



University of  
Massachusetts  
Amherst

## University Libraries Annual Report 2006

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University of Massachusetts  
Amherst



*Report of the Library*

2006

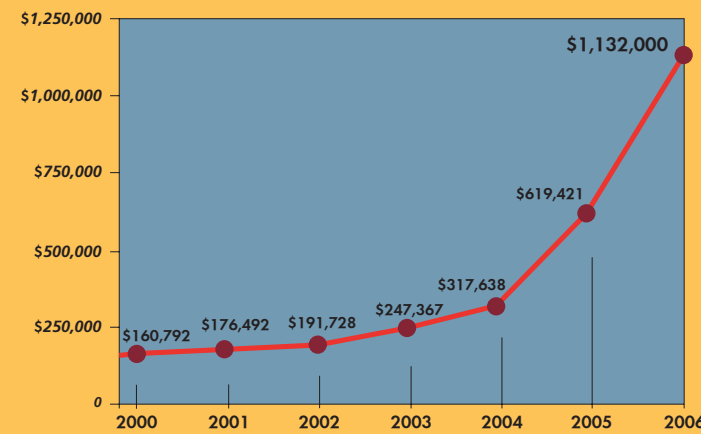




# “The Learning Commons is the new campus center.”

Mike Gargano, vice chancellor, Office for Student Affairs and Campus Life

## GIVING IS GROWING



**THANK YOU**  
for your support in 2006

With the help of the Friends of the Library, we achieved great things over the past year. Here are some of the highlights:

- Created the 21st Century Library Technology Endowment to provide funds for innovative technology improvements such as a new multimedia center and expanded Learning Commons facilities.
- Launched the Director's Council to raise awareness of and financial support for the UMass Amherst Libraries. Members of the Director's Council will serve as advocates—through financial support and outreach—for the Libraries, on campus and throughout their own spheres of influence.
- Microsoft General Manager Anthony Salcito awarded the UMass Amherst Libraries a \$600,000 Unlimited Potential Grant.
- Raised an all time high of \$1.1 million through 7,292 gifts from 6,344 donors in fiscal year 2006.

The Learning Commons brings together library, technology, and other campus services in an environment that fosters informal, collaborative work, and social interaction. In addition to personal computers, group study rooms, flexible work stations, and comfortable furniture, the Learning Commons offers



academic and career advising, technical support, peer tutoring, writing assistance, reference and research assistance, assistive technologies for people with disabilities, information desks, and a café. The Learning Commons exemplifies both the academic and the corporate environments of the future where team projects, rapid feedback, access to web resources, and seamless integration of information, media, and learning inspire innovation and productivity.

Use has exceeded expectations; the students love the renovations and want more of everything. In 2006, the



Library expanded the Learning Commons with more glass study rooms, computers, workstations, quiet study space, comfortable chairs, and scanners, in addition to laptops and projectors to borrow, additional wireless capability, and a large glass-walled room for the Writing Center.

“Anytime of the day you go in there, it’s crowded with students. You don’t need to go anywhere else. They have food and drinks and tons of computers - they’re always adding more computers - and there are lots of study spaces. It’s really nice.”  
 (“Students flock to renovated library,” *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, December 28, 2006)



The Class of 1955, in honor of its 50th reunion, donated funds to create and install a garden on the north side of the Du Bois Library featuring accessible pedestrian walkways.

## SCHOLARLY HIGHLIGHTS

The UMass Amherst Library, Office of Research, Center for Teaching, and Graduate School collaborated to offer “Research and Scholarship in the Digital Age,” a colloquium, which explored the changing nature of the representation of knowledge and how it affects research and scholarship. Chris Greer, Program Director, National Science Foundation’s Division of Biological Infrastructure was the guest speaker.

ScholarWorks@UMassAmherst, a digital repository (<http://scholarworks.umass.edu>), was launched. It provides a place for UMass Amherst faculty, researchers, and scholars to store and share their digital materials. ScholarWorks includes journals, articles, book chapters, audio and video files, theses and dissertations and is available to the public.

Special Collections and University Archives sponsored the second colloquium in an ongoing series “Building the Left in the Age of the Right: Developing a Lifetime Commitment,” with activists and writers Eric Mann and Lian Hurst Mann.

Editor of Martin Luther King Papers Clayborne Carson, Professor of History at Stanford University and Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, gave a talk in honor of W.E.B. Du Bois’s Birthday.



Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Salvatore F. DiMasi, toured the Learning Commons with Director of Libraries Jay Schafer and Associate Director for User Services Anne C. Moore.



Campus and University administrators award Jane Yolen an honorary degree in the Library.

## BIG CHANGES INSIDE AND OUT

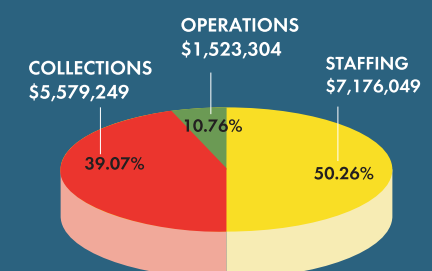
The W.E.B. Du Bois Library’s exterior renovations were completed this year. The project features a variety of trees in planters surrounded by benches, handsome two-toned concrete walkways, new lighting, improved accessibility, attractive brickwork in the courtyard, and a terraced garden.

To ensure the long-term beauty of the project, the Class of 1957, with a goal of \$125,000, will devote its 50th reunion gift to the Du Bois Library promenade. They will create an

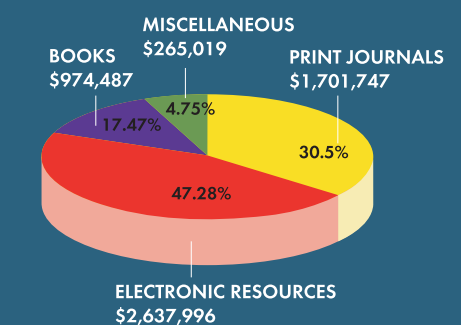
endowment for the maintenance and upkeep of walkways, planters, plantings, benches, and bike racks. As we go to print, over \$105,000 has been raised.

On the Lower Level, the Learning Commons was expanded and Floors 2 and 3 were renovated to create additional quiet study spaces, complete with new carpeting, comfortable furniture, and individual workstations. New attractive signage was added on the Entrance and Lower Levels.

### Library Expenditures, FY 06

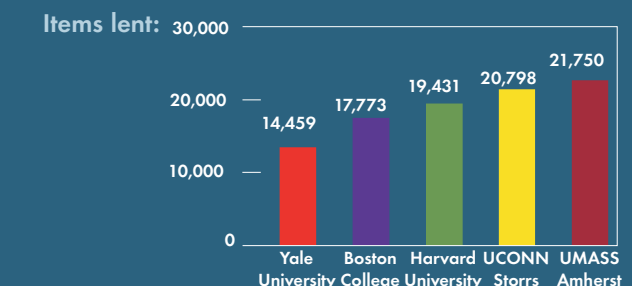


### Collections Expenditures, FY 06



Over the last two years, the UMass Amherst Libraries have moved up 20 points to #85 in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) rankings.

### Interlibrary Loan Named Top NELINET Lender



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## Coffee's On, Dusty Books Are Out at UMass Library Extras aimed at drawing students

By James Vaznis / Globe Staff

**A**MHERST – To its 3 million volumes of books, the personal papers of US Representative Silvio O. Conte, and the works of William Butler Yeats, the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts has added more features: a café, a lounge, and cellphone isolation booths.

With students shunning its 28 stories and opting to conduct research by mouse

click, the library is on an outreach offensive, shelving once-forbidding rules and replacing an old circulation counter with a coffee bar, where hot drinks and soda are for sale and an assortment of pastries are on display behind the counter.

*For the full article, see:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ygbxtf>*

## National Public Radio

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"Weekend Edition Saturday" with Scott Simon

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006

## College Libraries Vie for Student Traffic

"Many college libraries are working hard to attract young scholars to facilities that no longer serve as a gathering place. In-room Internet access is a major competitor. The head of libraries for the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Jay Schafer, tells Scott Simon about the changes at his library's W.E.B. DuBois building."

*For the full story, see: <http://tinyurl.com/25v3jk>*

## Daily Hampshire Gazette

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2006

## Students Flock to Renovated Library

By Kristin Palpini / Staff writer

AMHERST - Innovative renovations at the University of Massachusetts Learning Commons in the W.E.B. Du Bois Library have increased student use of the library by tens of thousands.

*For the full article, see: [www.library.umass.edu/friends](http://www.library.umass.edu/friends)*

# 5.9mill

number of items ranging from books to musical recordings in the Libraries

# 20,883

questions answered at the Learning Commons and Technical Support desk

# 1,924

number of additional hours Du Bois Library was open compared to 2005

# 400

number of ports for laptop access

# 164

number of computers in the Learning Commons

# 36

number of new upholstered chairs

# 17

number of laptops for loan

# 16

number of glass rooms for group study

# 12

number of new staff members

# 4

number of Cell Zone™ phone booths

2006 BY THE NUMBERS

“It’s so popular because they are responsive to students’ needs.”

*Brian A. Whalley '07,  
UMass Amherst political science major*



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