MISSION

As the shared center of intellectual inquiry at Wheaton College, Buswell Library’s mission is to build, preserve, and promote the use of physical and virtual academic resources, foster skilled and confident users of these resources, and promote community on the Wheaton campus.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The library faculty and staff have completed another year of excellent contribution to the academic lives of our students and faculty. This report mentions only the most notable or interesting of the many accomplishments this year.

Advancing the Teaching Library

In keeping with our mission to foster skilled and confident library researchers, for the third consecutive year we increased the number of instruction sessions we taught, in partnership this year with sixteen academic departments. We also increased the number of reference transactions (one-on-one assistance) by ten percent over the previous year, for the second year in a row. In addition, we hosted research forums, drop-in events, and workshops.

A primary goal this past year has been to advocate for information literacy instruction to be embedded in the shared core of the new general education program. The newly formed Curriculum Committee is implementing this goal. The library faculty are currently developing the content, which will be provided in class sessions and outside of classes via online modules.

The scope of this instruction will extend beyond finding information only; it will be designed to equip students holistically with the knowledge and skills they need to engage in scholarship appropriate to their level. We are developing this instruction with the following learning outcomes:

Wheaton College graduates will:
• Understand and navigate the diversity and complexity of the contemporary information environment
• Engage in scholarship as a conversation
• Practice research as inquiry
• Understand that human authority is contextual, and evaluate sources accordingly
• Demonstrate that searching is exploratory
• Understand and demonstrate the ethical use of information

We also completed our first year of the library’s new assessment plan. In particular, we conducted a year-long study of graduate student needs and library use. This study has generated numerous ideas for changes and improvements that we seek to implement.

Advancing Collections and Access

This has been another strong year for enhancements to collection access. Buswell Library continues to undergo rapid changes as we move into an increasingly digital environment, and the behind-the-scenes work involved in making digital resources accessible continues apace. As we shift attention to digital resources, we have completed the process of transferring much of our routine cataloging of print materials to an outside vendor. We will continue to dedicate in-house attention to cataloging research-level collections and special collections. We are currently recruiting to fill an open position on the library faculty with a person who will focus on special collections.

We continue to make great strides in improving access to collections, improving cataloging quality and completeness, and making e-resources more findable.

Our faculty and students receive great benefit from Buswell’s participation in CARLI, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries of Illinois. A primary benefit is I-Share, the joint catalog of print holdings and resource-sharing program. Fully thirty percent of Buswell’s print holdings are unique to I-Share, meaning that none of the other eighty-six participating institutions owns a copy of the item.

Some of the most significant new resources we made available to our campus this year are the online version of the Loeb Classical Library, online historical archives of the Economist and the Financial Times, online reference works from Oxford University Press, Dmitri Shostakovich New Collected Works, and Lynda.com, a website of tutorials on all manner of technology skills (later transferred to AIT as part of a broader campus strategy).

In the coming year, we will be experimenting with what is referred to as “patron-driven” or “demand-driven” acquisitions. A portion of our book budget will be allocated to outright purchases of books that are requested through inter-library loan.

We created and made available digital versions of several rare books in our holdings: Luther’s Operationes in Psalmos (1519), which contains the marginal handwritten notes of one of Luther’s students, and editions of Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress in Zulu (1902) and Japanese (1903). The library acquired new special collections of the papers of several notable alumni.

The holdings of the Billy Graham Center Museum were formally transferred to Buswell Library (College Archives & Special Collections).
Scholars conducted research in the College Archives & Special Collections, resulting in 14 books, including Grant Wacker’s *America’s Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation* (Harvard University Press), Steven Miller’s *The Age of Evangelicalism: America’s Born-Again Years* (Harvard), Myles Osborne’s *Ethnicity and Empire in Kenya: Loyalty and Martial Race among the Kamba, c. 1800 to the Present* (Cambridge University Press), Matthew Sutton’s *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism* (Harvard), Kevin Kruse’s *One Nation under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America*, and Brantley Gasaway’s *Progressive Evangelicals and the Pursuit of Social Justice* (University of North Carolina Press).

**Promoting Community**

Part of our mission is to promote community on the Wheaton campus. In addition to continuing our faculty book discussions in the library café, we partnered with other units on campus to host a wellness week and senior art exhibitions. We hosted our first undergraduate poster competition. We continued our popular “research package” show-and-tell, at which graduate students demonstrated to one another how they use various digital tools to organize their academic work. We mounted several exhibits based on our holdings.

We were particularly happy to be able to begin providing access for our worldwide alumni to *ATLA Religion Database with ATLAS Serials*. This database is the premier source for locating scholarly and popular work in biblical studies, theology, and related fields, with much of it included in full text. Access to this resource is particularly valuable for alumni who live and work in under-resourced countries.

**GOALS**

The library faculty and staff have established the following priorities for the 2015–16 year:

- **User Experience**
  - Establish a User Experience Team (to recommend and implement all manner of improvements to users’ experience of the library’s online presence, services, and physical environment).
  - Continue to make improvements in lighting, temperature, power outlets, and noise zoning in the library building.

- **Instruction**
  - Write and pilot the First-Year Seminar portion of the information literacy curriculum.
  - Integrate library information and instructional materials into the campus’s learning management system, in collaboration with the department of Academic & Information Technology.

- **Organizational Development**
  - Improve intra-library communication (specific steps were identified),

- **Collections**
  - Make recommendations for digital asset management for archival collections of photographs, audio-video recordings, digital surrogates, etc., that will be used across all campus library and archives.
• Future Facility
  – Prepare long-term program statement.

• Student Worker Employment
  – Review and make improvements in all areas (steps identified).

CONCERNS & CHALLENGES

Lack of growth space for physical collections remains a concern. We continue to hope for a new or expanded building.

The library is experiencing a continued increase in the use and cost of pay-per-view journal article delivery. (According to this model, the library pays for each article that a user downloads, rather than subscribing to the journal itself.) We began experimenting with this model of delivery several years ago, as a means of saving money while greatly increasing access to journal content. We are uncertain how the increasing usage and thus increasing cost will affect our acquisitions budget in the coming year.

One effect of the increasing technology and digitization of the academic library is that more and more of our acquisitions budget is dedicated to subscriptions or other large commitments, sometimes extending across multiple-year contracts. This reduces the flexibility of our budget and our ability to absorb annual changes in funding that may be less than we requested for our budget from the college.

STAFF DEVELOPMENTS

The library faculty and staff engaged in many professional development activities this year, making them more knowledgeable and capable contributors to the library’s mission. The librarians continue to strengthen their faculty identity both on and off campus. We contributed to the broader profession in these ways:

• Nancy Falciani-White presented a paper at the Scholarship of Pedagogy Symposium and presented a poster at the Library Research Seminar VI.
• Terry Huttoenlock presented at the Indiana Information Literacy Colloquium, the Information Literacy Summit in the Chicago area, and a PALNI workshop in North Manchester.
• David Malone and Connie Mead co-presented at a CARLI forum on shelf-ready cataloging.
• Gregory Morrison presented at the Chicago-Area Theological Library Association conference.
• Steve Oberg joined the board of NASIG, a primary society for serials and e-resources management and scholarly communication
• Steve Oberg taught graduate level courses at Dominican GSLIS and Illinois GSLIS
- **Steve Oberg** was invited to present on Wheaton’s experiences with journal article pay-per-view at Illinois Wesleyan University, January 2015.
- **Steve Oberg** was invited to present on “Pay-Per-View for Journals: The Wheaton College (Illinois) Experience” at Collection Development Strategies in an Evolving Marketplace: an ALCTS Midwinter Symposium (part of the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting), Chicago, January 2015.
- **Steve Oberg** attended 30th annual NASIG conference and gave a presentation on “CORAL as Source for Databases A-Z” as part of a panel presentation, which he coordinated, on “The Future is Flexible, Extensible, and Community Based: Stories of Successful Electronic Resources Management,” Washington, DC, May 2015.
- **Lisa Richmond** joined the board of the International Jacques Ellul Society (We have an Ellul special collection).
- **Lisa Richmond** serves on the board of the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians and as one of the editors of the *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship*.
- **Laura Tomcik** presented at the Library Communications Conference in Philadelphia.