

Watzek Library:  
A Decade in Review, 2001-2010  
With Some Ideas for the Future

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for the Faculty Library/Educational Technology Committee

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## Introduction

As the College contemplates the role of the Watzek Library in the coming decade, we have prepared this document to review the library's achievements in the recent past and highlight its current strengths. This paper also identifies challenges, ongoing projects and new directions that the organization might take as it fulfills its [mission](#) in the coming years. These new directions are not endorsements or a strategic plan. They are simply ideas presented for discussion by the Lewis & Clark community. The document is organized into five sections that represent major areas of library activity: collections and access; unique collections; research services and information literacy; innovative technologies, services and operations; and library space.

Library staff have done some exceptional work in all of these areas. Much of the library's evolution in the last decade also reflects developments in the wider information environment as well as the ongoing role of Lewis & Clark College as the library's parent institution. For example, the transition to electronic journals is a common trend among academic libraries and also mirrors a broader shift in society towards consumption of media in digital formats. The growth of the Summit collection is a collective project of the institutions that belong to the Orbis Cascade Alliance. In-depth research consultations with librarians and robust usage of our collection reflect the rigorous student research that is part of Lewis & Clark's academic culture.

The library organization has advanced in some notable areas over the last decade. Our overall budget remains comparable to that of other selective liberal arts college libraries with a relatively even balance of funds between collections and staffing. Over the last ten years the library has reconfigured the positions of nearly all of its 25+ employees to address an evolving set of challenges. We have bolstered personnel in technology and Special Collections and assumed a new visual resources position formerly part of the Art department. With a marketing team in place we have a more sophisticated means for promoting services, resources, and events including our annual Watzek Rocks! concert, which is coming up on its seventh year this January. We now also have stronger ties with Institutional Advancement, which should position the library to play a greater role in College outreach and fundraising.

The Dean of the College oversees Watzek Library and the Director administers the organization, but its agenda is informed by a number of bodies. The library staff has engaged in internal planning efforts throughout the decade, with Public Services, Collection Management Services, and Digital Initiatives developing strategic and tactical plans on a roughly three year cycle. The CAS faculty Library/Educational Technology Committee has also provided guidance on a variety of fronts including information literacy, collections and space, surveys of the college community, and copyright matters. Our liaisons to the Graduate School have worked closely with faculty and administration to adjust our services as that school has grown throughout the decade to encompass a doctoral program. Finally, the Watzek Student Advisory Committee has contributed to important changes to library services and resources.

## Collections and Access to Information

Watzek Library acquires access to information resources that support the intellectual needs of the College, Graduate School, and greater campus community. As the library's acquisitions budget has grown by 48% from \$944,000 to \$1,402,500 in the last decade, the mix of expenditures has shifted significantly from physical to online resources. In particular, the library's expenditures for online services have increased 168% from \$95,000 in 2000/01 to \$255,000 in 2010/11 (see Appendix B). This change reflects growing interest in electronic indexes, reference works and aggregated packages of journal articles, primary sources, and digital images.

Online periodical collections and electronic article delivery through interlibrary loan have dramatically widened the scope of periodical content available to our patrons in the last decade. We have switched most periodical subscriptions to electronic format in response to user preference, though we continue to provide access to a number of titles in print and microform. To conserve stacks space, we have withdrawn the back files of some journals that are represented in stable electronic archives, e.g. JSTOR, and held in a regional distributed print repository. Our expenditures on individual periodical subscriptions have risen by 40% from \$490,000 in 2000/01 to \$690,000 in 2010/11, reflecting high levels of price inflation for individual journals. To accommodate inflation in the flat budget environment of recent years, the library is currently engaged in a journal review exercise for the 2011/12 fiscal year. In consultation with faculty, we are considering journals for cancellation based on usage statistics as well as a number of other factors such as connection to the curriculum, planned use in future courses, centrality to a particular discipline, etc.

The expansion of the Summit union catalog in the early 2000s to include Washington's public institutions has widened our universe of monographic materials to those held by all major academic libraries in the Pacific Northwest. With our local holdings now a part of this larger collective, purchasing decisions are often guided by efforts to broaden the base of research resources available to all consortium members. Usage of our book collection remains strong as it is a core resource for many disciplines, with expenditures rising by 23% from \$261,000 in 2000/01 to \$323,000 in 2010/11. Its continued growth has put us close to the capacity of our shelf space. We are also exploring the use of e-books through participation in an Orbis Cascade Alliance sponsored e-book pilot project and through selective purchase of e-books.

Potential future directions:

- Continue to purchase library resources at levels equivalent to peer institutions
- Transition to new formats as the information environment and faculty and student needs and preferences evolve
- Address collection space concerns through increasing reliance on electronic resources, consortial collections, remote storage, or expanding shelving

## Unique Collections

During the past ten years Watzek Library's [Special Collections and Archives](#) has evolved from a small rare book room and institutional records repository supported by one full time staff member to a fully functional research center with two and one half staff members. In the last decade, the collections have grown into an important archive of literary and historical materials with a Pacific Northwest focus. Major acquisitions have included the Lewis & Clark Expedition collection and the William Stafford Archive (See Appendix C for more details).

Over the past decade, Special Collections has enabled online access to many of its collections through digitization and electronic finding aids. Researchers can now find high-resolution digital files of photographs, architectural drawings, newspapers, broadsides, and documents representing collection holdings online. In 2010 Special Collections received a two-year LSTA grant to establish the [Oregon Poetic Voices Project](#) (OPV). This project aims to create a comprehensive digital archive of poetry readings that will complement existing print collections of poetry across the state.

Special Collections has also focused on programming and outreach through teaching, exhibitions, publications, lectures and readings. During the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemoration (2003-2006), Special Collections issued a bibliography of its holdings and exhibited highlights from its holdings at major museums and libraries across the United States. Special Collections has published a number of catalogs, bibliographies, exhibit posters, and poetry broadsides under its own imprint, the *Berberis Press*.

Finally, Special Collections supports the Lewis & Clark curriculum through practicums and intimate class sessions with numerous departments including the Core program, Art, English, History, Gender Studies, Communications, SoAn, and Religious Studies.

Watzek Library's [Visual Resources Center](#), which moved administratively to Watzek Library from the Art Department in 2005 and physically in 2009, curates a unique collection of slides and digital images of art and culture to support the teaching of visual culture across the Lewis & Clark curriculum. In 2008 the Center created accessCeramics, an innovative collection of images of contemporary ceramics now representing 250 artists from around the world.

Potential future directions:

- Deepen current historical and literary collections with strategic acquisitions
- Develop an expanded special collections facility to serve as a vibrant hub for humanities research with more space for collections, teaching, and practicums
- Design exchange programs for undergraduates with archives at other institutions; facilitate undergraduate internships at archives across the U.S. and abroad
- Increase ties with humanities departments through visiting scholars, internships, etc.

## Research Services and Information Literacy

The Research Services unit of Watzek Library exists to assist students and faculty with academic research while facilitating [information literacy proficiencies](#). While continuing Watzek's tradition of exceptional service, Research Services has adapted and evolved over the decade to create a service model that fits the academic culture of Lewis & Clark in today's information environment.

Even with new channels for questions such as chat and email, queries at the library's reference desk have decreased by roughly half over the past decade. This trend has prompted the library to reduce its reference desk hours on evenings and weekends in recent years. However, the use of the library's research consultation service has grown by 136% since being introduced in 2003, perhaps reflecting a greater need for in-depth, one-on-one research assistance.

In 2000, the College received a grant for information literacy that supported development of information-seeking skills and technology fluencies among students, particularly through modules in the Core curriculum. The grant project revealed a student and faculty preference for the development of research skills through assignments rather than online tutorials as is common at some institutions. One of the grant's legacies is a continued library presence in the Core curriculum in the form of librarian-led instruction sessions and library representation on the Core Steering Team.

In recent years, liaison librarians have developed integrated approaches to supporting student research in selected academic departments by aligning library instruction with research or methods courses. The recently established positions of Instruction Services Librarian and Faculty Outreach librarian are geared towards improving and expanding bibliographic instruction and advocating for research in the curriculum. In this spirit, Research Services has recently established a research award for Spring term Exploration and Discovery student projects.

Since joining Watzek Library in 2005, the Visual Resources Center has supported instruction in visual culture across disciplines through image research, digitization projects, and instruction. The new Visual Resources Coordinator, hired in 2009, is now more deeply integrated with Research Services and serves as a liaison to all fine arts departments.

Potential future directions:

- Experiment with new service models for reference, including students at the reference desk and new technologies for the delivery of reference inquiries
- Expand the strategy of introducing library research skills within the context of particular disciplines
- Integrate visual literacy more deeply into instruction and liaison work

## Innovative Technologies, Services and Operations

Over the past decade Watzek Library has developed innovative services and digital projects and implemented more efficient and sophisticated backroom operations. In the early 2000s the library made several additions and improvements to its web presence including a redesigned web site, a journal title finder, direct article linking from research databases, subject specific research guides, and an audiovisual database.

In the late 1990s the library introduced a number of information delivery services through its Access Services unit, including electronic article delivery and electronic reserves. Over the decade, these services have risen in popularity, and the library has continued to augment and improve them in numerous ways with services such as: audio e-reserves, materials-requesting between campuses and faculty article scanning and delivery. These services have been particularly critical for the Graduate School as their students are largely based off campus with many residing beyond the Portland metro area.

As electronic formats have become more prevalent, the library has retooled workflows and positions involved in managing the selection, acquisition, and cataloging of library resources. With the Watzek WorldCat search tool, the library is using a global bibliographic database to search its collection and Summit, and in the future new technologies may capture efficiencies by sharing more data between libraries.

Like many academic libraries in the mid 2000s, Watzek recognized the opportunity to digitize unique collections and make them available online. By 2005, the library had developed digital archives of literary and historical special collections, an archive of student theses, and an image databases for Visual Resources. In 2006, the College hired a Digital Services Coordinator to support these activities and to make continual improvements to the library's web presence.

In the late 2000s, the library undertook several innovative digital initiatives in collaboration with faculty, many of which received external grant support: [accessCeramics](#), the [William Stafford Archives](#), [Oregon Poetic Voices](#), and Oren Kosansky's Rabat Geneziah Project. In its 2008 10-year accreditation review, the College received a commendation for the library's website and innovative digital projects. The library is currently considering ways to best support growing interest in digital scholarship through its digital initiatives program.

Possible future directions:

- Continue to introduce innovative services to faculty and students
- Adopt technologies and services that capture efficiencies and leverage network effects
- Develop a more formal structure for supporting faculty digital projects
- Develop strategies for supporting digital resources in the sciences
- Collaborate with other institutions on digital projects
- Use digital technologies to track, archive and promote faculty and student research
- Develop more collaborations with Information Technology

## Library Space

Aubrey R. Watzek Library was renovated and expanded in the mid-1990s, doubling the size of the building and adding spaces for the College's Special Collections and Archives, Information Technology and the Hoffman Art Gallery. Though the number of visitors to the building has dropped by 23% since 2001, the library remains a nexus of campus life, a space for intellectual pursuits, academic support, cultural events, and quiet reflection, with an exceptional level of 24-hour service.

In the last decade, the library building has undergone several incremental improvements reflective of evolving needs and priorities of the library and the College: the College upgraded Special Collections' facilities to accommodate the Lewis & Clark Collection in 2000; the library created a classroom space in 2005 to support a growing information literacy/instruction program; in 2008 Special Collections opened the William Stafford Room in conjunction with the acquisition of the Stafford Archive; the Visual Resources Center moved into the library in 2009, a move symbolic of its evolving role in support of visual resources across the curriculum.

In the mid-2000s the Dean of the College and the Library Director developed a concept of the library as a "teaching and learning center" that would bring together multiple academic support units in a central location. The College had some initial conversations with architects about a feasibility study around this idea in 2009. In 2010, the Dean organized a remodeling project that relocated the Writing Center to the library atrium and created an improved space for the Visual Resources Center.

Watzek Library created a Space Planning Committee in 2009 to plan for changes and improvements to library space. Library design has become increasingly user-centered, with students and faculty providing direction in designing the most effective spaces. Working with this premise in mind, the group designed the collaborative study area in the library atrium in 2009 and in response to strong student usage of the area, expanded it in 2010.

As mentioned in the collections section, the library's stacks are close to maximum capacity. A transition to electronic formats in periodicals has created an opportunity to free up space for books by consolidating the periodical stacks; implementation of this plan is slated for the summer of 2011. This will provide room for book acquisitions for a few years, but stacks space for books is likely to remain an issue in the coming years.

Potential Future Directions (also see Collections and Access to Information Section):

- Host a wider variety of campus exhibits and events in the library
- Continue to pursue incremental, user-centered space redesign projects
- Include the library in an integrated planning initiative for student spaces across campus
- Engage in a planning process for large scale renovation and reprogramming of library space based on College-wide needs and priorities
- Create a library for the Graduate School on the South Campus

## Appendix A: Watzek Library Statistics

2009-2010

### Collections

<b>Books &amp; Periodicals</b> (June 2009)	
Total Print Volumes	316,700
Volumes Added	8,900
Total Titles	231,200
Titles Added	6,500
Periodicals (all formats)	42,300
<b>Research Databases</b>	210
<b>Microform Items</b>	419,200
<b>Audiovisual Materials</b>	19,600
<b>Slides</b>	49,700
<b>Digital Images</b>	41,200

### Services 2009-10

<b>Circulation</b>	
Checkouts & Renewals	88,800
Summit Lending	12,000
Summit Borrowing	11,100
<b>Interlibrary Loans (excluding Summit)</b>	
ILL Lending	6,400
ILL Borrowing	8,200
<b>Reference Desk Inquiries</b>	3,700
<b>Library Instruction Sessions</b>	70
<b>Research Consultations</b>	123
<b>Visitors to Library</b> (gate count)	344,300
<b>Visits to Library Website</b>	306,828
<b>Hours Library Is Open</b> (weekly)	141

### Building & Facilities

<b>Total Square Footage</b>	104,000
<b>Library Seats</b>	520
<b>Group Study Rooms</b>	10
<b>Public Reference Computers</b>	24



## **Aubrey R. Watzek Library Statistics**

### **Collections (as of June 2001)**

Books & Periodicals	
Total Volumes	272,000
Volumes Added 00/01	13,700
Periodical Subscriptions	
Paper	1,400
Microform	650
Microform Items	438,000
Audio-Visual Materials	11,400

### **Services 2000/01**

Circulation	
Checkouts & Renewals	87,300
Orbis Borrowing	9,270
Orbis Lending	9,290
Reserves (not including electronic)	16,300
Interlibrary Loans	
Items Borrowed	2,000
Items Loaned	2,400
Reference Inquiries	8,100
Library Instruction Sessions	30
Visitors to Library (gate count)	446,000

### **Building & Facilities**

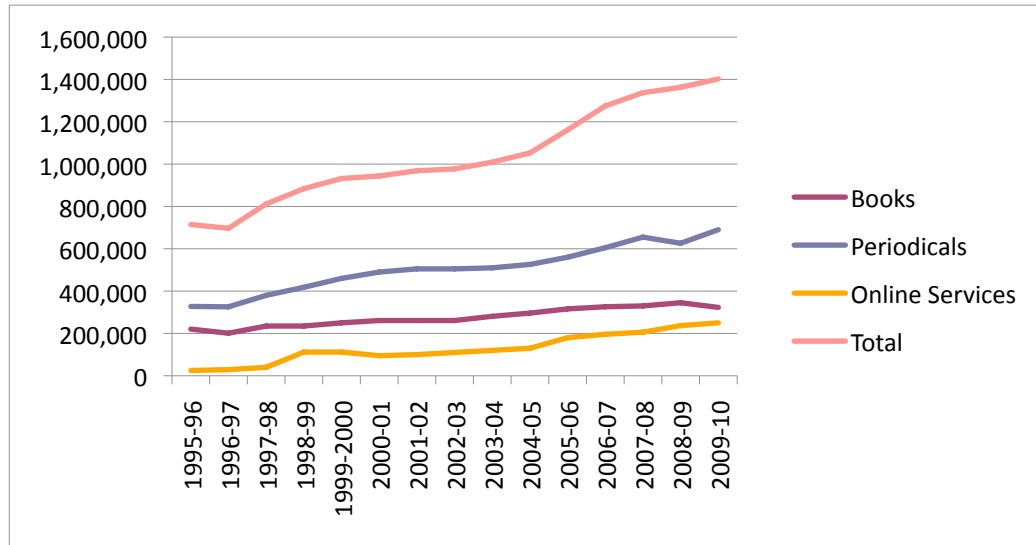
Total Square Footage	104,000
Library Seats	520
Group Study Rooms	10
Public Reference Computers	22
Hours Open (weekly)	139

## **Watzek Library Statistical Comparison, 2000/01 vs. 2009/10**

<b>Collections:</b>	2000/01	2009/10
Total Print Volumes	272,000	316,700
Volumes added	13,700	8,900
<b>Services:</b>		
Checkouts and renewals	87,300	88,800
Summit/Orbis Borrowing	9,270	11,100
Interlibrary Loan Borrowing	2,000	8,200
Reference Inquiries	8,100	3,700
Library Instruction Sessions	30	70
Visitors to building	446,000	344,300

## Appendix B:

### Funds Budgeted for Library Materials 1995/96-2009/10 Watzek Library



Year	Books	Periodicals	Online services	Total*
1995-96	220,356	327,500	25,000	714,346
1996-97	201,060	325,722	29,000	696,938
1997-98	235,000	380,000	40,000	812,009
1998-99	235,000	418,000	112,000	884,000
1999-2000	250,000	460,000	112,000	932,000
2000-01	261,000	490,000	95,000	943,899
2001-02	261,000	505,000	100,000	968,500
2002-03	261,000	505,000	110,000	977,200
2003-04	281,000	510,000	120,000	1,009,200
2004-05	296,000	526,000	130,000	1,052,650
2005-06	316,000	560,000	180,000	1,161,650
2006-07	326,000	605,000	196,000	1,275,000
2007-08	330,000	655,000	206,000	1,337,500
2008-09	345,000	626,000	237,000	1,363,000
2009-10	323,000	690,000	250,000	1,402,500

## Appendix C:

### **Lewis & Clark College Special Collections , 2000-2010**

The Collections are home to a wide range of rare and fragile books that have been acquired by the College since its founding in 1867. Some interesting titles include: The Ellesmere Chaucer ca. 1400, in facsimile; *History of Polybius* (1574); *History of the Western Empire from 570 to 1200* (1584); *China Monumentis* by Athanasius Kircher (1667); a set of the socialist journal *New Masses* (1939-40); the ethnographic reports of Henry Schoolcraft (1851); a variety of California fine press printing by Grabhorn, John Henry Nash, Colt Press, Ward Ritchie, Adrian Wilson, Centaur Press, and the Book Club of California; and a number of bibliographies. Over the past ten years the rare book holdings and one-of-a-kind materials like manuscripts and photographs have been expanded in the major focused areas listed below.

#### ***Major Poetry, Arts & Literary Collections Acquired from 2000-2010***

- Manuscripts by Oregon poet Edwin Markham.
- The family papers of C.E.S. and Erskine Wood.
- The writings of L&C alum Alan Hart.
- The complete archives of William Stafford including the private papers, publications, photographs, recordings, and teaching materials
- John F. Callahan papers relating to his work as literary executor for Ralph Ellison.
- The complete archives of Oregon poet and publisher Vi Gale.
- The complete archives of Oregon poet and Lewis & Clark faculty emeritus Vern Rutsala.
- The archives and publications of Oregon poet laureate, Paulann Petersen.
- Manuscript of Oregon novelist Karl Malantes.
- The publications of Oregon novelist, Katherine Dunn.
- Books by Charles Dickens
- Publications by the following presses: Breitenbush, Trask House, Prescott Street, Untide, Curwen, Five Seasons, Rougemont

#### ***Major Historical Collections Acquired from 2000-2010***

- The definitive collection of publication related to the Lewis & Clark Expedition.
- Dr. James Kidd Collection of North American Exploration.
- The Jean Ward Collection of Gender Studies publications.
- Books and leaves relating to the history of early printing.
- The Archives of the Portland YMCA & YWCA.
- The Hugh Deane East Asian Pamphlet Collection.
- Books and archival collections relating to Civilian Public Service during World War I and II
- Manuscripts and books relating to the Pacific Northwest ethnologist James G. Swan