

Xavier University

Library Resource Center

Annual Report 2007-2008

The beginning of this second post-Katrina academic-year found the Library financially stronger than ever, thanks to a continuing commitment from the University administration to keep our budget growing. The effects of the economic recession affecting the nation, and library vendors, in particular, have meant historic price rises in traditional books and serial costs, requiring librarians to be more creative in their efforts to insure healthy collection growth.

Although the budget did not rise significantly, we continued to work with vendors to insure collection growth, largely through the acquisition of more electronic resources and fewer print items. Print serials costs amounted to \$446,097.00, up 22.9% over last year. Although we added a number of new digital resources, the increase in price was less than what one might expect. Altogether we spent \$255,958.00 in 2007-08, up only 10.7% over last year. Since the greatest portion of our serial collection is now digital, we can already see considerable savings from investing in more electronic books and journals.

We've also seen savings in our standing orders. We spent \$39,620.00 on print standing orders last year, but in 2007-08 the cost dropped nearly 25% to \$29,964.00. Once again, digital resources are simply a better buy in today's market.

Departmental Book-Buying at Xavier

One decline that didn't particularly please us was in the purchase of print books. This year we spent only \$34,164.00 on print books, down nearly 50% from last year's total of \$67,243.00. We found that this drop in purchasing had less to do with price rises in print books and more to do with the effort put into book selection by teaching faculty. Faculty requests for books were down significantly over past year, perhaps largely because demands on faculty time have increased due to the emphasis on the upcoming SACS accreditation visit.

In discussions among the Library faculty, we came to the conclusion that we could address this problem in a couple of different ways. One possible solution is for Library faculty to put more time into the annual book selection process. The other possibility is to begin buying pre-selected collections of e-books to support our current curricula. Some discussion with departmental chairs and other members of the faculty should take place before the latter solution is tried.

Departmental Activities

In spite of having fewer personnel aboard to keep our various operations flowing smoothly, 2007-08 saw a jump in all activities. Librarians and staff alike can take pride in dealing with the heavier traffic as the student

population grows back to pre-Katrina numbers and the faculty grows along with it.

Circulation/Reserve Services

Circulations took a tremendous jump during this year, once again showing that while the world is looking more and more to the digital world, there is still considerable reliance on the printed page.

<u>Patron Types</u>	<u>Total Circulation Count</u>
LALINC	2
Graduate Students	59
Staff	407
Faculty	2,053
Undergraduate Students	9,519
2 Hour Reserve	1,760
Miscellaneous	226
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Total	14,026

The really startling change is in the marked increase among Undergraduate borrowers. Last year Undergrads accounted for 2,826 circulations, which is a respectable number. However, this year's 9,519 circulations, surely a record, represent nearly a 400% increase.

Faculty circulations went up as well. This year's total represents slightly more than a 200% increase. Even

reserve circulations grew during this year, as did circulations to Graduate students, our least active borrowers.

Access Services

Reference Department - Our lengthy period of understaffing in this department came to an end late this year, thanks to the work of two different search committees over a two-year period. These new faculty hires really broadened the departmental knowledge base, thanks to the diverse experience and education apparent among this group. Ms. Michele Woods came to us with not only a Master's in Library Science from LSU, but also a Juris Doctorate from LSU Law School. Ms. Susan West came to us from New Jersey with experience in public school, academic, law, and public libraries. Ms. Nancy Hampton came with experience with New York Public Library, and was completing an MFA in photography. Our long-time reference librarian, Tom Bender, shifted his attentions somewhat by taking over the new office of Electronic Resources Librarian. The creation of this new office is reflective of our desire to always be ahead of the curve as new digital resources become available, and to get the best product possible for our patrons at the most competitive price.

	<u>Main Reference</u>	<u>Gov Docs</u>	<u>ILL</u>	<u>Pharm</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Short	2,593	670	1,069	13	4,345
Long	106		483	1	590
Phone	155				155
Com Ast Sh	455				455
Com Ast Lg	97				97

Totals	3,406	670	1,552	14	5,642

Interlibrary Loan - In this world of high-speed internet and digital transmission, it is interesting to see how much we still use Interlibrary Loan, and perhaps even more interesting to see how reliable it is. Campus surveys of satisfaction with various offices consistently rate the Library's Interlibrary Loan office as well above average in courtesy and competence.

It is equally interesting to see how much other institutions rely on the collection we've built here at Xavier. Loans out are typically more than 100% more numerous than the volumes we borrow from other libraries.

<u>Material Borrowed</u>			<u>Material Lent</u>		
<u>Filled</u>	<u>Unfilled</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Unfilled</u>	<u>Total</u>
539	171	710	1,285	327	1,612

Government Documents Department - This year we achieved a goal we'd set for ourselves prior to Hurricane Katrina; namely the installation of moveable compact storage for the collection. The new rail-mounted shelving more than triples our available space, make it possible to take more federal documents on deposit, and allows us to expand the number of documents we receive from the State of Louisiana. Although we remain one of the smaller depositories in Louisiana, the loss of parts or all of larger collections earlier in the decade increases the research importance of Xavier's growing collection.

Once this new shelving area was complete, Government Documents Librarian Paula Singleton celebrated by weeding, which just goes to show that fun is where you find it. Below I've outlined the growth in this collection during the last year:

	Electronic	Microform	Paper / Map	Total
Jul. - Dec. 2007	17	640	450 /20	1127
(Discards)	-0	-0	-721 /-0	-721 (Code of
<u>Regulation</u>				<u>Federal</u>
Subtotals	17	640	-271 /20	406
				<u>And Public Law)</u>
Jan. - Jun. 2008	16	356	564 /17	953
(Discards)	-0	-0	-189 /-0	-189
Subtotals	16	356	375 /17	764

Additional Weeding project, Summer 2008

Jul. - Dec. 2008	15	372	648	/11	1046
(Discards)	-0	-0	-521	/-0	-521
	15	372	127	/11	525

Microform (These two publications are not received through general shipments)

Daily Congressional Record	(1992-2004)	1967
Federal Register	(1992-2004)	<u>3005</u>
		4972

Paper

(Census publications)	(10 years and older)	<u>1190</u>
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Total microform & paper discards-----6162

University Archives and Special Collections - Our University

Archives and its attendant Special Collections had justly gained a reputation far beyond our walls, so we're never surprised by the numbers of visiting researchers to whom we pay host every year. This year's total of **291 visitors** exceeded last year's total by nearly **32%**.

As we placed more of our funding into electronic resources, rare book acquisitions fell off by about 63%.

Additions to Unpublished Holdings grew more slowly than in previous years. Additions were as follows:

Record Group	Linear Feet
Alpha Phi Alpha	.6
Xavier Review Press	.6

Marvin Ellis	.4
Dr. Thomas Bonner	1.2
AAHE: Black Caucus	2.0
X. U. Katrina Memory Book	.3
Pope Benedict XVI	.4
Lewis W. Page Papers	.4

Total	5.9
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University Records, too, came in smaller numbers, in spite of efforts by Archivist Lester Sullivan to convey to other university departments the importance of depositing records above the flood line established by the recent storm.

Additions were as follows:

Department	Linear Feet
Drexel Center, Upward Bound	2.4 ft.
Education	5.0
English Dept.	.8
Information Services	.4
Institutional Advancement	2.6
Institute for Black	
Catholic Studies	1.0
Library	.8
Planning	5.0
Music	1.2

Athletics 3.0

Total 24.0

Technical Services

Thanks to the relatively low numbers of new books purchased in the past year, the weeding project actually required more time and effort than the cataloging and processing that normally gets primary attention. These numbers help to explain:

Titles added:	July-September '07	439
	October-December '07	291
	January-March '08	357
	April-June '08	148

	Total added	1,235

Audiovisual

Records added:	July-September '07	130
	October-December '07	22
	January-March '08	8
	April-June '08	0

	Total added	160

Records withdrawn:

	July-December '07	502
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	January-June '08	1,667

	Total records (cards)	2,169
Items withdrawn:	July-December '07	917
	January-June '08	2,700

	Total items	3,617

The other side of Technical Services is the Serials Department, which carries a heavy load most years. In addition to checking in and processing some 1,500 daily, monthly, and quarterly publications that still come to us in hard copy. Besides this, missing issues must be claimed or otherwise replaced, issues are gathered into complete volumes, boxed, and sent to the bindery.

To put things in perspective, one entire floor of Xavier's library is devoted to bound magazines and journals, and most of the Pharmacy Library's stacks are filled with medical and pharmaceutical journals. This past year Serials Librarian Marilyn Lee sent a total **of 837 volumes** to the bindery at a cost to the University of **\$6,497.18**.

Use of Library Study Rooms

Use of group study rooms showed considerable growth of the past two years:

<u>Second Floor</u>	<u>Third Floor</u>	<u>Fourth Floor</u>
1,126	310	1,152

Instructional Media Center

Reservations for our Media Center classrooms fell considerably during this year, with 781 events, down nearly 34% from last year. Interestingly the number of hours these classrooms were in use remained near last year's total, dropping only about 12% (1,439 hours).

The use by instructors of Library-owned media and equipment also dropped rather sharply from last year. Use of Library media dropped about 35% (91 titles). Equipment loans dropped even lower, to 44% (49 pieces of equipment). Although it is too soon to say for certain, there is some possibility that instructors are relying more on classroom-based computer technology and less on DVD players and other forms of traditional audiovisual equipment. This is a trend we've been looking for, and suggests that we should begin planning for a network-based Media Center that can transmit items from our media collection via streaming video to classrooms throughout the campus, rather than relying on portable equipment or classroom-based equipment within the Library walls.

Even the use of our study-carrel room for individual media viewing/listening fell off during this year. The

number of students using the carrels dropped from 451 to 221, a decline of slightly over 50%. However, the actual number of hours the carrels were used dropped only 3.9%.

Library Operations for 2007-2008

It is strange to say after such a relatively brief time, but for many of us the ravages of Hurricane Katrina which uprooted so many of us and cast Xavier's future in doubt, now seem far behind us. In some ways, the storm and its aftermath have hastened our library's change from print to digital media. In the past two years print resources that we relied upon for most of the last century have been supplanted by digital resources that are more flexible and available all day from both on and off campus. We've come a long way from the IBM PC Junior that was the Library's sole computer twenty three years ago.