Quest in the Hispanic Caribbean: Endowment Expands the Survey of a Region’s Literary Legacy

Thanks to one of the most significant gifts ever received for our international collections, the Libraries are now collecting key materials that offer insights into the literature of the Hispanic Caribbean.

José Enrique Fernández ’65, a Trustee of the University, has established a generous endowment that recognizes the Libraries’ role in supporting an ambitious new academic program focused on Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

Our Hispanic Caribbean Collection is poised to grow substantially, alongside other academic endeavors supported by Fernández that will bring Notre Dame’s scholars and students into closer contact with the finest literature of that region. The endeavors include graduate assistantships for students from the region and stipends for visiting scholars.

The endowment and Fernández’s other support for the Libraries, totaling more than $800,000, also help us to stay in step with the strong and growing international orientation of the University, as well as its traditional attention to Latin America.

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The Libraries have been giving special attention to authors of the Hispanic Caribbean region since 2001, when Fernández made his first generous gift to initiate the collection with thousands of books and journals. The new endowment, established late last year, will fund additions to the circulating collections as well as special purchases of unique materials for the Department of Special Collections, offering researchers a greater understanding of writers and their works.

Iberian and Latin American Studies subject librarian Scott Van Jacob is collaborating with Lou Jordan, head of Special Collections, and with special collections librarian Ben Panciera in the pursuit of new materials. He is working in close consultation with two faculty members of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures—associate professors Thomas Anderson and Ben Heller.

The collection will focus on 20th-century Puerto Rican and Dominican writers and Cuban authors and artists associated with the Orígenes group.

The Puerto Rican collection will include the important 20th-century avant garde poets Evaristo Ribera Chevremont and Luis Palés Matos, as well as Julia de Burgos. Dominican poets of international stature identified for the collection include Manuel del Cabral, Héctor Inchaústegui Cabral, and Pedro Mir.

Caribbean writers affiliated with the Cuban publishing house, Orígenes, which began in the 1930s, will be collected. Most of the members of the

(continued on page 7)
A Commitment to Excellence Through Assessment

A year ago, Christine Maziar, vice president and associate provost, spoke to the Advisory Council for University Libraries about the work of the Provost’s Library Task Force, exploring how the Libraries can best invest their resources to support teaching, learning, and research at Notre Dame. Benchmarking, she noted, is a key component in setting our goals and realizing success.

As is true in business and professional fields, searching for best practices and benchmarking are widely practiced in higher education. Since 1961-62, the Association of Research Libraries (which includes Notre Dame) has published broad statistics for its member libraries, including volumes held, current serial subscriptions, expenditures, staffing, and service activities. We have regularly compared our library in these categories with libraries in peer universities.

However, at a time when academic aspirations are high and resources are stretched to cover rising costs, it becomes critical to benchmark strategically. This means choosing benchmark measures not only for their ability to indicate excellence and success, but also for their direct relationships to library goals and priorities.

The Libraries’ strategic plan put forward in January 2004 lists six goals, of which the third states, “Provide library collections and information services to meet curricular, research and archival needs.” Within this goal, one activity is to expand library collections in specific subject areas such as history. A primary benchmark is the North American Title Count (NATC), which counts the number of book and serial titles in given subject areas as defined by the Library of Congress classification scheme.

The selection of peers against which to compare our collections will reflect faculty recommendations, National Research Council rankings of graduate programs in the subject, library selection of strong collections, and the availability of data. For some subject areas and special collections, a comparison with other libraries of the number of titles held will tell only part of the story. We will want to know how our holdings compare with the known universe of titles and printings published, and thus will review our holdings against bibliographies and catalogs as well. Document delivery, on the other hand, will require a different set of measures such as the turnaround time, desktop delivery, and the percentage of article requests that are filled on a timely basis.

Benchmarking activities also fit into the plan’s sixth goal: “Assess the library.” In spring 2002, the Libraries conducted the LibQUAL+ survey on campus to gain a better understanding of how faculty and students perceive the quality of library collections and services. Their responses highlighted areas of satisfaction and dissatisfaction, which we then used as a guide to improve library services. The library website was completely redesigned and new online services were added for interlibrary loan.

In benchmarking the LibQUAL+ results against other academic libraries, we were pleased to learn that on all but two questions, the Notre Dame results compared favorably with those of other libraries. This spring, four years later, we will again conduct the LibQUAL+ survey, and we hope that many of you on campus will make time to participate.

Assessing library collections and services is a critical step in setting goals and realizing success in creating library collections and services. We look forward to working with our colleagues and thank them, as well as all of you, for your participation in these assessment activities.

Edward H. Arnold Director of University Libraries
Vincent J. Duncan, a generous contributor to the University Libraries and a long time member of their Advisory Council, died in January at the age of 83. He was a member of the Class of '44 and a Navy lieutenant who served in the South Pacific in World War II.

He established the Vincent J. Duncan Family Library Endowment as an unrestricted fund, enabling the Libraries to supplement underfunded collections and areas of critical or imminent need. Duncan’s entrepreneurial career in the business world included industries as diverse as oil and gas, skiing, and real estate. He was a member of the Knights of Malta. Three of his six children are Notre Dame graduates. He began his advisory council service to the University Libraries in 1982.

Statue Honors “Ted and Ned”
A new statue located by the reflecting pool at the entrance to the Hesburgh Library honors the leadership and friendship of Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, and the late Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, CSC, President and Executive Vice President of Notre Dame, respectively, from 1952 to 1987.

The dual sculptures, cast in bronze by artist Lou Cella of the Fine Art Studio of Rotblatt-Amrany, depict the two priests engaged in conversation. The statue was dedicated October 22, 2005, at a ceremony including a blessing by Father Jenkins.

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Revenue Chips In to Help Libraries
University President John I. Jenkins, CSC, announced that library acquisitions will be one of three academic priorities drawing upon the revenues from Notre Dame’s participation in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2, 2006.

The University’s estimated $14.5 million share of the game revenues will go toward library acquisitions, along with undergraduate and graduate student financial aid and scientific instruments for the new Jordan Hall of Science.

Grants Will Enable Growth In Campus Collections
The Libraries have benefited again this year from grants awarded through the Graduate School Equipment Restoration and Renewal Program. Two grants for history materials were awarded in 2005–06, at a time when competition for the Graduate School’s financial assistance is tougher than ever.

We received $51,500 for the acquisition of Spanish history library materials. Separately, the Department of History was awarded a total of $98,000 for the acquisition of an Argentine history collection and for additional Beatus facsimiles. (Photos show currently held facsimiles in use.)

The Libraries previously had purchased facsimiles of 10 important medieval manuscripts of the Beatus Commentary on the Apocalypse, partly through the collaboration and generosity of Sabine MacCormack, who holds the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, CSC, College of Arts and Letters Chair. This commentary was composed in northern Spain at the end of the eighth century, almost certainly by the monk Beatus of Liebana.

Long-time Advisor and Generous Supporter

Commander John A. Walsh, USNR (retired), died on February 20 at the age of 87. After retiring from the Navy and from a banking career at The First Bank & Trust (now 1st Source Bank), Walsh had spent much of his time during the years 1983 to 1999 as a volunteer in the Hesburgh Library. He and his wife of 65 years, Marion, have been honored through the establishment of the John A. and Marion L. Walsh Library Endowment in Military Science by their son and daughter-in-law, F. Michael Walsh, MD ’67 and Lillian.

John A. Walsh himself experienced an important chapter in naval history. He served as a Naval Commander in the North Atlantic and South Pacific until his ship, the USS Walke, was sunk during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. Though suffering from multiple severe injuries, he saved more than 16 members of his crew. For his valor, he was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Medal for heroism and the Purple Heart.

It was also in 1942 that he married Marion Audrey Lyons in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. In 1999, John relocated to Ohio.

The Walsh Endowment enables the acquisition of resources that deal with military science and the subject as it relates to other disciplines, such as peace studies, history, political science, economics, social studies, area studies, and business.

Naval Hero and Library Volunteer

IN REMEMBRANCE...
A “Cost-Effective” Partnership

In the spring of 2004, the University Libraries evaluated their journal subscriptions in order to be as cost-effective as possible. The measure being used took the subscription cost of each journal for the year (cost) and divided it by the number of electronic downloads from that journal (use); hence, cost/use. The results were then compared to a known value for purchasing articles on an “as needed” basis (rather than through a subscription). This cost was about $40/article. If the cost/use of the subscription was greater than the cost of articles by themselves, the journal was considered a candidate for cancellation.

The Libraries’ analysis was shared with a number of constituencies, including Notre Dame professors. During these discussions, Andrew Sommese—the Vincent J. Duncan and Annamarie Micus Duncan Professor of Mathematics—thought of a way to make the analysis more equitable across all subjects. He suggested using the “half-lives” of journals published by the Institute for Scientific Information. The half-life tries to capture how quickly information in a specific journal (and thus, subject) is of significant interest. For example, a computer science journal might have a half-life of three years because information older than that is not of primary interest today. A philosophy journal, on the other hand, might have a half-life of more than 15 years, indicating that even if an article is older, it still may be highly relevant to contemporary research.

Parker Ladwig, the mathematics librarian, and Sommese began to talk about using half-life. They decided that this type of analysis might be of interest not only to the Libraries, but to the library profession. At a personal level, Ladwig looked forward to the assistance of a senior faculty member in getting published; Sommese, an applied mathematician, looked forward to an opportunity to extend the reach of mathematics.

Ladwig used his experience with the Libraries’ issues, analysis, and communication styles—and some rudimentary understanding of mathematics; Sommese used his expertise in mathematics—and his interest in libraries. The result was a substantial article in not only one of the most prestigious library journals, but also a journal accessible to a broad range of librarians, not just those interested in analysis and modeling.

During the process, Ladwig learned about the concerns of mathematicians and about publishing in mathematics (the paper was originally written in TeX, a sophisticated word processing language used by mathematicians), and Sommese learned to appreciate some of the complexities of what might first appear to be a fairly straightforward problem.

They have already received several positive comments on the article and are being considered for a panel presentation at the Special Libraries Association annual conference. The two partners plan another collaboration but have not yet decided on the topic—or on its half-life.

RFIDs are coming and will soon be almost everywhere. RFIDs (commonly pronounced “are fids”) are Radio Frequency Identifiers. WalMart and the federal government want them. Consequently, the pressure for their development and application is intense. They are sometimes referred to, a bit inaccurately, as electronic barcodes.¹

Almost everyone is familiar with barcodes. They are those little stripy black-and-white collections of lines which are attached to most of the things we buy and use every day—from newspapers to nylon bags, from the back of your Notre Dame ID card to the inside of our library books. They are the unique product identifiers that have revolutionized inventory control and retail checkout counters throughout the country. The University Libraries barcoded most of their collections many years ago and continue to barcode new items today.

There are two major differences between barcodes and RFIDs. First, barcodes are generally product specific but not item specific. They identify cans of tomato soup or copies of the Chicago Tribune, but they don’t distinguish between two cans or two newspapers next to each other on the shelf. RFIDs can potentially be coded to a specific item. Our library barcodes are already item specific and, should we ever adopt RFIDs, they too would continue to identify specific items. Second, barcodes must be seen to be read (usually by an optical scanner). RFID tags only need to be near a reader. From this arises most of RFIDs’ revolutionary potential for good, or not so good, use.

RFID systems consist of three basic units: a tag placed in or on the item, a radio transmitter/receiver (reader) and a remote storage system for data. The tags also consist of three parts: an antenna, a microprocessor, and their carrier medium or substrate.

Tags may be read-only or read/write, similar to CDs and DVDs. In turn, these tags may be active or passive. Active tags contain their own power source while the passive ones are activated by an external power source transmitting radio waves. If you want more details, the website How Stuff Works at http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/smart-label.htm contains a very clear description by Kevin Bonsor titled “How RFIDs Work.”

The active tags are much more expensive than passive tags. Their use has been generally limited to tracking livestock, though it is now being expanded to include people. The active tag has been reduced in size to that of a large grain of rice, while some of the passive tags are now no larger than the period at the end of this sentence. It is the passive tag that is about to initiate the revolution in commercial inventory control, sales, and marketing. WalMart’s goal is to have its wholesale suppliers attach an RFID tag to every single item delivered to WalMart for eventual retail sale to its customers. At the present time they are only attached to pallets, one tag for each pallet-sized shipment. The only barrier to widespread adoption is cost per unit, which is dramatically and rapidly decreasing.

Among other advances, such a system promises lower labor costs per units sold, reduced repetitive motion injuries, and a streamlined checkout system for the consumer. Libraries would see similar changes. The checkout (and check-in) processes would become far more efficient with less wear and tear on patrons, staff, and library materials. Our staff’s efforts could then be redirected to other pressing service needs within the system.

But there remain the twin questions of privacy and confidentiality.⁴³

There remain the twin questions of privacy and confidentiality.

¹ Deborah Caldwell-Stone. “Libraries, User Privacy and RFID” presentation, Indiana Library Federation Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, March 25, 2005. While not specifically quoted, this presentation provided the conceptual and organizational framework for this article.
³ Protections Proposed for Library Users. To ensure that one’s reading, viewing, or listening habits are not made publicly available by the weaknesses of a new and otherwise helpful technology, the American Library Association (ALA) and the Book Industry Study Group (BISG) have been working with RFID developers to build safeguards into the technology. ALA is preparing guidelines for use by libraries as they consider adopting RFID systems, including recommendations such as:

- removing personally identifiable information (PII) from any statistical data that is collected
- securing data gained from RFID from unauthorized access
- avoiding eavesdropping
- encrypting information stored on RFID tags
- storing only the item’s barcode on the tag (no PII)
- notifying the public that RFIDs are in use
- providing clear identification of readers.
Cataloging More of the Campus

The Universities Libraries aren’t the only places on campus that have collections of unique and valuable resources. But we can help students and scholars to realize these collections exist and then to find the resources that will interest them. That’s what the Cataloging Department is doing in its ongoing effort to provide access through the online catalog to the materials held by a number of units. Collections handled to date include those of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Notre Dame Vision office. The Snite Museum of Art and the Institute for Latino Studies (ILS) are the largest ongoing initiatives.

The online catalog clearly identifies the non-library collections as “campus resources” and gives their specific location. Policies differ from unit to unit regarding use of materials, so we recommend checking with the location in advance of a visit.

Including records for these additional resources has increased general awareness of otherwise “hidden gems” that support teaching and research at Notre Dame.

“QuickSearch” Service Debuts on Website

Users of the Libraries’ website now have a powerful new tool for navigating the array of electronic resources with greater ease and speed. The tool, “QuickSearch,” allows users to search multiple databases simultaneously, thanks to what the library world calls metasearch or federated searching technology. With phase one of this project now operative after many months of work, “QuickSearch” is available for 34 of the website’s 60 current subject pages, offering a simplified, “one box” search interface to selected core resources for each subject area.

The project was the result of a broad collaboration of librarians and staff in Library Systems, Electronic Resources, and Digital Access and Information Architecture, as well as subject selectors and several departments in the User Services division. Those making particularly valuable contributions to the project include Ben Heet, Eric Morgan, Cheri Smith, and Tom Hanstra.

How does it work? A student using “QuickSearch” will be able to type in a variety of subject terms, connected by “and” or “or,” or combined as a phrase, to compile a single list of resources from several different databases. “Quick searches” may not include all the best databases available for a subject, and some databases still must be searched directly. But the capabilities are growing, and, in future phases, “QuickSearch” will be integrated more fully into the Libraries’ website as it undergoes further redesign.

New Department Focuses on the Arts and Architecture

The Libraries are planning a new Arts and Architecture Department. The new department will be headed by Marsha Stevenson, who has served with distinction as architecture and art librarian while also continuing to act as head of the Reference Department. Two new positions, architecture librarian and music/performing arts librarian, remain to be filled and will report to Marsha, who will also serve as art librarian. Her current role as head of Reference will also be filled.

Repository for Digital Content Takes Shape

A team of nearly 30 individuals from several areas of the University Libraries is currently engaged in a project to create an institutional digital repository, or IDR. An IDR is defined as the combined collection of digital objects for an institution along with the services relevant to them. It is a digital library where we collect, organize, preserve, and disseminate the scholarly output of the University. Its purposes are to help instructors teach, help students learn, and help scholars communicate about their research.

Eric Morgan, head of Digital Access and Information Architecture, is the leader of “Team IDR.” Ten subgroups, in collaboration with individuals from several campus units, are working on the various challenges related to a number of digital content areas. These areas include the Art Image Library, working papers from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, publications of the Institute for Latino Studies, examples of excellent undergraduate research, and Notre Dame’s electronic theses and dissertations.

Besides the technical challenges of maintaining and providing access to all this content, Team IDR is addressing issues of copyright, metadata schemes, indexing, controlled vocabularies, and interface design.

You’ll be hearing much more about Notre Dame’s IDR in coming months, and we’ll be looking for your input when we enter the usability testing phase. In the meantime, you can visit this work in progress at the IDR website at www.library.nd.edu/idr.
Retirements Announced

Richard Jones, Notre Dame’s music librarian since 1993, announced his retirement from University Libraries, effective April 15. Rick’s career has included positions in music librarianship, cataloging, and collection development at a number of academic institutions, including Ohio University, the University of North Carolina, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey).

Rick has been extremely active in his field, particularly within the Music Library Association and its Midwest chapter.

His responsibilities while at Notre Dame included cataloging, collection development, specialized reference service, and bibliographic instruction. Our best wishes go to Rick and his wife Pat (and their beloved Saint Bernards).

Roger F. Jacobs, associate dean for library and information services at the Notre Dame Law School, has announced his retirement, effective July 1, 2006. He joined the Law School as director of the Kresge Law Library and professor of law in 1985, after serving from 1978 to 1985 as the librarian of the United States Supreme Court. In 2000, he received a Presidential Award for outstanding service to the University.

A New Assignment

Cheri Smith has taken on the duties of interim coordinator of library instruction. Cheri stepped into her new role after former coordinator Joni Warner joined Saint Mary’s College last October as that school’s director of research for development.

Literary Legacy

(continued from page 1)

While the Orígenes group will be at the center of the collection, we will complement the collection by acquiring works of important 20th-century Cuban authors such as Nicolás Guillén, Alejo Carpentier, and younger authors with varying degrees of connection to the Orígenes group and contemporary Puerto Rican and Dominican authors.

A Site Not Unseen

We applaud the University Libraries’ Web redesign team for the tribute it received from Library Journal. The Libraries’ redesigned site, which debuted at the start of the 2004–05 academic year, was honored by the journal last May for exemplifying “what a well-thought-out academic site can accomplish.” The journal called it “Notre Dame’s home run.” The Web redesign team was headed by Eric Morgan, head of the Digital Access and Information Architecture Department, and the site was developed in collaboration with the Notre Dame Web Group.

Kudos...

Congratulations to our Colleagues

J. Douglas Archer, librarian, was reappointed to a fourth one-year term as editor of the IFRT Report, published by the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table. He was also elected to the board of directors of the Peace and Justice Studies Association.

Carol A. Brach, associate librarian, was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the American Society of Engineering Education engineering libraries division.

Mandy Havert, technical support consultant/analyst in the Library Systems Department, has been awarded a full graduate fellowship to support her studies in library and information science at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) for 2005–07. Mandy has been a University Libraries employee providing technical support in a number of areas since 1997.

Jennifer A. Younger, the Edward H. Arnold Director of University Libraries, was elected to the board of directors of the Association of Research Libraries. Her term runs through 2008.
Isn’t That Special? You’ll Be Able to Tell

The University Libraries are offering a special exhibit that answers some questions you might (or might not) have asked:

- What is the oldest book in Notre Dame’s collection?
- Does Notre Dame own a Gutenberg Bible?
- Does Notre Dame really have a book bound in human skin?

“Special Collections 101” is a valuable introduction to some of the most unique and interesting items in the University Libraries’ Department of Rare Books and Special Collections as well as to broader topics related to special collections in general.

The department is the home to numerous research collections and to those materials that need special care. Benjamin Panciera, George Rugg, and Sara Weber are curators of the exhibit.

The exhibit addresses these questions:

- What makes a book valuable?
- Does a book have to be old to be rare?
- What is a manuscript?

“Special Collections 101”
February 15 to August 4, 2006
102 Hesburgh Library
(at the west end of the 1st floor concourse)

Open to the public
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday