



## **Annual report 2006-07 Collection Development**

### **Periodical Review**

The RIS liaisons continued the periodical review process, this year working with the following departments and programs: Art, Asian Studies, Biology, Economics, English, History, Music, Physics, Psychology and Education and Religion. 53 titles were canceled for a savings of \$9832. As part of this review we moved to “online only” for 90+ titles for added savings of approximately \$7000.

### **E-Resources:**

Over the past year we added the following electronic resources:

- AnthroSource: Full text of journals from the American Anthropological Association
- Education Research Complete: Full text of over 750 education journals.
- FIAF Plus: Upgraded subscription to add full text for ~50 film journals.
- PROME: Parliament Rolls of Medieval England
- ScienceDirect Freedom Collection: Full text of over 1700 science journals.

### **Portico**

As we annually consider ways to stretch budget dollars to cover rising serial costs, looking at titles duplicated in print and online is an obvious choice. In the past, we made the changes cautiously because publishers’ commitments to perpetual access varied widely. In December 2006, we had the opportunity to enter into a consortial subscription to Portico (<http://www.portico.org/>), “a not-for-profit service that provides a permanent archive of electronic scholarly journals.” Portico serves as insurance of sorts, and will be the backup in the face of certain trigger events (major system failure, publisher bankruptcy, etc). Both libraries and publishers recognize the importance of this service; as a result the list of participants on each side of the process grows monthly. As we considered dropping print subscriptions in favor of online only, we included Portico participation as a major decision point.

### **Weeding**

Faced this summer with some very tight areas in the Williston stacks, a small working group identified a number of serial runs to be withdrawn or sent to the Depository. We concentrated on Williston Levels 2 and 3 where the need was greatest and as a result identified over 100 shelves of titles to be removed. Many were government publications that are now fully available online. In evaluating titles for Depository transfer, we considered ease of use or retrieval, duplication elsewhere in the Five Colleges, and relevance to the current curriculum.

## **Gifts**

In addition to the many gifts of single volumes or small collections, we received several large gifts of note.

- From the Estate of Arthur Loeb, we received an extensive collection of scores.
- Margaret Switten, Professor of French, donated a collection of cd's of Medieval music.
- Joyce Vining Morgan donated her collection of Russian theater history books.

Perhaps the most unusual gift came from Janice Cronin MH'81. Ms. Cronin donated perpetual access to the electronic resource Early Encounters in North America (<http://www.alexanderstreetpress.com/products/eena.htm>). The collection includes primary source materials spanning 1543 to 1850 with topics ranging from Native American studies and environmental studies to gender and cultural studies. The collection comprises journals, diaries, letters, and published materials as well as over 1200 images.

As always, we are most grateful to our generous donors whose contributions enrich our collections and enable us to expand the resources we offer to the Mount Holyoke College community.

## **Google Books**

In the course of reviewing worn books, we discovered that some of the titles were now available full text in the Google Books digital collection. This presented an appealing option for handling worn books that were in poor shape, could not be rebound and for which reprints were not available. We "shrink-wrapped" our original physical copy and added a link to the Google Books edition from the Library catalog. We hope this will both extend the life of the physical copy and make the content of the book more widely available.

## **Interlibrary Loan Pilot**

Over the course of the academic year, we ran a pilot purchase project which enabled ILL to place a rush purchase order for any recent scholarly monograph requested by a faculty member. Because ILL handles requests for books that are not available in the Five Colleges, we suspected there would be low demand for the service but saw it as another avenue in collection building. In fact, we had very few instances of exercising this option, confirming our instincts about the richness of holdings available locally. We will continue to use this option because it offers a relatively easy way to fulfill faculty requests quickly.

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