

Library Annual Report 2009



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 Year in Review

Statistics The gate count, circulation, reference interactions, and number of library instruction sessions all increased this year: the gate count was 97,698; the total circulation was 41,106; and there were 1,045 reference interactions. The annual average of books checked out per student was 25, the same as last year. We received and replied to 144 suggestions from the suggestion box. The following represent the percentage increase from FY08 to FY09:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • 3% Borrowing overall | • 36% Interlibrary loan overall |
| • 5% Gate count increase | • lending to other libraries |
| • 8% Reference interactions | • 42% Interlibrary loan overall |
| • 10% Book borrowing overall | • borrowing from other libraries |
| • 10% Student book borrowing | • 53% Student laptop borrowing |
| • 17% Faculty book borrowing | • 73% Interlibrary loan article |
| • 22% Database searches | • borrowing from other libraries |
| | • 95% Journal Finder searches |

Research Services There were 29 library instruction sessions with 359 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 4.63 (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. Eight online research guides were created for specific courses in collaboration with the faculty.

The Collection Collaborative collection development continues to be a top priority for the library. We received 1,523 acquisition requests from faculty and students (821 faculty, 702 students) representing 67% of the book and film acquisition spending for the year. Overall borrowing and book borrowing increased this year, while film borrowing decreased. The library assisted Student Council with a textbook project in which students donate used textbooks that the library catalogs and circulates for the entire term.

Technology The primary focus of the library's technology improvements this year centered on connecting various components of technology infrastructure to create a more seamless and fluid research experience for patrons. Two new tools, 360 Link and Citation Linker, were implemented to connect the databases together in ways that reduce the amount of time required to search and increase the results yielded. We believe these tools contributed to the 22% increase in database searching this year. The library upgraded the online catalog to offer more sophisticated functionality and added a tabbed search box on the main library page to highlight resources. The library web page appearance was changed to have a similar graphic look to the College web site.

While the majority of attention in electronic resources this year went to tools that improve the delivery of content the library already owns, some additional content collections were added:

- *Avery Index* is a comprehensive index of journals worldwide on architecture and design.
- *Georef* is an online index in the areas of geology, geophysics, and geochemistry.
- *The Playwrights' Center* allows students to search hundreds of submission opportunities, look in a directory for playwrights and read biographies and script samples, and browse internship and fellowship information.

New equipment includes: four Mac laptops added to the library's collection of circulating laptops, an additional public printer was added to address the increased printing demand, and two media transfer stations. The first transfers Mini DV or VHS to DVD and the second transfers cassette tapes or vinyl records (LPs) to CD.

Select Exhibitions



Library Portraits by Maggie Duffy '09

Maggie's portraits focus on student workers behind the circulation desk at Crossett Library. She describes them as "well-spoken, savvy, and divinely talented people you would like to have had as childhood friends." Says Maggie, "These portraits were collaborative pieces--after the sitting, I asked them to write directly onto the picture something they'd been thinking about during that time. The intimations they shared with me through this process give me total authority in assuring you that they are biblio-wizards, with hearts forged from a material far more valuable than gold."



The Traveling Book Show

On April 29, 2009, The Traveling Book Show exhibit opened at Crossett Library, Bennington College, a collaborative artist book project conceived by Dorothy Allen '09. Dorothy explains, "In late December 2008, I sat on my family's living room floor with a box of donated paper, a box cutter, a needle and thread, and all the cardboard boxes my dad had stored over the recent months, and set out to make eighteen foldable, mailable blank books. I had sent out a call to as many people as I could think of from Bennington who might

be interested in doing an exchange project over the winter, and made a book for every person who responded to my email. From there, each person got a blank book with an instructional letter. From then on, the rest is in the books." The following students participated in the creation of the books: Dorothy Allen '09, Ian Dolton-Thornton '11, Faith Griffiths '11, Nate Luce '09, Amelia Meath '10, Russell Melia '09, Arielle Middleman '09, Emmet Penney '11, Katherine Perkins '11, Marisa Prefer '10, Alex Sauser-Monning '09, Emily Tareila '10, Niko Tsocanos '11, Trevor Wilson '09, Annika Wisswaesser '08, Dana Wolfson '11.



Wunderkammer by Jen Bennett '09

Jen explains, "For the Bennington Fashion Show in spring 2008, I created a line based off the *wunderkammer* – the Victorian cabinet of wonders and curiosities. I found the meticulous hoarding of each strange and exotic treasure, a scene of chaos displayed behind dusty glass doors, oddly representative of my mind's own cabinet. I blended Grimm-inspired aged wool and lace, birds' nests, faux fur wolf-eared hats, and a myriad of embroideries, girlish pinafore silhouettes, and found objects to mimic the emotions I unearthed when considering how my childhood memories would look displayed inside a *wunderkammer*. To represent the Victorian, I incorporated an uncomfortable undertone of Alice-like sensuality, in the form of sheer lace tops and a backless corset strung in gold chains and an oversized locket."

The Quality of Place: Photography, Space and Specificity

Photographs from the College's portfolios by Ansel Adams, Alfred Stieglitz, and Lee Friedlander will be on display at the Bennington Museum from May-August 2009 as part of an exhibition drawn from the Bennington Museum's permanent holdings as well as other local collections.

Select Events



Zine Release Extravaganza!

On Friday night April 3rd Andrew Barton '09 and Emily Tareila '10 hosted a rocking release party. Approximately 70 students attended the event which included zine readings by Andrew and Emily, music performed by Andrew, Russell Melia '09, and Jo-Anne Hyun '12. Postcard making/writing activity took place throughout the evening. Zines and CDs were available for sale or trade.



World Book Day

On April 23rd the library celebrated World Book Day. Although the 40 degree temperature necessitated moving the event indoors, the cold did not dampen the enthusiasm for this new spring tradition. Students, faculty members, and visitors on tours wrote down the names of a favorite book on a slip of paper, which was then attached to a flower; in return they received a flower with the name of someone else's favorite book. All of the recommended titles were compiled into an online reading list.



Thesis & Project Reception

The Library hosted the 11th annual Thesis & Project Reception on Thursday, May 28th. Acoustic guitar and violin music was performed by Sam Clement '08 & Kate Ritter '08. The faculty toast in honor of the seniors was given by Jonathan Pitcher, (excerpt): "My point, and the reason why I've spent an entire year devoting a course to such theses this time around, why I've always favored



this particular event over any other at Bennington, however meager its trappings, is that these theses represent not only the culmination of an often thankless, fragile, solitary task for both tutors and tutees, but also, despite Oscar Wilde's quip that 'Arguments are to be avoided; they are always vulgar and often convincing', the ongoing need for specialization over the cursory, for intricacy, convolution and perhaps even obscurity over the facile, for contextualized knowledge beyond the self, for writing on behalf of something instead of simply about or against it, or, in Platonic terms, for gnosis in an age of doxa. You may not believe me now, but they will affect you and others in unseen ways, as they become part of the ether."



The New England Chapter of the Music Library Association

Bennington College hosted the fall meeting of NEMLA. Approximately thirty music librarians attended the meeting. Many of the day's events focused on Bennington College, including an archival film showing, a dance historian discussing Martha Hill, and a fantastic music performance by Kaarin Lysen '11 on bass and Julian Labat '12 on piano.

The Hottest Books*

The Minority Report by Philip K. Dick.

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults by E.L. Lancaster.

The Complete Stories by Flannery O'Connor.

Tragedy and Hope: a History of the World in Our Time by Carroll Quigley.

The Secret History: a Novel by Donna Tartt.

Kiki Smith by Helaine Posner.

Patternmaking for Fashion Design by Helen Joseph-Maruzzi.

Beautiful Children: a Novel by Charles Bock.

Gaia's Garden: a Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture by Toby Hemenway.

What We Want is Free: Generosity and Exchange in Recent Art by Ted Purves, editor.

Doubt by Richard Schiff.

The Big Penis Book: the Fascinating Phallus by Dian Hanson, editor.

Infinite Jest: a Novel by David Foster Wallace.

Mark Dion by Lisa Graziose Corrin.

Ham on Rye: a Novel by Charles Bukowski.

On Love by Alain de Botton.

Lost Girls by Alan Moore.

Eva Hesse by Elisabeth Sussman, editor.

Manufactured Landscapes: the Photographs of Edward Burtynsky by Lori Pauli.

Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications by Herman E. Daly.

Treehouses of the World by Peter Nelson.

Blink: the Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell.

Fables by Bill Willingham.

Kiki Smith: a Gathering, 1980-2005 by Siri Engberg.

Jeff Wall by Peter Galassi.

Analogue by Zoe Leonard.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz.

Architecture Now! 5 by Philip Jodidio.

When You are Engulfed in Flames by David Sedaris.

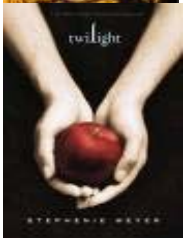
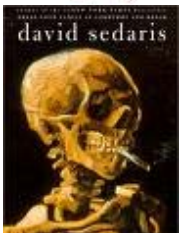
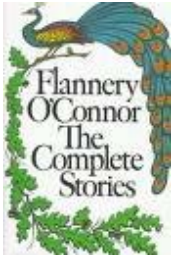
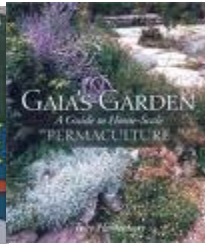
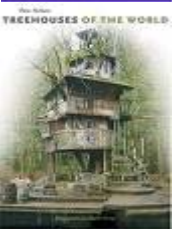
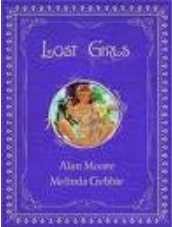
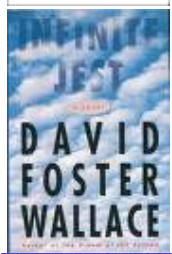
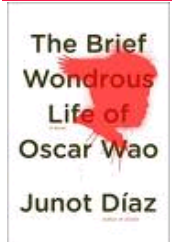
500 Handmade Books by Linda Kopp, editor.

Simulacra and Simulation by Jean Baudrillard.

The End of Food by Paul Roberts.

The Bottomless Belly Button by Dash Shaw.

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer.



*When "hotness" is defined as books with 5 or more circulations, excluding reserve circulations, July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

The Hottest Movies*

The Numbers



Cloverfield
 The Dreamers
 The Big Lebowski
 Paris, Je T'aime
 Sweeney Todd
 21 Grams
 Babel
 Gone Baby Gone
 The Kite Runner
 Becoming Jane
 Ice Storm
 Into the Wild
 Big Fish
 I Heart Huckabees
 Cruel Intentions
 Gummo
 Thumbsucker
 Planet Earth
 Charlie Wilson's War
 Indochine
 Memento
 Casino Royale
 Children of Men
 The Red Balloon
 American Psycho
 The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou
 Jesus Camp
 Leben Der Anderen
 Rushmore
 A Bout de Souffle
 The Pianist
 Wristcutters: a Love Story
 My So-Called Life
 Lars and the Real Girl
 Leon the Professional



*When "hotness" is defined as movies with 17 or more circulations, excluding reserve circulations, July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

Library Holdings

Item	Total FY09
Books - print	93,006
Books - electronic	41,610
Movies	4,672
Journals - print	387
Journals - electronic	29,332
Music - electronic	4,584
Music - CDs	1,678
Music - LPs	9,000
Slides	26,060
Slides - digital ArtStor	980,000
Microforms	6,117
Scores - print	15,000
Scores - electronic	12,644

Overall Borrowing

Item Type	FY08	FY09	Change FY08-09
All items	39,909	41,106	+3%
Books	17,196	18,957	+10%
Films	13,616	12,207	-10%
Reserves	2,958	2,659	-31%
e-Reserves	NA	9,777	NA

Student Borrowing

Item Type	FY08	FY09	Change FY08-09
Books	13,143	14,392	+10%
Movies	9,676	8,472	-12%
CD, Music	826	909	+10%
Laptops	148	227	+53%
Books, Jennings	66	86	+30%

Faculty Borrowing

Item Type	FY08	FY09	Change FY08-09
Books	2,341	2,750	+17%
Movies	2,792	2,622	-6%
CD, Music	396	298	-25%
Laptops	8	16	+100%
Books, Jennings	18	43	+139%

Interlibrary Loan Activity -Borrowed from Other Libraries

	FY07	FY08	FY09	Change FY08-09
Articles	563	605	1,046	+73%
Books, Films, CDs, etc.	1,010	1,469	1,893	+29%
Total	1,573	2,074	2,939	+42%

Interlibrary Loan Activity - Loaned to Other Libraries

	FY07	FY08	FY09	Change FY08-09
Articles	142	71	101	+42%
Books, Films, CDs, etc.	911	838	1,139	+36%
Total	1,053	909	1,240	+36%

Journal Finder Searches

	FY08	FY09	Change FY08-09
Title Searches	6,274	12,232	+95%
Subject Browsing	376	478	+27%

Electronic Resources Usage

Database	Searches FY08	Searches FY09	Change FY08-FY09
Academic Search Premier	7,780	16,118	+107%
Access World News	674	732	+9%
American Chemical Society	1,997	1,556	-22%
America's Historical Newspapers	871	484	-44%
ArticleFirst	136	153	+12%
ArtStor	3,480	10,186	+193%
BioOne	612	142	-77%
Business and Company Resource Center	224	224	0
Credo Reference	659	1,605	+144%
Encyclopaedia Britannica	1,172	441	-62%
Health and Wellness Resource Center	227	269	+18%
Infotrac Expanded Academic ASAP	1,089	967	-11%
Int'l Bibliography of Theatre and Dance	330	444	+35%
JSTOR	7,451	5,797	-22%
Lexis Nexis	1,978	2,437	+23%
MathSciNet	63	87	+38%
MLA Bibliography	426	400	-6%
New York Times Historical	2,299	1,572	-32%
Oxford English Dictionary	14,380	11,036	-23%
Oxford Reference Online	1,564	1,559	<1%
Philosophers Index	427	192	-55%
Proquest Journals	1,231	1,769	+44%

Proquest Newspapers	1,253	1,807	+44%
PsycArticles	1,658	2,190	+32%
PsycInfo	1,197	1,965	+65%
WilsonSelectPlus	543	884	+63%
WilsonWeb	105	103	-2%
WorldCat	5,258	6,770	+29%
TOTAL	59,084	71,889	+22%