University Libraries Dedicate Gifts

On November 3, 2005, benefactors of gifts to the Libraries totaling $3 million were honored by University administrators and librarians during an afternoon and evening of gratitude and celebration. At the end of the festivities, the gifts to the Libraries had been acknowledged and their benefactors thanked.

Now, the benefactor families have returned to their respective homes all over the country. Their gifts, however, will continue to support learning, teaching and research at Notre Dame. We are immensely grateful for the following gifts, all dedicated on this auspicious day:

- Bea Family Endowment for Medical Studies
- Brown Family Endowed Collection in Italian Studies, in Memory of Marc S. Brown
- Russ and Liz Bundy Family Collection in Medieval Literature
- William B. Carey ’59 Collection of Signed and Inscribed Books
- Coss Family Collection in Irish Studies
- Matthew Fitzsimons Endowed Library Collection in History
- Raymond and Mary Kennedy Family Library Preservation Fund
- Charles and Jean Neil Irish Fiction Initiative
- Edward and Sheila Scanlan Collection of Great Lakes Maps
- Wolnitzek Library Endowment
- Vuono Family Endowment for Italian Literature and Culture

Eighteenth Century Collections Online

by Laura Fudrer

First there was EEBO, *Early English Books Online*, a database providing scanned images of some 125,000 books printed up to the year 1700 with searchable full-text access to some 9,000 of them (eventually to be 25,000). Now, that stunning resource almost pales in comparison to *ECCO, Eighteenth Century Collections Online*, a database of 150,000 texts that are all full-text searchable! This is really a phenomenal resource that will undoubtedly transform scholarship in most, if not all, areas of 18th-century studies.

ECCO is not just for students of the 18th century (so-called *dix-huitièmites*). Hundreds of works from earlier centuries, including Greek and Latin classics, were reprinted or printed for the first time during this century. Examples include King Alfred’s Old English translation of Orosius; *Don Quixote* in both Spanish and English; and the works of Machiavelli in both Italian and English. Classicists, medievalists, Renaissance scholars, all might find relevant sources in this collection. Nor was 18th-century publishing limited to the English language. Foreign language scholars will find that many works published in Britain were printed in languages other than English.

One can search citations as one does in the ESTC (*English Short-Title Catalogue*), explore the full text of the entire database, or limit full-text searching to the following categories of literature: history and geography; fine arts and social


Dr. John Sitter, professor of English, was a strong advocate for our acquisition of ECCO. In just the few months since our subscription began it has already had a big impact on his work, as he writes in the following:

A database like ECCO facilitates research in obvious enough ways—such as saving countless trips to Special Collections, the microfilm room, and other libraries—but it also transforms it. Electronic word and topic searches across 150,000 texts and several genres of writing allow one to find and pursue connections sometimes unimagined at the beginning of a project. A recent inquiry, for instance, into putative images of the Virgin Mary in English Protestant poetry of the 18th century led me within hours to authors, books, and controversies I had not suspected. The topic deepened and broadened before my eyes, or perhaps at my fingertips. I learned more about the topic in a few weeks than I could have in that time through print alone; perhaps more important, I know much more than I would have about what there is to know about it.

The challenges of full-text searching are substantial, as the user faces not only the complexity of Boolean and proximity operators, but also the customs of speech and writing of 200 to 300 years ago. Users should be wary of an assumption that librarians are calling “WYDSDE”: “what you don’t see doesn’t exist.” They should be careful about drawing conclusions from results that might be based on a faulty or incomplete search strategy; and users should always keep in mind that ECCO does not contain everything published in the 18th century—it contains 150,000 of a possible 333,588 publications.1 Also, because ECCO is based on OCR (optical character recognition) rather than encoding, by the publisher’s own admission search retrieval is about 90 percent accurate, as opposed to the nearly 100 percent accuracy rate of EEBO’s encoded texts. Experienced scholars report that searches do not always retrieve what they know is there.

While the extent of the literature and the search capabilities of Eighteenth Century Collections Online are truly extraordinary, it is apparent that electronic discoveries will not entirely replace consulting the texts in either their original print form or in the vast microfilm collection, “The Eighteenth Century.” I personally have consulted the microfilm reproduction of an ECCO text that was partially illegible. In some cases this may necessitate traveling to a library that contains the artifact itself. This may prove particularly true for illustrations; while ECCO provides a means of searching illustrations, their reproduction in digital form leaves much to be desired and the microfilm reproductions are often better.

I encourage everyone who might benefit from the literature of the 18th century to explore this tremendous resource. Feel free to call on librarians for assistance, either through “Ask-a-Librarian” on our web site or by contacting me (631-5233 or lfudere@nd.edu) or Dave Jenkins, Byzantine studies librarian (631-9036 or djenkins@nd.edu).

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1. This number was derived from a search of ESTC in which publication year equals 1701-1800.
Remembering David Sparks

It was with great sadness that the Notre Dame community learned of the death of former library director David E. Sparks on May 25, 2005 at the age of 83. Sparks served as director of the University Libraries of Notre Dame from 1971 to 1976 and then as head of Special Collections before retiring in 1988. In 1989 Access marked his retirement with a farewell tribute, reprinted below. The author of that article sat down recently with Mary Sparks who kindly shared stories and memories of her late husband from their very active retirement years together. An account of that conversation follows the 1989 article. Whether one knew David Sparks personally or not, one can appreciate the degree to which he remained active and engaged, and thoroughly dedicated to family and to the preservation of his family’s history. It was with similar dedication that he served the University, and made a lasting mark on its Libraries.

[Tribute to David Sparks, published on his retirement from the University Libraries, Access, number 37, March 1989]

A Fond Farewell
by Katharina Blackstead

"A n academic librarian should be first a scholar, then a book technician. Love of scholarship and a sympathy for the academy must be paramount. Then should come a hard-nosed appreciation for the technical aspects of librarianship, and a clear vision of one's role."

David E. Sparks, Director of the University of Notre Dame Libraries (1971-76), was speaking to us on a favorite topic shortly before his retirement on December 22, 1988. “We have acquired a technology that can relieve us of drudgery. I would hope that we can now assume our role as colleagues in the intellectual enterprise, as partners in the ongoing dialogue of academe.”

Sparks has seen much progress toward that end since coming to the University Libraries in 1971. Upon arrival, he found, among other things, an institution where faculty status had been established for librarians, but where the Library Faculty was still very isolated from the University at large. The precedent of involvement in state, regional and national organizations had not yet been established. Administratively, the Hesburgh Library (formerly Memorial Library) was laboring under the high cost of maintaining numerous subject specific reference centers. The control over current issues of periodicals was weak, and the system for placing materials on reserve for classroom use was in need of attention.

Within the first three years of Sparks’ administration, a centralized, aggressive reference service was established as were the Periodicals Center and the Reserve Book Room. “We reorganized the structure inside the Library to make it cost effective,” said Sparks, “and by so doing came back to the norm of academic library service. We created a reference unit with plenty of outreach, reserve to support classes and sound periodicals control.”

Sparks looks back to other accomplishments with satisfaction. “During those five years, we planned the groundwork for the reconstruction of the Engineering Library, made very successful staffing changes in the branches and began to treat faculty governance seriously. We established a strong constitutional fabric for our CAP (Committee on Appointments and Promotions) and made great strides toward establishing a partnership with the Teaching and Research Faculty.”

When asked to comment on Robert Miller’s administration, Sparks’ reply is immediate. “Bob’s vision of the profession, of technology, has been exceedingly broad, and we have benefitted enormously from that. He must be given credit for his clarity of vision, his ability to see library goals and to accumulate the resources to carry them off. There was no travel fund when I arrived; thanks to Bob, there is one now. Bob has supported and promoted professional development, he has brought us into a new technology, and has convinced the administration that the Libraries are a top priority and that endowments must be directed their way.”

Sparks was recruited to the University Libraries by Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., from the Yale University Library, where he served as Associate Librarian for Public Services. Prior to that, he held a number of posts, among them that of Research Analyst at the National Security Agency, Librarian and Library Systems Engineer for the Itek Corporation, and Deputy Chief of the Science and Technology Division at the Library of Congress. While there, Sparks saw his encoding ideas which he developed for an Air Force library incorporated in the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) bibliographic data system, a standard used nationally and internationally for the electronic transmission of bibliographic data.

Sparks can take credit for numerous accomplishments within the University Libraries after stepping down from his directorship position, among them: the highly effective management of the 14 month REMARC (Retrospective Conversion into MARC) Project, undertaken by the Libraries to convert 300,000 monographic records in card format to
The Retirement Years: a conversation with Mary Sparks

As David Sparks entered retirement, his goal was to organize his sizeable family archive. That project came to fruition and the collection was donated to the Venango County Historical Society in Franklin, Pennsylvania. In addition to the family papers, the archive included a collection of oil paintings by an uncle whose work has become highly valued in the art market. A great deal of David’s retirement was spent pursuing his passion for genealogy, and he added much to the work already done by other family members, documenting in particular the lives of ancestors who had been prominent citizens of Franklin, Pennsylvania.

In the summer of 1993, the Sparks traveled to Lillehammer, Norway, site of the 1994 winter Olympics. There they met all 63 Sparks cousins. Their trip also took them to Trondheim, where they both thoroughly enjoyed the fine woodcarving and furniture making the area is known for. They brought home several linear feet of family papers which they forwarded to a genealogical facility in Salt Lake City for copying and archiving.

The Sparks’s travels also took them to Plymouth, England where they visited some of Mary’s family. They both found it very satisfying to see all the restoration of buildings which had been destroyed during World War II. More of Mary’s relatives reside in Boston and on Long Island, and in 1995 the Sparks attended her family reunion, held in Madison State Park, Madison, Connecticut.

The Sparks celebrated their 50th anniversary with a trip in 1998 to Mt. Washington in New Hampshire, to the spot where they first met almost 6 decades ago. Mary recalled with great fondness the “160th birthday party” she and Dave threw on campus a few summers ago at which time many relatives, all five children and numerous friends celebrated their respective 80th birthdays.

Dave spoke frequently of how happy he had been with his position as rare books librarian after his directorship and how pleased he was with the way in which Bob Miller and Jennifer Younger had brought the Libraries forward since his tenure. He fully embraced new technologies and was excited by the Internet, which he loved using and used to great advantage to serve his personal interests. He depended on email to keep in touch with family and friends all over the world.

In his retirement, as in his work life, Dave was ever the scholar. But he took time away from his scholarly pursuits to have “an ideal retirement,” one during which he was relaxed, enjoying life to its fullest. He spent quality time with the many people whose company he enjoyed and whose lives in turn were richer for having known David Sparks.

Meeting Attendees Ponder Google’s Impact on Libraries

by Thomas Lehman

Since the World Wide Web took off in the early 1990s, resulting in an explosion of information resources available online, librarians have struggled with the challenges posed by the new electronic medium.

On June 17, 2005 the Indiana, Michigan and Chicago chapters of ASIS&T, the American Society for Information Science and Technology, held a one-day meeting titled “To Google or Not to Google.” The meeting was hosted by the University Libraries of Notre Dame and attracted over 80 attendees from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Iowa. The conference theme provided rich, multiple associations for presenters and attendees. Libraries no longer have the near monopoly as information providers they once enjoyed. In the current digital environment, with widespread access to the Internet, people have many more choices about where to go for information.

Google is the prime example of this, providing information quickly, easily, with a high degree of relevance and accuracy. Increasingly libraries are being pushed to make their services "more like Google." This is a difficult challenge, given libraries' history, wide range of services and clientele, and general lack of programming expertise. Meeting the Google challenge will require that libraries rethink what they do and how they do it.

At another level, the title’s echo of Shakespeare’s "To be or not to be" posed an existential question for attendees. To what degree will current trends in electronic access threaten libraries' relevance and core mission? Today's young people, having grown up with Internet access, are used to getting information quickly and easily online. They do not listen readily to librarians telling them much of the information relevant to their research and study is in library-licensed databases, not available through Google; and that successful searching of these databases requires search skills a step above those required to use Google's "one box, one button" interface. Each of the three conference presenters addressed these issues, albeit in different ways.
The first presentation was "The UM-Google Digitization Deal: What It Is, How We Got There, and What It Will Mean for the University of Michigan," by John Price Wilkin, Associate University Librarian, University of Michigan. He reported on the agreement whereby Google will digitize all seven million print volumes of the University of Michigan Library using non-destructive scanning techniques. Google also has digitization agreements with Stanford, Oxford, Harvard and New York Public Library. These projects are part of Google's goal to "create a comprehensive, searchable virtual card catalog of all books in all languages, while respecting copyright." Google will make out-of-copyright books fully available online; for books in copyright Google will provide a few sentences around the search term to provide context, with links to libraries or booksellers. For each book digitized, the University of Michigan gets a high quality digital copy they can use to provide new access methods to their users, and for digital preservation.

Wilkin spoke about the "transformative impact" of the Google project, mentioning several possible implications:

- A universal digital library. What would be the societal impact of having much of the world’s published output available to anyone; to “democratize access to the intellectual resources of elite institutions”?
- The impact on ‘library as place.’ Counter-intuitively, gate counts are rising at the University of Michigan libraries, even though their content is increasingly digitized and available online.
- Changed roles for libraries as Google increasingly becomes students’ first point of departure for research.
- Possible new niches for libraries as repositories of their institution’s research output, and participants in the scholarly communication process.

While Wilkin was upbeat about Google’s project, the library profession has been more subdued or skeptical about the implications for libraries. As of this writing, a number of suits by publishers and authors have been brought against Google, alleging copyright infringement.

The second presentation was "The Use of Metadata by Search Engines: Evidence From the Internet Journal First Monday," by Edward J. Valauskas, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois. Valauskas is Chief Editor of First Monday, an Internet-only peer-reviewed journal.

Valauskas described a project to assess whether adding metadata to First Monday would improve search engine retrieval. While Google has built its franchise on having a fast, easy to use, relevant search engine, many researchers have bewailed its inadequacies. Results depend on the correspondence (or lack thereof) between search terms chosen by the searcher and words in documents being searched. In theory, adding metadata (data about data) to web pages would allow search engines to retrieve more relevant results. Metadata could be used to list author, title, subjects, descriptions, etc., of web resources. This would be analogous to cataloging library materials to make them accessible in the library catalog.

To test this, searches were done in several search engines on First Monday content. Metadata was then added to First Monday articles. The searches were repeated five months later, to allow time for the content to be reindexed by the search engines. The results were not encouraging.

Adding metadata didn't make much difference in the ranking of First Monday articles in search engine results pages. Possible reasons search engines ignore metadata in results ranking include:

- the small number of websites containing meaningful metadata
- no agreed-upon standards for use of metadata in web pages
- “index spamming,” where individuals try to improve their site’s ranking by adding metadata terms unrelated to the website, multiple instances of relevant terms, etc.

While it’s clear search engines could do a better job of finding and ranking search results, and clear that metadata could be part of the solution, it’s not clear how this would happen. Perhaps subsets of the web, such as the Scholar’s Portal, where consistent, trusted metadata would be applied, are part of the answer.

The final program was "Make It More Like Google: Redesigning the Library OPAC at the University of Notre Dame," presented by Pascal V. Calarco, University Libraries of Notre Dame/Michiana Academic Library Consortium, with Aaron Bales and Tom Lehman. The presentation described the redesign of the library catalog at Notre Dame, part of the process of moving to a new release of the library catalog software. Implementation of a newer version of the library catalog software presented an opportunity to address some usability issues that had been identified in the previous version of the Libraries’ catalog.

The Libraries had known for some time that many users consider the library catalog hard to use. Usability tests, both of the library catalog and the library website of which it is a part, showed most users weren’t clear on what was in the catalog (frequently looking for journal articles), and using one- or two-word general searches typical of Google searches, when using more targeted searches would have retrieved better results.

The library replaced the three search boxes on the catalog home page with a single search box with an open drop down menu showing the basic search options. New functionality was incorporated into the design. To see whether users would understand the single search box approach and the labels for the new functions, usability testing was carried out using print mockups of the new page. This proved to be an effective way to get input from users and validated the single search box. It also led the library to change the wording of several of the links in the catalog.

The meeting may not have identified solutions to the Google challenge, but it did offer thought-provoking presentations and question and answer periods, plus ample opportunity for networking.
Two Librarians-In-Residence Appointed

by Laura Bayard

Following a one-year vacancy, the Librarian-In-Residence diversity initiative, supported jointly by the University Libraries and the Kresge Law Library, is operational for the next two years. The residency is designed to provide new librarians with work experience in Notre Dame’s libraries. The search for a new resident took a year longer than expected. Then, two excellent candidates emerged. Directors Jennifer Younger and Roger Jacobs recognized the candidates’ value to both libraries, acted boldly and hired both of them.

Felicia Smith arrived on campus July 1st and settled into an office at the Law Library where she will be during fall semester. While working with Dwight King in the Research Department, she will provide reference services to students, assist with Westlaw and Lexis training, and audit the legal research course. She also will work with Joseph Thomas in the Technical Services Department. During spring semester, Smith will teach a couple of sections of the CHEM 202 classes, working with the chemistry/physics librarian, Thurston Miller. Smith’s web site can be found at http://www.nd.edu/~fsmith3/

Smith was employed as a criminal defense private investigator in Chicago before turning to library work. She worked in academic, medical and public libraries before, during and following her graduation with an M.A. in library and information science from Dominican University in 2004. Her undergraduate degree is a B.A. in communications from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Leslie Morgan began her two-year residency in August, 2005. During the fall semester, Morgan instructed First Year Studies students whose classes come to the library for library instruction. She worked closely with Joni Warner, head of library instruction. In addition, Morgan participated with Carol Brach, engineering librarian, in a document delivery research project led by life sciences librarian Sherri Jones. The project’s goal is to analyze CISTI Source and IngentaConnect “pay per view” services for implementation by January, 2006. Next semester, Morgan will be working with the LibQUAL+ team, also headed by Jones, as the Libraries participate in the second round of the web-based survey that helps libraries assess and improve their services. Morgan’s office is 208-O Hesburgh Library. Her web site can be found at http://www.nd.edu/~lmorgan1/

Leslie Morgan

Morgan was a successful grant writer for non-profit organizations before choosing librarianship. She earned her MLIS from Wayne State University in 2005, and a B.A. degree in English (Writing & Literature) from the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM). While at UDM, she was an award winning poet under the review of Detroit’s former poet laureate, the late Dudley Randall (also a former librarian) who encouraged her to continue her writing and tell the story of African American Creole culture.
Morgan Receives Foik Award

Eric Morgan, head of the University Libraries’ Digital Access and Information Architecture Department (DAIAD), is the recipient of the 2005 Rev. Paul J. Foik, C.S.C., Award. The presentation was made at this year’s President’s Dinner on May 17th. The award is given annually in recognition of contributions by a library faculty member to library service, to the Notre Dame community, or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involvement in professional associations. The citation is as follows:

"This year’s recipient of the Foik Award was chosen from a highly competitive pool of nominees. This librarian excels in three categories: scholarship, professional service, and service to the library system at the University. More importantly the service this librarian provides to the entire Notre Dame community is truly outstanding, as communication is an integral part of his service. This is reflected in the five individual nominations this librarian received from different sectors of the University. Nationally known for applying technology to library services, his style is exemplified by his communication with the user. As one of the nominators remarked, this librarian, like a Wizard of Oz, pulled back a curtain for all of us to see the library. Because of his creation of the library web page, and particularly for his tireless efforts to elicit input from library users, while the web page was being created and modified, we honor Eric Lease Morgan."

Libraries Welcome New Preservation Head

Julie Arnott joined the University Libraries as head of the Preservation Department effective October 1. With nearly 20 years of experience in the field of library preservation, Arnott brings extensive preservation program planning and management experience and a strong knowledge of research library preservation issues and methods to the University Libraries. For the past 10 years, she was manager of Preservation Services for the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET). Prior to that she served as SOLINET’s preservation education officer and in various preservation positions at the University of Michigan, Yale University and Washington University in St. Louis. Her particular strengths and interests include preservation training and education, grant preparation and management, disaster preparedness and recovery, preservation microfilming, and, most recently, digitization and digital preservation.

As head of the University Libraries’ Preservation Department, Arnott will manage the NEH microfilming grant to preserve Notre Dame’s Catholic collections (see Access, number 85, Fall 2004, p. 1-2).

This issue’s contributors from the University Libraries of Notre Dame:

Laura Bayard, head, Documents Access & Database Management; Library Faculty affirmative action officer

Katharina Blackstead, advancement officer

Laura Fuderer, subject librarian for English and French literatures

Thomas Lehman, digital access librarian
Clements Appointed Irish Studies Librarian

Aedín Ní Bhróithe Clements joined the University Libraries as Irish studies librarian effective October 1. Clements received her library degree from University College Dublin and worked in the Dublin public libraries before moving to Gambia where she established a library for the Management Institute. Since moving to the United States in the early 1990s, she has worked in public libraries in New Jersey and Michigan, and in the Western Michigan University Libraries. She is presently working on her dissertation, Poets and the Irish Language, at Western Michigan University.

Holtermann to Head Serials Acquisitions

Joseph Holtermann joined the University Libraries as head of Serials Acquisitions effective October 1. Most recently Holtermann served as coordinator of Technical Services & Electronic Resources at the University of Minnesota Duluth Library. He has extensive experience in technical services, including supporting the technical infrastructure for electronic resources. Holtermann did his undergraduate degree at Notre Dame and earned his master of science degree from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Poehlmann Appointed Assistant Business Services Librarian

Christian Poehlmann has been appointed assistant business services librarian effective November 1. He has been branch supervisor at the Business Information Center since August of 1999. Prior to coming to Notre Dame, he was business and economics reference librarian at the University of Washington, visiting assistant reference librarian at Indiana University Kokomo, and medical librarian at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Poehlmann’s research interests lie in the area of bibliometrics, as well as the statistical analysis of reference services in academic business libraries.