



## **Collection Development Annual Report 2007-2008**

All of the ongoing activities of Collection Development, such as purchasing, weeding, reviewing, and binding intersect with the Library Technical Services department and are reflected in that group's statistics. What follows are highlights of the additional collection-related activities of the past year.

### **Periodical Review**

The RIS liaisons conducted periodical reviews in the following departments: Film Studies; Geology, Geography, Environmental Studies; German; Physical Education; and Spanish. 24 titles were canceled and 34 titles were moved to online only. New, high priority titles were added in each of the participating departments.

### **New Electronic Resources**

In December of 2007, we learned that Basic Biosis would no longer be available on the FirstSearch platform. As a key resource for identifying journal literature in Biology, finding a replacement for this tool was essential. Over the spring, we evaluated several options and ultimately chose Biological Abstracts on the Web of Knowledge platform. Coverage begins with 2003 and includes citations to over 4200 journals.

In addition, we began subscriptions to:

- Archivision: Architectural image collection; purchased in cooperation with Art Department; images loaded into ArtStor
- Education Resource Complete : full text of journals in Education, replaced Education Index
- JSTOR: Arts and Sciences V and JSTOR: Business II
- PROME: Parliament Rolls of Medieval England
- Proquest journals package upgrade : added full text of 18 newspapers and over 3800 journals
- Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy

### **Leisure Collections**

Several years ago we began subscriptions to collections of Leisure books and audio books to provide more options for "pleasure reading" in the Library. In reviewing the use of the collections over the past two years, we discovered that the current model was not meeting the needs of our community. Many of the titles never circulated and those that did were borrowed infrequently. After calculating the cost per circulation, we determined that we needed to take a different approach. We canceled the subscriptions and first experimented with the titles on the New York Times bestseller list. While that list included some titles of interest, many were again not of interest to our readers.

To determine what to buy, we took the question to the community, posting a form (<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/lits/18118.shtml>) on the LITS website and setting up a drop box in the New Books area. We asked patrons to note favorite types of books (contemporary literature, biography, science fiction, etc), favorite authors, or series. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of responses to the forms and by the range of reading interests. Many of the favorite authors are already represented in our collection, suggesting that we may want to find ways to promote the collection generally. Most of the authors new to our collection write in the YA genre. We added most of the titles requested by patrons. Books purchased as “leisure reading” receive minimal processing; when they are removed from the New Book shelf they are reviewed for retention in the main collection.

In evaluating the Leisure collections, we learned from the Circulation staff that patrons found the multiple locations and shelving arrangements confusing. We took the opportunity to fold “leisure reading” into the New Books area, separate New Books into Fiction and Non-fiction, and shelve the books alphabetically by author. We changed the borrowing periods to make New Books more readily available to our local patrons.

In the process of rearranging these collections, we moved the display of New Faculty publications to the Library Court to make it more prominent, especially for visitors coming through. We put several practices into place to more regularly identify and purchase publications by Mount Holyoke College faculty.

## **Gifts**

The Library received several significant gifts in 2007-2008. Donors included:

- Roger Farnsworth: Music, with particular emphasis on Asian and African world music, music education, electronic music, and Early music
- Joel Halpern: Russian and Asian history
- Mollie Noonan: History of science, history of psychology, Latin America history
- Bonnie Barrett Stretch, MH 1961: Art, including a large concentration in Photography

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

## **Five College Collection Management Committee**

Over the past year, the Collection Management Committee (CMC) devoted a good deal of time to the Five College Library Depository (FCLD), to bring policies in line with current practices and to open up more of the FCLD collection to Affiliates. The CMC and the Depository Advisory group are committed to making the FCLD a trusted repository for all the participating libraries.

In the coming year, the CMC will focus on several initiatives related to cooperative collection development. Representatives from each of the Five Colleges will attend a

seminar at Vassar, hosted by the Oberlin group, to share ideas, practices, and challenges involved in cooperating in collection development activities. Locally, the Five Colleges may begin a pilot program with the vendor YBP in cooperative purchasing of monographs in one or two subject areas. RIS liaisons will be included as appropriate.

### **Looking ahead**

The next year will likely bring about more opportunities for reviews: of periodicals; of binding practices and expenditures, of the approval profiles for possible move from slips to books in some areas; of Library holdings some disciplines in response to external requests. For these reviews we will involve Five College colleagues as appropriate, particularly when we see potential for cooperation.

**Prepared by  
Kathleen Norton  
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