

Xavier University

Library Resource Center

Annual Report 2008-2009

The past year proved to be one of our most successful in recent times. Our budget grew modestly, we added a number of new electronic resources, and two new librarians joined the Reference Staff, bringing that department back up to pre-Katrina strength. The augmented manpower in that department even encouraged us to take the show on the road, in a manner of speaking. Thanks to support from ITC in the form of wireless laptops, the Reference Department initiated "Reference on the Run," which we will discuss further later in the report.

Our annual budget rose a healthy 6.73% over last year, enabling us to easily maintain a growing list of electronic resources and, at the same time, add both new print and digital resources to our collections. Our digital resources continue to grow not only in the sciences, but also in the arts and humanities. The NAXOS music library includes both print and audio material to the music researcher as well as the casual user. Backing that up is a relatively new acquisition that includes digital musical scores. Researchers in philosophy and theology will find new material in the ATLA religion database. Users of our Springer e-book collection got a pleasant surprise when it was announced that Springer would, on demand, provide print copies of any book in the collection for the unbelievably

low price of \$25.00. This will no doubt become a popular feature of this much-used digital collection.

Serials continue to be the lifeblood of any academic collection, but costs are dropping as we transfer more and more titles from print to digital. Our print serials costs shrank this past year by 19 percent (from \$446,097.00 to \$358,120.00). Electronic serials, of which we now have nearly 30,000 titles, cost us \$298,578.00 during 2008-09.

The cost of print standing orders remained relatively steady this past year. During 2007-2008 these resources cost us \$29,964.00. In the past year the cost came to \$30,240.00, a rise of less than 1%.

#### **Departmental Book-Buying at Xavier**

Last year we reported a 50% drop in book purchases thanks to lower activity by teaching departments. The total spent on books during '07-'08 was only \$34,164.00. We attempted to more closely engage teaching faculty so collection growth would reflect as much of their interest as possible, however we were not particularly successful. It bears note that Xavier's re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools comes up in 2010, and a large number of Xavier professors and administrators have been deeply involved in preparing for that visit, and that the committee and written work required has drained attention away from Library collection development.

In order to counteract this, the Library Director and other librarians made collection development a priority during the waning months of FY 2009. Books were chosen for virtually every department, and many new reference works were also selected for purchase. As a result, we expended \$111,139.00 on new books, monographs, and reference works in the past year, **an increase of 255%**.

### Departmental Activities

Having added three new librarians to the Reference Department over the past two years has made quite a difference in the overall productivity of the Library faculty and staff.

Reference Librarians initiated a new service this past year that we call "Reference on the Run." All Reference Librarians participate, using wireless laptops, as they travel to various campus buildings to offer reference service, term paper advice, and make students more aware of the services the Library provides.

During the Fall '08 semester, librarians visited the University Center and made weekly visits to each of the dorms at lunchtime. Each visit lasted two hours. By the Spring '09 semester, lack of activity caused us to eliminate the dorm visits and concentrate on the University Center. Although much of what librarians delivered could be termed

public relations, we think it was a worthwhile effort. It remains to be seen if we will continue this innovation.

The Reference/Outreach Librarian contacted all departmental chairs and visited departmental meetings to publicize Library resources.

### Circulation/Reserve Services

Circulation transactions fell among all categories of users during the past year, most notably among staff and graduate students. Since those categories of user are among the least active borrowers, it is difficult to glean much from those figures. The drop among faculty and undergraduate borrowers may well be attributable to growth among e-book collections.

<u>Patron Types</u>	<u>Circ Count</u>		<u>% Change</u>
	<u>'08-09</u>	<u>'07-08</u>	
LALINC	0	2	-100%
Graduate Students	29	59	-50.84%
Staff	228	407	-43.98%
Faculty	1,885	2,053	- 8.18%
Undergraduate Students	9,165	9,519	- 3.72%
2 Hour Reserve	n/a	1,760	n/a
Miscellaneous	247	226	+ 9.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,554</b>	<b>14,026</b>	<b>- 17.62%</b>

Access ServicesReference Department -

	<u>Main Reference</u>	<u>Gov Docs</u>	<u>ILL</u>	<u>Pharm</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Short	2,180	436	1,153	29	3,798
Long	133		594	32	759
Phone	1,020				1,020
Com Ast Sh	484				484
Com Ast Lg	161				161
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Totals	3978	436	1,747	61	6,222

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

**University Archives and Special Collections** - Our staff of archivists played host to **242 visitors** this past year, down 16.8% from last year total of 291. Off-campus requests for assistants resulted in 219 copies made for 13 different researchers.

We added a total of 146 new titles to rare book holdings. At the same time, archivists identified 58 titles located in the circulating collection and had them transferred to the rare book stacks.

Additions to Manuscript Special Collections more than doubled last year's accession of 5.9 linear feet. Among those acquisitions were:

<b>Record Group</b>	<b>Linear Feet</b>
<b>Dexter Ables</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Marvin Ellis</b>	<b>.2</b>
<b>National Catholic</b>	
<b>Conference for Internat-</b>	
<b>ional Justice</b>	<b>.4</b>
<b>Dr. Joseph Ricks</b>	<b>.2</b>
<b>Xavier Review Press</b>	<b>.6</b>
<b>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,</b>	
<b>Beta Delta Chapter</b>	<b>6.0</b>

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**Total** **12.6**

University Record accessions also more than doubled last year's total, perhaps reflecting the greater effort archivists have made to convey to other university departments the importance of depositing records at the end of each year. Additions were as follows:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Linear Feet</b>
<b>Biology</b>	<b>.8</b>
<b>Drexel Center, Upward Bound</b>	<b>7.8 ft.</b>
<b>Institute for Black</b>	
<b>Catholic Studies</b>	<b>28.0</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Health Services</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Student Services</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Information Services</b>	<b>.4</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>46.8</b>

### Technical Services

Our efforts to improve collections bore some fruit during the past year. The various collections grew more than 35% during '08-'09.

We picked up the pace of weeding in order to complete Dewey Class 900 by the end of the year. Withdrawing at a

full book cart every week, we exceeded by 11% our withdrawals for last year.

<b>Records added:</b>	<b>July-September '08</b>	<b>195</b>
	<b>October-December '08</b>	<b>366</b>
	<b>January-March '09</b>	<b>681</b>
	<b>April-June '09</b>	<b>669</b>
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	<b>Total added</b>	<b>1,911</b>

**Physical Distribution:**

<b>Circulating titles</b>	<b>1,284</b>
<b>Reference titles</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Audiovisual titles</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Rare books</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Pharmacy titles</b>	<b>58</b>
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	<b>1,911</b>

**Withdrawals:**

<b>July-September '08</b>	<b>456 records</b>	<b>902 volumes</b>
<b>October-December '08</b>	<b>486 records</b>	<b>967 volumes</b>
<b>January-March '09</b>	<b>661 records</b>	<b>1,348 volumes</b>
<b>April-June '09</b>	<b>812 records</b>	<b>1,267 volumes</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>2,415 records</b>	<b>3,484 volumes</b>

### Use of Library Study Rooms

Use of group study rooms grew considerably on the second and third floors last year. However, use of study rooms in the Pharmacy Library (fourth floor) actually declined 39%. This is somewhat unusual, since these rooms are in high demand. During 2009-2010, plans are underway to reconvert several rooms on the third floor from storage back to their original use.

<u>Second Floor</u>	<u>Third Floor</u>	<u>Fourth Floor</u>
1,814	391	699

### Instructional Media Center

Reservations for our Media Center classrooms rebounded during '08-'09, jumping from 781 events to 1,069, a jump of about 37%. The number of hours these classrooms were in use also increased dramatically, from 1,439 hours to 2,605, an increase of about 81%.

The use by instructors of Library-owned media and equipment remained about the same, 107 titles compared to last year's total of 91 titles. Equipment loans, however, jumped dramatically to 201 pieces compared to last year's total of only 49 pieces.

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 even farther this year, from 221 students to 196. These students utilized the carrels and equipment for 343 hours.

Sometimes these dry numbers tell only part of the story about a department, and this is particularly true with the Media Center. Along with insuring that faculty and students have the support they need, Media Specialist James Thiebaud, with the assistance of work study students, also performed the following:

- Reorganized and re-shelved 2,300 long-play audio recordings
- Reorganized the Support CD Collection, made up of CDs that come with books. Also created a digital index of this collection to make it easier to locate a title. This collection is composed of over 380 titles indexed by Dewey Decimal Classification
- Re-boxed and reorganized the audio CD collection, thereby making better use of the space available and also making the collection more visually appealing
- Provided video production and video post-production services to University Media Relations and ITC. All videos that can be viewed on the Xavier website are processed for import to the web by the Media Center

- Made progress toward fully utilizing workspace by weeding equipment and supplies that are obsolete and hamper efficiency and effectiveness

### **Information Literacy Education**

It has been particularly gratifying to us to see the rebound in our efforts to integrate information literacy in the classroom. Three years ago we managed to get into only 12 classrooms in a year. This past year saw Library instructors working in classrooms for virtually every discipline on campus. We were particularly gratified to get the approval of the Dean of the College of Pharmacy to offer instruction to both lower- and upper-level PharmD students.

**TOTAL CLASSES: 65**

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 2442**

### **UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES**

<b><u>Department</u></b>	<b><u>No. Classes</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>
<b>Art</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Communication/Speech</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>399</b>
<b>Freshman Seminar</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>925</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Theology</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

<b><u>GRADUATE CLASSES</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>
<b><u>OTHER</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>
<b><u>HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES</u></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>
<b><u>PHARMACY1</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>372</b>
<b><u>PHARMACY4</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Total Sessions:</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>Total students: 2,442</b>

We are still short of our goal of making information literacy either a required, stand-alone course, or of having it become a mandatory part of each departmental curriculum. However, this past year's successes have left us with a feeling of optimism.

#### **Library Operations for 2008-2009**

With the economy in the shape it has been for the past year, it has been particularly gratifying to maintain a healthy budget and continue to grow our collections.