Preservation of the Collections in the Notre Dame Libraries

by George Sereiko

Electronic publishing and video disks show promise as sources for information, but printed materials continue to be the preferred format of library patrons. They will continue to be so in the foreseeable future. In fact, automation has created an increased demand for the more traditional library materials because patrons have been presented with a means of obtaining bibliographic information more readily and more effectively. They no longer have to utilize cryptographic skills to find out where the catalogers have filed the information needed to locate books and journals.

Unfortunately, the outlook for the survival of printed material is not rosy because the paper used in many publications seems, like man, to be destined to return to dust. It has been projected that American libraries will lose 73 million books by the end of the century. The volumes in question are most of those issued between 1860 and 1920, and the implications for scholarship are obvious. Here at Notre Dame, it is estimated that 400,000 books are at risk. They represent approximately 29% of the present collection which is about the average for a research library.

The chief cause of this wholesale destruction of books is the acidic residue on paper which appears as the result of a manufacturing process which is worldwide and which has been with us for 125 years. When this type of paper is exposed to light, heat or moisture, the action of the acid on the paper fibers is accelerated as is the corresponding process of disintegration. Ideally, libraries should be cold and dark with a constant relative humidity. Obviously, ideal conditions for books are at variance with acceptable conditions for humans.

Fortunately, at Notre Dame, we have not been standing idly by and wringing our hands, though our progress has been limited (due in part to limited resources). Several years ago, the Director of Libraries formed a Preservation Committee to develop viable preservation and conservation programs. To date, it has produced a disaster preparedness plan and an embryo brittle books program. During the coming year, the Committee will work on the first phases of a long term preservation and conservation plan and, in cooperation with the Disaster Preparedness Committee, will update and expand the current disaster plan.

For the present our most extensive preservation activity is binding. We continue to spend tens of thousands of dollars each year (it will be over $100,000 this year) in this area. This is only partially effective because it does little to prevent the deterioration of paper. The Library maintains a book repair unit which does excellent work, but the nature of the work and the limited size of the staff severely restrict the number of books that can be treated.

Among the more impressive preservation accomplishments was the work that was done to conserve a number of plates in the Gore Orchid collection which had been mounted on acidic boards. This was made possible because of

AUTHENTIC IRISH: Captain O’Neill and the Irish Culture Collection

by David Sparks

H e was born in Tralbane, Bantry, County Cork. Early in life he fell under the spell of the native music of his homeland. As a boy, he attended the crossroads and farmhouse dances in his home parish of Caharagh, where he watched in fascination the wonderful skill of the folk musicians, experts on the Union pipes, the fiddle and the bodhran (the traditional folk drum). There he absorbed the sweet and haunting melodies of Ireland.

Out of this rich cultural experience of boyhood, Francis O’Neill was catapulted into a hard and adventurous life. His parents had directed him towards a religious vocation, but he was not destined to become a priest. He ran off to sea as a youth, and after a number of years and several voyages he was shipwrecked on Bakers Island in the Pacific. Some years later, he made his way to the United States where he tried his hand at teaching at the public school in Edina, Missouri. He came to rest at last in Chicago, where he worked for awhile in the freight yards, and finally joined the Chicago police force in July of 1873.

During an encounter with a gunman the same year, he was shot in the back (the bullet was never extracted) and was promoted for his bravery. He remained with the force until his retirement in 1906 and rose in rank to become its General Superintendent.

Throughout his career Francis O’Neill remained devoted to his continued on page 6
Preservation continued from page 1

a generous gift received from Robert Gore. A year ago, we received a grant of $58,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to preserve and to make more widely known an historically important collection on botany which the University had inherited from the estate of Professor Edward Greene in 1915. The bibliographic portion was completed, and work on the conservation segment was recently begun. This past year, we submitted another proposal to the Department of Education for $207,476 to preserve and enhance our unique collection on the history of medieval universities.

We plan to set up an education program for faculty, students, and staff to make them aware of the problems associated with preserving library materials and of the ways that they can contribute to the current preservation efforts. We need education programs because uninformed or careless handling of materials undoes any good that might be accomplished in the way of preservation and conservation. Work has begun on selected segments of such a program.

Since the environment in which books reside can also be detrimental to their continued existence, we have taken preliminary steps to eliminate unfavorable situations. Light, especially unfiltered fluorescent light, can be especially bad because of the ultraviolet rays emitted. Unfortunately, the largest part of the collection in Memorial Library is under unfiltered fluorescent lights. We have made requests for light filters and for the treatment of the windows to screen out the sun’s ultraviolet rays.

The library has made a beginning in dealing with this many-faceted problem, but the remaining preservation task is massive. Unfortunately, headway will be painfully slow because, as the Council on Library Resources’ Committee on Preservation and Access noted in its 1985 Interim Report, “progress in preservation is made one book at a time.” It is estimated that at Notre Dame it will take us a decade to deal with our 400,000 endangered volumes. Since many publishers still issue books and journals on acidic paper, preservation problems for libraries grow. It is hoped that these publishers will soon follow the example set by the university presses that issue their publications on acid-free paper; and, thereby, help to reduce the size of the problem caused by paper deterioration.

Friends Sponsor Programs

Irish Day

On Thursday, March 19, the Friends of the Library are sponsoring an Irish cultural program.

At 7 p.m. in the Rare Book Room, Yeats scholar Professor David Clark of St. Mary’s College will speak on W.B. Yeats and the Irish ballad. Professor Clark’s talk will be followed by a gathering in the Library Faculty Lounge at which David James and his friends will play traditional Irish music. James is recognized internationally as a fine traditional musician and as an extraordinary talent on the hammered dulcimer. There will be a modest cover charge of $5.00 to help underwrite the cost of refreshments.

Friends 6th Annual Colloquium

On the afternoon of Thursday, April 9, in the Library Faculty Lounge, the Friends will present a program on fiction. At 1:30 p.m., Professor Thomas Werle will speak on serious and popular fiction and will be followed by Professor Elizabeth Christman who will address the topic of serious fiction and the business of publishing. This program is open to all interested in attending.

Library of Congress Plans Renovation


This project will restore them to their original beauty and allow the Library to offer greatly improved facilities for research. During the next several years, certain services may be affected temporarily, especially those related to the general collections, but the Library will remain open throughout the renovation and all customary services will be provided.

To determine the availability of materials and space for general research needs, please write or telephone the Library before visiting: General Reading Rooms Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540; 202/287-5522. [Made available for public distribution by the General Reading Rooms Division, Library of Congress]

Automation Planning at the University Libraries

by Betsy Moon

Reading the promotional materials that automation vendors put out, one might believe that a computerized library system (such as the NOTIS system which the University Libraries have purchased) springs full formed from the brow of Zeus. That is, plug in the mainframe, hook up the terminals, and you’re set. In fact, implementing a totally automated system like NOTIS takes a vast amount of planning, much of which goes unnoticed by those who will use the system.

In order to manage this huge undertaking, different committees and task forces were formed within the University Libraries. Each committee has responsibility for a different area of the automation project. The “umbrella” committee for the Notre Dame automation project is the Automation Implementation Team (AIT). Composed of appointed representatives from major operational units within the University Libraries and the Law Library, AIT has the authority to appoint task forces and individuals to work on various aspects of the automation effort. Members of AIT are also chairpersons of the various task forces, which ensures clear lines of communication in both directions.
The following committee-by-committee breakdown illustrates the planning that is going into NOTIS implementation at Notre Dame.

**Bibliographic Conversion Task Force**

This task force has the charge of overseeing the conversion of data on the University Libraries' holdings (books, journals, audiovisual materials, records, etc.) to machine-readable form. These machine-readable records will make up the database for the NOTIS system. This job has been made a bit easier due to the fact that since 1976, Notre Dame has been a member of the OCLC computerized cataloging network, ensuring that records for all cataloged items received by the University Libraries since 1976 are already in machine-readable form. The cataloging records for the remainder of the collection have been matched against OCLC and various other databases and appropriate records extracted. The total number of records now in machine-readable format represents about 84% of the collection. Records having no matches in these databases are being converted locally at Notre Dame. This is painstaking and labor-intensive work, but well worth the effort, as the database will eventually reflect almost all the holdings now in the Notre Dame card catalog.

**Database Preparation Task Force**

The charge for this task force was to prepare a list of location codes for all the University Libraries and the Law Library. These codes, appearing in all records in the NOTIS database, will enable library staff and patrons to "track" an item through the library system from the moment when a book order is placed through the time when a book is shelved and is circulating. The codes will permit display of more precise information concerning the location of library materials than was available before. The task force had to identify the kinds of problems that might come up in the database. For example, items that have been withdrawn from the University Libraries and the Law Library should have their records deleted from the database. The task force read articles in professional library journals to see how other libraries handled similar problems; they then set priorities and went to work.

**Item Conversion Task Force**

The major jobs of the Item Conversion Task Force are: planning the best method for creating and linking records for each book, each physical item, with its corresponding record in the NOTIS database. Members of this task force will decide how to determine which items will be barcoded first, and whether or not the entire collection should be barcoded at once. They are also considering the most effective means by which to attach barcodes to each separate item in these collections so as to permit quick electronic check-out of library materials.

**NOTIS Training and Instruction Task Force**

Members are responsible for the overall plan for instructing the library staff and students, faculty and administrative library patrons in the use of the NOTIS system. The task force has finished its overall training planning as well as an implementation budget. They have also drafted a questionnaire so they can get an idea from students, faculty, and other participants of the strengths and weaknesses of the training program. Members of the Cataloging and Acquisitions Departments of the Memorial Library and the Law Library are being trained in use of the system in February and March. Task force members are reading the NOTIS manuals to see what areas to emphasize in their training. Additionally they are planning a slide/tape presentation and writing documentation to support UNLOC (the automated catalog) and the internal library technical services module.

**OPAC Access and Screen Design Task Force**

First, a definition, "OPAC" means "online public access catalog" and is virtually synonymous with a computerized card catalog. The members of this task force have primary responsibility for taking the NOTIS system's "generic" screen displays designed to help patrons use the OPAC and customize them for use at Notre Dame. This necessitates examining each screen and adding or deleting information, as well as creating new screens for library hours, etc. The revised and new screens must fit within a prescribed number of characters, so brevity and clarity are essential. The OPAC task force has also created guidelines for use of the OPAC. The task force also planned and carried out the "Name the Automated Catalog" contest in September/October 1986.

**Serials Automation Task Force**

This task force is concerned with the entry of and user access to the serial holdings of the University Libraries and the Law Library in the NOTIS system. Since serials play an important role in the research needs of university library users, the work of this task force is critical. The task force must plan things such as: how the serials will be entered; if the serials will display by volume or by issue; will barcoding of serials be by volume or by issue; how might changes in circulation policy for serials affect their records in the database, and so on. A major issue for the task force is the fact that the standards to which NOTIS adheres for entering serials into a database differ from serial entry standards set up by the National Information Standards Organization (NISO). This difference affects access to Notre Dame serials records by other libraries (for inter-library loan purposes, for example).

Planning is never completed for an automation project—the actual installation brings the need for further evaluation and refinement of the system. It is hoped that this article will give readers an idea of the amount of planning that this project has entailed thus far—also, perhaps, an idea of how much better and more efficient library services will be here at Notre Dame through the careful implementation of NOTIS.
Bibliographer Sees Challenges in Preservation, Automation
by Jan Maxwell

Alan Krieger's office in Memorial Library is devoid of the sort of ornaments most people use to brighten drab work areas. No pictures or posters hang on the walls, and the desk and tables hold only stacks of books and papers, no photographs or mementos. Although he has occupied the office for some time, it doesn't look as though he has quite settled in yet; perhaps the reason for this is that most days, Krieger spends comparatively little time there.

He usually arrives at the library around 8 a.m. and begins working immediately, often not even bothering to remove his coat until later in the morning. He moves quickly; in a typical hour, he might be seen at the card catalog, in the reference stacks, back at the card catalog, in the Tower, in the Collection Development office, in Acquisitions, then back at the card catalog again. Frequently, he is still at work well after 5, reading book reviews or checking a few more citations. He brings a great deal of enthusiasm and seemingly limitless energy to his position as Bibliographer for Theology and Philosophy.

He also brings to the library faculty an unusually broad range of experience for one who is relatively new to the profession. As a doctoral student in church history at the University of Chicago in 1973, he began his library career in the Acquisitions Department at the Regenstein Library, eventually working his way up from bibliographic searcher to assistant head of the department. In 1981, he left Chicago for Boston, where he took a job as an accessions specialist at Harvard's Houghton Library. There he wrote descriptions of rare books which had been acquired by Harvard but were not yet cataloged; these descriptions provided scholars access to newly collected works. The work required considerable bibliographic research, and Krieger found this aspect of the job to be very satisfying. After several months, he returned to Chicago with the intention of pursuing a degree in library science.

He accepted an offer of a full scholarship at the University of Arizona in 1982, and once again he combined library work—this time a part-time job in the University Library's Cataloging Department—with study. Here, he made a professional contact that eventually led him to Notre Dame. After Sylvia Akai, his supervisor in the Cataloging Department, was hired as head of Cataloging at Notre Dame, she encouraged Krieger to apply for a cataloger's position here. He took her advice. "Given my background in religion, the Christian humanist tradition at Notre Dame appealed to me," he says. He finished his degree in the summer of 1983, and came to Notre Dame in September.

Working as an original cataloger, he found that his interest in bibliography, first discovered in the Harvard job, continued to develop. "I liked cataloging," he says, "I enjoyed all the technical aspects of the work, but I knew I would go for a selection job if one opened up." A year later, he had that opportunity when the Bibliographer for Theology and Philosophy accepted a position at another university. Krieger was a natural for the position; in 1972, he had graduated with a bachelor's degree in religion from Columbia University, where, he says, "I was the only student radical I knew who majored in religion. Political science was the popular major then." After Columbia, he had earned a master's of divinity from the University of Chicago in 1973. In 1984, as a logical result of all his education and experience, he was offered the bibliographer's job, and he transferred from Cataloging to Collection Development.

His job, as he sees it, can be divided into three main areas of responsibility: collection development, collection management and liaison work. Collection development takes the most time, but is also the most rewarding part of the work for Krieger. "Basically, it is book selection," he says, "I review international bibliographies as well as U.S. sources such as Choice, National Catholic Reporter and Christian Century for anything of interest. This aspect of the job is probably the most challenging because you're always trying to get a sense of how much you might be missing. Retrospective buying can also be difficult, since many out-of-print books are simply not available."

Collection management requires attention to the physical condition of the collections for which he is responsible. He has been involved in preservation projects such as one sponsored by the American Theological Library Association, in which selected titles in theology, printed (from 1850 to 1910) on paper which is rapidly deteriorating, are microfilmed. Microfiche prints are then made available to participating libraries. Notre Dame has quite a number of these titles on microfiche and next year will be contributing 200 titles in Catholic theology to be filmed for the project. "Preservation is a key part of collection management," Krieger says, "It is important to develop a comprehensive preservation plan as opposed to being reactive and responding only to emergency cases, but I don't feel as though one can systematically pursue the preservation of collections without some local preservation facilities. At the least, we need a preservation camera (for microfilming) and a part-time preservation librarian who can advise us."

Finally, Krieger acts as liaison to the Theology, Philosophy and History departments. He sees this part of his job as more than talking about books; it is his responsibility to inform the teaching faculty of changes in the library which might affect them. He believes it will be part of his role as liaison to ease the changeover from the paper catalog to the automated catalog. "I'm hoping to be an important resource during the transitional stages when teaching faculty begin to learn about the online catalog. Although there will be general training sessions, it's inevitable that there will be some problems in searching because each discipline uses the catalog in somewhat different ways. My familiarity with the subject headings in my areas of interest, for instance, should enable me to offer assistance with subject searching. Further down the line, I hope I'll be able to use the online catalog to produce subject bibliographies which could provide bibliographic course support on short notice," he says.
Treasures of the Bodleian
by Charlotte Ames

Among the many treasures of the Notre Dame Library are several volumes of the *Bodleian Quarterly Record*, including volume 1, no. 1, 1914, which features a distinguished portrait of Sir Thomas Bodley. On November 8, 1602, Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian, opened the Library with more than 2,000 volumes, including 299 manuscripts. Among its most unusual treasures, the *Bodleian Quarterly Record* describes the following:

For two and a half centuries the smallest manuscript in the Library has been a volume measuring 3/4 in. square, bound in black leather with silver corner- and centre-pieces, and attached to a silver chain. The contents are in shorthand, and were believed to be English prayers. In Mr. Coxe's time the chain was attached to a wooden ruler about eighteen inches long, for fear the little book should pass out of existence accidentally. The clue to its history had been wholly lost, until on August 1, 1912, Mr. Alexander T. Wright, who had published in 1911 a Life of Jeremiah Rich the serigrapher, noticed the tiny volume on exhibition in a glass case, and suggested—what was soon found to be true—that it was identical with a sermon written by Rich in his peculiar stenography, and stated in a unique broadside issued by him soon after 1654 (now in the British Museum) 'to be now shown in the Publick Library in Oxford.' Rich boasted that he could write so small that his pen could scarcely be seen to move.

In May 1986, as a participant in a three-week seminar entitled "English Libraries and Librarianship" jointly sponsored by the University of Oklahoma and Oxford University, I had the good fortune to visit the Bodleian Library, and to meet a number of the Bodleian librarians. Since its opening in 1602, the Bodleian has grown enormously in size. Spread over seven buildings, the Bodleian today boasts a collection of over 4.9 million books, 77,000 periodicals, 70,000 manuscripts, 973,000 maps and 210,000 microforms. It consists of nearly 79 miles of shelving, 24 reading rooms accommodating more than 2,000 readers and a staff of nearly 400. The oldest building houses hundreds of volumes of huge book catalogs which are divided into pre- and post-1920 sections. These catalogs provide access to the Bodleian's extremely rich and rare collections. Many of the entries in the catalogs are carefully handwritten, and pasted into the volumes in alphabetical sequence. While subject access is not directly provided by the book catalogs, it can be obtained by using standard bibliographies. The pre-1920 catalog is in machine-readable form according to Bodleian Library cataloging rules.

The treasures of any library lie not only in its rich resources, but also in the experience and expertise of its personnel. The Bodleian librarians provide a hospitable atmosphere, giving generously of their time and talent. Among the most delightful and charming is David Vaisey, recently appointed Bodleian Librarian on April 1, 1986. At the conclusion of the seminar, Vaisey shared with us his reflections on the Bodleian's past, present, and future. Vaisey observed that the Bodleian is very old, very large, and its collections are, in a very real sense, living historical monuments. The Library contains an enormous store of rare books which are treated as living collections. Like a grand old lady, the Bodleian suffers many of the trials of old age: illness, creaky joints, difficulty in doing things, and resistance to change. Even today, Vaisey observed, the Bodleian still performs somewhat like a 15th century library.

According to Vaisey, any library has four aspects: stock; staff; readers; and systems. The Bodleian's stock is excellent; its staff is very well-qualified, its readers overabundant; and its systems lagging behind the times. Vaisey indicated that he hoped to motivate the staff in new directions. Vaisey envisions himself primarily as a fund raiser, representing the Library and its staff to the University. While the Bodleian may appear somewhat antiquated by American standards, it breathes a vibrant life and spirit all its own. Under David Vaisey's seasoned and capable direction, the timeless and even the tiniest treasures of the Bodleian are bound to flourish for all generations.

Editor's Note

The Friends of the Library, University Archives, Office of Advanced Studies and College of Arts and Letters are sponsoring several lectures by David Vaisey. On Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, Vaisey will offer a public lecture on "Some Treasures of the Bodleian Library."
beloved Irish music. He assisted Father Fielding, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and an ardent Irish revivalist, in the establishment of Gaelic Park, an ethnic playground “furnished with dancing platforms of ample extent, football fields and roadways for pedestrian and bicycle contests.” He joined and supported the popular singing clubs of the era, the Chicago Irish Music Club and the Irish Fellowship Club. During this time he began to collect books voraciously.

He not only collected books about his beloved Ireland, he wrote them, too. Together with Sargeant James O’Neill, also on the force, he assembled and published some of the most valuable collections of Irish music ever produced. He was the friend of Professor Richard Henebry, the famous Celtic philologist, and he was well known in the homeland at that time when Ireland was struggling for her freedom.

In 1931, a few years before he died, Francis O’Neill decided to give his outstanding collection of Irish books and music to the University of Notre Dame. It remains to this day one of the treasures of the University Libraries.

The Captain Francis O’Neill Collection is located in the Department of Special Collections in the Memorial Library. A careful review of all the correspondence that passed between O’Neill, Reverend Charles L. O’Donnell, C.S.C., then president of the University, and Paul R. Byrne, the librarian, shows that a total of 712 books were included in the gift, although the enthusiastic article in the Scholastic (October 23, 1931) put the total at 1500. Of these, about 130 were books of music or music history and included all his own works. Among the other books in the collection are many important works on Irish antiquities, Irish history, collections of Irish poetry, and descriptions of Ireland.

A recent visitor to the Department of Special Collections, himself a collector of Irish books, expressed delight in finding such a rich collection of materials and indicated that many of them are very rare, even in Ireland. Some visiting scholars from Ireland who were at the University last summer have assisted in the cataloging of a number of the works that are in Gaelic and these will soon be added to the Libraries’ catalog of the collection.

Many of the devoted sons and daughters of Notre Dame assume an “Irish” character, and there is no reproach in this, for even the University’s great Norwegian coach, Knute Rockne, did so. But it is reassuring to know that at the heart of the University, in its library, there lies a treasure, the life work of a man who knew the ancient homeland and who was authentically Irish.

Access: news from the University Libraries at Notre Dame (ISSN 0743-2151) is published quarterly and is distributed to the teaching and research faculty of the University. It is available by subscription upon written request.

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