

# Access

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY  
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## The William and Katherine Devers Program in Dante Studies

by Louis Jordan

**D**uring the 1993-1994 academic year Theodore Cachey of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and Louis Jordan of the University Libraries' Department of Special Collections organized an exhibition of our extraordinary collection of early printed editions of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. The exhibit "Renaissance Dante in Print" was on display at Notre Dame in the fall and at Chicago's Newberry Library in the spring of 1994. Following this event, William and Katherine Devers of Chicago expressed an interest in supporting Dante studies at Notre Dame. Over the summer and early fall of 1994, with the assistance of the University's Development Department, a comprehensive program was developed for the growth of Dante studies both within the College of Arts and Letters and within the University Libraries. In late October 1994 the Devers family pledged a million-dollar endowment to be funded over a five-year period. Its goal is the support of a combined program of research, teaching and collection development.

Earnings from the endowment will be used to foster four areas of activities. Within the College of Arts and Letters the endowment will fund a lecture series or a major conference each year. The program has already been initiated this year by Professor Zygmunt Baranski of the University of Reading, England, who delivered a five-week series of Tuesday afternoon seminars in the Department of Special Collections (March 19 - April 16). Notre Dame students could register through the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures to attend the series for one credit as part of a departmental mini-course. Baranski also delivered the program's inaugural lecture entitled "Dante's Library" on March 20th as part of the dedication festivities for the William J. and Katherine L. Devers Family Endowment in Dante Studies, with Provost-elect Nathan Hatch presiding and introductory remarks by Notre Dame's President, Father Malloy. All lectures connected with the program are free and open to the public. The Devers endowment will also support research through a new monographic series on Dante published by the Notre Dame Press. The first volume, a collection of essays from the 1994 conference, *Dante Now*, is already available. A second volume on Dante's *Fiore* is currently in press. The series has an international board of editorial consultants and is co-edited by Cachey and Christian R. Moevs, also of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

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## The Eighteenth Century Collection

by Laura Fuderer

**I**n December of 1995, Notre Dame made what may be its most expensive single purchase of library materials. At a total cost of \$650,000, the University Libraries acquired a microfilm collection titled, "The Eighteenth Century." When it is complete this enormous collection will include the full texts of most of the British and English-language publications that were printed during the 18th century. The acquisition was partially funded by the donation of \$700,000 by Herbert Allen, chief executive officer of the investment banking firm Allen & Company. Allen's donation was in honor of member and former chair of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, Donald R. Keough, chairman of the board of Allen & Company.

By February of 1996, Research Publications, an imprint of Primary Source Media, had sent some 7,000 reels of microfilm plus 12 large cabinets in which to store them. Thanks to swift action by staff in Acquisitions, Cataloging and the Microtext Reading Room, classes were using the microfilm within days of their arrival. No exact title count is available, but at an average of 30 titles per reel, the collection provides access to over 200,000 works at this time. That number is expected to double over the next ten years as filming continues.

Selections for microfilming are based on the "Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue" (known as the ESTC), an electronic database identifying two categories of publications: works published in any language in Great Britain or its territories from 1701 to 1800; and works published

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## **Eighteenth Century** *continued from page 1*

in English anywhere else in the world during that time. Included are books, pamphlets, single-sheet items and false London imprints. A major exclusion is periodicals such as newspapers and magazines, although almanacs, directories and yearbooks are included.

The "Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue" began in 1976 as a cooperative effort between the British Library and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The dual aims were to identify all the publications described above and to list holding locations for each of them. In 1992 the ESTC appeared in a CD-ROM version containing the 305,000 records that had been input as of December 1991. The CD is available at the Reference Desk in Hesburgh Library. Recently the ESTC records were merged with all the records listed in the earlier catalogs known as STC\* and Wing\*. Consequently, ESTC now means "English Short Title Catalogue" and it includes records for publications that appeared from 1475, the date of the first book printed in English, to 1800.

Anyone interested in what 18th-century people were thinking, doing and writing will wish to exploit this vital resource. While the texts are obviously European-centered, they do not exclude the rest of the world. This was an age of travel and the consequent travel literature contains observations on the people, flora, fauna and geography of Asia, Africa, South America and Australia.

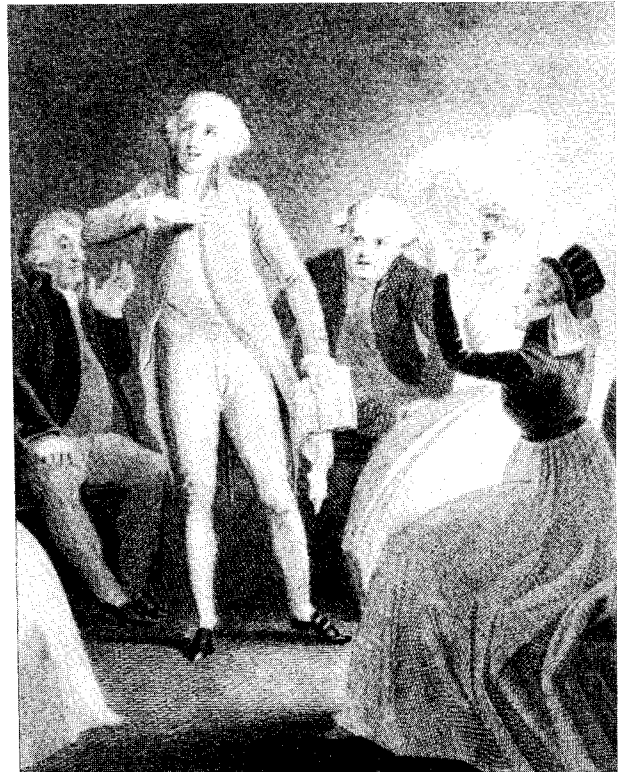
The collection is also highly interdisciplinary. Individuals were writing about religion and theology, social customs and mores, elementary and higher education, history, science, fine arts, literature and much more. According to Primary Source Media, the current units of microfilm break down as follows: 27 percent deal with language and literature; 24 percent with philosophy and religion; 18 percent with history and geography; 11 percent with science and technology; 7 percent with law and 13 percent with other subjects such as social sciences, fine arts and reference.

The possibilities for teaching and research use of this collection are unlimited. One can trace the spread of the Enlightenment and its notions of deism and atheism, the rights of the individual and the obligations of the state, and ideas that culminated in the American, French and Irish rebellions. One can follow the accounts of those upheavals and the contemporary responses to their aftermath. One can explore the presence (or absence) of women's voices in the aesthetic, literary, social and political discussions of the century, beginning with later editions of 17th-century feminists such as Mary Astell and ending with the early tales of the extraordinarily popular novelists Ann Radcliffe and Maria Edgeworth. One can read *The Life and Errors of John Dunton* to get first-hand and highly subjective impressions of the people in the book trades in 1705. One can discover what the Catholic Church was publishing in America or what materials relating to Catholics were being published in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Québec or other cities. Eighteenth-century notions of humor are an endlessly fascinating topic of study, involving works such as *A Certain Information of a Certain Discourse. That happen'd at a Certain Gentlemans House, In a certain County.*

*Written by a certain Person then present, to a certain Friend now at London. From whence you may Collect the great Certainty of the Account* (1713).

A primary means of exploiting "The Eighteenth Century" collection is to search any variety of terms, names and places in the compact disc of the ESTC. Offering a window that lists the possible fields to search, the disc is easy to use. An online search of the ESTC, available from reference or subject librarians, can update the CD. Supplementing these is a 12-volume printed guide to the microfilm titled *The Eighteenth Century: Guide to the Microfilm Collection*, which is located in the Microtext Reading Room. A flyer describing the collection and offering tips for accessing it is also available.

Computer searches of the ESTC offer endless possibilities for research and discovery. For example, one might undertake an extensive study of 18th-century readership by studying the lists of subscribers, individuals who agreed before publication to purchase a copy of a book and whose names subsequently appear in the final publication. One might thus learn more about whether women were reading scientific works by searching the CD for certain titles and combining those with a search on books that contain subscription lists. Searches of the ESTC can also use a linguistic approach that explores the uses of various words such as "electricity" or "madness."



*From The Baviad, and Maeviad by William Gifford.  
London: Printed for J. Wright, 1797.  
University Libraries of Notre Dame  
Department of Special Collections*

Does the microfilm collection mean that the original books are no longer necessary? If one's research depends on descriptive bibliographic evidence, then the answer is no. Textual features, such as typefaces, page lay-out, dimensions of the publication, the texture and watermarks of the paper, and for that matter, the aesthetic experience of reading the book, require physical examination of the original. In this respect, the microfilm collection can be regarded as a very extensive supplement to the Rare Book Collection, where most of our 18th-century imprints are housed. Whereas the Rare Book Collection, however, contains only a few thousand such imprints, the microfilm collection provides hundreds of thousands. "The Eighteenth Century" and its finding aids constitute a major new resource rich with possibilities. The collection is ready and waiting to be mined by the Notre Dame community.

\*Alfred W. Pollard and Gilbert R. Redgrave, *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1640*, and Donald Wing, ed., *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English Books Printed in Other Countries 1641-1700*.

## Devers *continued from page 1*

Within the University Libraries the endowment will be used to develop our already rich collection of rare Dante materials into one of the most significant Dante collections in the world, a process which has already begun. Of the almost 60 different 16th- and 17th-century printed editions of the *Divine Comedy* Notre Dame was lacking only two. One was recently located through an Italian bookdealer and has been purchased through the Devers endowment. We have also acquired three additional 16th-century Dante texts and the important facsimile of the illuminated Estense *Commedia* manuscript. There is also a new Dante reference area in the Department of Special Collections. In conjunction with the acquisition program, research will also be supported within the Libraries through the development of several Internet projects with funding for some equipment and student assistants being supplied by the endowment. Currently, the exhibition "Renaissance Dante in Print" is available on the Internet, and several other projects have begun in cooperation with the ARTFL (American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language) project at the University of Chicago. Notre Dame and Chicago, in cooperation with the University of Reading in England and the Opera della Vocabulario in Florence, have formed a consortium called ITALNET. The first major ITALNET project is to put online, in a searchable form, some 2,000 Italian texts written prior to the year 1400. Also under the auspices of ITALNET we are making available as an electronic publication Robert Coleman's vast catalog of some 10,000 Renaissance drawings from the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan. Future projects will include scanning in the full text of selected Renaissance editions of Dante as well as full bibliographic and iconographic descriptions of the texts.

These initiatives have already had an impact on the Notre Dame community. Recently the noted American poet Robert Pinsky published a widely acclaimed new translation of Dante's *Inferno* with accompanying illustrations by the printmaker Michael Mazur. In conjunction with this new publication, the Snite Museum has arranged to display the traveling exhibition "Dante's *Inferno*: Prints by Michael Mazur," a truly impressive display of Mazur's original monotypes for his *Inferno* illustrations. Also within the University Libraries, the Department of Special Collections is exhibiting "Ways into the City of Woes: Illustrations of Dante's *Inferno*," a selection of rare and important *Inferno* illustrations from the Middle Ages through the present. In conjunction with these exhibits, all of the students in the Sophomore Core Course will be reading selections from the new Pinsky translation of the *Inferno*.



In addition to these events, the Core Course, the Creative Writing program, The Snite Museum of Art, the Department of Art, Art History and Design, the University Libraries and the Devers Dante Program helped to co-sponsor *Dante's Inferno: A Collaboration of Word and Image*. During this program both Pinsky and Mazur came to Notre Dame for three days of lectures (March 6-8). This program included not only lectures and discussions on Dante but also a poetry reading by Pinsky and a workshop on the art of translating poetry, as well as a workshop by Mazur on printmaking. Already this spring, students in several departments have benefitted from this multi-disciplinary, multi-media approach to Dante studies.

In conjunction with an advisory committee, the Devers Dante Program is directed by Theodore Cachey, who manages the College of Arts and Letters' elements of the program. Louis Jordan, Head of the Department of Special Collections, acts as associate director, overseeing the University Libraries' aspects of the program.

## Library Space: A Problem Becomes a Crisis

by Robert C. Miller

The Libraries are running out of space, for books and bound journals, user stations and staff. This theme has appeared in many of the Libraries' annual reports for a number of years. However, what has been a problem for many years is now becoming, despite some actions by the University, a major crisis.

The maintenance of "appropriate physical accommodations for library materials and operations, and for users of the Libraries' resources and services," is a principal element in the mission of the University Libraries. The reality is that our users are experiencing reduced space for research and study; our staff are in many cases working in less than adequate space; and we are finding it increasingly difficult to accommodate our growing print resources. The impact of this environment on the quality of our services and the morale of our hard-working personnel is significant. It is important that these challenges to our fundamental mission be understood, and that their resolution be addressed by all who are involved.

The recent special issue of *Access* spelled out the vision for the future, calling for the renovation of the Hesburgh Library, the expansion of the branch libraries and the opening of a new music library. There is no doubt that these things will happen, but we are running out of time.

Fortunately, the architecture library should be in a completely renovated and expanded facility early in 1997. However, the situation with the other branches is dismal. Plans for the music library are apparently on hold, and there are no short-run prospects for any of the other existing branches. Long-range strategies for improved library space are vague at best. Despite significant additions of space for science and engineering facilities in recent years, library space has remained static. As a result, in each instance, the library situation is critical. There is no real work space for badly needed additional staffing. Accommodations for users are inadequate in most instances (chem/physics, engineering and mathematics) and nearly non-existent in life sciences. The most pressing problem at each location, however, is space for collections.

Each of the branches has a carefully developed plan for transferring older materials, especially journals, to the Hesburgh Library, and retaining only its more current resources. Yet even with these plans, space is running out: the shelving in the chem/physics library is projected to be filled by late 1997, and the other libraries have only a year or so more. The only short-range solution is to reduce further the scope of the literature retained in the branches through more transfers to the Hesburgh Library, not a pleasant prospect for either users or staff. However, even this resolution is problematic because of the immediate space problems in Hesburgh.

What are those problems? Space for collections in Hesburgh is already severely strained, particularly in the tower floors housing materials in science and engineering. As a

result, frequent and expensive shifts of the collections are necessary to accommodate incoming materials. The situation is exacerbated by the increasing rate of new acquisitions. Space for readers has become very constricted, particularly on the second floor. Fortunately, the user seating that is available has been upgraded with the installation of new chairs this January. In the tower, a location preferred by many serious students, the number of stations has been reduced significantly as shelving for the growing collections has been installed. The group study rooms on the second floor are popular and heavily used, but in the last few years it has been necessary to convert 5 of the total of 16 to offices. This is most unfortunate, but unavoidable, given the need to increase staffing to meet growing service demands and the processing requirements of growing rates of acquisitions. In a number of work areas, the situation is becoming critical, as funding for badly needed new positions becomes available, but not the space to put the people.

How are these challenges to be met? The renovation of the Hesburgh Library is critical. The effort of the Library Space Planning Task Force (reported in the no. 57, April 1994 issue of *Access*) laid the groundwork, and a space consultant is being hired to review and refine that work. However, nothing substantial can begin until the summer of 1998 at the earliest, when non-library occupants of the building are scheduled to be relocated. Indeed, it will probably be the year 2000 before the renovation can be completed. In the meantime, impingement on user space to accommodate shelving and staff work areas must continue, and regular and expensive shifting of collections will be required. Depending on the final timetable for renovation, off-site storage, an expensive and inconvenient alternative, may need to be considered.

The situation in most of the branch libraries is far more problematic. Discussions with the academic units served need to begin soon. The situation is grave and requires both short- and long-range plans developed cooperatively among the Libraries, the faculty and the administration. Serious consideration should be given to the feasibility and long-term costs of a central science and engineering library with specialized local services as a way of maximizing available space and controlling operating costs. In any event, if the expansion of existing facilities or relocation to new larger quarters is not feasible, we must review the missions of the individual libraries and scale back the collections to fit the available space. While this might be accomplished by the conversion of existing holdings to microfilm or electronic format, either of these alternatives involves major added costs.

The challenges of space problems are very real for both the Libraries and their users. The decisions confronting us are difficult but necessary. Understanding, patience and cooperation from all involved will make this period of change both easier and more productive.

A postscript: While this report has dealt exclusively with the University Libraries, the Kresge Law Library is also confronting major space challenges. One aspect of its planning focuses on the potential availability of remote storage for legal materials in the renovated Hesburgh Library.

## LSER, UNLOC's Capstone

by J. Douglas Archer

In December the University Libraries reached a significant milestone in the automation of our collections and services with the implementation of LSER (pronounced "el-sir"), the serials check-in module of the NOTIS system. NOTIS is made up of many parts. You are probably most familiar with the online public access catalog, the OPAC, which we named UNLOC, the University of Notre Dame Libraries' Online Catalog, back in 1987 when it was first installed. The other parts of NOTIS appear as features of UNLOC while in reality they are separate modules. When you view an UNLOC record you are seeing the tips of some very large icebergs.

LTMN is the subsystem that allows for the processing, storage and editing of bibliographic records in machine readable form (MARC). It is the heart of NOTIS and was part of the original installation. Modules added over the last decade have included CIRC (circulation), MSYS (multiple database system), PSYS (public access catalog system) and the acquisitions module (sorry, no acronym). CIRC stores all patron or user records and keeps track of the circulation status of individual items. It generates some of those "Status" messages which you see in UNLOC (e.g., "check shelf" or "charged, due 10/1/96"). MSYS provides access to periodical indexes and links them to our holdings as recorded in LTMN. PSYS gives us access to various NOTIS library catalogs throughout Indiana, including Indiana University and Purdue. The acquisitions and LTMN modules keep track of items which have been ordered or received but not yet cataloged and generate the "on order" and "in process" messages which appear under "Status." And finally LSER now allows us to check in serials (magazines, newspapers, periodicals and journals) and keep track of them before they are bound or filmed.

LSER is, then, the last brick in the wall of our current NOTIS system, the last module to come online. Of course there are many improvements yet to be made to our system, and, someday, a new system with a graphical interface and hotlinks will need to be purchased. But for now it is complete. We can track all items (well, almost all items -- there are always exceptions) from the placement of an order, to receipt, through cataloging, to the shelf. We can then keep a record of the status of that item for as long as it is part of the collection. And all of this data is immediately available to you.

LSER allows us to track a given issue or volume of a serial from its receipt through the binding or filming process to its final shelving or filing. Over the next year you will see "current issue" information begin to appear on holdings screens, first on records for weeklies like *Time* and *Newsweek*, then on monthlies, then quarterlies, etc., until all of our serials appear in UNLOC upon arrival. Annuals are posted directly to the holdings statement on receipt. Also, given the unruly nature of many serials, some will need to be checked in and tracked using the order/pay/receipt feature (OPR) of the Acquisitions module. The display in UNLOC will look the same whichever subsystem is being used.

This additional holdings information will address many questions users currently have regarding serials, such as:

*"What is the latest issue of this journal received by the Libraries and where is it?"*

Just look for the first entry under "current issues" on the holdings screens (called "pages" in UNLOC) for the relevant location. Entries are displayed in descending chronological order -- latest received, first displayed (last in, first out or "LIFO"). Please note that the posting of bound or filmed holdings follows a different order, first bound or filmed, first displayed (first in, first out or "FIFO"). If you want to know if a specific older volume was received and bound or filmed by the Libraries, you must continue to read through the holdings screens until you find a posting (or lack thereof) for the volume and issue you need.

*"When can I expect the next issue of this item to arrive?"*

Again, on the holdings screen look under "current issues" and scan the list for a pattern. It is usually quite obvious whether a title is regular and well behaved, in which case you can easily estimate the anticipated arrival date, or irregular and disorderly, in which case your guess may be as good as ours. If you have any difficulty interpreting a record, please come to a reference desk and we'll be happy to make as much sense of the situation as possible. With some serials there is little or no sense to be made.

For annuals and similar titles the record of actual receipt dates does not display in UNLOC but can be tracked down in the LTMN system by individuals at our reference desks (in some cases the item may be received several years after the date(s) of coverage specified in the title). Also, the receipt of titles in monographic series, given some series' highly eccentric publication schedules, is difficult to predict. But such information as we have is again available in LTMN and accessible by reference personnel. (Monographic series are made up of individual titles linked by a common title and received over time, some quite regularly and some not, some looking very much like a serial and some linked to each other only by the fact that they are produced by the same publisher.)

There is one unfortunate consequence of giving you this extra information. The sheer quantity of additional data will cause the number of holdings screens to increase. There will be more "stuff" to wade through. This is particularly important in that the information about current issues comes first, including the various locations for many serials, while the holdings information for bound or filmed volumes usually appears on the later screens. This is the spot that tells you the latest issue that has been bound or filmed. We trust that this additional effort will be small price to pay for the possibility of tracking a serial from receipt to storage, from the cradle to the grave.

Though we have finished building the basic structure of our online catalog, there is always room for improvement. Therefore we will continue to work at refining the system until the time comes for its replacement. We welcome and encourage your suggestions.

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