



Friends of the University Libraries



N E W S L E T T E R Winter 2006

Welcome to the first *Friends of the University Libraries* Newsletter

From James A. Benson, Ph.D.

Vice Provost, Dean of Information Resources and Libraries



The Friends of the University Libraries are an important part of the St. John's University Library community. Welcome to this newsletter, which is designed to provide you with information about: the libraries; our needs; changes; collections; and services. The Libraries are a dynamic vital component of the University. You are part of the reason that we can fulfill our part of the University's strategic plan. We want to insure that you know what we are doing, and why!

By informing you about the information resources available to the University's students and faculty, we hope to keep you abreast of how the Libraries serve the University and how your gifts contribute to that service.

We would also like to hear from you about how the Libraries influenced your academic career and life at St. John's. We would like to share these stories in future issues of the Friends' Newsletter. *Please send us your stories via e-mail to dandrea@stjohns.edu.*



Library in Transition

Joan D'Andrea,

Associate Professor Library Development

Over the last few months, the library building on the Queens campus has undergone a number of significant changes. The most obvious one to those who enter the first floor is the new *Jazzman Café* with a reconfigured service area, casual sofa seating, tables and chairs.

More notably, however, is the relocation of three public service departments, Reference, Circulation and Interlibrary Loan, from the first floor to other areas in the building. The move of these departments created space for a major change, namely the construction of the University's greatly expanded *Institute for Writing Studies*, which has its entrance immediately to the right as you enter the building. Additionally, inside the library to the right of the café, is a refurbished, quiet study space with attractive carrels and several group study rooms.

Changing technology has also spurred another major change. Many documents published by the Federal government are now available on the Internet. With this in mind, and after much consideration, the library has changed its approach to being a

William Keogan,

Associate Professor References Libraries

government documents depository. Over the last few years most of the hard copy volumes in the fourth floor Government Documents room were removed from the collection. Some of the materials were sent to the Law Library and the Manhattan campus. Other volumes were moved to the Reference Department and to the circulating collection. Still other materials were sent back to the Government Printing Office (GPO) and to other government depository libraries. These moves left a sizable amount of free space on the fourth floor which, at present, contains study space.

The library of today is an ever-changing environment that looks at the needs and comfort of its users. More changes are likely on the way. That is why we continue to assess services and materials to see what may be needed in the future and to allocate staff, funds and space accordingly. So come in and see what we've been up to, and in the meantime, this newsletter will keep you up-to-date as the transformation takes shape.



University Archives

Blythe Roveland-Brenton, Ph.D.

The mission of the University Archives' is to appraise, inventory, describe, preserve and make available University records from its founding in 1870 through today. While the primary focus is the history of the University, some of the other collections consist of personal papers and memorabilia of faculty and alumni, as well as documentation on Catholic populations and organizations in New York City. The types of materials in the Archives are wide-ranging — manuscripts, publications, photographs, videos, audiotapes, films, computer disks, blueprints, posters and memorabilia. Some of the more heavily used items include yearbooks, student and University newspapers, course bulletins and commencement programs.



The University Archives has been in existence for 35 years. Prior to its establishment, the library and the Office of Historical Collections gathered some University records and memorabilia informally. That office (1969–71), headed by history professor Irving G. Williams, Ph.D., collected original documents of prominent figures. Professor Williams urged the administration to create separate Archives to house University records. In January 1971, the Reverend John E. Young, C.M. became the University's first archivist. In 1997, a Records Management office was added to work in tandem with the Archives. This office is responsible for surveying office records, determining their administrative, legal and fiscal value and formulating retention schedules for them. Anything of enduring historical value is transferred to the Archives.

Depending on funding, future plans for the Archives include: creating a specially designed area that would be temperature and humidity controlled to preserve materials; and expanding its digitization projects to make important historical materials more easily accessible through the libraries' Web site.

The University Archives is located on the fourth floor of St. Augustine Hall on the Queens campus. All interested researchers are welcome. To make an appointment, call (718) 990-1465 or e-mail us at archives@stjohns.edu.

Blythe Roveland-Brenton, Ph.D., is the current University Archivist, a position she has held since 2000.

*Lewis Avenue Campus Library in 1952
Vincentian Yearbook*

Increasingly Digital ...



James A. Benson, Ph.D.

The future of university libraries lies in emphasizing content rather than the medium in which particular content was originally published. We must also remember that content is not solely text, although text will remain an important form of academic content.

Text on paper has long been the mainstay of university library collections. In recent years we have seen massive migration from paper to digital media, particularly for text published in journals. The digitally published journal has become the primary journal format for university libraries. How do our users read this material on screen or on paper?

Journal articles are relatively short reads. We often see our users do their preliminary scan of article content on the screen. Many of the journal articles read by our users are indeed read on computer screens, but many are read on paper copies printed from the digital copies.

Our digital collection of scholarly journals is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week at any location with an

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internet connection. The individual student seeking scholarly information from journals need not even visit the physical library. They may use their laptops and the wireless network to access the total digital collection from anywhere on any campus. Reserve readings are also available in the same way.

Our digital book collections are also growing, but longer works are much less likely to be read, in their entirety, on a computer screen. Shorter works published as part of a book will likely be used much like a journal article. That is, we expect that some users will read them on the screen and some will print them for reading. To read an entire book on a computer screen happens, but less frequently. On the other hand, any time any where access is appealing to students. As we increase the number of digital books available, their use will increase. On-demand printing of books for users from libraries' digital collections will become an important service as the copyright and licensing issues facing such services are resolved.

The future of libraries is in sight, and it is increasingly digital.

Up^{and}Coming

Author Series

Book and Poetry Readings

St. John's University Faculty Author Series

Film Series

The Friends of the Library plans to hold regularly scheduled programs.

If you have any suggestions, please e-mail dandreaj@stjohns.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!



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