

Xavier University

Library Resource Center

Annual Report 2009-2010

We concluded the past academic year on a high note. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools found the Library Resource Center in full compliance even before they visited our campus. Later, Xavier received its re-accreditation without any stipulations, making it a successful year for all of us on this campus.

Our annual budget grew by about 7.6% overall, which allowed us to not only maintain existing resources, but continue modest additions to digital collections across the board. Among the new additions are two new business reference sources, CREDO Reference and DATAMONITOR. We also added ARTSTOR, acquired the latest offerings from JSTOR and more than doubled our digital holdings in the INTELEX PastMasters e-book collection.

Print serials continues to command a significant portion of our acquisitions budget, but our recent acquisition of IEEE's All-Society periodicals package and other digital serial titles meant another drop in this part of our spending. Print serial costs dropped from \$358,120.00 to \$261,945.00, about 27%.

Digital serials, of which we now have about 38,000, also cost us a bit less during 2009-10. Last year we spent \$298,578.00 on e-journals. This year they cost us \$262,791.00, a drop of a bit less than 10%.

Savings in serial costs helped us a bit with our standing orders in the past year. This year print standing orders cost us \$40,579.00, a rise of 34% over last year's \$30,240.00

Savings in other areas also helped us increase our digital reference resources and add material to existing resources in the past year. Altogether we spent about \$131,674.00 on digital reference this past year.

Bibliographic utilities and consortium memberships grew modestly in the past year. A total of \$66,583.00 went to pay for such things as our memberships in AMIGOS, LOUIS, and LYRASIS, as well as the upkeep of our automation software, VIRTUA. Part of this cost also went toward our membership in PORTICO.

Departmental Book-Buying at Xavier

For the second year in a row, book purchases by teaching departments declined, perhaps due to the distraction of the upcoming SACS visit. From last year's total of \$34,164.00 spent by departments, expenditures dropped to \$23,406.82, or -31.5%.

As we did in the previous year, Library faculty applied themselves to publishers' catalogs and web sites to make up the difference. Thanks to that effort, book purchasing expenditures totaled \$81,532.00 for 2009-10.

Even without accreditation visits, we have noted in recent years an increasing difficulty in getting teaching faculty to make requests for either print or e-books. This is in spite of our attempts to streamline the ordering process with an electronic book request form that can be accessed via the Library's web page. If we cannot stimulate more faculty interest in collection development, we may possibly have to resort to the purchase of subject-specific e-book collections pre-chosen by publishers.

Departmental Activities

Last year, with some fanfare, we instituted a service called "Reference on the Run." Taking advantage of Xavier's wireless computer network, we sent reference librarians into the campus with wireless laptops to see if we could assist students and faculty with research help or reference assistance outside the Library. Librarians attempted to generate interest in the dormitories, university center, and some of the academic buildings. Although it seemed a good idea, we found few takers.

It is worth noting that most students seem to come to college now with wireless laptops, and the great majority of them are pretty web-savvy. It is likely that having a reference librarian on the spot did not offer them anything that they felt they couldn't get for themselves. The middle man—meaning us librarians—was eliminated before he got

started. At the end of 2009-10, we reluctantly faced the inevitable and stopped the service.

We were somewhat short-handed for much of the past year. Paula Singleton, our erstwhile government documents librarian, took on the job of interim Assistant Director for Access Services, which meant she was overseeing two operations at once. She managed to survive this added workload and was eventually confirmed in the Assistant Director's job. A search for a new government documents librarian went on for much of the spring, but was not completed until late summer of 2010, after the academic year had ended.

In the meantime, our long-time Electronic Resources Librarian, Tom Bender, left us to take over his own library at nearby Notre Dame Seminary. Not much later, Outreach Librarian Susan West left us for a job with the city schools. Searches to fill both of those job openings are ongoing.

Circulation/Reserve Services

For the second year in a row, circulation transactions fell among most of the major categories of users, the exceptions being graduate students and those using two-hour reserves. Last year we speculated that the proliferation of electronic books, journals, and reference databases was impacting the need of library users to use print collections

for their research and class use. This continuing drop in the use of traditional library resources inclines us to persist in this speculation.

Graduate students are a relatively small part of the Xavier universe, most of them in master's programs within the Division of Education. Many of them are practicing school teachers who attend evening classes. As such, their access to the library is limited, possibly requiring them to check out print materials to take home. This is a trend we'll keep watching.

<u>Patron Types</u>	<u>Circ Count</u>		<u>% Change</u>
	<u>'09-10</u>	<u>'08-09</u>	
LALINC	2	2	0%
Graduate Students	129	29	344%
Staff	122	228	-46.49%
Faculty	1,053	1,885	-44.14%
Undergraduate Students	4,162	9,165	-54.59%
2 Hour Reserve	2,721	1,760	54.60%
Miscellaneous	117	247	-52.63%
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Total	8,306	11,554	- 28.11%

Access Services

Reference Department

The Library played host to 713,348 visitors during 2009-10, a monthly average of 59,445 people. Many of them required reference assistance at one or more of our Access Services desks. In spite of the growing use of library resources by students using laptop or notebook computers, there was positive growth in most categories of reference assistance. We do note a drop in the use by students of telephone reference service. Reference by e-mail is a new category this year, but only a few students availed themselves of it. Based on the numbers, students and faculty prefer a face-to-face reference transaction with a live reference librarian by a wide margin. We'll be watching to see if this changes in the next few years.

	<u>Main Reference</u>	<u>'08-09</u>	<u>'09-10</u>	<u>%Change</u>
Short		2,180	2,718	24.68%
Long		133	229	72.18%
Phone		1,020	301	-70.49%
Web/eMail			7	
Comp Assist Short		484	588	21.49%
Comp Assist Long		161	123	-23.60%

Totals		3,978	3,966	-.3%

<u>ILL Desk</u>	<u>'08-09</u>	<u>'09-10</u>	<u>%Change</u>
Short	1,153	1,346	+16.74%
Long	594	664	+11.78%

Totals	1,747	2,010	+15.05%

<u>Pharmacy Desk</u>	<u>'08-09</u>	<u>'09-10</u>	<u>%Change</u>
Short	29	33	+13.79%
Long	32	13	-59.37%

Totals	61	46	-24.59%

Interlibrary Loan

Other aspects of library life may seem to be in a decline, but the Interlibrary Loan Department continues to remain a valuable resource to our community of scholars. This year Xavier patrons borrowed 9.4% more material than in 2009. Loans to other libraries declined by 3.29%.

Material Borrowed

Material Lent

<u>Filled</u>	<u>Unfilled</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Unfilled</u>	<u>Total</u>
582	182	777	700	863	1,559

University Archives and Special Collections - Our archivists assisted 290 researchers this past year, up 19.8% from last year. Off-campus requests for assistants resulted in 360 acid-free copies made from archival holdings.

We added a total of 162 new titles to rare book holdings, including a number of early jazz titles.

Additions to Manuscript Special Collections totaled 6.0 linear feet. Among those acquisitions were:

Record Group	Linear Feet

R. Baxter Miller Papers	.2
Hale Smith Collection	2.6
Marvin Ellis Collection	.6
Dr. Joseph Ricks	.2
<i>Xavier Review Press</i>	.8
Sr. Valerie Riggs Papers	1.4
Dr. Charles Gramlich Collection	.4

Total	6.0

University Record accessions came from 10 different academic departments and administrative offices. Additions were as follows:

Department	Linear Feet

Academic Coordinating Comm.	1.6
Division of Business	1.6
Chemistry Department	.4
Communications Department	.4
Counseling Center	.2

Development Office	1.6
History Department	.8
Institutional Research	1.2
Library Resource Center	4.0
Sponsored Programs	10.0

Total	21.8
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Technical Services

The continued increase in Library budgets made possible significant additions to the physical collection during the past year. The main collection grew by almost 16% over 2009-10.

As we mentioned in last year's report, we were about to conclude withdrawals from Dewey Class 900 (History), and did complete that task early in the new year. We began withdrawals from Dewey Class 300 (Social Sciences), but did not make as much progress as in previous years. Although we withdrew over 2,000 volumes and 1,666 records from the catalog, withdrawals were less than 40% of our 2008-2009 figures.

At the request of the Division of Education, we undertook a project to identify and transfer all children and young adult titles from the main stacks to a special Children's Literature Collection. A total of 1,400 books were identified, relabeled, and transferred to stacks on the

first floor of the Library. A number of new titles were also purchased and added to this collection. Work on this project is ongoing, and will hopefully be finished during 2010-11.

Records added:	July-September '09	517
	October-December '09	420
	January-March '10	461
	April-June '10	758

	Total added	2,216

Physical Distribution:

Circulating titles	1,781
Reference titles	168
Audiovisual titles	99
Rare books	152
Pharmacy titles	16

	2,216

Withdrawals:

July-September '08	365 records	458 volumes
October-December '08	129 records	167 volumes
January-March '09	966 records	1,137 volumes
April-June '09	206 records	296 volumes

number of hours these classrooms were in use actually declined, from 2,605 to 2,366, a drop of a little more than 9%.

The use by instructors of media (mostly DVDs and VHS tapes) rose from 107 titles this year's total of 195, or about 82%. Equipment loans decreased from 201 pieces last year to 90 pieces this year, a decline of 55%.

Use of our study-carrel room for individual media viewing/listening from 221 students to this year's total of 307, an increase of almost 39%. These students utilized the carrels and equipment for a total of 448 hours.

Part of this rise in study carrel use may be attributed to Media Specialist James Thiebaud's move to advertise the carrel room as a quiet study area. The size of the room and its proximity to the Media Service Desk make it possible to monitor and assure a quiet atmosphere for individual study.

Two activities that are growing in importance for the Media Center are the videotaping of university events and the duplication and format transfer of audio and audio/video programming. Although we have performed these services on a limited basis over the years, lately we find demand sometimes exceeding our ability to provide. In the next annual report we will provide a closer focus on our response to these kinds of service requests.

The Media Specialist has also been busy weeding and discarding obsolete equipment and supplies. Advances in audiovisual media have occurred so rapidly in recent years that we found ourselves burdened with equipment in formats for which we no longer have a use. Eliminating this obsolete equipment made it possible for us to provide temporary office space for the QEP Director and his administrative assistant this semester.

Information Literacy Education

Library classroom instructors had a particularly good year as we reached more classes and more individual students than ever. Even though three different departments did not avail themselves of library instruction, we taught 92% more sections and reached 10% more students than in 2008-09. We were particularly gratified to have the opportunity to reach 33 sections of Freshman seminar during the year and nine sections of high school students. We continue to believe that the earlier we reach a student with the basics of conducting library research, the more likely they are to succeed in college.

UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

<u>Department</u>	<u>No. Classes</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Art	0	20
Business	10	171
Chemistry	2	36
Communication/Speech	17	332
Education	1	25
English	38	816
Freshman Seminar	33	660
History	5	142
Physics	1	10
Political Science	4	110
Psychology	2	63
Sociology	0	0
Theology	1	12
<u>GRADUATE CLASSES</u>	0	0
<u>HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES</u>	9	159
<u>PHARMACY P1</u>	1	160
Total Sessions:	124	Total students: 2,696

Library Operations for 2009-2010

This year closed just short of the fifth anniversary of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. At the time of the flood, we had good reason to wonder what our future would hold. We can safely say that we've fully recovered from that event, and have continued to grow library collections and services in the five years that have just passed. The library is

different from the one before the flood, but we think it is a better, more modern one.

No report of library activities can be complete without some mention of the work of Library faculty, staff managers, and staff. Their labors are continuous, going on even when students and teaching faculty are not on campus. This past year, in spite of staff shortages, everyone pitched in with enthusiasm. Our success is in large measure the result of their commitment and hard work.

In spite of a poor economy and uncertainty about future budgets, we remain optimistic that we can continue to grow at a healthy pace and better serve our ever-expanding campus.

Appendix2009-10 Collection Expenditurese-Journals

American Chemical Society	51,485.84
Annual Reviews	6,422.00
Chronicle Higher Ed	2,930.00
Elsevier	
ChemVillage	7,932.00
ScienceDirect	113,749.39
IEEE	18,280.00
JSTOR	22,174.17
PROQUEST	35,125.00
Serials Solutions	4,693.00

Subtotal	262,791.40

EBSCO

COP	81,622.89
University	184,945.87

Subtotal	266,568.76

Databases

ACM Digital Library	11,925.00
ARTSTOR	28,570.00
BIOSIS (LOUIS)	6,812.00
Communications (LOUIS)	3,743.00
CREDO Reference	3,351.00
DATAMONITOR	7,000.00
InteleX PastMasters	31,205.00
Lexis Nexis	5,836.12
MARCIVE	1,375.00
MathSciNet	115.00
MERGENT	10,949.00
NAXOS Music Library	800.00
OVID	6,250.00
Oxford Af-Am	848.00
SciFinder Scholar	7,030.00
Thomson West	436.00
Who's Who	2,249.00
Wiley Interscience	1,350.00
Wilson	8,155.75

Subtotal	138,704.37

Books

Eastern	32,334.25
Midwest	49,197.59

Subtotal	81,531.84

Standing Orders

R. R. Bowker	1,739.07
CCH	4,032.37
Facts on File	295.00
Thomson Gale	25,020.00
INFOBASE	1,715.12
Information Today	310.00
P. F. Kennedy	350.00
Shakespeare Survey	92.97
Times Picayune	6,293.00
Univ of Illinois	767.00

Subtotal	40,578.53

Utilities

AMIGOS	350.00
LOUIS	8,147.00
LYRASIS	26,121.18
PORTICO	5,130.00
Silver Platter	2,511.00
WorldCat	1,074.00
VTLS	23,250.00

Subtotal	66,583.18

<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>\$856,758.08</u>
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