British North America and works in English printed elsewhere from 1473-1700 from the first book printed in English by William Caxton, through the age of Spenser & Shakespeare. The library also expanded its holdings in the JSTOR database by adding the Arts & Sciences VII collection.



2011

The Building

During January and February of 2011 the library closed so construction work could be done on the main floor. The transformative renovation resulted in a more attractive and functional main floor and entrance. A beautiful architect-designed, custom-built desk was installed on the main floor. The old brown carpeting was replaced with a beautiful new cork floor. The old linoleum in the foyer was replaced with slate tiles and an updated security gate was installed.



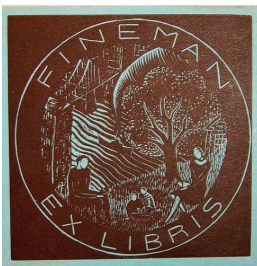
2006

Select Events & Exhibitions

Jubilee Library Series was created by students in the "Community Arts and Public Libraries" tutorial. The students produced a series of four thematic public events about Food, Read & Writing, Listening, and Making. The series was supported by Crossett Library and held at the McCullough Free Library, North Bennington.

Free Speech Forum a new lunch time discussion group was hosted by

librarian Jared Della Rocca. The topic for the spring term was WikiLeaks. Jared also hosted a popular [Trivia Night](#) held weekly in the Student Center.



Ex Libris: Bookplates from Crossett was an exhibition held in September featuring [beautiful bookplates](#) in books that the library owns.

Vermont Reads 2011, a statewide One-Book Community Reading Program, chose Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* as this year's selection. In collaboration with Southern Vermont College and the McCullough Free Library, North Bennington, Crossett Library hosted and participated in a variety of programming related to this Vermont Humanities Council program.



World Book Day was celebrated April 22, 2011. In exchange for sharing a favorite book title everyone receives a flower with another person's favorite book title. Faculty members Kirk Jackson, Sherry Kramer, Ronald Cohen, and Jennifer Rohn read books for a story hour held for participants in the



The DREAM Program, a nonprofit youth mentoring organization in Vermont that connects local families living in affordable housing communities and college students.



The 2011 Senior Thesis and Project Reception, held on May 27, 2011 celebrated the accomplished works of our graduating seniors. This year marked the 11th anniversary of the event. A toast was given by literature faculty member Rebecca Godwin.



The Numbers

Library Holdings

Books - print	94,014
Books - electronic	53,118
Movies	5,136
Journals – print titles	241
Journals – electronic titles	41,134
Music - electronic	4,584
Music - CDs	2,514
Music - LPs	9,000
Microforms	6,117
Scores - print	15,000
Scores - electronic	25,000

Crossett Acquisitions

Faculty Requests	862
Student Requests	727
Gifts	1,730
Replacements	111
Other Purchased Books	928
Other Purchased DVDs	129

Jennings Acquisitions

Faculty Requests	65
Student Requests	67
Gifts	32
Replacements	10

Overall Borrowing

All items	34,733
Books	15,785
Movies	7,836
Reserves	2,944

Student Borrowing

Books	11,936
Movies	5,025
CD, Music	545
Laptops	1,154
Books, Jennings	51
Scores, Jennings	613

Faculty Borrowing

Books	2,415
Movies	2,069
CD, Music	250
Laptops	14
Books, Jennings	43
Scores, Jennings	378

Interlibrary Loan Activity -Borrowed from Other Libraries

Articles	1,407
Books, Films, CDs, etc.	1,881
Total	3,288

Interlibrary Loan Activity - Loaned to Other Libraries

Articles	59
Books, Films, CDs, etc.	1,048
Total	1,107

Journal Finder Searches

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

Database Searches

Academic Search Premier	9,957
Access World News	435
American Chemical Society	1,515
America's Historical Newspapers	1,075
ArticleFirst	125
ArtStor	8,235
Avery Index	270
BioOne	496
Credo Reference	861
Encyclopaedia Britannica	967
GALE Academic OneFile	983
GALE Business and Company Resource Center	66
GALE Expanded Academic ASAP	826
GALE Health and Wellness Resource Center	568
JSTOR	8,056
Lexis Nexis	1,995
MathSciNet	81
MLA Bibliography	479
New York Times Historical	1,224
Oxford English Dictionary	4,007
Philosophers Index	688
Proquest Journals	1,564
Proquest Newspapers	1,608
PsycArticles	3,013
PsycInfo	3,521
WilsonSelectPlus	555
WorldCat	4,261
TOTAL	57,470