Catholic Americana: A Premier Collection*
by Charlotte Ames

Among several distinguished collections held by the University Libraries of Notre Dame, the Catholic Americana Collection ranks as one of the oldest and finest. The collection dates back to the founding of the University in 1842 by Father Edward Sorin (1814-1893). In his annual address to the faculty on October 13th, 1986, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., offered a fitting tribute to Father Sorin. A man of great vision and unflagging faith, Father Sorin had said “If there ever is a great Catholic university in America, it will be here.” Building upon Father Sorin’s vision, the University Libraries gradually developed outstanding collections which reflect both the Catholic character of the University and the multiple dimensions of American Catholicism.

Highly interdisciplinary, the Catholic Americana Collection consists primarily of books, journals, Catholic newspapers, pamphlets, parish histories, audio-visual materials and Internet sites which document the history of American Catholicism from colonial times to the present. The intellectual, spiritual and cultural heritage of the Roman Catholic tradition are preserved in a wide variety of documents which treat nearly all dimensions of Catholicism in America.

In 1865, Father Sorin founded one of the earliest periodicals in America, Ave Maria, a monthly journal dedicated to the Mother of God. In 1875, James F. Edwards, one of Notre Dame’s first librarians, inspired by Sorin’s vision, began an aggressive campaign to develop extensive collections in American Catholicism. He established connections with the leading members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and began to assemble manuscript materials, printed materials and artifacts to ensure that Notre Dame would become the greatest center for the study of Catholicism in the United States. In order to locate the materials in one place, he established “Bishop’s Memorial Hall,” an extensive collection of episcopal portraits, mitres, croziers and personal memorabilia of American Catholic bishops. He also established the “Catholic Archives of America” and the “Catholic Reference Library of America.” From 1895 through 1897, Edwards acquired hundreds of letters, documents and relics from the U.S. Catholic hierarchy. He had a passion for preservation and a keen sense of the precious state of historical collections, many of which met with disaster. In a letter dated January 12, 1887 to Archbishop William Elder of Cincinnati, he writes:

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From the Director
by Jennifer Younger,
Edward H. Arnold Director of University Libraries

In one succinct phrase, the headline in ND Works, the University’s staff newspaper, captured the most important fact: “Water damage minimized through quick response to library flood.” On a cold night in January 2004, the water in the Hesburgh Library’s heating coils froze, then thawed, rupturing the pipes and leaking water from ceilings on the first floor and lower level. When the library staff discovered the problem, they immediately covered stack ranges with plastic and moved books and journal issues out from under the water flow. Within an hour, hundreds of items had been moved and preservation drying treatments were underway. The library was closed to the public for only a couple of hours while water was mopped up from the lower level and first floors, although the Special Collections Department and Current Periodicals Reading room remained closed for several days.

Accidents can happen at any time, reinforcing the importance of being well prepared; we were. Our thanks are due everyone in the library, but especially the Preservation Department and its well organized Library Emergency Response and Recovery Team for ensuring that we knew what to do, and to the Access Services Department and Special Collections Department for responding immediately to the problem. Not surprisingly, many people left more physically tired than usual that day. We are indeed grateful for their absolutely outstanding work in taking care of our Hesburgh Library collections.
It is also very difficult to find original documents...I have been able to secure many precious treasures for our archives...It is well known that Bishop Bruté wrote long and beautiful letters to each of his clergy, regularly. Bishop de la Halandiere took great care to collect these letters and he also insisted that each of his priests should write out a history of each mission. He himself...collected valuable documents and letters...one of his successors took most of the manuscripts and...burned them....

The Catholic Americana Collection directly supports the work of the Charles and Margaret Hall Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism here on campus. Founded in 1975 by Professor Jay P. Dolan, the Cushwa Center encourages and promotes the study of Catholicism in America and throughout the world. In 1981, the Cushwa family of Youngstown, Ohio provided the Center with a major endowment which ensured its place as one of several emerging centers in the University. Charles B. Cushwa Jr. graduated from Notre Dame in 1931. His wife, Margaret Hall, graduated from Saint Mary’s College. Officially dedicated on May 9, 1981, the Cushwa Center has flourished under the leadership of three outstanding directors: Professor Jay P. Dolan (1975-1994); Professor R. Scott Appleby (1994-2002); and its current director, Professor Timothy Matovina, appointed in August, 2002. The Cushwa Center has gained national and international recognition as the leading center for the study of Catholicism in the United States.

In 1983 Jeffrey M. Burns wrote an illuminating article on the history of the Cushwa Center and described in detail its founders, mission and purpose. He highlighted one of the Libraries’ most avid collectors of Catholic Americana, the unforgettable Francis P. Clark:

At the heart of the Center’s collection program in the early years was the late Francis P. Clark (1936-1979). Clark, head of the University Microfilming Department since the early 1960s, was assigned to direct the Center’s collection and development program. Mr. Clark had an uncanny knack for finding valuable materials hidden away amidst apparently insignificant rubbish. His own personal collection of Catholic Americana rivaled that of many libraries, and Frank willingly shared his collection with any interested scholars. The most significant of Clark’s efforts was the locating and microfilming of American Catholic newspapers from across the country. As a result of his work, Notre Dame now maintains one of the most extensive collections of Roman Catholic newspapers on film available anywhere in the United States. Frank Clark’s death in 1979 was a major loss to all who valued the preservation of materials relating to Catholic Americana. As one obituary read, “His untimely death has left a void in the American Catholic scholarly community that will never adequately be filled.”

Today, the University Libraries of Notre Dame continue to hold the finest collection of Catholic newspapers in the United States. A partial listing of titles and holdings is available in Catholic Newspapers in Microform: A Directory of Works at Notre Dame, published in 1997, and available on the web: http://www.nd.edu/~archives/cathnews/

In addition to the Catholic newspaper collection, the Parish History Collection at Notre Dame consists of more than 1,700 parish histories, primarily from the United States. Frank Clark spearheaded the acquisition of the original collection which has since grown considerably. Clark’s personal collection contained more than 2,000 parish histories, now housed in the University Archives. The University Libraries’ collection duplicates to some extent his collection, and extends it significantly. A genre term search in ALEPH (using command search: wgn=parish histories; or a browse search using the genre term: parish histories) retrieves the catalog records for these parish histories, the bulk of them published in the United States. The Parish History Collection consists of histories written primarily in English, with some in German, Polish and other languages as well. They provide a rich source for studying the Catholic Church in the United States, its devotional life, education, ethnic diversity and popular culture. Researchers can browse the Hesburgh Library stacks under call number BX 4603 to discover a wealth of information contained in parish histories throughout the United States. Among our many treasures, The Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine and Its History, St. Augustine, Florida describes the history of the oldest parish in the United States, founded September 8, 1565. Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, captain general of the Spanish Fleet, first sighted the coast of Florida on August 28th, the feastday of St. Augustine, and named the city in his honor. An account of the founding of the parish quotes Father López, fleet chaplain, describing the landing on September 8th:

“On Saturday the 8th the Admiral landed with many banners spread, to the sound of trumpets and salutes of artillery. As I had gone ashore the evening before, I took a Cross and went to meet him, singing the hymn ‘Te Deum Laudamus.’ The Admiral, followed by all who accompanied him, marched up to the Cross, knelt and kissed it. A large number of Indians watched these proceedings and imitated all they saw done.” This was the beginning of the first parish in the oldest city in the United States.

Another major component of the Catholic Americana Collection is the Catholic Pamphlet Collection which consists of thousands of pamphlets, many published in the pre-Vatican II Church. The collection contains more than 4,000 pamphlets by Catholic authors, including Archbishop John F. Noll (1875-1956) of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979), Father John A. O’Brien (1893-1980) and Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J. (1888-1955). Pamphlets focus on a wide variety of subjects, including theology, philosophy, sociology, education, the sacraments and some anti-Catholic works as well. The majority was published in the United States from the early 19th century to the present time. Substantial segments of the collection came from
various donors, including Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, Indiana, and the late Rev. Hector A. Benoit, St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, N.H. The collection also includes a variety of novenas, many to Our Lady of Sorrows, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the souls in purgatory and to various saints. The University Libraries continue to maintain a strong commitment to building outstanding digital and print collections which reflect the mission, history and culture of the Roman Catholic Church in America and throughout the world.


*The magnificent Catholic Americana collections at the University Libraries of Notre Dame receive support from a number of endowments. For a listing and description of named and dedicated endowments sustaining the University Libraries, please visit: [http://www.nd.edu/~ladvance/](http://www.nd.edu/~ladvance/)

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**Redesigning the Libraries’ Web Presence**
by Eric Morgan & Team Redesign*

The University Libraries of Notre Dame are currently in the process of redesigning their website to better meet the needs and desires of students, faculty and staff. This article describes what has been done to date and what we hope to accomplish by the end of June, 2004.

The novelty of “surfing the Web” has all but worn off, and with the advent of Google, Amazon.com and EBay, people’s expectations about what websites contain and how they work are changing. In order to meet these changing expectations, the Libraries are redesigning their website. The current design is very library-centric. Based on focus group interviews and surveys it has become apparent that a person needs to know the departmental organization of the University Libraries in order to make the best use of their broad array of available services. This is changing. We are recreating the website to be more user-centric and less like an organization chart.

There is much more to redesigning a website than changing its interface. Like any public service effort, the process must be grounded in the needs of the intended audience as well as the limits of the institution. This is illustrated by figure 1. Therefore the Libraries have done a bit of “navel gazing” to establish a new foundation. We have been asking ourselves questions about context, content and users. “What is the purpose of the website and who in the Libraries is going to do the work? What sorts of content should the website contain and how is this content different from the content in the catalog? Who is the primary audience for the website and what tasks do they need/want to accomplish while using it?” The answers to these questions are forming a sort of road map pointing out the directions in which the website should be headed.

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Figure 1: The information architecture iceberg
Moreover, the Libraries recently conducted an online survey asking students, faculty and staff what they liked/disliked about the website, and what improvements should be made to it. The survey garnered about 950 responses and almost 50 pages of comments. After analyzing this data, we have come to 6 conclusions. In short, the site can be improved through:

* better organization of materials
* implementing a flatter hierarchy
* providing more recommendations
* providing more self-service options
* improving the website's search interface
* making as much content available in full-text formats as possible

Now that we have a handle on the most important problems, we are in a better position to resolve them.

We plan to have the new website in place by the middle of June, giving us the ability to make last-minute adjustments before the start of the fall semester, 2004. Considering our user input, we plan to reorganize content as well as add a number of new features. For example, we plan to make available on the home page frequently used content and services. These items would include: links to catalogs, indexes, journal listings, interlibrary loan, book renewal, Ask-A-Librarian, How Do I... instructions and much more. We expect these links to appear on just about every page so students, faculty and staff will always have easy access to them. In conjunction with its underlying database infrastructure, the site may even offer the ability for users to create their own "My Library" pages, read and write reviews of materials, or be offered suggestions like "people who used X also used Y" or "people like you also tried..."

None of this work is being done in a vacuum. All along the way the Libraries are making a conscious effort to inform students, faculty and staff of what is happening. This serves two purposes. First, it makes sure the redesign process is on track. Second, students, faculty and staff know that the Libraries respect their opinions and are sincerely trying to make their lives as students, teachers, scholars and researchers easier.

*The members of the Libraries’ Team Redesign are:

Aaron Bales
Sherri Jones
Eric Morgan
Carole Pilkinton
Elaine Savely
Linda Sharp
Scott Van Jacob
Joni Warner
Jim Gosz, Notre Dame Web Group
To change how often a “New Titles Email Service” search is run, log in to “My Account,” select “New Titles Email Service Requests” and modify the frequency or delete it entirely.

If you want to edit the actual text of any previous search, you need only enter the revised text as a new search and then save it. You may have as many “New Titles Email Service” searches as you wish. For instance, you may wish to be notified whenever anything by or about William Shakespeare is cataloged and also want to receive a list of all of those items every six months. All you need to do is set up two searches, one telling us to search every “1 Days” and the other telling us to search every “6 Months.”

Multi-Base Searching / Tabs
Multi-base searching was added last summer. It allows you to do simple searches simultaneously in more than one catalog. At present these include the catalogs of the University of Notre Dame, the Notre Dame Law School and Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross and Bethel Colleges. In addition, you may search the catalogs of the Center for Research Libraries, Indiana University, Purdue University, the University of Chicago and the Library of Congress. To use this feature, select the “Multi-Catalog” button near the top center of any screen.

In addition to the ability to do simple searches of multiple catalogs, we have added “tabs” across the top of the catalog screen which will take you directly to the individual catalogs of the other Michiana Academic Library Consortium members (Saint Mary’s, Holy Cross and Bethel) along with Notre Dame’s Kresge Law Library and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). Please note, CRL contains millions of items such as U.S. and foreign government documents, dissertations and newspapers in addition to highly specialized primary research materials. These resources are available for extended loan to members of the Notre Dame community through interlibrary loan.

Reserve Catalog
Among the links in the middle of the upper portion of each page is one for “Reserves.” Reserves is a special database made up of selected items from the Notre Dame Libraries’ catalog and items temporarily added for use through the Reserve Book Room. It contains information not previously available in our catalog such as the names of the professors who have placed items on reserve, the course and section numbers, and the exact charge-out periods for each item (e.g., one-day loan or two-hour loan). You may even determine if a title is checked out from Reserve and when it is due back, capabilities not previously available. Links are also provided to materials on Electronic Reserves, though you must still sign in to WebCT using your Net ID. Just follow the path “Quick Links | Electronic Reserves” from the lower left corner of the Libraries’ home page.

Future Features
Three major projects are planned for this year and next. All three are on hold, pending the appointment of a new head of the Library Systems Department. Two, DigiTool and MetaLib, were described in the article mentioned above. The third is conversion to the latest version of the catalog’s underlying software, ALEPH 500 version 16. By moving to a version that is two years newer than our current version we should gain significant new functionality – though no promises can or should be made at this time. As always, if you have any questions about the Libraries’ catalog, please contact any service desk or use the “Ask a Librarian” service at: http://asklib.nd.edu/

Eighteenth-Century Resources at the University Libraries of Notre Dame

By Laura Fuderer

In recent years the University Libraries of Notre Dame have been building up resources relating to 18th-century studies at a staggering rate. The Rare Book Collection contains over 3,000 books printed in the 18th century. Massive holdings on microfilm plus extensive reprints and secondary literature in the circulating collections supplement original sources as do special materials such as manuscripts, coins, maps and postage stamps. Below is an effort to analyze some of this wealth of material in ways that I hope are useful to scholars of this fascinating period in history.

A Huge Collection on Microfilm

In 1995 Notre Dame took a major step forward by purchasing the “Eighteenth-Century Collection,” a truly massive collection of most of the books and pamphlets published in English anywhere in the world or in British territory in any language throughout the 18th century. Although microfilming is still in progress, the collection presently contains over 130,000 texts selected from over 335,000 titles printed in Great Britain and its colonies or printed in English anywhere else in the world from 1701 to 1800. These texts occupy over 12,000 reels of microfilm. Only a few other libraries in the country possess the entire collection, whose purchase was made possible by a major donation from Herbert Allen in honor of Donald R. Keough.

This collection provides a vast opportunity for research and teaching about the period variously called the “Age of Reason” and “Age of Revolution.” According to Primary Source Media, the early units divided into language and literature (27%), philosophy and religion (24%), history and geography (18%), science and technology (11%), law (7%), and other subjects (13%). When combined with the full power of electronic searching in the “English Short-Title Catalogue” this collection makes the vast published output of the 18th century more accessible than ever before.

Now this major collection is even more enhanced by the recent acquisition of “Early English Newspapers,” a microfilm collection of over 1,000 newspapers that were published in the British Isles in the 17th and 18th centuries. The researcher can follow historical events, politics and government, advertisements for countless goods and services,
and other topics on a daily or weekly basis. Until now our patrons had to visit the University of Chicago to access this collection.

**Rare Books**

Over 3,000 18th-century imprints in the Rare Book Collection range in subjects from philosophy to military science and in languages from English to Latin and the major languages of Europe. The following is an attempt to capture some of the highlights in various subjects.

A major work that contributes to our understanding of the Enlightenment and the “Age of Reason” is the massive *Encyclopédie* by Diderot and d’Alembert. Its 24 folio volumes of text and 11 volumes of illustrative plates are a mine of information and images illustrating the period.

![An illustration of horsemanship from Diderot’s *L’Encyclopédie* (Paris, 1751-1772), taken from volume 7 of the plates (1769).](image)

The theology and philosophy section is one of the biggest in the Rare Book Collection; special strengths relate to Roman Catholic Church history, liturgy, doctrine, sermons, canon law and missionaries. Strong collections of René Descartes and George Berkeley include most of the 18th-century editions of their works.

The history section is also extensive and, while many countries are represented, we have been enhancing the holdings in British and Irish history. Numerous folio-size books on antiquities are on display in the exhibit, “Rescued from Time: The Recovery of the Medieval in Britain and Ireland, 1600-1840,” which may be viewed until May 15, 2004. Irish history contains a special collection of over 150 books, pamphlets and newspapers relating to the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and the subsequent union with Great Britain. Other strengths include nearly 200 editions of Edmund Burke and 63 books and pamphlets by Henry Grattan.

French history includes sources on the French Revolution and remarkable publications such as *Monumens de la monarchie française* by the illustrious Bernard de Montfaucon and *Cérémonies et coutumes religieuses des peuples idolâtres*, both oversized and heavily illustrated. The Durand collection relating to Latin America includes a number of books and periodicals printed in Lima in the 18th century, such as the *Gaceta de Lima* (1744) and *Mercurio peruano* (1790-1794). Non-book materials include a large collection of early American coins and currency; a number of colonial documents such as land purchases in Connecticut; single issues of early English newspapers such as *The London Gazette* and a complete run of *The Kentish Post* from 1733 to 1742; and early American newspapers starting in 1764. A large collection of early printed maps of Ireland includes 13 printed in the 18th century. The Anastos Library of Byzantine Civilization includes 40 titles published in this period.

Political science contains trials and government reports relating to the Irish Rebellion, a complete set of the Irish *Parliamentary Register* and the 1728 edition of Locke’s *Two Treatises on Government*, annotated by former owner and Irish rebel, Robert Emmet.

A small collection of rare books relating to music has Rousseau’s *Dictionnaire de musique* and Charles Burney’s *A General History of Music* with marginal annotations by a contemporary owner. The art section offers numerous oversize volumes that contain magnificent copperplate engravings of the period. An outstanding example is the elephant-folio *Recueil d’estampes d’après les plus beaux tableaux...qui sont en France*, which reproduces some of the great works of art belonging to the King, the Duc d’Orleans and others. The Architecture Library has acquired a number of titles from Helen Park’s bibliography of architecture books available in colonial America, including *The Architecture of Leon Battista Alberti in Ten Books* (1726), *The Designs of Inigo Jones* (1727), nine of Batty Langley’s builder’s handbooks, Chambers’ *A Treatise on Civil Architecture* (1768), and James Gibbs’ *Book of Architecture* (1739). (The Architecture Library also owns the microfilm edition of all the books listed in Park.)

The literature section is particularly rich in 18th-century British literature. A considerable number of Latin classics includes several of the Dryden translations published by Tonson. Special strengths include the works of Jonathan Swift (and the Vienken Collection of titles in his library), Oliver Goldsmith and Maria Edgeworth. We have numerous first or early editions by Fielding, Burney, Lennox, Johnson and Thrale, among many others. The Loeb Collection of Irish Fiction includes over a dozen 18th-century novels. We have the first, second and fourth editions of Johnson’s dictionary and the first edition of Boswell’s *Life of Samuel Johnson*. Bell’s series, “Poets of Great Britain,” in 101 volumes helped establish what became the literary “canon.” An oversized, fine printing known as “Boydell’s Shakespeare” boasts illustrations by great artists of the day, such as Joshua Reynolds and Henry Fuseli. The Dante Collection has all the editions of the *Divine Comedy* published in the 18th century.

The combined collections on botany of Edward Lee Greene and Father Julius Nieuwland contain many early herals and 18th-century editions that are exquisitely engraved and occasionally hand-colored. A well-known example is Catesby’s *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*. Included are numerous editions of Linnaeus and the multi-volume *Histoire naturelle* of Buffon.
A small number of rare books deal with technology and military science. To find rare books relating to a particular subject or author, use the Advanced Search screen in the Libraries’ catalog, selecting “Hesburgh Special Collections” as the location. Once you’ve retrieved your results, you can identify editions published in the 18th century by selecting the “Limit/Filter” choice, and then specifying the year as ranging from 1700 to 1800.

**Modern and Electronic Resources**

Thousands of texts reproduced from the 18th century plus modern secondary literature located in the circulating collections supplement the original sources from that period. These include many of the costly sets published by Pickering and Chatto, such as the works of Defoe, to be complete in some 44 volumes; Conduct Literature for Women, 1710-1770; Eighteenth-Century English Labouring-Class Poets; Bluestocking Feminism: Writings of the Bluestocking Circle, 1738-1785; and The Political Writings of the 1790s.


Outstanding among electronic resources for researching 18th-century British and Irish publications is the “English Short-Title Catalogue,” commonly known as the ESTC. The ESTC serves as a guide to the “Eighteenth-Century Collection”: if an item has been filmed, the reel and item number appear at the very bottom of the record. If no reel number is given, then the item has not been filmed yet. Some 18th-century texts are full-text searchable through databases such as “Literature Online” (LION) and “North American Women’s Diaries.” The “Palmer’s Index to the Times” indexes the London Times from its start in 1790 up to 1905.

Clearly, Notre Dame’s holdings pertaining to the 18th century are rich and varied. Please feel free to contact me (lfuderer@nd.edu) or your subject librarian to discuss ways of exploiting these resources.
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