Saint Mary's University

PATRICK POWER LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT
1999-2000

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University Librarian

In July, as the newly appointed University Librarian, I set about introducing myself to the Saint Mary's community, listening to concerns, and identifying priorities for the library. My first major task was not a pleasant one: despite an increase in the acquisitions budget, inflated subscription costs – an issue for all academic libraries – necessitated a serials cancellation project. This project, however, enabled us to liberate funds to add much-needed books to the collection. Consultation with teaching departments led to a review of our allocations formula, and by year end, a more equitable formula based on course enrollments and other key factors, was close to completion. A case for a higher level of acquisitions funding was made through the budget process, and we anticipate an increase in the coming year.

The Canadian National Site Licence Project was established. Saint Mary's, with 63 other universities, is a participant in this important venture, with partial funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. Negotiations are now under way with the electronic vendors, to make available a vast array of science resources. Given the prohibitive cost and specialized nature of materials in the sciences, it is hoped that the CNSLP will expand our access to these resources, to benefit not only the teaching programs of the university, but also faculty research.

It is clear that both students and faculty are increasingly incorporating electronic resources into their research. Easy web access to full text materials is growing rapidly. Campus wide use of databases has almost doubled in the past year. Additional databases have been added, and work continues to make all products available from any computer on campus. While off campus access is still somewhat limited, subject coverage and accessibility have been expanded considerably.

Electronic resources are only part of the story. The Patrick Power Library enjoys a strong reputation for service to students. We participated fully as a member of the Novanet consortium, both in the system planning and development process, but also in the circulation of materials to students and faculty of other Novanet institutions. User education continues to grow, hand in hand with extensive reference assistance.

We enter a new year with a more stable collection budget, the promise of the Canadian National Site Licence, a growth in international materials, thanks to some exceptional donations, and an increasing profile in the Saint Mary's community and beyond.

More Milestones

- A new, sophisticated ID system was launched, and subsequently the library was invited to supply all accreditation for the Tall Ships Festival.
- A large donation of history and Asian materials was received from the late Dr John Lee's estate.
- A rare book conservation project was undertaken with the AGNS.
- A comprehensive staff development program was instituted, to strengthen our mission of providing service excellence to the university community and beyond.
- Despite journal cancellations, 44 new titles were added.
- A periodical usage survey was instituted.
- Instructional Development/User Education produced a new publication, *The Perfect Term Paper*.
- Reference interaction changed to more on demand individualized electronic resource training.
- Roch Carrier, Canada's National Librarian, visited the Patrick Power Library, on the Halifax leg of his cross country tour.
- The Faculty of Commerce funded important online library resources.
- Four groups of Marketing students developed survey proposals to investigate student use of the library.
- Planning for Y2K prevented all but minor problems.
- The University Librarian, appointed to the National Library Resource–Sharing Task Force, participated in the development of a new strategic plan.
- The University Archives supervised an oral history transcription project for the university's bicentennial committee.
- A new position, Library Systems Technician, was created. Projects have included computer upgrades, a move to Windows NT and switch to Netscape Messenger; and the rebuilding of the library web page.
- The library played a leadership role in the Novanet consortium, and was instrumental in the development of a plan for system renewal.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

	1994/1995 (5 years)	1998/1999 (1 year)	1999/2000	% change 94/95 to 99/00	% change 98/99 to 99/00
Questions at the Reference Desk	27,875	24,689	24,574	-11.8%	-0.46%
Students taught in Library instruction sessions	1,776	2,415	3,216	81.1%	33.2%
Visits to the Library	538,350	421,098	434,420	-19.3%	3.2%
Research database sessions	N/A	26,784	52,972	N/A	97.8%
Interlibrary Loans: Borrowing	1,404	782	824	-41.3%	5.4%
Lending	1,714	1,152	1,203	-29.8%	4.3%
Novanet Express: Borrowing	N/A	1,040	1,829	N/A	75.9%
Lending	N/A	1,650	2,221	N/A	34.6%
Total Circulation	252,909	179,379	166,930	-34.0%	-6.9%
Monographs Purchased from Acquisitions Budget (excludes grants)	3,437	1,371	3,247	-5.5%	136.8%
Journal Subscriptions Renewed	1,260	1,048	939	-25.5%	-10.4%
Journals as a Percentage of total Acquisitions Budget	52.0%	61.0%	46.0%	-11.5%	-24.6%
Electronic Resources as a Percentage of total Acquisitions Budget	8.10%	18.70%	15.90%	96.3%	-15.0%
Total Titles Added to Novanet, including retrospective cataloguing	8,467	6,162	6,089	-28.1%	-1.2%
Average Cost of a Monograph	$67.74	$93.89	$83.58	23.4%	-11.0%
Average Cost of a Journal Subscription	$246.85	$358.92	$350.70	42.1%	-2.3%
Acquisitions Budget	$600,000.00	$620,000.00	$720,000.00	20.0%	16.1%