Buswell Memorial Library & Marion E. Wade Center
Wheaton College

Annual Report

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Year Ending 30 June 2013

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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

Buswell Library continues to undergo rapid changes as we move forward in an increasingly digital environment. The library faculty and staff have made excellent contributions this past year to the academic lives of our faculty and students. Buswell is also gaining a reputation within the greater Chicago area particularly for our innovations in collection development, use of technology, and library organization.

In May of 2012 the library faculty and staff established the following goals for the 2012–13 year. Almost all of these goals were successfully accomplished. One important goal that we did not make adequate progress on was 1.c., “Experiment with shelf-ready cataloging.” This will be a primary goal for 2013–14. This involves contracting with outside vendors to fully automate the cataloging process for simpler-to-catalog items. It will enable us to shift our efforts toward higher-order cataloging and metadata activities.

2012–13 Goals

1. Reduce Barriers to Access
   a. Improve our interlibrary loan software
   b. Improve the user experience of our Web site
   c. Experiment with shelf-ready cataloging to reduce time-to-shelf
   d. Continue the print-to-electronic serials transition
   e. Increase discoverability of archival/special materials
2. **Advance our Teaching Library Identity**
   a. Ensure that the Commons functions as a vibrant and effective learning space and builds community for the campus
   b. Communicate our teaching library identity clearly and effectively to the campus
   c. Develop our library faculty’s teaching skills
   d. Advocate for library/research skills within general education revision
   e. Enhance our subject liaison program/identities

3. **Strengthen Our Organization**
   a. Enhance our skills in leading and participating in effective meetings
   b. Enhance intra-library communication
   c. Student workers: clarify roles, create baseline training, and improve budgeting
   d. Create baseline training for staff

4. **Explore New Technologies to Support Teaching and Learning**
   a. Establish an e-book strategy
   b. Implement a tablet/e-reader pilot project

**Advancing the Teaching Library**

A central part of Buswell Library’s mission is to equip Wheaton students with the skills they need to carry out effective research—to find, evaluate, and use information sources in a competent academic manner and as a skill for the whole of one’s life. As digital resources continue to grow in scope and complexity, this teaching aspect of our mission is increasing in importance. For the second year in a row, the library faculty increased the number of instruction sessions and number of students we taught. While we await the outcome of the general education revision, we continue to teach in the current general education program via ENGW 103/104 and BITH 111, in addition to our involvement in non-general education courses.

This year the librarians implemented LibAnswers, a software program that provides better tools for statistical analysis of research/reference transactions. We worked with several departmental faculty members to evaluate ways in which new technologies could enhance their teaching and scholarship. We continue to serve students with learning differences by providing digital resources and offering guidance in the best technology for their particular need.

**Advancing our Collections**

Use of electronic collections continues to grow, and use of physical books in the library’s main collection is holding steady. Use of the Evangelism and Missions Collection has been trending downward over the past five years; we do not know the reason for this decline. Interlibrary loan activity, both lending and receiving, remains strong. For the second year in succession we withdrew from our book collection almost as many volumes as we added. We are undertaking this large-scale withdrawal project because we lack adequate shelving capacity in the Buswell building.
Buswell took significant steps this year to map out an approach to the acquisition of e-books. While faculty and students consider e-books to be an important component of Buswell’s collections, they also want us to continue to acquire printed books. We expect to have a hybrid book collection (printed and digital) for the next several decades at least. Academic journals, by contrast, are rapidly transitioning to digital format.

As we acquire more digital resources of all kinds, we have struggled to cope with the behind-the-scenes work necessary to make these resources fully and easily accessible to library users. We took an important step forward this year by implementing CORAL, an electronic resources management system.

Buswell’s expenditure on library collections from all funding sources this year was $1,173,574. A notable addition to our holdings is the Contemporary Christian Music collection, the gift of Mark Allan Powell. This near-comprehensive collection contains thousands of CDs, periodicals, books, and topical files. It is an exceptional resource for researchers of this music genre and of American evangelical culture in the late twentieth century. Mr. Powell amassed this collection over several decades while researching his award-winning reference work *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music* (Hendrickson, 2002).

This year an *ad hoc* team of library faculty and staff investigated the feasibility and cost of converting our physical collections from the Dewey Decimal to the Library of Congress classification system. The team’s conclusion is that the academic benefits that would accrue do not currently outweigh the financial cost and logistical challenges of such a conversion. This matter should however be re-considered when plans for a new or expanded building are developed.

**Enhancing Library Spaces**

We were grateful to receive funding for a mini-renovation of the library’s Commons area in the summer of 2012. It expanded the available study area and placed librarians in closer proximity to students and their research. We held an open house in the fall to welcome faculty and students to the space and promote our teaching library identity. A full implementation of the Learning Commons concept remains a goal for a new or expanded building.

**Promoting Community**

Special Collections mounted an exhibit of letters of Jonathan Edwards, on loan from a friend of the college. We continued the One College, One Book common reading program; this year’s selection was Rebecca Skloot’s non-fiction work *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. We hosted faculty book discussions with Amy Black about her recent book, *Honoring God in Red or Blue: Approaching Politics with Humility, Grace, and Reason*, and Brian Howell about his recent book, *Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience*. We continue to make strides in promoting the library’s collections and services in innovative and eye-catching ways. Our free food and special events on reading day each semester continue to be popular.

We have also contributed to the community beyond Wheaton College. We hosted an event for our CARLI library consortium, at which we showcased our recent organizational changes, CORAL electronic resource management system, and our innovative Pay Per View approach to journal content. Gregory Morrison presented at the LIBRAS consortium annual meeting, and David Malone is serving as president.
of LIBRAS in 2013–14. Lisa Richmond served on the LIBRAS nominating committee. Lisa Richmond was one of the presenters for a CARLI webinar titled “Library Space Remodels/Redesigns: Lessons Learned.”

GOALS

The library faculty and staff have established the following goals for the 2013–14 year:

1. **Enhance Library Collections and Reduce Barriers to Access**
   a. Thoroughly overhaul the library’s Web site
   b. Ensure that all subscribed resources are fully accessible to users
   c. Complete the implementation of YBP catalog-ready and shelf-ready project
   d. Make strategic decisions regarding government documents
   e. Maximize the print-to-electronic serials transition
   f. Migrate ILLiad and Worldshare

2. **Establish a Library Assessment Program**
   a. Create goals and establish the assessment cycle
   b. Assess the impact of library instruction on students’ academic achievement
   c. Deepen our understanding of how our collections are being used
   d. Deepen our understanding of user assumptions and expectations

3. **Prepare for Facility Enhancement**
   a. Carry out comparative study of peer libraries; develop benchmarks
   b. Conduct site visits
   c. Consider a consultant
   d. Develop a program statement

4. **Advance our Teaching Library Identity and Promote the Library**
   a. Clarify and communicate our teaching library identity
   b. Continue to enhance our subject liaison program/identities
   c. Develop a student orientation program
   d. Develop a marketing plan

5. **Strengthen Our Organization**
   a. Improve “intra” sites such as Noteswall, shared drives, etc., and the documentation therein
   b. Simplify processes, data, tasks, etc., where possible
   c. Ensure baseline training for all library employees (faculty, staff, student workers)

CONCERNS

Budget

Each fall, the College Librarian supplies the Senior Administrative Cabinet with the projected price increases of books and periodicals for the coming fiscal year. The increase she projected for 2013–14 in
the fall of 2012 was 5.5%. Due to financial constraints, Buswell’s acquisitions budget was increased just 1% for 2013–14.

Over the last two years the library experimented with replacing subscriptions to some academic journals with a new access model called Pay Per View. In this model, the journal publisher/provider charges the library each time that a Wheaton professor or student accesses an article via the library’s Web site. In effect, the library is buying articles that become the property of the individual user—these articles never enter the library’s “collection.”

We found that this experiment with Pay Per View has saved a significant amount of money for the college and has expanded the scope of journal content that is available to our faculty and students. It does however have clear drawbacks for collection development, and it may not be sustainable financially and in other ways.

Given the small budget increase for 2013–14, we may need to “turn off” Pay Per View access at some point during the academic year if we run out of money. This will instantly restrict the scope of journal content that our faculty and students have access to. Of course, interlibrary loan will remain an option for supplying journal content that is not otherwise accessible. Interlibrary loan is a wonderful supplement but not a substitute for on-campus resources that meet the academic needs of our community.

Research Skills Instruction and General Education

Our second concern is to see library/research skills (often referred to as “information literacy”) fully integrated into the college’s general education program. The Association of American Colleges and Universities, for example, identifies this skill as an “essential learning outcome” of general education. Our written proposal, submitted to the general education revision committee a year ago, fully describes the need, proposed curricular framework, and intended outcomes. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the Wheaton faculty to formally establish this outcome for the undergraduate curriculum. Many faculty members express strong support for this goal in theory, but there is not yet a formal commitment and we do not know what will be decided.

Facilities

As noted in the Goals section of this report, the library is moving ahead with background planning for a new or expanded library building. Also as previously noted, we continue to withdraw thousands of older or lesser-used volumes from the shelves, because we have run out of space. This diminishes the research-level quality of our book collections. The academic impact is difficult to measure.

Increasing Complexity

As Buswell moves forward into a more-digital future, we face greater complexity. Increasingly, there is no staff position at Buswell that does not require fairly sophisticated technology skills. And as the acquisition and circulation of printed materials declines, we will need fewer student employees for easy-to-learn tasks such as circulating and re-shelving books, or accessioning new journal issues as they arrive.
in the mail. We will need more employees with higher-order training and skills, such as database management. We will need to explore the possibility of transferring some portion of our student-employee budget to meet these higher-order staffing needs.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENTS**

Newcomers:
- Wendy Adams, temporary Cataloger
- Adebola Fabiku, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
- Kara Franklin, Interlibrary Loan Assistant
- Jeffrey Mudge, Digital Initiatives Coordinator
- Steve Oberg, library faculty member

Departures:
- Susie Bossenga, library faculty member
- Ben Grey, Serials Assistant
- Justin Long, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
- Karl Pettitt, library faculty member
THE MARION E. WADE CENTER

Chris Mitchell, Director
Marjorie Mead, Associate Director
Heidi Truty, Head of Public Services
Laura Schmidt, Archivist
Kendra Juskus, Office Coordinator and Editorial Assistant (part-time)
Shawn Mrakovich, Office Assistant (part-time)

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Held extensive discussions regarding the Wade’s mission and vision, with a view to refreshing these written statements
• Received two donor bequests
• Proposed a new document describing the role of the Steering Committee (also proposed new name: Wade Center Advisory Board); discussion is ongoing
• Prepared a fundraising piece in collaboration with Advancement and Marketing departments, to be mailed in September 2013
• Acquired and processed Dorothy L. Sayers manuscripts from Sotheby’s sale
• Acquired Williams family papers and photographs
• Began migration of cataloging data from ProCite to Voyager; reading room general book collection, journal collection, and dissertations completed
• Set up a catalog-access computer station for researchers in reading room
• Created new content for A-V kiosk (Tolkien and Boxen programs)
• Mounted new museum display: The Hobbit
• Published volume 29 of Seven: An Anglo-American Literary Review
• Hosted the Clapham Group Roundtable on Lewis’s Experiment in Criticism (Apr)
• Hosted lectures:
  o Staged reading (Sep) promoting the GKC vs. Shaw play in Chicago
  o Paul Tankard (Oct): “A Middle-Aged Moralist: C.S. Lewis’s Engagement with Boswell’s Johnson”
  o Various activities related to the release of the Hobbit movie, including a talk by Chris Mitchell (Jan)
  o Alister McGrath on Lewis’s biography (Mar)
  o David McNutt on Sayers and Barth (Apr)

GOALS

• Continue cataloging of original materials, stacks, fragile storage books, original periodicals
• Promote access through digitization and description endeavors, such as CONTENTdm
• Provide consistent service to reading room patrons during staff transitions
• Complete the revised mission statement
• Complete the revision of name and purpose of the Steering Committee (as determined by college’s senior administration)
- Move forward with fundraising initiative
- Recruit new director
- Complete one new museum wall display and rotation of cabinet displays
- Print newly designed Wade Center general information brochure
- Develop a plan for making Seven’s online presence more robust
- Develop the Wade Center’s Friends program
- Successfully host November C.S. Lewis conference
- Hire a new Office Coordinator

**Concerns**

- Staff workflow and patron assistance in reading room and front desk during staff transitions
- Success in grant proposals and fund-raising initiatives and time to accomplish these in the midst of staffing transitions and other ongoing responsibilities
- Continuing to accomplish effectively and with excellence all that is asked of the Wade Center by researchers and constituents while having a significantly reduced staff

**Staff Developments**

- Marjorie Mead published “The Lost Tools of Learning and the Habits of a Scholarly Mind” in *Liberal Arts for the Christian Life* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012); gave a variety of presentations, including “C.S. Lewis and the Death of the False Self” for Lewis conference in San Antonio, TX (Apr), attended HR Seminar on Manager Basics (May)
- Heidi Truty attended CARLI CONTENTdm training in Springfield (Oct) and Photograph Collection Management workshop at Lewis University (Oct)