Looking ahead to a library renovation

by Peggy Seiden, College Librarian

BACKGROUND

Since 1998, the College has held out the promise of a major renovation to McCabe Library. There were several master planning exercises, most recently in 2002; though for a variety of reasons, the College did not move forward with these. These plans focused on the existing library structure with little to no change to the exterior envelope. During the work towards developing the College’s Strategic Directions, the working group on the “Future of Knowledge” was responsible for developing recommendations for academic facilities including the library. Ultimately, their recommendations vis-à-vis the library found their way into the final Strategic Directions document. As noted in that document:

Swarthmore’s libraries must evolve to reflect changes in learning and scholarship. McCabe Library was built in 1967 and typifies mid-20th century ideas of libraries as passive places for the housing and consumption of printed texts. We must re-envision the library to provide for functions as varied as quiet study, group study, informal conversation - spaces that allow our students and faculty to engage with knowledge in its many forms.

During the subsequent “campus master planning” exercise, the architects proposed an expansion to the existing building that would address some of the most significant short-comings of the current structure – sufficient space for collections in environmentally sound conditions, a grand reading room, and the overall lack of natural light.

While a major renovation/expansion of the library is looking more hopeful, facilities and the library had a long-term capital plan to address other issues, specifically collections growth and the need for group study rooms. As part of this plan, McCabe intends to move the bound journal collections, currently on the second floor, to the lower level on compact shelving and repurpose much of the second floor for study spaces and rooms. There were also funds to renovate Cornell Library’s main floor to address longstanding acoustical issues and repurpose shelving for additional seating. In a meeting last spring with the Provost, Tom Stephenson, and VP for Facilities, Stu Hain, we agreed that the best way forward, given the scope of near and long-term renovations, was to bring in architects to develop a master-plan for the libraries that could help inform the more immediate renovations within the larger, longer term context.

continued on page 2
Looking ahead to a library renovation

continued from page 1

WHAT STUDENTS and FACULTY WANT

This fall, the Library Committee took on the task of developing a vision for the master plan that will be part of a Request for Proposals that is sent to architectural firms. The expanded committee (seven faculty, staff from ITS, the Dean’s Office, and the Language Lab, and two students) met during the semester to discuss the “library of the future.” As part of the work, the College Librarian met with the humanities and social sciences departments to listen to their ideas and to solicit responses to some proposed future directions. With the assistance of Maria Lucoff, associate project manager in facilities, the library also held three open forums – two in McCabe and one in Eldridge Commons – to gather input from students. The student “fireside chats” were fairly structured. Students were shown two groups of images of different libraries – one set of images that focused on “look and feel” and another that focused on function. They were given four stickers to place on those images that resonated most with them. We also asked them a series of “madlib” type questions about the libraries: The Swarthmore College Libraries should be or communicate ______; I value X Library because _______; X Library is the only _______ that _______; and finally, One thing I would add or change to the libraries.

The students, as a whole, gravitated to libraries that were open, light filled, and for the most part traditional – large reading rooms with wooden tables and rich finishes. Overall, the majority of students favored the look and feel of Penn’s Fischer Fine Arts Library. These reading rooms convey the sacrosanct nature of scholarly work, a shared seriousness of purpose, as well as an architecturally significant space.

Another favorite space was Duke’s library café, which in function and feel is similar to Eldridge Commons in combining both an intellectual and social space - a large open study area with food and drink service and plenty of natural light.

The responses to the “madlib” exercises echoed the characteristics of these libraries. Certain common themes emerged among the students: the importance of windows and light; variety of spaces for distinct modes of studying as well as social space like cafes. As one student wrote, “The library must be a space where I can bury myself in a book (alone) and also find a space to be social.” They want a library to be comfortable, safe, clean, open, bright and inspiring.

continued on page 3
Looking ahead to a library renovation

continued from page 2

Below are a few of their comments on what the library must be or communicate.

Library must be a place where one can concentrate… calm, reserved.
Library must be accommodating of different learning styles (quiet, loud spaces, social places, group, etc.).
The library must be a space where students feel open to study and express new ideas; where everyone feels welcome;
easily navigable.
The library must communicate new, interdisciplinary, and radical ideas. Foster exchange.
The library must communicate an appreciation of cultural heritage.

Faculty also expressed concerns about the library's current aesthetics and functionality. They referenced Eldridge Commons, noting that the library needs to be, foremost, a community space - “An open space… where people think and learn together.” Many faculty members advocated for the importance of a visual connection to the “book” and the continuing importance of a fully browsable monograph collection. They also recalled with fondness and some nostalgia other academic libraries and expressed a desire to incorporate aspects of those libraries within a renovated McCabe. Faculty in a number of the departments asked that McCabe include “subject” reading rooms with book-lined walls.

One discussion point with faculty was how to engage them in a library building. Some faculty favored classrooms in the library – media rich spaces and traditional seminar rooms. Faculty were generally enthusiastic about having more exhibit space in the libraries, especially for student work, as well as a small auditorium for lectures, readings, and film viewings. We also discussed whether there might be faculty offices or programs in the library, such as the Aydelotte Foundation, interdisciplinary programs, or offices for special visiting faculty whose work was interdisciplinary or interdepartmental (though there was concern about diffusing the core “purpose” of the library). Feeling that they are displacing students when they work in the library, faculty suggested that a renovation should create spaces where they feel welcome to spend time. But as one faculty member said, the library cannot solve all the space problems on campus.

Faculty in Film/Media Studies, Theater, and Art all addressed the need for media spaces or maker spaces, though there was no consensus on whether these kinds of spaces should be in the libraries. Few other faculty or students placed technology needs high in their priorities for a renovated library. But it is a fact that the materials which libraries collect are increasingly digital, as is knowledge production. The libraries of the future will need to support exploration, discovery of existing works as well as the creation of new works in a myriad of digital and analog formats.

OUR VISION

Many questions remain to be answered, particularly about other possible functions that might be incorporated into the library. Many libraries provide housing for a range of student services such as tutoring, writing centers, teaching and learning centers. While the libraries already provide satellite locations for the SAMS, many other peer tutors meet with students in the various libraries more informally. Small group rooms could accommodate greater privacy, but should the staff of these programs also have offices here? Another question is whether there should be accommodations for ITS staff and facilities in a renovated and expanded library. The libraries and ITS collaborate in developing and supporting student and faculty digital projects and the libraries are an essential part of the public computing environment on campus. Quite a few faculty members noted that it was difficult to know where to go and whom to consult and that the libraries and ITS need to work to make the current patchwork of support more seamless. What kinds of media rich spaces or maker spaces do we need in the libraries and how can we ensure that the expertise is available where the work is happening?

One could imagine that the libraries could fall into disuse as access to more scholarly resources moves to the desktop. What does the library need to be to ensure that it is a community hub, the student center – an intellectual and cultural forum? As we move into the master planning work, we will continue to reach out to the Swarthmore College community to solicit their ideas and concerns. We have been encouraged to think big. McCabe was built in 1967; it will be 50 years old before we begin the renovation process. Whatever we do, it should be architecturally significant and should express, in the words of one faculty member, “the grandeur of the learning process.”
Swarthmore Libraries joining HathiTrust
by Barbara Weir

This spring the Swarthmore Libraries are joining the HathiTrust partnership, whose mission is “to contribute to the common good by collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge.” HathiTrust is building a digital library to provide long-term preservation and access to digitized book and journal content. The content, about 63% of which is under copyright, originates from the Google Book project as well as from resources contributed by the Internet Archive and library partners.

While the archive is freely open for anyone to search, partners are allowed full viewing and downloading of public domain materials and materials for which HathiTrust has permission for such use. Partners may also request specialized access to public domain and in-copyright materials for their users with print disabilities.

The partnership is working on a number of initiatives of benefit to libraries, including one to digitize the entire print corpus of U.S. federal publications, estimated to be 1.5 – 2 million items. The ability to search, download and print this content would be of great benefit to researchers and would allow McCabe Library to reclaim space currently used to house many of these print items. Also of interest is the HathiTrust Research Center, which provides resources to enable text mining and digital humanities research.

How large is this digital library? The website says there are currently over 13 million volumes, 6.6 million titles, and 4.5 trillion pages available. Hathi (pronounced hah-tee) is Hindi for elephant. It’s big, it’s strong, it’s trustworthy, and it never forgets.

Newton book collection competition accepting students’ entries
by Roberto Vargas

The annual Edward Newton Book Collection Competition awards prizes to the three best book collections as judged by the Newton Committee, composed of librarians, faculty and students.

Last year’s winner, Hanna King, went on to place second at the National Collegiate Book Collecting contest; she was the only undergraduate among the three winners. Mark Dimunation, the rare book and special collections librarian at the Library of Congress, recognized her collection as exceptional and worthy of the second prize.

Our hope here at the library is to continue to encourage students to apply to the Newton competition and start a new tradition of producing winners at the national level.

To enter the competition, which is open to all undergraduate students, submit an annotated bibliography of at least 25 books to rvargas1 by midnight on March 23.

For more information, contact Roberto Vargas at rvargas1. Examples of past applications can be read here: http://www.swarthmore.edu/libraries/mccabe-library/newton-past-winners.xml

Two archivists from Peace Collection present at conference on WWI
by Anne Yoder

A group of historians met in October to commemorate the start of World War I and its aftermath. The two-day conference, “World War I: Dissent, Activism and Transformation,” was co-sponsored by the Peace History Society and took place at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey. It garnered participants and speakers whose interests and expertise lie in early 20th century social movements.

Peace Collection Curator Wendy Chmielewski presented at one session about how U.S. participation in the war did or did not affect strategies of the woman suffrage movement between 1914 and 1918. Peace Collection Archivist Anne Yoder presented at another session on conscientious objection during the Great War, focusing on two brothers who were dissenters to war and spent months in prison for their stance. Both of these papers drew on archival resources at the Peace Collection.

Other presenters shared papers on African-Americans and their experiences of racism in the military, Quaker relief efforts, anti-war literature, and many other topics.
The RIA HYPE team gears up for another successful semester

By Jasmine Woodson

Spring 2015 will mark the fourth semester of the Research and Information Associates (RIAs), Swarthmore Libraries’ fledgling peer research assistance program. Developed by librarians Pam Harris and Sarah Elichko to help staff the reference desk on evenings and weekends, the RIA HYPE (Helping Your Peers Excel) team has grown beyond the reference desk and expanded into the college community, sharing their ever-expanding library knowledge in dorm visits, thesis write-ins, and study-breaks.

Along with the specialized expertise they’ve developed as student researchers, the RIAs undergo a regular series of trainings in order to refine their knowledge of database searching and reference service.

The current RIA lineup includes veterans Mahnoor Malik, Maria Mejia, Mireille Guy, Stephanie Braziel, and Dominique Bush and newcomer Tess Amram. Plans for the spring semester include sustaining our current outreach efforts while increasing RIA visibility on campus. Also: library swag! If you see any of the RIAs at the reference desk, stop by and say hello. For more information, visit: http://www.swarthmore.edu/libraries/rias

Library Advisory Board formed with 16 students

By Barbara Weir

What would students want in a new or renovated library space?
What are students’ needs for study spaces?
Are students starting their research with library resources?
If not, what are they doing?

Recently, we have been asking ourselves these questions, and decided it would be better to ask the students themselves. This fall the library invited students to apply for the inaugural Library Advisory Board to help us improve our systems, services, and spaces. Sixteen students were selected, representing a variety of majors, class years, and experience with the libraries.

The students are: Spriha Dhanuka, Bolutife Fakoya, Emma Haviland-Blunk, Joan Huang, Christine Seohae Jung, Jong Seok (JS) Lee, Mahnoor Malik, Maria Mejia, Richard Monari, Julia Nee, Karl Palmquist, Rose Pozos-Brewer, Kerry Robinson, Andrew Steele, Austen Van Burns, and Jennifer Walsh.

While meeting with the students to discuss issues of space in the libraries, they helped us understand the range of study spaces and seating needed to provide the optimal library environment for student success. Some specific needs mentioned were: more windows and natural light, group study spaces with whiteboards as well as very quiet individual spaces, more power outlets, a variety of comfortable chairs, a bathroom on the main floor, longer hours, and a coffee bar.

This spring we will ask the students to do usability testing of Tripod as we plan for a re-branding and improvements to functionality.

Students chosen as library interns

by Meg Spencer

This spring six students will be participating in the Library’s Intern program, now in its tenth year. The library interns are: Kara Bledsoe ’16, Michaela Krauser ’17, Richard Monari ’16, Julia Nee ’15, Stephanie Wang ’17 and Joyce Wu ’15. Once again, they have an interesting mix of majors, from Chemistry to Classical Studies, English to Economics. The interns will participate in a weekly class covering a different aspect of academic librarianship, work on a project of their own choosing, and go on field trips to special libraries in Philadelphia. A bit of trivia: Richard Monari is the grandson of Emi Horikawa, Swarthmore’s previous Science Librarian (1977-1997).
New resources in the Swarthmore Libraries
by Amy McColl

Black Abolitionist Papers (Proquest)
“Covering the period 1830-1865, the collection presents the massive, international impact of African American activism against slavery, in the writings and publications of the activists themselves. The approximately 15,000 articles, documents, correspondence, proceedings, manuscripts, and literary works of almost 300 Black abolitionists show the full range of their activities in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Germany ... The digital collection reproduces in full the 17 reels of microfilmed content from the original collection.”
http://bap.chadwyck.com/home/home.do

Digital National Security Archives (3 collections)
Contains full text declassified government documents owned by the National Security Archive covering world events, countries, and U.S. policy decisions. Includes collections of indexed documents (with new collections added yearly), glossaries, chronologies, bibliographies, overviews, and photographs. Coverage from post-World War II to present:
CIA Covert Operations: From Carter to Obama, 1977-2010

Loeb Classical Library
The mission of the Loeb Classical Library, founded by James Loeb in 1911, has always been to make Greek and Latin literature accessible to the broadest range of readers. The digital Loeb Classical Library extends this mission into the twenty-first century. Harvard University Press is honored to renew James Loeb’s vision of accessibility and presents an interconnected, fully searchable, perpetually growing, virtual library of all that is important in Greek and Latin literature. Epic and lyric poetry; tragedy and comedy; history, travel, philosophy, and oratory; the great medical writers and mathematicians; those Church Fathers who made particular use of pagan culture — in short, our entire Greek and Latin classical heritage is represented here with up-to-date texts and accurate English translations. More than 520 volumes of Latin, Greek, and English texts are available in a modern and elegant interface, allowing readers to browse, search, bookmark, annotate, and share content with ease.
http://www.loebclassics.com/

Oxford Bibliographies Online (2 additional collections):
This resource is an entirely new and unique type of reference tool that has been specially created to meet a great need among today’s students, scholars, and professionals. It offers more than other bibliography initiatives on- and offline by providing expert commentary to help students and scholars find, negotiate, and assess the large amount of information readily available to them.
Anthropology:
http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/browse?module_0=obo-9780199766567
Atlantic History:
http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/browse?module_0=obo-9780199730414

PRISMA (Publicaciones y Revistas Sociales y Humanísticas)
PRISMA is a comprehensive reference resource providing 165 full-text scholarly journals in the social sciences and humanities for the interdisciplinary academic study of Hispanic and Latin America and the Caribbean Basin. Offering key titles indexed in the Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI), a highly respected database produced by the Latin American Center of the University of California, Los Angeles, PRISMA features Spanish, Portuguese, and English language content.
http://search.proquest.com/prisma/advanced?accountid=14194

PsychiatryOnline Premium (American Psychiatric Association)
PsychiatryOnline is a website that features DSM-5® and The American Journal of Psychiatry as the cornerstones of a collection of psychiatric references, including books, journals, and self-assessment tools. Much more than individual titles, PsychiatryOnline features sophisticated searching and indexing tools that enable users to quickly target all the information needed.
http://www.psychiatryonline.org/
Jason Hamilton is the new user technology support specialist in McCabe Library. He has a degree in Management Information Systems from Temple University’s Fox School of Business. Previously, he provided technical assistance at the Widener University Law campus in Delaware and technical troubleshooting on the gaming floor at Harrah’s Casino.

Jasmine Woodson is the new Reference & Instruction Resident in McCabe Library. A recent MLIS graduate, she is currently finishing a Masters in Educational Psychology at Temple University. While at Swarthmore, Jasmine will be coordinating the Research & Information Associates (RIAs) program, participating in teaching, learning, and assessment initiatives, and developing outreach opportunities for the library across campus.

Kate Carter is now serving in the newly created position of digital initiatives and scholarship manager, charged with providing strategic leadership for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the library’s digital initiatives, such as the institutional repository, local digital collections, and digital scholarship. She will be supervising the newly-formed Digital Initiatives and Scholarship department comprising Nabil Kashyap, Susan Dreher and Anna Goslen. In her previous role as the digital initiatives librarian, Kate was involved in digital projects and scholarship for several years through her work on TAG, the Strikeforce, the library website, the launch of BEPress, the research data committee, and other projects.

Donna Fournier, music and dance librarian, travelled to Rio de Janeiro in November to perform with Mélomanie at the international festival Compositores de Hoie (Composers of Today). Founded in 1993, Mélomanie’s mission is to connect the music of the Baroque with contemporary invention. Donna plays the viola da gamba; the four other musicians play flute, harpsichord, cello, and violin. The group released a new CD, Excursions, in September.

Anna Headley, applications programmer for the tri-college libraries, has accepted a position with the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. A Swarthmore alum, Anna worked in the technical services department in McCabe Library before her tri-college job.

Nabil Kashyap, librarian for digital initiatives and scholarship, and Allison Dorsey, professor of history, spoke on “Correcting the Narrative: The 1969 Black Student Protest, Digital Humanities and Creative Pedagogy” on January 29 in the Scheuer Room.

Last fall, Professor Allison Dorsey led Black Liberation 1969, an ambitious course that explored the late Civil Rights Movement through the lens of student protest movements, specifically Swarthmore in the late sixties. Among other things, the course explored the January 1969 Sit-In that took place in Parrish and the related early history of the Black Studies program.

Nabil collaborated with Professor Dorsey and her students to design a digital archive bringing together an amazing range of material – from presidential papers to alumni FBI files to black and white photographs to oral histories collected during the class. The site helps students explore Swarthmore’s recent history as well as showcases the scholarly and creative work students did in synthesizing their research. The site launches in February, in order to share those stories with a broader public in honor of Black History month. At the presentation on January 29, Nabil discussed the website and digital archive because they became so integral to the course.

The library also supported the class through helping to organize an exhibit of photographs of black life at Swarthmore at the time, taken by alum Leandre Jackson.

Roberto Vargas, reference and digital projects resident, and Nabil Kashyap, librarian for digital initiatives and scholarship, are involved with two trico seminars this semester. They are working with Professor Rachel Buurma in providing support for the Topic Modeling workshop, co-leading a pre-workshop, and assisting when Swarthmore alum and topic modeling pioneer David Mimno comes to visit. Nabil is also participating in the Critical Making seminar, along with Camilla MacKay, head librarian at Bryn Mawr’s Carpenter Library.

Mary Ann Wood has retired after 15 years as access and lending evening supervisor in McCabe Library. She began her retirement with a trip to Anchorage, Alaska, to get to know her new granddaughter, Madelynn Mary Wood, born on November 25. Alison Masterpasqua, her supervisor, wrote in an email that Mary Ann “has been such an asset to the access and lending team, contributing so much to the lives of the students she encounters, providing the best of customer service, and engaging productively with the college community. It is difficult to find words that adequately express our gratitude and how much we are going to miss her.”
exhibitions and events

Mathoms from Middle-earth: Tolkien Treasures
McCabe Library
Exhibition: January 13 – February 15
Lecture and Opening Reception: February 5, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

The mathoms in this exhibition are Tolkien treasures and trinkets gathered from McCabe Library’s collection and Craig Williamson’s personal hoard. These include most of Tolkien’s books (including first editions of *The Hobbit* and *The Silmarillion*), his drawings and paintings depicting Middle-earth scenes and characters, his children’s books, replicas from the Peter Jackson films, letters from his son Christopher to Craig about their common interest in Old English riddles and *Beowulf*, and a selection of critical studies of Tolkien’s work. Professor Craig Williamson (English Literature) will talk about the exhibition on Thursday, February 5, at 4:30 pm. A reception will follow.

Proof of Black Life: The Photography of Leandre Jackson
McCabe Library
Exhibition: February 17 – March 15

Leandre Jackson has been a professional photographer since 1971. His editorial photography has appeared in newspapers, scholarly journals, and textbooks, as well as on the covers of magazines and books such as, *The Washington Post Magazine, Cornel West, a Critical Reader, Roc The Mic Rigt, Tha Global Cipha, and Conversations With Sonia Sanchez*. This exhibition is a part of the Black History Month series of events for 2015, sponsored by the Black Cultural Center, Black Studies, the Dean’s Office, the Office of the President, and the Student Budget Committee.

Robin Price, book artist
McCabe Library
Exhibition: March 17 – April 19
Lecture and Opening Reception: March 18, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

This exhibition features the work of Robin Price, book artist, fine press printer, publisher of 31 years, and faculty member of the Graduate Liberal Studies Program at Wesleyan University. Her books, praised for their complexity and fine craftsmanship, cover a wide range of subjects, while taking artistic risks. She welcomes collaboration with artists, writers, and artisans. Her work is collected by numerous special collections libraries across the country, including the Swarthmore College Libraries, and has been exhibited in many venues, including the Center for Book Arts (NYC), the Columbia College (Chicago) Center for Book and Paper Arts, the Getty Research Institute, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the PABA (Photo Art Book Art) Gallery in New Haven, Connecticut.

*Price’s exhibit and talk will be of particular interest this spring to students in Mary Phelan’s book arts class, “Introduction to the Art of the Book,” which explores typesetting and printing, binding, wood engraving, and alternative forms of book construction and design. Students in the class will be displaying their works at the end of the semester in McCabe’s second floor lounge.*

French 57 - Bande Dessiné
McCabe Library
Exhibition: April 21 – June 7
Opening Reception: April 22, 4:15 pm

Students in the class will be choosing comic books and creating bi-lingual panels for the display.

Digital Humanities Lecture
Thursday, April 23, 4:00 pm
Science Center 101

Julia Flanders, director of the Women Writers Project, will deliver a public lecture at Swarthmore on Thursday, April 23, on the use of TEI as part of a long-term digital project strategy, using the Women Writers Project as a case study. This program will appeal both to those trico faculty and staff that are interested in using TEI, as well as those students who are either interested in using TEI in their own research or in women’s literature. Flanders has been involved since 1993 and is also a recognized expert in scholarly text encoding, textual editing, and humanities data modeling.