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Annual Report 2008

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Cookbooks took center stage at the Friends Fall Reception, featuring collectors and curators of cookbooks, and our Beatrice A. McIntosh Cookery Collection. The collection has grown dramatically and includes books, pamphlets, and ephemera relating to the history of cooking from the 1880s to the present. Thanks to the fall reception, donations are streaming in!

Our collection of WWI and WWII papers and artifacts is growing. Recent donations include correspondence, helmets, footlockers, photos, albums, army records, a trench knife, propaganda, postcards, and posters. These and other items create an archive of valuable research tools for students and scholars.

We achieved great things this year.
- Received a grant to fund the acquisition of 1,500 images of Afro-American, Latin American and feminist art for the newly opened Image Collection Library
- Facilitated improvements at the Du Bois Homestead in Great Barrington, MA, a national historic landmark
- Expanded wireless access in the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library and added access in the Du Bois Library
- Increased hours in Reserve, Media & Microforms Department and the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library
- Initiated the new Undergraduate Research Award to recognize excellence in the use of primary sources
- Created three new staff positions of Digital Initiatives Librarian, Digital Repository Resident, and Circulation Manager
- Built on our ongoing studies of user needs (surveys, focus groups, etc.), by surveying staff with ClimaQual, an organizational climate and diversity assessment survey
- Implemented the $782,000 Microsoft grant to support software throughout the Libraries and Learning Commons
- Raised an all time high of nearly $1.6 million in donations, thanks to a total of 8,620 gifts from 6,788 donors
- Doubled the number of laptops for loan to over 50
- Created over 80 new online subject research guides
- Offered satellite reference hours and research help at several locations around campus
- Developed plans for the Phase III expansion of the Learning Commons
- Since 2006, we’ve nearly doubled the number of research and information literacy classes librarians teach; we now reach more than a third of the undergraduate population through our instruction program.
- Renovated the Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room
- Hosted the most successful Dinner with Friends to date, raising $32,000 for the Libraries

Library use hit another all time high of over 1.2 million, with use of the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library up 9%.