

FROM THE LIBRARY



The Bowdoin College Library Newsletter Volume 10, Number 3 April 2006

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Letter from the Librarian:

Library Collection Reviews

A few days ago, I sent each faculty member an email message requesting participation in reviews of the Library's journal collection and book approval plan. Spiraling journal prices over many years coupled with budget constraints require us to revisit major material expenditure decisions. A faculty member immediately wrote back with a cry of distress: "The Library lacks basic needed resources in my field." My response: This is a good reason to conduct these reviews. If there are materials you and your students require, please let us know. The Library always hopes to be able to support your research needs. Even in flush budget years, it is prudent to review the subscription list and identify unnecessary duplication of print and electronic formats of some titles and to cancel titles that no longer reflect current research needs.

The purpose of the journal review project is to ensure that the Library is spending the materials budget in the most cost-effective manner. If together we can identify \$125,000 in reductions, we will be able to keep up with rising prices of the journals you do require and hopefully to add some periodicals, databases and increase the book accession rate. But we cannot do this without your participation. We hope you will regard these collection reviews as opportunity to participate in reshaping library collection activity to best meet your needs.

Sherrie Bergman



Bowdoin's Millionth Volume
Arthur Rimbaud, *Les illuminations* (1949)
Cover design by Kerstin Tini Miura (1985)
Jane Webster Pearce Collection
Special Collections & Archives
Bowdoin College Library

The Bowdoin College Library
3000 College Station
Brunswick, Maine 04011-8421
<http://library.bowdoin.edu>

The Jane Webster Pearce Collection & Bowdoin's Millionth Volume

A recent gift to the College, comprising a stunning collection of fine decorative hand bindings, publications from fine presses, and artists' books, brings with it the added distinction of increasing the size of the Library's collection beyond one million volumes.

The Jane Webster Pearce Collection was received as a bequest in February of this year. Ms. Pearce, a resident of Green Island, Mt. Desert, Maine, and an avid bookbinder and book arts collector, acquired over 100 works between 1977, when she purchased her first piece, a designer binding by Gérard Charrière, and her death in August 2005 at age 94. In bequeathing her books to Bowdoin, Ms. Pearce intended the collection both to remain intact near the family home on Green Island and to be accessible to the broader public.

The Pearce Collection includes a limited edition copy of Arthur Rimbaud's *Les illuminations*, published in 1949 with fifteen original, hand-colored lithographs by Fernand Léger, marking the one-millionth volume acquired by the Library. The designer bookbinding by Kerstin Tini Miura was commissioned by Ms. Pearce in 1985. The volume exemplifies the broader interdisciplinary interests and research needs of the Library's users. This particular copy serves as a nexus for inquiry into French literature, modern art, printmaking, fine binding, and literary criticism. For the Library, it has special value not only as a rare book—only 395 copies were published, and only a handful in such full color—but as being both unique in its binding and fitting in commemorating the extreme generosity of its donor.

An exhibition celebrating the Pearce Collection and the millionth volume is on view in the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library (please see the boxed information for details).



Bowdoin's Millionth Volume
Lithograph by Fernand Léger
Arthur Rimbaud, *Les Illuminations*
Jane Webster Pearce Collection
Special Collections & Archives,
Bowdoin College Library

Beautifully Bound

**An exhibition of the
Jane Webster Pearce Collection
Including the College's
Millionth Volume
2nd Floor,
Hawthorne-Longfellow Library
Daily until June 7**



Live Electronic Reference Service

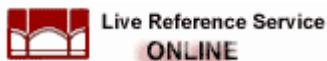
The Library is now offering reference assistance via instant messaging. Service is available through AIM, Yahoo, MSN, and ICQ. For those who don't use an instant message/chat service, a web-based "Live Reference Service" link is also available.

You may wish to add the reference librarian to your buddy list — our usernames are listed below. To see if a librarian is online, consult your IM client or look for the links on the [Library home page](#). Please help us to evaluate this spring semester pilot by sending your comments or feedback on this service to libref@bowdoin.edu or chat with us online!

Chat with us at:

- AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) — bowdref
- Yahoo! Messenger — bowdref
- MSN Messenger — bowdref@hotmail.com
- ICQ — 282630119

Or look for this link on our website:



FROM THE
LIBRARY



New Space for Faculty Researchers

With the recent arrival of furnishings for the newly created Faculty Research Room, faculty members now have a quiet, comfortable, and controlled space in which to do their work while in the H-L Library. You are invited to use one of the five individual study desks, the larger consulting table with seating for four, or two easy chairs for reading, researching or simply as a home base while visiting the library. The room, located on the second floor to the north of the Pierce Reading Room, is equipped with open bookshelves and lockers with keys for stowing your coats, books, laptops or personal items when they are not in use. The room features wireless and wired network connection for laptop use. You may check out a swipe card for access at the H-L circulation desk, or if you believe that you will make regular use of the space, we would be glad to program your ID card for easy room access. Please contact Eugenia King at x3847 or eking2@bowdoin.edu to make these arrangements.



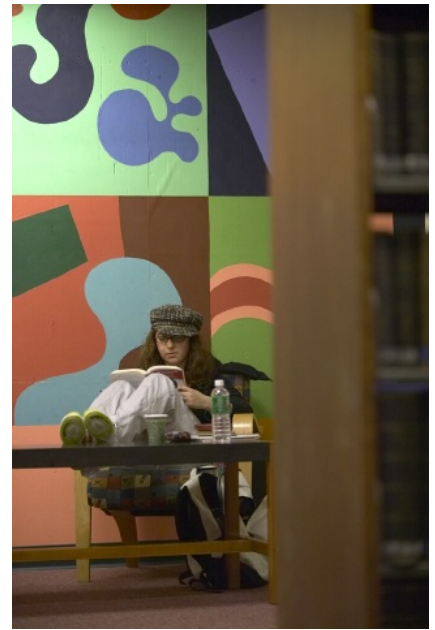
New Faculty Research Room on the Second Floor of Hawthorne-Longfellow

Information Literacy Survey

In March 2004 librarians, with the help of the Faculty Library Committee, developed an [Information Literacy Statement](#) that describes a set of skills and abilities that we believe defines an information literate person. The Statement underpins the Library's information literacy program – an evolving set of instruction techniques to impart research skills to students. However, a key ingredient to the success of the program was missing: a baseline measurement of first-year students' existing skills, i.e., exactly how proficient at conducting research are they when entering Bowdoin?

To address this, the Library, in collaboration with Institutional Research and with technical assistance from Information Technology, designed an Information Literacy Survey that tests first-year students' ability to develop a coherent research strategy, understand issues related to plagiarism, evaluate sources, and grasp other concepts related to information literacy. The survey was given to first-year seminar students this semester, and will be repeated periodically. Participation was voluntary, students were not graded on their performance, and individual results will remain confidential.

Aggregated results from the survey will provide important data that will help the Library to tailor its services and information literacy program to the specific needs of Bowdoin students. Additionally, Institutional Research will cross-tabulate results from the Information Literacy Survey with results from the regularly-administered First-Year Survey to identify gaps between students' *perceived* abilities in information literacy, as measured by the latter survey, and their *actual* level of proficiency, as measured by the former.



Chess Sets

The Bowdoin Chess Club has supplied the Library with portable chess sets that can be checked out for up to four hours. Two sets are kept at Hatch and two at Hawthorne-Longfellow; you may request them at the Circulation/Reserve Desk at either library. Thanks to the Chess Club for making these games available for students seeking a break between study sessions, or for anyone who enjoys this ancient game of strategic skill.



Audiobooks and Videos through NExpress

Bowdoin students, faculty, and staff may borrow audiobooks and videos through the new NExpress service. Loan rules vary among the cooperating libraries. A link to the NExpress catalog can be found on the Library Gateway under "Find Books, Articles, Etc." You can also choose "Repeat in NExpress" at the top of the Bowdoin catalog results page, after entering a search term.

NExpress Borrowing and Lending Service

The NExpress cooperative borrowing and lending system, introduced last semester, has quickly joined Maine Info Net as one of the Library's most popular and beneficial services. NExpress enables Bowdoin students, faculty, and staff members to search in a combined catalog containing the holdings of Bates, Colby, Williams, Wellesley, and Northeastern Libraries, and to request items online. Delivery time is usually within two days, and the loan period for many items is longer than we are permitted through Maine Info Net.

The six NExpress libraries currently are testing a service for requesting journal articles through the combined catalog. We hope to introduce the article request function later this semester; watch for news on the Library Gateway.

We thought you would be interested to see how many items Bowdoin has received through NExpress and Maine Info Net since last summer:

Borrowed from NExpress	1163
Loaned to NExpress	1032
Borrowed from Maine Info Net	4686
Loaned to Maine Info Net	2890

Streaming Music Services

What do Cole Porter, Charlie Parker, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Woodie Guthrie have in common? They are some of the thousands of composers and musicians whose music you can listen to through four newly licensed streaming music services available through the Library Gateway. The audio files span a wide spectrum of musical genres including folk, opera, jazz, classical, contemporary, electronic, and international selections. Visit our new music databases website <http://library.bowdoin.edu/news/audio.shtml> for a description of each database as well as technical hints and media player specifications. Enjoy listening to music while you study or talk with friends or use it for classroom teaching or student assignments! For assistance in searching and using the databases, contact the Library Reference Desk (x 3227). For help with the media players, contact the IT Helpdesk (x3030 for faculty/staff or email help3030@bowdoin.edu, x 5050 or email itss@bowdoin.edu).



Staff News

Jeffrey Cook, the Hatch Science Library Assistant, will begin work toward an MLIS Degree at the University of Pittsburgh this spring.

Daniel Hope is the new Special Collections & Archives Assistant. He joined the Library staff in 2000, as Language Media Center/Film Studies Assistant. Daniel has a B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. from the University of Minnesota. He plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Library Science.

Mary Macul has been promoted to the position of Catalog Librarian. Mary has worked in the Library cataloging department since 1981 and recently served as Rare Books Catalog Librarian in Special Collections & Archives, on a grant-funded project. She earned her MLIS degree through the University of South Carolina.

Bridget Spaeth now holds the position of Language Media Center/Film Studies Assistant. She has served as Library Access Services Assistant in the Library's Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Departments since 2001. An artist, Bridget holds degrees from Bowdoin and the Maine College of Art.

From the Archives



*Professor Frederic Tillotson and the Meddiebempsters at practice, circa 1945
Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library*

New Additions to ARTstor

ARTstor, a repository of hundreds of thousands of digital images and related data, has recently added material from the Canyon Lights collection of original photography (architectural and archaeological works of the Mediterranean, Southwestern United States, and Megalithic and Medieval sites in Great Britain), the Gernsheim Photographic Corpus of Drawings (184,000 Old Master drawings), and the Timothy Drescher archive of photographs of community murals. For more information about ARTstor, please consult www.artstor.org/info/collections/whats_in_artstor.jsp



Birds of North America

Have you ever wondered when the Cedar Waxwing's orange (rather than yellow) tail band first appeared? Have you ever wanted to hear a cardinal on your computer?

The print edition of *The Birds of North America* is an 18-volume, 18,000 page work containing information on each of the 716 species of birds nesting in the USA and Canada. It was a 10 year joint project of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Now an online resource created as a project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, *BNA Online* will build image and video galleries showing behaviors, habitat, nests, eggs and nestlings, and more. And each online species account contains recordings of that bird's songs and calls, selected from the extensive collection in Cornell's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds. This is a beautiful example of what's possible in today's digital environment. [Birds of North America Online](#) is available through the Library website on the list of indexes and databases.

By the way, the Cedar Waxwing's orange tail band variation appeared in the 1950s, when an exotic honeysuckle, whose fruits contain an unusual pigment, was introduced to North America.

New International Newspaper Database

[Access World News](#) includes over 1,600 titles covering the globe; dates of coverage vary but begin primarily in the 1980's and 1990's. You can browse or search newspapers from Maine and other states, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere. Most articles have been translated into English but the section labeled "Acceda Noticias" covers Spanish-language papers from the U.S., Central and South America and, yes, even offers a Spanish edition of China's official wire service. It also includes BBC International Monitoring Service articles to bolster its international coverage.

Access World News complements the Library's other full-text newspaper databases: Lexis/Nexis Academic, ProQuest Newspapers, and World News Connection. Searching can be limited to a specific publication, a country, region, or the world. Browsing individual papers is simple – just drill your way down on the map to the desired geographical location.




Great Blue Heron
Birds of North America Online

Chronicle of Higher Education – The Weekly Issue and More!

The Library now offers the weekly online [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) in its entirety. Now that this is available, you may wish to consider canceling your individual or departmental subscription. Read the complete contents along with the text of articles back to 1989. The subscription also includes the following:



- RSS feeds for the Daily News, Wired Campus, and Chronicle Careers
- Search statistical databases for:
 - Data on faculty members and administrators, including salaries
 - Financial data, including endowments and fund raising
 - General institutional data, including statistics on crime, graduation rates, and degrees conferred
 - Data on scholarly research, including research-library holdings and government grants
 - Student data, including characteristics, enrollment, financial aid, foreign students, and test scores
- E-Mail alerts
- Search jobs by position type, discipline/field, state/region, and institution
- A Chronicle Careers personal account provides access to job listings and allows you to create multiple CV's and cover letters for online applications

RSS Journal Feeds

RSS allows free, easy, and automatic notification when new content is added to a journal website. Feeds vary depending on the journal or publisher but generally, instead of visiting a journal site to see if new articles are available, you can let RSS, or feed, tell you the moment new articles are posted. RSS technology also can alert you when new issues are published and tell you about the most downloaded articles. American Chemical Society, University of Chicago Press, Cambridge Journals Online, and other journal publishers to which the Library subscribes offer RSS feeds. To stay abreast of developments in your field, look for this symbol  at a journal website and follow instructions for establishing a feed. For more details about RSS, please see the boxed information to the right.

Using RSS

You will need a news aggregator/reader to receive RSS feeds. Aggregators come in different forms: stand-alone or built in to selected Web browsers and e-mail programs. Learn more at: [How is RSS used at Bowdoin?](#)

Once you have an aggregator, you can put feeds into it. Do this by right-clicking (PC) or ctrl-clicking (Mac) on the feed symbol or link (usually  but also 

SYNDICATE, or others; normally found on the side or bottom of a page) then copying and pasting it into the aggregator.



New Film Database

Film Index International is the definitive online resource focusing on entertainment films and personalities. Produced in collaboration with the British Film Institute (bfi) it is based on the Summary of Film and Television (SIFT) database collated by the bfi over the past 70 years. Film Index International provides in-depth indexing of over 119,000 films - from the first silent movies to the latest blockbusters - and biographical information for more than 700,000 personalities. Its rich content also includes coverage of international film awards and prizes as well as searchable plot summaries and full cast and crew lists.

American History Databases

Attention: historians, sociologists, and anyone researching American history! The Library has recently acquired three valuable full-text databases reaching back to the 1600's:

- [*American Periodicals Series Online*](#) chronicles the development of America. It contains digitized images of the pages of American magazines and journals that originated between 1741, when Andrew Bradford's *American Magazine* and Benjamin Franklin's *General Magazine* were launched, and 1900. *APS Online* features over 1,100 periodicals spanning nearly 200 years. Titles range from America's first scientific journal, *Medical Repository*, to popular magazines like *Vanity Fair* and *Ladies' Home Journal*. Browse publications or search by keyword, author, article title, etc.
- [*Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800*](#), based on the renowned *American Bibliography* by Charles Evans, contains the text of books, pamphlets, and broadsides published in the U.S. from 1639 to 1800. Consisting of more than 37,000 works and 2,400,000 images, *Early American Imprints* serves as a foundation set for research involving early American history, literature, philosophy, religion, and more. Search by genre, author, subject, booksellers, printers, publishers, place of publication, and language.
- [*Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876*](#), complements *Early American Imprints*. It features cover-to-cover reproductions of hundreds of historic newspapers, providing more than one million pages as fully text-searchable facsimile images. Based on Clarence Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820* and other subsequent bibliographies. Browse individual issues or search the entire collection.

FROM THE
LIBRARY

