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Annual Report 2005

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Thanks to You

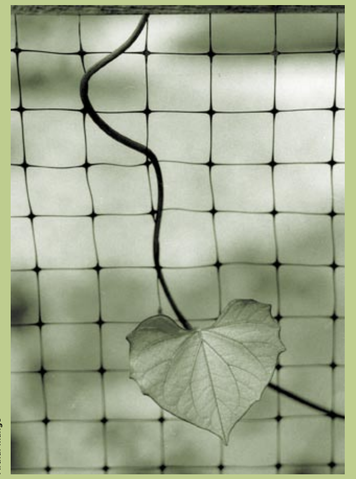
THE LIBRARIES received many generous gifts from our donors in 2005. Thanks to you, we added some wonderful materials to the collections, such as:

Barr Ashcraft

Literature and the Arts

Additions to our holdings in literature and arts include the records of the **Massachusetts Review**, the **Valley Light Opera**, and the **Double Edge Theatre**, and the papers of novelist **Mary Curran Doyle**. Amherst native and photojournalist, **Barr G. Ashcraft**, M.A. '66, donated his entire collection of photographs.

An exhibition of Ashcraft's Vietnam-era photographs, "The Waste of War: Vietnam, 1972-1975," was on display in early 2005 in the Du Bois Library. Barr Ashcraft traveled extensively throughout Vietnam, Japan, and Malaysia, writing and taking photographs. His images appeared in Life, National Geographic, Newsweek, and Time, as well as newspapers and magazines around the world. Barr Ashcraft passed away in October 2005.



Arthur Mange

Labor History

The historian **John W. Bennett** '52, donated a vast labor history collection that offers a stunning visual history of the iconography of the labor movement from the 1870s to the present, along with the funds to support the processing, care, and scholarly use of the collection. In addition, Bennett provided funding for a new annual colloquium in labor history. The **Massachusetts AFL-CIO** donated a major accession of its recent records and funding to support its processing.

Social Change

There were many additions to our history of social change collection, including the records of the **Liberation News Service** and the Western Massachusetts branch of the **American Friends Service Committee**, the papers of former Students for a Democratic Society president **Carl Oglesby**, activists **Mary Wentworth** and **Jeanine Maland**, and the extensive collection of **Beth Hapgood**, which documents life in communes in the 1960s and 1970s and her spiritual endeavors.

Faculty

Donations from faculty members include the papers of **Joel Halpern**, **Jules Chametzky**, the late **Anne Halley**, and photographs of New England and New York by retired biology professor, **Arthur Mange**. **Dr. Conrad Totman** '58, Yale professor and key figure in the post-war study of Japanese culture, donated his papers. **Arnold Silver**, recently retired from the English Department, donated 5,000 books. **Daniel L. Gordon** of the History Department donated numerous rare books.

Rare Books

Additions to the rare book collection include rare editions of William Apess's *Son of the Forest*, the first Native American autobiography, and his *Eulogy of King Philip, Paul Cuffe's Narrative*, an important work in African American autobiography. Several books printed in towns submerged by the Quabbin Reservoir were also added to the collection.

Alumni

The Class of 1955 Garden, the 50th reunion gift of the **Class of 1955** is nearing completion on the north side of the Du Bois Library.

The **Class of 1957** is already gearing up for its big reunion in 2007. They have decided to devote their 50th Reunion Gift to the Du Bois Library Promenade.

The **Class of 2006** selected the Library for its Senior Class Gift. Their gift will help renovate the topmost floor of the Du Bois Library—Floor 26.

From left, Richard Rogers, Rep. Ellen Story (D-Amherst), President Jack Wilson, Provost Charlena Seymour, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, Chancellor John V. Lombardi and UMass Amherst students celebrate the Learning Commons Dedication.

Editors: Emily Silverman & Leslie Schaler • Designer: Jack Cavazco • Photos: Ben Barnhart & Leslie Schaler

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Director of Libraries
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REPORT OF THE

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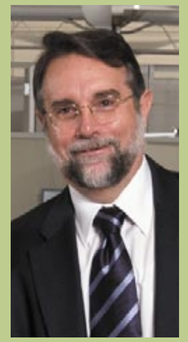
Message from the Director



Jay Schafer
Director of Libraries

WE TOOK a long, hard look at the stereotype of the quiet, dusty, academic library and said, "No more." 2005 was the year of the Learning Commons, and a lively new model for the UMass Amherst Libraries.

"The Learning Commons is here!" as our banners proclaim. And the Learning Commons is the cornerstone of a reinvigorated W.E.B. Du Bois Library. As a technology-rich, 21st century reading room, the Learning Commons is a gathering place for studying and socializing. Student-centered services are available to assist users with research, technology use, writing, study skills, and career planning. Procrastination Station even provides a café to reinforce the intellectual environment created by salons of the past.

The Learning Commons brings a new excitement to the UMass Amherst Libraries. This report outlines notable achievements over the past year that have added to the success of the organization. It is essential to note that it is the very talented and dedicated staff of the Libraries who make these successes a reality. Without them, the UMass Amherst Libraries could never provide the innovative services so valued by our users.

Highlights of 2005

- Renovated 23,000 square feet of the Du Bois Library's Lower Level to create the new Learning Commons.
- Recognized by Microsoft's CEO, Steve Ballmer, who participated in the Learning Commons Dedication and named UMass Amherst Microsoft's first "IT Showcase School in the nation."
- Attracted 45% more visitors to the Du Bois Library in the last six months of 2005 compared to the same period in 2004.
- Redesigned the lobby of the Du Bois Library with new paint, new furniture, new books, and the opening of the new café, Procrastination Station.
- Doubled private giving in 2005, compared to 2004.
- Expanded the Du Bois Library hours to a 24/5 schedule to meet student needs.
- Hosted labor history and social change scholars at two colloquia, the start of an ongoing series.
- Planned for the implementation of new state-of-the-art, Web-based online catalog.

A 21st Century Reading Room

THE LEARNING COMMONS (LC) is a welcoming place, right in the heart of campus. It removes obstacles to learning, allowing students to make steady progress by finding what they need in one centralized location. The LC has abundant computer access, a wireless computing environment, and expert staff to guide students to find exactly what they need, whether it is help with research, technology support, choosing a major, finding a tutor, or writing a paper. It provides varied, flexible, and appealing study spaces that encourage and facilitate group collaboration. The LC connects students with the information, resources, and support they need to succeed on campus and adjust to college life.

The Learning Commons is a collaborative effort of many campus organizations including the Provost's Office, Pre-Major Advising, Career Services, the Center for Teaching, the Information Technology Program, the Learning Resource Center, the Office of Information Technologies, the Writing Center, and the Library.

"Here in the Learning Commons we've brought all the inputs together: the faculty, the IT experts, the librarians, the student support services; from academic advising to the Writing Center to students tutoring students—and all together in a place that was prepared and maintained by dedicated people who put students first."

Richard Rogers,
Faculty Undergraduate Advisor to Provost

"This is a facility where students can really come together, collaborate, network, and learn from people they haven't met before... Students today have the challenge of having to sort through so much information. We need the information experts, the librarians, to help them understand what's relevant and what's irrelevant."

John Dubach, Chief Information Officer

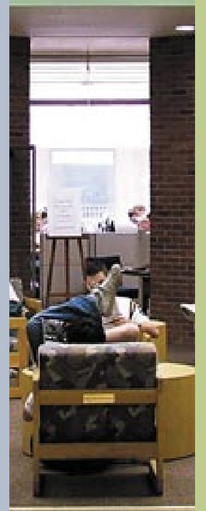
"Academic libraries have changed dramatically. They've become more user-friendly, more community-oriented. The new learning community that you have here is a portal to success. And it is an appropriate place for attracting a diversity of people because it's a place to belong."

Roberto Ibarra, Keynote Speaker

"The energy, the forward-thinking approach . . . to create this kind of a center is really something . . . I see a lot of great things going on here . . . We look forward to a rich and robust partnership."

Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft

Learning Commons Dedication



Looking Back at 2005

Fourth Annual ALANA Library Career Dinner

With co-sponsors Simmons College and the University of Rhode Island, the Library held the fourth annual ALANA Library Career Dinner to inform minority students about careers in libraries.

Lanell James '01 is a summa cum laude graduate of UMass Amherst. Lanell attended the Library's first ALANA career event in 2000, and is now attending graduate school in librarianship at the University of Michigan. Lanell is one of 19 graduate students recently chosen by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to receive a stipend of up to $10,000 for graduate education as part of ARL's Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce. The level of interest in pursuing a career in librarianship by the students who attended was very high. Tracie Hall, director of the American Library Association Office for Diversity, was the keynote speaker.

New Library Information System

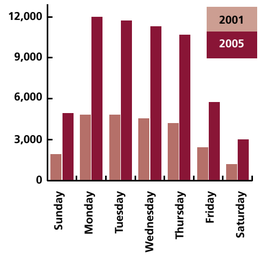
The UMass Amherst Libraries, in cooperation with the libraries of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, will implement a new shared library information system in late 2006. ALEPH 500™ will offer students, faculty, staff, researchers, and the public a user-friendly, flexible, state-of-the art, Web-based catalog that can be customized and personalized to accommodate the needs of each individual. Some of the exciting new features include the ability to search for materials in the language of your choice; to view titles held by all Five College libraries in a single search; to search for musical scores, audio materials, government documents, and microforms; and to save searches. This new, efficient system will replace the currently-used Innopac system, which the libraries have jointly shared since 1994.

In Appreciation of Our Donors

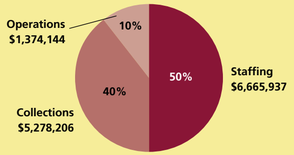
The Friends of the Library hosted the Annual Donor Appreciation Reception in September. Barry Moser, world-renowned book designer and illustrator, gave a fascinating keynote speech. Moser has illustrated and/or designed over 250 books and his art is represented in collections including the Metropolitan Museum, the British Museum, and the Library of Congress. Joseph W. Donohue, Jr. was awarded the Siegfried Feller Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service at the event. Professor of English for 34 years, Donohue has been a staunch supporter of and advocate for the Library and a long-time donor of books, journals, and reference materials.

BUSINESS IS BOOMING

Average Du Bois Library Visitors in Fall 2001 and Fall 2005

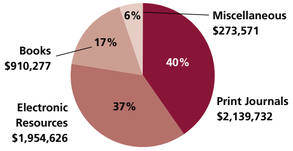


LIBRARY EXPENDITURES, FY05



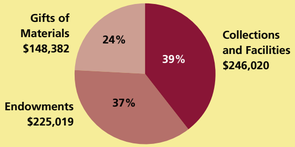
Total = $13,318,287

COLLECTIONS EXPENDITURES, FY05



Total = $5,278,206

DONATIONS, FY05



Total = $619,421