

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

CROSSETT LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2014 – JUNE 2015



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 & Inquiry

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 942 reference interactions.

Joe Tucker taught 14 library instruction sessions scheduled within courses with 183 students. The average of students' evaluations of the sessions rating instructor effectiveness, overall value, and perceived relevance was 4.75 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 as the highest rating.

In the spring 2015 term Joe worked as an embedded librarian in the World Vocal Ensemble. In addition to singing alongside the students, Joe presented library instruction sessions, highlighting resources such as the online Garland Encyclopedia of World Music.

Library research guides were created by Jared Della Rocca to support curricular offerings related to Keystone XL Pipeline and Incarceration in America.



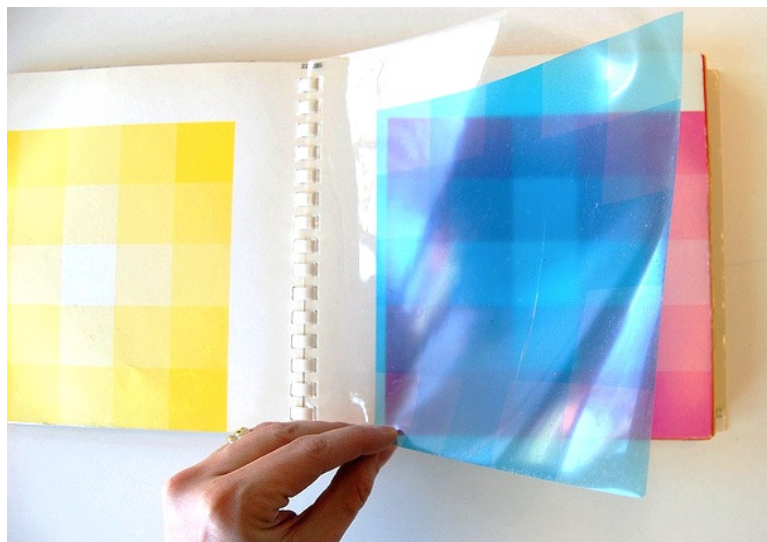
Crossett Library has approximately 200,000 books in print and electronic format and 4,000 movies. Over 3,500 items were added to the collection this year.

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 1,273 requests (817 from faculty members, 506 from students, and 50 from staff members) representing 76 percent of all purchased book and film acquisitions for the year.

Specific collection development projects by the librarians focused on diversity, international relations, and music.



Donations to the Collection

This year the Library received 1,783 donations. Donations often allow the library to add depth to specific areas or obtain works that would otherwise be unaffordable.

This year the library received an entire run of *Ms.* magazine, a gift from the family of Mary Thom, one of the founders of the magazine. Issues were on display during Gloria Steinem's visit to campus for commencement.





Crossett Library circulated more than 32,600 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 873 articles requested through interlibrary loan as well as 1,228 books, CDs, and films. Crossett Library also contributed to the reciprocal spirit of interlibrary loan by loaning almost 1,195 of our items to other libraries.



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.



Library Staff & Student Employees

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

Students: Madison Alexander, Sharon Batamuriza, Elizabeth Corley, Malia Guyer-Stevens, Sarah Hamilton, Julia Herrera, Taya Jae, Sarah Johnson, Susie Kennedy, Nathan Liu, Mercedes Maurice, Eve Neuhart, Anna Reggio, Madison Roese, Ruby Struble, Mai Tran, Mieke Vrijmoet, Thisuri Wanniarachchi, Madeleine Weatherhead.



Evangeline "Eve" Neuhart '15 created this cross-stitch of Crossett as a gift for library staff member Kathy Williams. Eve worked in the library for all four of her years at Bennington.



The library's circulating laptops were checked out more than 1,700 times this year.

Technology

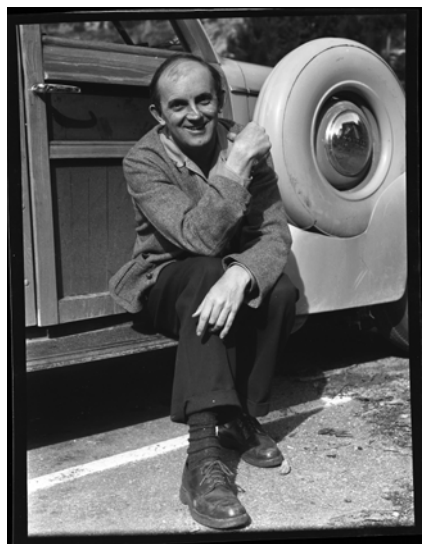
Crossett Library is committed to engaging technology to enhance services and collections, approaching technology as a tool rather than a solution. An open attitude to emerging digital opportunities, in combination with a responsive College community willing to use new features, allows the library to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

The Librarian Who Reads Everything has 7,200 followers, and the blogs reach a combined total of over 11,000 users. The Facebook page has 475 followers, and reached approximately 46,934 people this year. Crossett's Twitter account is now at 576 followers. The library's collection of photographs on Flickr has over 2.5 million views.



Digital Resources Grant Awarded

The library's grant proposal was selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) allowing the College to become a member of the Consortium on Digital Resources for Teaching and Research. The initiative, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is designed to assist colleges in the preservation, management, and access of digital image collections with the goal to improve teaching and learning, enhance faculty and student/faculty research, and streamline administrative capabilities. Bennington team members, Oceana Wilson and Erin McKenny, and other members of the Consortium will convene once each year for three years to share ideas, collections, research projects, and teaching strategies. The three initial Bennington collections, as proposed in the grant submission, will be: the glass slide collection of former faculty member and art historian, Alexander Dorner; Carolyn Crossett Rowland's photographs; and the inventory of the Bennington College art collection.



Carolyn Crossett Rowland's '37 photographs of a waterfall in Yosemite National Park and Ansel Adams in 1941.

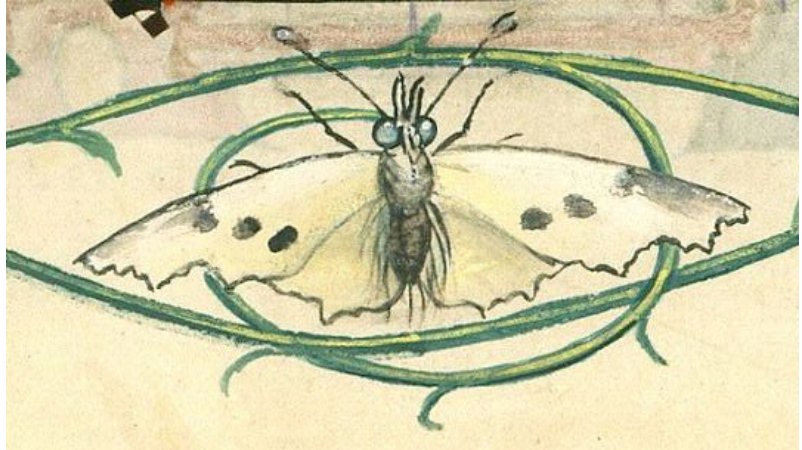


The library circulates free admission passes to MASS MoCA, the Clark Art Institute, Bennington Museum, and Vermont State Parks.

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, Erika Mijlin, taught Archives Fever. In this course, developed during a one-course release funded by the fellowship, students explored the creation, maintenance, and philosophical/social implications of digital archives. Important questions about history, power, memory, access, self-determination, and public and private spheres are addressed through readings and discussion. Projects included curating online exhibitions using collections in the [Bennington College Digital Archive](#) and the open-source publishing platform Omeka.



Student Library Research Grants

Crossett Library supports student travel to research libraries and archives through competitively awarded grants. This year's recipients were Celene Barrera '15 and Elizabeth Gombert '15.

Celene Barrera '15 researched immigration reform policy at the Library of Congress, analyzing two particular moments in immigration policy's history – 1986, when President Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act into law; and 2013, when the Senate proposed S.733, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

Elizabeth Gombert '15 researched The Morgan Library and Museum's Flemish books of hours featuring borders with life-size illuminations depicting butterflies and other insects and considered the explicit didacticism in which illuminators continually recall a reader's sense of scale.



This year music scores circulated more than 950 times and music CDs were checked out 407 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, 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.

"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



Examples of vintage sheet music from the Jennings Library collection (left). Faculty and students gathered in Jennings Music Library (above).



The Bennington College Digital Archive contains more than 7,300 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.

Bennington College Digital Archive

Crossett Library maintains the [Bennington College Digital Repository](#), a system for the collection, preservation, and distribution of scholarly work and historical material.

There were 7,487 searching sessions this year. About 75 percent of the sessions originated in the United States with the other 25 percent originating in 105 countries around the world. The goal of sharing Bennington's history and intellectual work through the archive has begun.

Over 4,400 items were added to the digital archive this year. Library staff member Laura Payne added several major collections to the digital archive this year including records of the visual arts faculty and VAPA, presidential records, and student newspapers.





The library exhibited over 50 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.



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 Literature Faculty Member Mark Wunderlich.



Stress Reduction Week

Crossett Library began a new tradition during the spring 2015 term of a Stress Reduction Week. Designed to help students relax and balance the pressures of the end of the year deadlines, activities included: relaxation stations with coloring, a sheet tent, meditative Buddhist chants in the CAPA Lens, teatime, yoga in the library garden, a visit from Certified Therapy Dogs, a bird walk, and more.





Students checked out an average of 18 books each this year.

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

Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind by Hayao Miyazaki

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

How Music Works by David Byrne

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt '86

Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls by David Sedaris

This is How You Lose Her by Junot Díaz

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel

Consider the Lobster and Other Essays
by David Foster Wallace

Depart. of Speculation by Jenny Offill

American Gods by Neil Gaiman

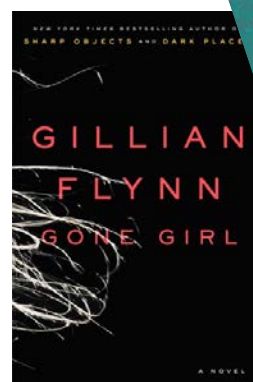
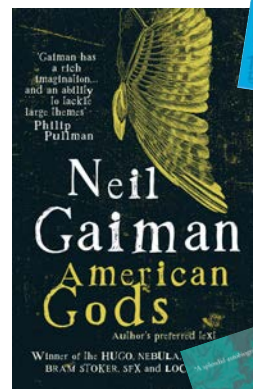
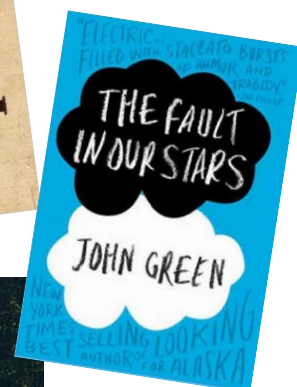
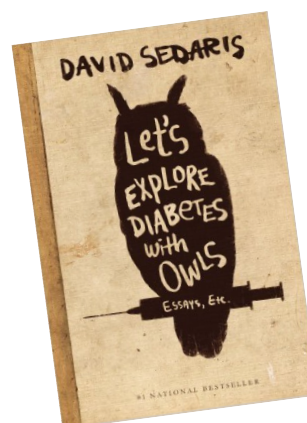
Immediate Family by Sally Mann '73

The Walking Dead by Robert Kirkman

The Voice Imitator by Thomas Bernhard

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

House of Leaves by Mark Z. Danielewski





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	817
Student requests	506
Staff requests	50
Gifts	1,783
Other purchased books	397

Borrowing

All items	32,616
Books	16,761
Movies	4,278
Reserves	2,062
Laptops	1,757
Scores	996
CDs	407
Books – faculty	3,047
Movies – faculty	1,605
CDs – faculty	122
Scores – faculty	436
Books – students	12,054
Movies – students	2,037
CDs – students	230
Scores – students	512

Interlibrary Loan Borrowing from Other Libraries

Total	2,101
Articles	873
Books, Films, etc.	1,228

Interlibrary Loan Lending to other Libraries

Total	1,195
Articles	69
Books, Films, etc.	1,126

Database Searches

Academic Search Premier	4,322
African American Music Reference	44
American Film Scripts Library	27
America's Historical Newspapers	285
Ancestry & Heritage Quest	5,641
ArtStor	4,091
Asian American Drama	6
Avery Architectural Index	135
Black Drama	14
BioOne	90
Classic Scores Library	46
Early English Books Online	99
Encyclopedia Britannica	593
Gale Academic ASAP	1,055
Gale Health Wellness	122
JSTOR	9,834
LexisNexis	819
MLA Bibliography	402
Omnifile Select Wilson	275
Oxford English Dictionary	2,169
Philosopher's Index	843
ProQuest Databases	3,197
ProQuest Newspapers	1,282
PsycARTICLES	2,117
PsycINFO	623
Theater in Video	31
20 th Century North American Drama	73
WorldCat	4,297