



# Access

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## Thomas Mahaffey, Jr. Business Information Center Now Open

by Katharina J. Blackstead

This summer, the College of Business Administration at Notre Dame (COBA) moved into a new, 160,000-square-foot facility. Designed to support teaching and research with the latest in information technology, this building improves upon already strong undergraduate and MBA level courses and enhances planning for projected doctoral programs. As part of this initiative, the University Libraries have established the innovative, all-electronic Thomas Mahaffey, Jr. Business Information Center (BIC) to support the undergraduate teaching curriculum, existing and emerging graduate programs and the scholarly research of the business faculty.

### *Physical Characteristics and Mission*

The Mahaffey Business Information Center is a state-of-the-art facility with 31 individual workstations, two group learning areas with six workstations each (all providing handicapped access and the group areas fully equipped with other audio-visual equipment for instructional support) and adjacent offices (also electronically equipped) for Center personnel. In fulfilling its mission of providing access to and instruction and assistance in the use of a broad range of bibliographic, numerical, full-text and graphic databases in business and related disciplines, the "information navigators" of the Center are developing prototypes for "cutting-edge" methodologies and services with which to harness the wealth of electronic information resources of today and tomorrow and optimize their utility for teaching and research.

### *Personnel*

In anticipation of the BIC and to facilitate its planning and implementation, in August 1994 Stephen M. Hayes, former government documents librarian, was appointed to the newly created position of business services librarian. Hayes brings to the position an exhaustive knowledge of government information resources (many of which are business related) and a long-time involvement with numerous government information, legislative, information access and networking groups (on the local, state and national  
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## Latin Americanist Research Resources Pilot Project

by Maureen Gleason

In January 1993, several university presidents representing the Association of American Universities (AAU) and several library directors representing the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) met to launch an initiative that could greatly enhance scholars' access to the resources that make research possible. Both universities and their libraries have had to face the fact that they were acquiring an ever smaller percentage of the world's publishing output, and that the so-called "ownership" model had to be supplemented by the "access" model. And yet, no one could deny the problems attendant on reliance on the latter: materials not bought by U.S. libraries were certainly not accessible; problems in identifying sources and long delays in delivery interfere with scholarship; copyright prohibitions and uncertainties inhibit sharing, etc. In opening the meeting, Hanna Gray, then president of the University of Chicago, established the rationale for the AAU-ARL Research Libraries Project in terms of current higher education trends. She stated her expectation that in the long run, "a successful institution will be one that becomes more selective and strives to differentiate itself from others... In turn, libraries will need to become more differentiated and interdependent." Notre Dame is participating in one phase of that project, which if successful, may well provide a  
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level) and an active speaking and publication record. Together with Thomas J. Cashore, subject librarian for business and economics, and Carol A. Szambelan, business reference specialist, Hayes is a part of the University Libraries' new Business Team which, having completed plans for the physical layout of the facility, is currently hard at work designing and implementing its other components. Several additional technical and paraprofessional support staff are in the process of being added to assist the professional staff. Chief among these is Barbara Pietraszewski, who recently transferred from the Hesburgh Library to assume the duties of running the facility on a day-to-day basis.

### Services

With course support as the first priority, BIC staff are concentrating on information literacy and the location of information regardless of format. They are providing instruction, consultation and personalized database search support to members of the College. Students and researchers are being referred to both the vast print resources in business (some 100,000 volumes) in the Hesburgh Library, as well as to other significant sources of business information, e.g., ND gopher; *LEXIS/NEXIS*; OCLC (a bibliographic utility) and other for-fee services; and Internet-based information such as bulletin boards, gopher sites, WWW sites, FEDWORLD, GPO Access, etc. BIC staff are discovering and developing Internet resources and assisting College members in their use. While electronically based and oriented, the BIC will also serve as a focal point for the delivery of print resources to faculty of the College through fax service and campus document delivery.

It is a major goal of the BIC to make all College resources available over the campus network and accessible from individual workstations, with initial instruction and assistance in the use of each resource available within the BIC. If, due to budgetary, technological or licensing constraints, information cannot be made available on the campus network, the resources will be located in the BIC.

The BIC of the future will be very different from that of "year one": as a prototypical electronic library, the facility will necessarily evolve. As technology develops and new resources become available, the BIC will incorporate them into its program.

### Databases

Database selection for the BIC has been predicated on optimal utility and resource availability. Course support potential has been a primary consideration, with possible use by other disciplines within the University an added incentive in the decision-making process. Business Team members and the COBA Computing Committee are currently collaborating on an assessment of data needs within the College, on a careful evaluation of information packages available from various vendors (large, multipart orders with single vendors are more economical), as well as on a comparison of networking vs. standalone fees. Other important costs to be factored in include those of data acquisition, software, hardware, storage and technical support.

Titles currently available through the BIC include: *National Economic, Social, and Environmental Database/National Trade Data Bank; S & P Compustat Text and PC Plus; Dow Jones News (Library); IMF: International Fin Stats; Economic Literature; LEXIS/NEXIS and Citibank Data Base*. There are, at this writing, over two dozen new titles under consideration, several with cross-disciplinary potential. These include: *Compact Disclosure/SEC; Million Dollar Directory; and Middle Market*, all of which would help not only the College, but also, in this instance, such units as the University's Career and Placement Services.

### Support Systems

The Mahaffey Business Information Center at Notre Dame is the result of the cooperative efforts of the University Libraries, the Office of University Computing and the College of Business Administration. It will continue to develop because of these partnerships as well. In addition to the persons and groups already mentioned, this prototypical "virtual library" for business information will have at its disposal the consulting capabilities of Robert R. Konicek of the Libraries' Systems Team, and of Ting-Kin (David) Yeh, David E. Boyes and Phillip G. Corporon of the Technology Team of the COBA.

### A Special Thanks

The Thomas Mahaffey, Jr. Business Information Center was named in memory of Mr. Thomas Mahaffey, Class of '32. His estate gift to Notre Dame will help to provide operational support for this extraordinary facility which will touch the lives of countless researchers at the University for years to come.

## Libraries -- and Information -- Aren't What They Used to Be

by Robert C. Miller

**W**hen I was an undergraduate -- I must admit it was many years ago -- the library was a place to study, to pick up reserve readings and check out books for term papers. Being library literate meant knowing how to look up authors, titles and subjects in a card catalog and how to use a few selected periodical indices. The library offered some lectures on these topics during my freshman year, but I never felt the need to pay much attention. Instead, I acquired the skills I needed on my own, sometimes with assistance from friendly reference librarians. In the course of my formal education, there were other research tools I learned to use along the way, but they were strikingly similar, and all in print form.

How different it is today and how much more complex for the conscientious student or researcher. The card catalog is essentially gone, replaced by an online catalog which is easy to use for the basics, but which offers so very much more in terms of keyword and Boolean searches. Most of the old printed reference tools are still around, along with many new ones -- there are those who say there are far too many.

But many traditional tools and many other new ones are available in electronic form. The information they contain is delivered in a variety of ways, through stand-alone or networked CD-ROMs, the online catalog, the campus Gopher or the World Wide Web. How these tools are presented, or their user interface, in the technical jargon, tends to vary widely.

The self-learning that worked for me is much more difficult, if not impossible, in today's world. This new information environment poses two fundamental challenges to libraries: how to identify and organize the information resources of value to the community and how to empower users to locate and use what they need. In both areas, much is happening. The online catalog is becoming at once more sophisticated and easier to use, or at least we hope that is the case. The World Wide Web offers us the opportunity to identify, organize and present to our users the most significant academically oriented resources available on the Internet.

The empowerment issue is more complex and reflects two sometimes divergent philosophies. The one emphasizes personal assistance to users when and where they want it; the other stresses educating users to obviate the routine need for assistance, sometimes phrased "information literacy," or in more traditional terms, "every person their own librarian." Obviously both are necessary, but the latter approach is becoming increasingly important as universities strive to turn out graduates who have acquired both the knowledge and the skills to function effectively in the world we live in.

In the course of their education students must learn many things, among which must be a level of literacy in dealing with information in its various forms and formats. This literacy will involve an understanding of how information is organized and distributed and how it can be located both in libraries and on private and organizational electronic networks. They also need to learn how to evaluate and use the various sources. To be effective, this cannot be abstract and academic, in a comprehensive course unrelated to immediate need. Rather, it must provide training in identifying, locating and using information resources when and where they are needed.

The University Libraries are striving to meet the challenges in both these areas. We are examining ways to make the online catalog more comprehensive, effective and easier to use in locating information. We are also committed to greater involvement in the general educational process. We are convinced that libraries and the information literacy they are about are critical to the learning process. We will be devoting increasing attention to active involvement in the teaching enterprise so that Notre Dame graduates leave with the skills they will require in their future professional and personal lives. As a reflection of this commitment, we are recruiting an Instructional Services Coordinator to assist the Libraries in expanding our instructional programs and in developing a broad range of self-help tools. In these endeavors we will, of course, work closely with the teaching and research faculty and with units such as the Office of University Computing and Educational Media. Our success will be measured by the academic achievement of students at Notre Dame and their comfort in dealing with the information age in their careers and their personal lives after Notre Dame.

## Cúirt '95: A Literary Taste of Ireland

by Charlotte Ames

*In her capacity as the University Libraries' subject liaison for Irish Studies, Charlotte Ames travelled to Galway, Ireland in March of this year at the invitation of Kenny's Bookshop and as a participant in an Inward Buying Trip sponsored by the Irish Export Board. In addition to affording her the opportunity for a firsthand view of Kenny's, the major supplier of Irish imprints for our collections, the visit also coincided with one of Galway's major annual events, the A. T. Cross Cúirt Festival of Literature. What follows are Ames' impressions of that event.*

Each year for the past nine years, literary folk from far and wide have converged on Galway City to enjoy one of the year's most exciting festivals -- the A. T. Cross Cúirt Festival of Literature. This year's festival, the tenth, held March 28 through April 2, 1995 at Galway Arts Centre, Nun's Island, featured well-known poets from Ireland and the United States, including Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, widely acknowledged as one of the most gifted poets writing in the Irish language today. She has published several award winning works in Irish, including *An Dealg Droighin*, *Féar Suaithean* and *Feis* and has also won wide readership among English readers with collections such as *Pharaoh's Daughter* (Gallery Press, 1990), *Selected Poems* (Raven Arts Press, 1988) and *The Astrakhan Cloak* (1992). Speaking to a lively and attentive Irish and English-speaking audience, Ní Dhomhnaill read her work both in Irish and in English translation. Using myth to illustrate the unique role of the Irish language in Irish culture, she portrayed a mermaid who suddenly finds herself lying in bed in a cottage by the sea. When the mermaid attempts to walk, she falters and falls. By analogy, the Irish language historically assimilates a mindset which English translations cannot accommodate. Ní Dhomhnaill stressed the need to preserve the Irish language in its essence. Elsewhere she has observed:

*In these days where a major problem is the cancerous growth of an Anglo-American monoculture which reduces everything to a level of the most stupendous boredom the preservation of alternative mind-sets contained in minority languages such as Irish is as important to cultural diversity as the preservation of the remaining tropical rainforests is to biological diversity. Indeed, in these times where a major change of heart, a 'metanoia', a conversion to other values seems to be every moment more on the cards, if we are to survive at all as a species on this planet, then the reality of alternative mindsets, such as exists in Irish, is a very important reminder that yes, things can be different, and therefore the preservation of each so-called minority language, with its unique and unrepeatable way of looking at the world, is not just a necessity, but a question of sheer common sense.<sup>1</sup>*

The Cúirt Literary Festival drew participants from ten different countries, with a strong representation from the United States. Allen Ginsberg, a leading figure of the Beat Generation of the 1960s, captivated huge crowds with his satire and wit as he recycled old and recited new poems from his extensive repertoire. One of America's most exciting and powerful writers from the Native American tradition, Louise Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, presented several selections from her works. Erdrich has gained wide recognition for her prize winning novels of Native American life, including *Love Medicine*, *The Beet Queen* and *The Bingo Palace*. Thomas Lynch, a funeral director from Milford, Michigan, gave a superb rendition of his poem "Grimalkin," a hilarious indictment of his young son Michael's cat, whom Lynch positively loathed for its unhappy habit of relieving itself on the couch, among other infuriating traits. Lynch combines compassion with humor and integrates the commonplace and the extraordinary with a superb sense of rhythm. He has published two collections, *Skating With Heather Grace* (1986) and *Grimalkin* (1994).

Edna O'Brien, born in east Clare, and now sometime resident of New York, gave a powerfully poetic reading of passages from her latest novel, *The House of Splendid Isolation*. O'Brien's latest work has been hailed by the *Irish Times* as "a daring new departure and a brilliant experiment in political fiction."

One of the most provocative and volatile moments in the Festival occurred during a panel discussion entitled "Out of Shape from Toe to Top? -- Irish Poetry Today." Panelists were asked to consider the state of Irish poetry today: Is the new Irish poetry indulgent, sentimental and unimaginative? Have Irish poets been deluded by low standards of Irish literary criticism? Chaired by *Irish Times* columnist Nuala O'Faolain, the panel included Theo Dorgan, poet and director of *Poetry Ireland*; Peter Denman, a lecturer in English at Maynooth; Jessie Lendennie, director of Salmon Publishing, Galway; Michael Gorman, editor of *Writing in the West*; and Patrick Ramsey, author of a scathing article entitled "Fragrant Necrophilia," which appeared in a recent edition of the *Irish Review*. Ramsey castigated many Irish poets, particularly those in the South, charging that much of the poetry written in the Republic is "boring, incompetent, crude, rhythmically inert, unworked, insincere, promiscuous, fake, arch, cozy and sentimental."<sup>2</sup> With mounting anger and bursts of outrage, Ramsey quoted several pornographic passages which he found contemptible in contemporary Irish poetry. Lendennie strongly rebuked Ramsey, stating: "Vicious and gratuitous personal attacks are anathema to intelligent dialogue and the development of literature in any society."<sup>3</sup>

Several of the poets represented in the Cúirt Festival, including many women poets, have made their debut through Salmon Publishing, established in 1981. The press, founded by a small group of writers from University College, Galway, now has well over 50 titles to its credit. Lendennie, an American originally from Arkansas, came to Galway in 1981 after working for several years in London. She has directed Salmon since 1985. Lendennie and several other writers contributed to *Poetry Galway*, a forerunner of *The Salmon*, a

magazine of poetry and fiction devoted to Irish writing. *The Salmon*, like Salmon Publishing, has become one of the best sources for launching new writing in Ireland. One of Salmon's greatest virtues is its strong commitment to publishing new poets, many of them women, who often evoke the simplicity, fragility and strength of Irish life with great sensitivity. Joan McBreen's new collection entitled *A Walled Garden in Moylough*, recently published by Salmon, was launched amid much praise for its considerable literary merits at the Cúirt Festival by Ailbhe Smyth, Director of the Women's Education Centre at University College, Dublin.

A lingering taste of the Festival can be found in *The Cúirt Journal* (No. 2, 1994) which includes the works of several participants, including Louise Erdrich and Thomas Lynch. For those with heartier appetites, even greater delights abound in "Contemporary Irish Poetry," a special issue of *The Southern Review* (July, 1995) devoted entirely to the works of Ireland's best contemporary poets. Conversations between Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Medbh McGuckian, poetry and criticism by Eavan Boland, Seamus Heaney, Brendan Kennelly, Thomas Kinsella, Edna Longley, Derek Mahon, Paul Muldoon, Ciaran Carson and many more of Ireland's best and brightest, all converge to keep the flame of Cúirt alive.

1. Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, "An t-Anam Mothala: The Feeling Soul." In *Cultures of Europe: The Irish Contribution*, ed. J. P. Mackey, 182-83. Belfast: The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast, 1994.
2. Katie Donovan, "Bono Recited an Ode to Ginsberg as Poets Launch a War of Words." *Irish Times*, April 3, 1995, 5.
3. Ibid.

## Law Library Faculty Member Honored with 1995 Foik Award

**J**anis L. Johnston, associate director for technical services in Notre Dame's Kresge Law Library, was presented with this year's Rev. Paul J. Foik, C.S.C., Award at the Presidential Dinner on May 23. Named for the Holy Cross priest who served as Notre Dame's library director from 1912 to 1924, the award is given annually to a library faculty member who has contributed significantly to library service to the Notre Dame community or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involvement in professional associations. The citation reads:

*Attracted to Notre Dame just eight years ago, this librarian impresses her colleagues with her enthusiasm, her multifaceted professional skills and her generous response to service. Organizer of an efficient cataloging and acquisitions department, master of the logistics needed to integrate a massive 34 percent increase in holdings in a single year, and regular contributor to the national development of her*

field, she has, with commanding competence, helped shape the law library into an accomplished research instrument. A warm sense of humor, infectious energy, and limitless patience identify the 1995 winner of the Paul J. Foik Award.



Father Malloy and Janis Johnston

Notre Dame Photographic

## Project *continued from page 1*

model for cooperation among university libraries. Success, however, will depend on the awareness and active involvement of students and scholars.

The AAU-ARL representatives agreed that their goal was "an agreement on strategies that will insure effective scholarly access to research resources at sustainable costs." Three topics emerged as key issues in achieving that end: 1) ensuring the availability of foreign language materials; 2) effective management of scientific and technical information; and 3) intellectual property rights in an electronic environment. The Foreign Acquisitions Task Force was formed to deal with the first of the three.

Funded by a three-year Mellon Foundation grant, the Foreign Acquisitions Task Force eventually designed three pilot projects to test possible responses to problems in gaining access to foreign materials, problems that had been discovered by surveying area studies bibliographers and vendors of foreign publications and by analyzing citations and library serial holdings. The task force concluded that, if certain conditions were met, shared responsibility for certain kinds of material could greatly increase access by scholars to that material. Thus, the Latin Americanist Research Resources Pilot Project became one of three pilots designed to test the practicality and cost effectiveness of a certain kind of access model. The Notre Dame Libraries, seeking ways to expand the resources available to students and faculty and eager to join other libraries in seeking solutions to the problems plaguing research collections, volunteered to participate.

Members of the Task Force wanted a pilot project that was limited in scope and clear in its expectations, so that participants would actually do it and produce measurable results within a reasonable time period. They chose to focus on Mexico and Argentina because both were important to scholars, had a long history of intellectual activity and were publishing centers. Among types of publications, they selected: serials, since these were numerous and poorly controlled bibliographically; government documents which were important to research but lacked central distribution; and the publications of non-government organizations, vital for the study of contemporary developments but often elusive. They knew they needed a concrete commitment from participating libraries and they wanted to make full use of current communications and computer technology to disseminate information and to deliver documents. Thus, the final pilot project has the following three components:

- ▶ Each of the 31 participants has agreed to take responsibility for 5 serial titles from Mexico and 5 from Argentina, to maintain subscriptions to these, to make the tables of contents available on the UT-LANIC fileservers at the University of Texas (with indexing available eventually) and to provide expedited interlibrary loan service to other participating libraries via fax or electronic transfer of articles within 3 days. Records for the titles in the bibliographic databases, OCLC or RLIN, will note the library responsible for maintaining the copy of record. The serials were chosen by each library from a list of less widely held titles in the humanities and social sciences, and for the most part are ones to which the responsible library already subscribes.
- ▶ As a parallel to the Center for Research Libraries' ongoing project to digitize Brazil's presidential messages, the Library of Congress will film, then digitize existing presidential messages from the two countries; these will eventually be available on a fileservers on the network.
- ▶ Every participant will be responsible for collecting the publications of two non-governmental organizations in each country. These will be in the fields of environment, gender studies, economic transformation and indigenous groups. The responsible libraries will ensure that each publication receives at least minimal cataloging, with records available in OCLC and RLIN.

In addition to these obligations, each participating library is asked to keep cost and use statistics and to publicize the project to students and faculty in Latin American studies. Evaluation of the results will aid in charting the course of future interlibrary cooperation, and the benefits will consequently extend to scholars in many fields. No one minimizes the difficulties and uncertainties of this new approach to collecting.

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## Project *continued from page 5*

Among the questions that the project is expected to answer are:

- ▶ Does this arrangement provide satisfactory and expanded access to scholarly materials?
- ▶ What are the staffing and cost implications for the local library?
- ▶ Can copyright legalities and logistics be resolved?
- ▶ Will library commitments be maintained?
- ▶ Will cataloging and indexing be carried out so as to increase the informational value of publications?
- ▶ What sort of fee structure is suggested by the analysis of costs?

We are at the very beginning of this experiment. Notre Dame has committed to maintaining and making available ten serial titles, and we are awaiting the list of non-governmental organizations from which we will select four. As the project progresses, those in Latin American fields will be kept informed; we strongly urge their participation and invite their comments. A stated aim of the task force which initiated the Latin Americanist Research Resources Pilot Project is "to engage Latin Americanists in shaping the future of the field's access to information." We want Notre Dame to play a role in that enterprise.

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