Looking for information in a library’s electronic catalog is a lot easier than in the old days of furniture with rows of drawers containing countless title, author, and subject cards. But, in these days of the effortless Google search and demands for all sorts of information about any possible topic at any time or place, librarians are working to make tomorrow’s catalogs more compelling and richer in content.

The University of Notre Dame is one of about a dozen institutions participating in a project to develop the next generation of catalog. This “extensible Catalog” (XC) Project would invite library users into an interactive world where the amount of information keeps growing and the library’s special resources continue to be a magnet for community-building and communication among the curious.

The project, headed by the University of Rochester and supported with a three-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, holds the promise of interacting with faculty members and other library users “in a new, exciting way,” says Pascal Calarco, associate librarian and the Hesburgh (continued on page 7)
Bringing Fr. Hesburgh’s Vision to Life

In my State of the Library address a few months ago, I spoke about the progress made over the last decade in supporting teaching, learning and research at Notre Dame. As is true elsewhere on campus, we have made tremendous progress on many fronts. The library collections have exceeded the three million mark which, when first envisioned by Fr. Hesburgh, must have seemed to many an almost unimaginable goal. The Libraries provide access to articles in over 45,000 journals, which is twice the number of journals available only a decade ago.

Yet, no matter how impressive the growth in the collections, it is the student and faculty use of them that is most important, and the numbers here are equally impressive. Student and faculty use of these books and journals has tripled over what it was ten years ago. Ten years ago, about 366,000 items were checked out for use. Online uses of articles in e-journals, full-text databases and e-books totaled 700,000 last year. When combined with the number of books and journals checked out, the total is nearly a million. Students and faculty alike can sometimes be overheard saying that they don’t go to the library anymore, but the reality is that they are going online to the library in large and steadily increasing numbers. Even those students who turn first to popular search engines on the Internet will find the books, journals and other resources in Notre Dame’s libraries, thanks to the behind-the-scenes work of the Libraries’ faculty and staff.

A similar success story is seen in the physical library. While many of the journals in the library collections have “gone digital,” accessible anytime from anywhere, students continue to seek comfortable places in the Libraries where they can, sometimes with laptop in hand, put aside other distractions, get assistance with their research, use the print collections and concentrate on their studies.

From a survey conducted on campus in 2002 and again in 2006, we learned that user satisfaction with library services and collections is on the rise. In particular, campus users felt we are doing a better job of “making information easily accessible for independent use” and providing “timely document delivery services for items not owned by the library.” I could easily list dozens of services implemented by the Libraries, tools such as “Find Text” for seamlessly connecting to the full text of articles or online “pre-populated interlibrary loan forms,” that make it faster and easier for students and faculty to get the information they need. The important thing is that users are finding library collections and services where and when they want to find them.

We are pleased with the excellent progress, which was made with the active support of the University senior leadership, faculty, students and benefactors, but we have more to do. We have set three priorities for the near term:

• Enhance digital access to content through the use of next-generation information discovery tools and expanded digital collections

• Develop plans for transforming the Libraries into more effective learning and research spaces

• Implement new technology for more cost-effective acquisition and processing of books, journals and other materials in print and electronic formats

We can be very proud of what we have accomplished in bringing the vision of Fr. Hesburgh to life. The Hesburgh Libraries are a place where the greatest minds of the past and present come together in learning and research communities. We are almost a decade into creating the 21st century library—a library with the tools, services and resources for access to knowledge in the 21st century. As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the talented library faculty and staff that make the Hesburgh Libraries a great library. Together, we will move forward with vision and confidence in creating a premier user experience.

Jennifer A. Younger
Edward H. Arnold Director of Hesburgh Libraries
Resources...

A President’s Circle of Support

University of Notre Dame President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., has informed the Hesburgh Libraries that the generosity of members of the President’s Circle, a premier group of Notre Dame benefactors, has made possible about $1 million in support for library resources in the current academic year.

Father Jenkins, along with Provost Thomas Burish, directed allocations from the President’s Circle to the library along two tracks—support for the collaborative computer learning center that has taken shape on the main floor of the Hesburgh Library and funding for a set of “strategic library purchases.”

The strategic purchases represent five priorities—expanding desktop access to crucial journals and other literature in science, engineering, psychology, and social sciences; enhancing Notre Dame’s global standing as a center of scholarship in Irish studies; providing desktop access to a wider selection of business journals; strengthening the international character of Notre Dame curricula and research in areas such as literature; and increasing support for peace studies as an interdisciplinary program with global implications.

Financial resources made available by the President’s Circle are allocated to key programs and initiatives across campus that Father Jenkins and Provost Burish identify as priorities.

Ireland in Print

Support provided by the President’s Circle allocation has boosted Notre Dame’s already substantial resources for Irish studies in a number of ways, says Irish studies librarian Aedin Clements. Books purchased last fall significantly increased the Hesburgh Libraries’ holdings in several categories relevant to research in the field:

- books from the 17th century, plus some books from the 16th century
- books printed in Dublin during the 17th century
- books in Irish and in Latin printed at Irish colleges in Europe during those periods
- books dealing with European Catholic history, including many books on the various arguments of the Reformation
- very rare books, such as Sir William Petty’s miniature atlas of Ireland that also enhances Notre Dame’s special collection of Irish maps and sea charts

Most of the newly acquired books are in English, but many are in Latin, and some are in Irish, says Clements. She researched and orchestrated the purchase along with Prof. Kevin Whelan, the Dr. Michael J. Smurfit Director of the Keough Notre Dame Study Centre, Dublin.

You can find the new acquisitions, also facilitated by the Clingen Foundation, in the Hesburgh Libraries’ Department of Special Collections.

Fiesta Bowl Follow-Through

There’s follow-up news about the plan for the Hesburgh Libraries to benefit from the Notre Dame football team’s January 2006 appearance in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. The generous plan, announced by University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and Provost Thomas Burish, has “kicked in,” you might say, and includes an initiative which is now adding roughly 200 titles a month to the Libraries’ collections.

These titles and the thousands more that will arrive in upcoming years are thanks to $1 million dedicated to building up the Libraries’ collections of history written in non-English European languages. This initiative will primarily bolster resources for historical research in the history of European countries, including Russia, but also of countries in Africa and Asia, since many of these books were written in French.

Want to learn more about these benefits from the Fiesta Bowl? See the fall 2006 edition of Access, or go to the Libraries’ homepage and search in the ND Libraries’ catalog using the keywords “Fiesta Bowl.” You’ll see all the resources (nearly 1,000 at this writing) that have been purchased thus far with that special source of support.

Studying on a High Level

Students in graduate and professional programs are invited to collaborate comfortably in this “group study room”—one of two sections of the newly re-modeled Graduate Study Center on the 10th floor of the Hesburgh Library. The other section offers quiet space for individuals and groups. Besides wireless Internet connectivity, other features include outlets for laptops and a view of the Golden Dome.
Catalan Publishing: Language and Books in Synergy

by Scott Van Jacob

Librarian Scott Van Jacob, head of the Collection Development Department, also serves as the Libraries’ Iberian and Latin American studies subject librarian. His research leave was made possible by the Hesburgh Libraries’ Byrne Fund.

April 23rd is not your run of the mill day in Barcelona, Spain. This is Saint George’s Day, in tribute to the patron saint of Barcelona, and it is celebrated by an exchange of books and roses between friends, family members, and lovers. Publishers release new books, often written by local celebrities, such as television commentators or comedians. Book dealers sell as much on this one day as they do over several months, while Catalan language titles sell very well. Red and yellow striped bunting, echoing the colors and design of the Catalan flag, hangs from windows and rings tables of books set up in packed streets. Saint George’s Day is the visible expression of Catalan language publishing and regional identity. Commercial and political interests meld together, producing a cultural event seen nowhere else in the world.

In the spring of 2007, I spent five weeks in Barcelona studying the Catalan language publishing industry. Is Catalan language publishing a successful commercial endeavor that meets the reading public’s need for information in its mother tongue, or is it a strategy to promote Catalan identity? My visit found that the answer lies somewhere between the two.

Catalunya runs along the northeast coast of Spain where Catalan is the native language of approximately nine million Spaniards. Barcelona is its de facto capital. Since the 18th century, Madrid has censored the Catalan language several times, most recently when the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, following the Spanish civil war, suppressed Catalan language instruction and publishing. The death of Franco and the 1978 Spanish Constitution’s official recognition of cultural groups, such as Catalans and Basques, produced a hyper-response within the Catalan government and publishing sectors to revive the Catalan language. The Catalan government strongly believed that without the mother tongue Catalunya would cease to exist.

The Generalitat de Catalunya, or government of Catalunya, plays an important role in Catalan language publishing. First, it ensures a market for these publications by building capacity for Catalan language through its compulsory educational system and campaigns to promote Catalan literacy, especially among immigrants, who make up about 10 percent of the population in Barcelona. It supports publishing through financial subsidies to publishers who produce works in Catalan and translate both foreign language works into Catalan and Catalan works into foreign languages. Until recently, the Generalitat has purchased hundreds of copies of these works for distribution to public institutions like libraries.

One way to see what is available to the reading public is to visit public libraries in Barcelona. I visited four libraries: Jaume Fuster, Sant Pau i Santa Creu de Barcelona, Gràcia, and the Francesc Candel, to review their holdings. The collections all include many Catalan language titles in literature, local and regional history, and on Catalan identity and politics. The children’s literature collections include mostly books in Catalan. All other subject areas consist almost solely of Spanish language titles. These areas include the sciences, technical works, most social sciences, and works on topics that do not relate directly to Spain. Spanish texts on these subjects are readily available, so there is no need to replicate them in Catalan when readers are comfortable in both languages.

The above library holdings clearly demonstrate that bilingualism is the reality in present day Catalunya. Knowledge of Catalan keeps the region’s primary cultural identity alive while knowledge of Spanish connects the individual to the larger nation state, a rich cultural tradition, and provides more economic opportunities. All stakeholders recognize the advantages when there is a balance between regional identity and commercial imperatives, but the fear of Spanish language dominance continues to drive government initiatives that support Catalan language instruction and publishing.

Over the past 30 years the Catalan publishing industry has successfully recovered from a generation of repression. Catalan publishing and government support have created an environment where Catalan literature flourishes. While Catalan publications are limited to a few subject areas and the market is relatively small, Catalunya’s publishers produce a feast of publications that will sate even the hungriest Catalan reader.
...and Around the State

The Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents: A model for the nation

By Laura Bayard & Mike Lutes

Laura Bayard is head of Documents Access and Database Management. Mike Lutes serves as documents reference librarian in Information, Research & Instructional Services.

The Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents is an Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI) project involving four partner institutions: the Indiana State Library, Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame. The partner institutions are congressionally designated federal depository libraries that hold the largest collections of U.S. government publications in tangible format within Indiana. More than 90 percent of all newly released U.S. government documents are published electronically, while the older legacy collection is only slowly being digitized.

In 2006, in order to address the increasingly dire physical space constraints confronting each partner institution, ALI set a goal to retain one or two copies of each U.S. government publication in an accessible or “light” archive, an action that would reduce redundancies among libraries. A planning group, comprised of library representatives from each partner institution, was established to describe the archive and how it could best serve the institutions and their users. Many of the publications involved have been received “on deposit,” i.e., through a congressional service established in 1813 to ensure citizens free access to federal government information, known since the Printing Act of 1895 as the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

Implementation of a proposal that the IN Light Archive be housed in a high-density storage facility at Indiana University, Bloomington, has been postponed until additional space can be developed. In the meantime, interim plans have been instituted. Outlined in this plan is a “distributed” archive, so called because each partner will select portions of the federal agencies’ publications that represent subject areas of importance to its institution. For example, Purdue will become steward of publications in the areas of agriculture and engineering, while Notre Dame will become the steward of publications in the areas of small business and labor relations. Since most U.S. government publications in agriculture do not support Notre Dame’s academic curricula, any such materials would be offered to Purdue to ensure the comprehensiveness of their collection in that subject area.

Guidelines for stewards have been established in the areas of collecting, preserving, delivery, and cataloging, as well as reference/instruction and professional development and training. When the archive goes into production, services such as document delivery and cataloging will be provided to make the titles accessible throughout the state. Thus, in the example cited above, for specific local requests for government information in the area of agriculture, Notre Dame would rely on document delivery from Purdue, often in the form of scanned documents sent electronically. The Government Printing Office (GPO), in charge of FDLP, recently approved these guidelines with minor revisions. Since GPO has plans to digitize and catalog certain legacy publications in the near future, GPO will communicate with the partners about what publications will be designated for digitization in order to avoid overlap in cataloging efforts. GPO has gone on record stating the IN Light Archive will serve as a national model for other libraries. See http://bl-libg-doghill.ads.iu.edu/gpd-web/fdlp/ilitweb.html for additional information about the Indiana Light Archive for Federal Documents.

In preparation for implementation of the archive, the Hesburgh Libraries are creating a comprehensive collection development plan for U.S. federal documents. To that end, subject liaisons are being surveyed about federal documents to determine preferences of format, collection scope such as historical or current, campus availability, and related information. Historically speaking, the library at Notre Dame du Lac was named a depository in 1883, although government information in the library stacks predates its depository status.

A planned redesign of the first floor of the Galvin Life Science Center has helped prompt the Hesburgh Libraries to redesign services for the University’s biological sciences students and faculty.

The Life Sciences Library currently occupies a prominent area of the first-floor real estate. The new plan calls for closing the library in order to improve the Department of Biological Sciences administrative offices (and indirectly, other offices and laboratories), while ensuring that information resources related to biology remain accessible to the entire University community.

Close a library branch and still keep the high level of service that patrons expect and demand? It’s not only a possibility, but a priority and an opportunity to respond better to patrons’ needs on a broader scale, says Parker Ladwig, mathematics and life sciences librarian.

He mentioned several factors underlying the new plan, which is anticipated to take effect in the upcoming academic year:

- The plan was prompted by substantial input from faculty, graduate students, and others, who voiced other priorities for space in Galvin and stressed the importance of computer access and searchability. Ladwig stressed that this was a response to a department’s space needs, not just a library initiative.
- Print information resources from the branch will be available at the Hesburgh Library, and, of course, electronic resources like journals will still be available online. “It’s an opportunity to provide even better electronic services and to review all the services that we provide,” says Ladwig.
- “This was also a catalyst to review our journal collection,” says Ladwig, noting that print journal subscriptions are increasingly being replaced by online versions that patrons find more usable and accessible from labs, offices, homes, or even airports.
- The library will continue to purchase and provide articles on demand for patrons in cases where the library does not have a subscription—often in less than 24 hours. Other services, including circulation of books and easy access to reserve and reference materials, will be available at the Hesburgh Library.
- An office for the life sciences librarian will be maintained in Galvin to facilitate the relationship between the Hesburgh Libraries and the Department of Biological Sciences.

The collection, now intact as a separate entity, lives on as a tribute to Nora, and the Hesburgh Libraries are taking steps to expand its visibility and usefulness. The steps fit well with the upcoming relocation of Life Sciences resources and with the general trend toward students and scholars demanding easier, electronic access.

First, “we thought it would be most useful for patrons for [the Nora Lee Collection] to be part of the general collection, not separate,” says Ladwig. Patrons will be able to find and borrow the books based on searches of the Libraries’ general collection, probably increasing the usage of the Nora Lee books.

Second, the Nora Lee legacy will remain attached to each book as part of “a virtual collection,” as Ladwig puts it. On the computer-catalog record for each gifted book, a note will identify it as part of the Nora Lee Collection. Internet visitors will also be able to search the collection as a whole, then retrieve the desired item through the process used for the vast majority of books.

This trend toward virtual recognition of collections through the library catalog via the Internet actually increases public awareness, says Ladwig. The awareness now spreads to people who would not have actually gone to see the collection’s separate space. Indeed, visitors from all over the world can become aware of the Nora Lee Collection via the Internet.

“This is another opportunity to demonstrate to benefactors that we no longer have to separate a collection in order to highlight it to the world,” says Ladwig.
Catalog (continued from page 1)

Libraries’ chief liaison with the partners. “The goal is to incorporate some of the terminology that a non-expert could also use” in researching within an academic discipline, perhaps allowing for more research by undergraduates, Calarco says. But the new formats and styles of an extensible catalog will probably co-exist for years with the standardized structures and systems with which whole generations of academics remain comfortable, he says.

One key difference in the new system presumably will be the ability for the library—or members of its community—to add supplementary information to a catalog entry, Calarco says. Professors could point out which books they felt were classic or which pages they felt were crucial. Reviews of a book could be added. Text from the book or descriptions of the contents could be linked right to the entry. Related books could be mentioned. If you’re looking for a particular issue of a magazine that made a specific point about a certain topic, annotations and immediate access to texts or summaries are likely to make your research more fruitful, he notes.

Ultimately, virtual communities might form to discuss topics in the catalog, and they might even gather for conversation in physical communities when they come to the library to pick up the book itself. The Internet’s social networking sites are a model here, and librarians are hoping that “we can bring that same excitement to the way people interact with scholarship,” says Calarco.

This project will not come to fruition for some time. The Hesburgh Libraries and other universities first have to export the data in their current catalog systems to the University of Rochester, which must ensure that the current systems are compatible with any new software. An initial version of that software may emerge within a year or two, Calarco says.

Notre Dame was chosen as a member of this team of pioneers because of its expertise with its current catalog software and its reputation for embracing the future possibilities of information science, says Calarco. Work with the other members of the group is going well, and that’s not surprising, he adds. “Libraries have always been great collaborative partners.”

Frank E. Eck died Dec. 13 in Columbus, Ohio, of complications from open heart surgery at the age of 84. This 1944 graduate of Notre Dame “was a tremendously generous man—with his time, counsel, and resources,” said University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. “We join with his family and many friends in mourning his death. Frank’s wonderful spirit, wide smile, and boundless enthusiasm will be missed.”

Eck, who earned his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering, went on to serve in the U.S. Navy and to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School. The Mr. and Mrs. Franklin E. Eck Endowed Collection in Chemical Engineering, one of numerous benefactions made by Eck, has bolstered the Hesburgh Libraries’ chemical engineering resources at a time of great change and growth in the College of Engineering and in the field.

This distinguished alumnus had served on the College of Engineering Advisory Council since 1984 and had been chairman of Advanced Drainage Systems of Columbus.

His contributions to Notre Dame have totaled more than $55 million.

Theodore Ivanus, who served the Hesburgh Libraries in various positions from 1963 until his retirement in 1986, died on Dec. 18, 2007. He was 91. Ivanus also served as a professor—and later as professor emeritus—in the Department of Government (now, the Department of Political Science) for many years, having received his doctoral degree from the School of Law and Political Science at the University of Zagreb. That university is the oldest public education institution in Croatia, where Ivanus was born. He moved to the United States in 1952 and earned two master’s degrees, including an MLS, from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Beyond his reputation for his work at Notre Dame, where he rose from assistant librarian to librarian, Ivanus was well-known as a professional pianist. He was director and conductor of the Croatian American Glee Club during the 1960s. Ivanus was also a member of Croatian American academic societies. His wife, Anne, passed away in 1998. Mass of Christian Burial for Theodore Ivanus took place in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, with burial in Croatia.

Helen Marie (Badaracco) Ravarino, whose generosity has benefited the faculty and students of Notre Dame in several ways, including a donation of early printed books to the Hesburgh Libraries, died on January 16 in Naples, Fla., at the age of 87. She was the wife of the late Albert J. Ravarino (ND’35), whom she met on a train in 1946 while traveling from St. Louis to a Notre Dame home football game, and mother of Mirella “Mimi” Ravarino and the late Anna Maria Ravarino. Formerly on the Libraries’ Advisory Council, Mimi now serves as a member of Notre Dame’s Arts and Letters Advisory Council.

In 2003, Helen donated some 175 early books, generally printed in the French, German, or Italian languages and ranging in subject matter from history and philosophy to medicine and law. Her additional benefactions, in unity with her daughter, Mimi, include the Albert J. and Helen M. Ravarino Family Memorial Scholarship, the Albert J. and Helen M. Ravarino Family International Italian Studies Scholars Program; the Albert J. and Helen M. Ravarino Family Directorship in Dante and Italian Studies; and the Albert J. and Helen M. Ravarino Family Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Italian Studies.
The quality and quantity of resources at the service of so many academic fields demonstrate Notre Dame’s readiness to confront some of our culture’s most difficult questions and the world’s most complex problems.

But the dispersion of these resources to different buildings also empowers the various communities of scholars and students who occupy particular buildings and energize particular areas of research. Father Ted extols the idea of a library as a place where people gather and educate each other. He thinks of the main library building, with its first few storeys totaling about four acres each, as a place that holds not only thousands of resources, but also potentially thousands of students. It’s a kind of home away from home—certainly for Father Ted himself, who still spends many hours in his office on the 13th floor and who occasionally asks a passing student to read for him. He loves to see the library being used. “We never come to the point where there isn’t room for another student.”

Libraries in other buildings likewise become meeting places and comfort zones for groups with special talents and interests. Father Ted acknowledges that the computer nowadays makes some visits to the library less necessary, but not less desirable. “The library is the heart of the University,” he says. He notes that libraries store many things and can give a visitor a tangible, meaningful closeness to a previous time or a distant place. “The library is the heart of the University,” he says. He notes that libraries store many things and can give a visitor a tangible, meaningful closeness to a previous time or a distant place.

Father Jenkins spoke of this simultaneous ability to transport and unite in speaking of the new Hesburgh Libraries. “They, like Hesburgh the priest, will help us to educate minds and hearts with a great sense of community that bridges past, present, and future.”

Basic Shields Against Censorship

The exhibit “Intellectual Freedom: Selected Foundational Documents” is currently featured in the Hesburgh Library’s second floor display case. Intellectual freedom is a core value and guiding principle of the library profession in the United States. It is the antithesis of censorship in all its forms.

As a concept, intellectual freedom is grounded in several basic human and civil rights, including the freedoms of speech, the press, expression, thought, and belief. These personal liberties have been addressed historically in several contexts including law, church, academy, and library. The documents displayed in this exhibit have been selected as foundational in their specific contexts.

In some cases, the documents are short and amenable to full display. In other cases, only particularly relevant sections of much longer works have been included. In all cases, a citation to the full document has been provided for reference.

The exhibit does not pretend to cover the full range of available texts nor to document the controversies surrounding them and their relationship or applicability one to another. Rather, the documents on display include the foundational texts of intellectual freedom that explicate its meaning and provide the basis for its advocacy and defense in all arenas as well as those texts particularly germane to American Catholic university libraries such as the Hesburgh Libraries of the University of Notre Dame. All of these are susceptible to numerous interpretations.


—J. Douglas Archer, reference and peace studies librarian