

# Access

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## SPARC: One Answer to Escalating Journal Prices

by Alan D. Krieger

Perhaps the most alarming trend in academic library acquisitions in recent years has been the rapid rise in journal subscription rates. Statistics compiled by the Association of Research Libraries show that over the past decade the unit cost of a serial title has increased 147 percent and that expenditures of research libraries for serials have risen almost 10 percent a year, despite the fact that many institutions, including Notre Dame, have engaged in large-scale subscription cancellation projects. In the last three years alone, Elsevier Science, a major publisher of scientific information that is owned by publishing giant Reed Elsevier, has posted subscription increases ranging from 43.5 to 65.8 percent.<sup>1</sup>

This situation presents an obvious danger not just to library budget planning but also to a crucial aspect of the worldwide system of scholarly communication. But what is to be done? While local conversations between librarians, faculty and students have facilitated education about the issue, and national and international library conferences have articulated possible solutions, no individual or group protests to commercial publishers have reversed or even slowed the trend.

However, early this year ARL approved the launching of SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition), an alliance of libraries aiming "to foster expanded competition in scholarly communication." Supported by the membership of an impressive array of ARL institutions (including Notre Dame), SPARC has already begun to achieve its goal of creating "partnerships" with publishers who are committed to developing academic-level, economic alternatives to existing exorbitantly priced publications. Specifically, SPARC seeks to "create a more competitive marketplace; reduce the prices of journals; ensure fair use and educational and library uses of electronic resources; apply new technologies to improve the process of scholarly communication and to reduce the costs of production and distribution." In order to achieve these goals SPARC will pursue several strategies, including the solicitation and encouragement of new high-quality publications with fair prices; the guarantee of a subscription base and a commitment to market new products

*continued on page 2*

## Renovation Planning for Hesburgh Library

by Marsha Stevenson

When Hesburgh (then known as Memorial) Library opened in 1963, John F. Kennedy was President, the Beatles were unknown in the United States and the color scheme used in the library's interior (olive green, orange and gold) represented cutting-edge fashion.

Thirty-five years later the library's interior is showing its age. While some modest internal adjustments have been made, much of its basic layout is unchanged from opening day. During this period the collections have quadrupled in size, the number of library staff has increased by 60 percent and the primary user group of students and faculty has gone from 7,300 to over 12,000. While originally the building was capacious, the demand for space to house books and journals, provide work areas for staff and accommodate the research and study needs of library users has strained the building to its limits.

In 1991 the University Libraries took initial steps toward planning a building renovation. A task force documented the current conditions, investigated alternatives and presented options for consideration in reports prepared in 1992 and 1994. One tangible result emanating from those early efforts was the relocation of many non-library offices to other campus buildings, such as Flanner Hall. Another was the University's

*continued on page 5*

## SPARC *continued from page 1*

to potential subscribers, and in some cases even the provision of start-up capital. Efforts will be financed principally through coalition member fees.<sup>2</sup>

As academic libraries and their users grapple with rapidly escalating journal prices, they face a fundamental problem; to a large extent the world of commercial journal publishing, particularly in the sciences, is essentially non-competitive. The market is ruled by a few publishing giants (Wolters Kluwer, Reed Elsevier, John Wiley & Sons, and Plenum Publishing) and recent mergers have only made them more dominant. In October, Elsevier Science announced the acquisition of JAI/Ablex, an important publisher of series in the natural and social sciences, while Kluwer announced at the end of September that it had agreed to acquire Ovid Technologies, a major electronic database vendor. A recent study of publisher profits in the industry notes that, as measured by net profit margin, Plenum was more profitable in 1997 than 491 companies in the S&P 500; Reed Elsevier's margin was higher than 473 of the companies. Brendan J. Wyly of Cornell University concludes that "both Plenum and Reed Elsevier had extraordinary net profit margins compared to the periodical publishing industry as a whole, and Wolters Kluwer was near the upper quartile."<sup>3</sup>

Even more disturbing is the fact that apparently mergers involving relatively modest "portfolio sizes" can result in significant price increases. Mark McCabe, a former U.S. Department of Justice economist specializing in antitrust matters, analyzed price data for over 1,000 medical journals ranked by ISI (Institute for Scientific Information). He found that in the case of the Wolters Kluwer-Waverly merger, "the results predicted an average price increase of between 20-30% for the affected medical titles" even though, based on the total number of ISI journals sold by commercial publishers (with portfolios of ten titles or more), Wolters Kluwer and Waverly have shares of about 11 percent and 5 percent respectively. McCabe notes that usually the combined shares of merging firms need to approach 35-40 percent "before measurable effects arise" and explains this anomaly by correctly observing that "unlike most markets, where buyers purchase a product from one of several sellers, in the market for journals, buyers purchase titles from as many sellers as possible."<sup>4</sup>

It is difficult to see how to invigorate competition within the existing configuration of commercial publishers, especially since incentives for authors tend to lead them "to publish in well known channels to reach the largest number of readers without regard to the cost of those channels to the readers."<sup>5</sup> But could the emergence of a new model for electronic publishing, in which SPARC-type partnerships with scholarly societies and associations produce new publications, change the competitive landscape for the better? An intriguing new study by Stanley J. Wilder of Louisiana State University offers encouraging results. Wilder has attempted to compare the estimated revenue of a core group of chemistry titles with their actual academic value. He used three measures of value (faculty ratings, *Science Citation Index* counts, library use) and combined two datasets, from

LSU and the University of Illinois. He concluded that although academic libraries currently devote about 74 percent of their chemistry journal budgets to titles produced by commercial publishers, "on a per-title basis they contribute only between 22-35% of the value of their U.S. association counterparts."<sup>6</sup> A closer look at the LSU results are particularly revealing: commercial publications account for 78 percent of titles and 74 percent of total revenue, but only 57 percent of faculty ratings and 50 percent of total citations; U.S. association publishers, on the other hand, account for only 19 percent of titles and 18 percent of revenue, but 40 percent of faculty ratings and 45 percent of total citations.<sup>7</sup>

And indeed the early progress of SPARC has been remarkable. In the spring of 1998, almost 50 libraries had responded to the ARL's call for membership in the initiative; by September SPARC had 110 full members. Richard K. Johnson was appointed SPARC Enterprise Director late in the spring and in late June SPARC secured its first partner: the American Chemical Society. In fact, ACS will collaborate with SPARC to publish at least one new scientific journal in each of the next three years.<sup>8</sup> In late October, Johnson announced a new partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry and a new SPARC-RSC product, *PhysChem-Comm*.

In addition, there are encouraging signs that other ventures like SPARC are taking shape. The most recent issue of the *ARL Newsletter* (as this went to press) contained a call for participation in the Canada-based International Consortium for Alternative Academic Publication (<http://www.icaap.org/>). Its mission "is to reduce the barriers to independent scholarly publication by bringing together scholars and institutions from all countries and all disciplines who are interested in bringing economic health back to the scholarly communication system."<sup>9</sup>

As these new models for electronic publishing develop, it is important to keep in mind that their most important benefit is to the university as a producer, not a consumer, of research. "The worst disservice to the research community by the current system of commercial scholarly publishing is that it dooms scholarly research to reach a shrinking audience,"<sup>10</sup> and this strikes at the heart of the ultimate goal of scholarly communication. Perhaps the greatest reward that this paradigm change in the dissemination of information can offer to the academic community is in the sheer increase of intellectual awareness that greater readership will offer.

1. Mary M. Case, "ARL Promotes Competition through SPARC: the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition," *ARL: A Bimonthly Newsletter of Research Library Issues and Actions* 196 (February 1998)

<<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/196/sparc.html>>.

2. *Introducing a Response to Soaring Journal Prices: SPARC: the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition*. <<http://www.arl.org/sparc/factsheet.html>>.

3. Brendan J. Wyly, "Competition in Scholarly Publishing?"

What Publisher Profits Reveal," *ARL: A Bimonthly Newsletter of Research Library Issues and Actions* 200 (October 1998) <<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/200/wyly.html>>.

4. Mark J. McCabe, "The Impact of Publisher Mergers on Journal Prices: A Preliminary Report," *ARL: A Bimonthly Newsletter of Research Library Issues and Actions* 200 (October 1998) <<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/200/mccabe.html>>.

5. Wyly.

6. Stanley J. Wilder, "Comparing Value and Estimated Revenue of SciTech Journals," *ARL: A Bimonthly Newsletter of Research Library Issues and Actions* 200 (October 1998) <<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/200/wilder.html>>.

7. Wilder.

8. "SPARC and Chemists to Collaborate on New Reduced-Cost Journals," *ARL: A Bimonthly Newsletter of Research Library Issues and Actions* 199 (August 1998) <<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/199/acs.html>>.

9. Mike Sosteric, "At the Speed of Thought: Pursuing Non-Commercial Alternatives to Scholarly Communication," *ARL: A Bimonthly Newsletter of Research Library Issues and Actions* 200 (October 1998) <<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/200/sosteric.html>>.

10. Wyly.

## The Jorge Luís Borges Collection

by Scott Van Jacob

The story "Ibn-Hakam al-Bokhari, Murdered in His Labyrinth," roughly in the middle of this marvelous new collection of stories by Jorge Luís Borges (*Collected Fictions*. Viking, 1998), is as good a place as any to start an appreciation of one of the most remarkable writers of our century.

His inclinations were literature, philosophy, and ethics. Proof of the first is the product of his labor, which nonetheless reveals certain irremediable limitations... The renown that Borges enjoyed during his life, documented by a body of monographs and polemics, never ceases to astonish us today.<sup>1</sup>

The above two comments on the Argentine writer, Jorge Luís Borges, 1899-1986, attempt to place him among the literary greats of the 20th century. While the first remark finds his writing fascinating and transcending postmodern criticism, the second is not so sure about his place in the literary landscape. The first comment is a *New York Times*' book review of the recently published translation

of Borges' fiction, *Collected Fictions* (Viking, 1998). The second quote comes from Borges himself in a short autobiographical account, titled "Epilogue" from *Obras completas* (Buenos Aires: Emecé, 1974). This work is unusual for a number of reasons. He wrote this three-page piece in the form of an encyclopedia entry published in 2074, almost a century after his death. This piece also reflects the enigmatic question of authorship often found in Borges' works. Is the entry fiction or autobiographical? The answer lies somewhere between the two. The work highlights his sly ironic humor, use of the fantastic, philosophical musings and reference to books real and imagined. His style originated magical realism, which has become a defining worldwide literary genre. The new collection of his fictional works mentioned above is a testament to Borges' continuing reputation as one of the century's principal writers.

The University Libraries' Department of Special Collections recently received a generous gift of 550 works by and about Jorge Luís Borges from Robert O'Grady, an alumnus and library benefactor, and his wife, Barry. This collection, one of the best rare book collections on Borges in the U.S., represents Borges' literary career which involved almost every aspect of the literary enterprise. There are first editions of his rare early books of poetry published in the 1920s and the published collections of his short stories in the 1930s and 1940s that would bring him international fame. There are collections of essays and book and movie reviews as he was a prolific essayist who wrote for many periodicals and newspapers. Included in the collection are numerous works containing prologues that he wrote, anthologies that he compiled alone or with others, collaborated works, stories that he translated into Spanish and journals that he edited. While Borges produced works in almost every intellectual sphere (fiction, nonfiction, biography, translation, editing) available to a writer, it is interesting to note that he never wrote a novel. Many of the works found in the collection are signed by Borges with the signature evolving from compact to scrawling as he went blind in middle age.

Jorge Luís Borges, born in Buenos Aires, learned to read in English before Spanish from his paternal English grandmother. His formative years were spent reading, among others, Cervantes (first in English), Poe and Conrad from his father's extensive library. His parents supported and encouraged Borges' early literary interests. As he and his sister Norah reached their teenage years, the Borges traveled to Europe in order to educate their children. This experience would serve as the university education that Borges never pursued. He sought out writers, particularly in Spain, and began to write poetry. The family returned from Europe shortly after the First World War and settled back in Buenos Aires where Borges immediately surrounded himself with other writers who shared his literary interests. Many of these young writers, such as Aldolfo Bioy Casares and Silvina Ocampo, would become internationally renowned writers themselves. His short fiction and essays received international acclaim by the 1950s. His fame was such in Argentina that he was appointed director of the National

Library, though he was almost totally blind by this time. Later in life, he traveled extensively, teaching, giving lectures (including a visit to Notre Dame for the Sophomore Literary Festival in 1976) and receiving honors.

Borges first published as a poet and essayist. His first three books of poetry (*Fervor de Buenos Aires*, 1923; *Luna de enfrente*, 1925; and *Cuaderno San Martín*, 1929) are extremely rare and can be found in the collection. In fact, there are only eight or nine copies of *Luna de enfrente* on the market today. These works celebrate a Buenos Aires of the past and have a patriotic spirit that he would later dismiss. His works of essays include *Inquisiciones*, 1925; *El tamaño de mi esperanza* (he never allowed either to be republished); and *Otras inquisiciones*, 1952, possibly his most significant work of essays. They are also in the collection.

While Borges was considered one of Argentina's best writers by the end of the 1920s, he would not gain international stature until he began to write short stories in the 1930s. These short stories were collected and first published in *Historia universal de la infamia*, 1935. The second collection, *El jardín de los senderos que se bifurcan*, 1942, includes "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quijote," a considerate critical review of Menard's life work to recreate, not copy, word-for-word two chapters of *Don Quijote*, and "The Library of Babel," a tale of a librarian in an infinite library. His third great collection was *El aleph*, 1949. He published few other works of fiction as the onset of blindness made it very difficult for him to write short fiction. The Borges collection also includes a number of journal issues where these short fictional works first appeared. These stories are particularly interesting since the original versions often were different from the versions found in the above collected works.

The remainder of the collection can be best described by Borges himself in an interview where he noted that "I may not be a good writer, but I am a good reader." His almost fathomless thirst for reading widely, from detective novels to philosophical tracts to the *Koran*, led him to not only compose his own works but also publish anthologies, write prologues, translate works and edit journals. The collection contains numerous examples of his contributions in these areas.

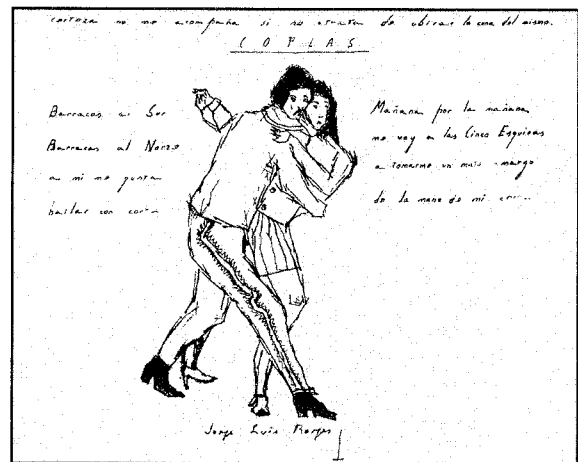
Borges compiled several anthologies throughout his lifetime. These efforts brought attention to Latin American writers (see *Antología de la poesía argentina moderna*, 1926). He also published thematic anthologies, some on fantasy and detective literature, genres of considerable interest to him. The collection completes a circle here by including several anthologies compiled by others that include works by Borges.

The prologues written by Borges gave him the opportunity to elaborate on the importance of the work. As with the anthologies, these prologues can be found in a wide range of books by such authors as Franz Kafka, Herman Melville, Henry James, Ray Bradbury and Jose Hernandez's epic poem *El gaucho Martín Fierro*. Borges was involved in many collaborations with other authors. His most famous

was the detective stories of Don Isidro Parodi that he wrote with Bioy Casares under the pseudonym, H. Bustos Domecq. He translated works by Virginia Woolf, André Gide and William Faulkner. Finally, the collection includes 15 books of interviews that Borges gave throughout his life.

There are a number of works found in the collection that do not fit the above categories. Borges wrote a sympathetic biography of Evaristo Carriego, an Argentine poet whose poems described Buenos Aires street life. His father's one novel, *El Caudillo*, 1921, can be found here. There is a rare and unique set of playing sized cards that contain Borges poems. Borges traveled extensively, giving talks and receiving honors later in his life. The work, *Atlas*, signed by both Borges and his second wife, Maria Kodama, commemorate these travels.

Borges manuscript materials are extremely rare and expensive. There is one manuscript here consisting of a small page containing two handwritten short poems and an illustration by Borges of a couple dancing the tango (below). The most recent purchase by O'Grady for this collection are four drawings of Borges by the Argentine artist, Elbio Fernandez. The drawings include sketches of Borges' hands, face and a figure drawing; they will be framed and hung in the Special Collections Reading Room in the near future.



If you are interested in reading Borges, there are two collected works translated into English: one, *Labyrinths: Selected Stories & Other Writings* (New Directions, 1964), which is a collection of his short fiction and essays; and, two, *Collected Fictions* (Viking, 1998).

The Borges Collection, which is part of a rapidly evolving Latin American Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, is available for viewing in the University Libraries' Department of Special Collections, 102 Hesburgh Library. Any questions regarding the collection can be directed to Lou Jordan, 219/631-5636.

1. Richard Bernstein, review of Borges' *Collected Fictions*, in *New York Times*, 9 September 1998, Late Edition, Section E, p.8. The second piece is a translation of Borges' "Epilogue," *Literary Review* 38, no.1 (1994): 133-135.

## Libraries Welcome Liz Dube

On September 14, 1998, the University Libraries welcomed Liz Dube, who has joined the library faculty in the position of book and paper conservator. Having completed the program in Preservation and Conservation Studies for Libraries and Archives at the University of Texas at Austin, Dube was awarded a Masters of Library and Information Science degree this past August.

Dube has served as conservation intern at the University of Iowa since January 1998 and comes to the University Libraries with several years' experience in the Preservation Department at the University of Texas at Austin as well as at that university's Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. She has also participated in a number of special projects related to her field, including a preservation assessment at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park Museum Archives and several condition surveys for special libraries.



Notre Dame Photographic

Liz Dube

## Renovation *continued from page 1*

decision to engage an architectural firm preeminent in library design, Boston's Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, to serve as consultants in planning a comprehensive reorganization of the Hesburgh Library building. This firm has consulted on the renovations of numerous major research libraries, including those at Yale, Emory and the University of Southern California.

According to the popular press, all information soon will be available in electronic form; therefore some may question why the library's space problem cannot be solved simply by digitizing its collections. As far as new materials are concerned, it is true that some journals now are published only in electronic form and numerous reference materials such as periodical indices are available as computerized

databases. Librarians do not foresee the imminent demise of the book, however. Computerized information and printed materials are expected to co-exist indefinitely, with libraries needing to acquire both. The number of paper volumes added to the collection may decline, but not quickly or substantially enough to erase the immediate problem of where and how to store these new acquisitions.

As for the older materials that already fill research libraries' shelves, a number of nationally based digitization initiatives are underway. A notable example is the JSTOR project which has selected and converted the back runs of a limited number of scholarly journals. This is a very costly enterprise, however, with a variety of technical and legal barriers. While some slow progress is being made, and more is anticipated in the future, these advances are not occurring quickly enough to solve the imminent demand for space faced by Hesburgh and other libraries. Since open shelving is scarce at nearly all large research institutions, offsite facilities to store portions of print collections are becoming common.

Apart from the knotty problems of collection storage, academic libraries nationwide are experimenting with new and different uses of their buildings. Many have begun to incorporate information technologies, with the goal of facilitating the transition from the research done in the library to its logical results, such as the production of term papers or the development of curricular materials. Also, new trends in pedagogy are requiring students to work in small groups rather than independently as in the past; and such teams need a different kind of space than do individual researchers. Libraries are striving to provide more areas where groups can work together comfortably, while still respecting the needs of the many other individuals who seek quiet study space.

For nearly a year a core group of library personnel has met weekly to explore national trends and assess those conditions unique to Notre Dame. The architectural consulting team has come to campus on a number of occasions and the core planning group has visited other research libraries with innovative building designs. During the fall a series of small-group meetings was held with faculty and staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and library personnel to share ideas and gather input. The information collected at those meetings has been used by the planning group and its consultants to assess the needs for space that the library is likely to see in the foreseeable future.

As a result of this extensive planning effort, the consultants from Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott are developing a master plan for the renovation of the Hesburgh Library building. When completed, this plan will be available for review at the planning group's Web site <<http://www.nd.edu/~renovate>>. Other information there includes a listing of the members of the planning group, a list of frequently asked questions, background documents, up-to-date timetables and similar information. The Libraries welcome ideas and input from all interested parties and encourage anyone with opinions to send them as suggested at the Web site or directly to Dr. Jennifer Younger, Room 221 Hesburgh Library (219/631-7790).

## Hayes Honored with Foik Award

This year's Rev. Paul J. Foik, C.S.C., Award was presented to Stephen M. Hayes, business services librarian, at the Presidential Dinner on May 19, 1998. The award is given annually in recognition of significant contributions by a library faculty member to library service, to the Notre Dame community or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involvement in professional associations. The citation reads:

Since 1974 this dedicated librarian has never settled in his quest to be a campus information leader. A superb and relentless reference librarian, a knowledgeable and articulate speaker, he has spoken on the local, state, and national level on issues such as: "Preparing for the Electronic Library," "Government Censorship," and "Public Access to Government Information." On campus, he alerts students, faculty, and administrators of the Library's potential to extend the student's educational experience by offering the skills needed for life-long learning. Boldly switching areas of expertise in mid-career, he is now leading Notre Dame's electronic library - the Business Information Center. A librarian, whose vision and voice are known on campus and across the nation, the 1998 winner of the Paul J. Foik Award. **Stephen M. Hayes**



*Father Malloy congratulates Stephen Hayes*

## Victor A. Schaefer, 1906-1998

*by Maureen Gleason*

Victor A. Schaefer, Notre Dame's library director from 1952 to 1966, died in Indianapolis on June 20, 1998. Schaefer came to Notre Dame at a time when the development and expansion of the University was beginning to accelerate. He presided over numerous organizational changes in the Libraries, including a greatly increased rate of collection growth and the move to the newly built Memorial (now Hesburgh) Library in 1963. His professional accomplishments were many and his role in the history of the Notre Dame Libraries significant.

Born in Hays, Kansas in 1906, Schaefer received his undergraduate degree from St. Benedict's College in Kansas and library degrees from the University of Michigan. In 1935-36 he was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship to study at the Istituto internazionale di agricoltura in Rome, where his bibliographic work won him the American Library Association's Elizabeth Rockwood Oberly Memorial Award in 1937. Prior to coming to Notre Dame, Schaefer was chief of the Preparations Department of the Catholic University of America Library for seven years; served as chief of the Reference Section and chief of the Acquisitions Division of the War Department Library from 1944 to 1948; and from 1948 to 1952 was an assistant director of the University of Michigan Libraries. He was active professionally with a particular interest in cataloging. While at Catholic University's library "he initiated a cooperative venture with the Library of Congress to provide original cataloging for Catholic books not currently nor likely to be cataloged by the Library of Congress"<sup>1</sup> and wrote on the topics of classification and subject headings. He was an active member of the American Library Association and its Association of College and Research Libraries division, and of the Special Libraries Association, and was director of libraries when Notre Dame was admitted to the Association of Research Libraries in 1963.

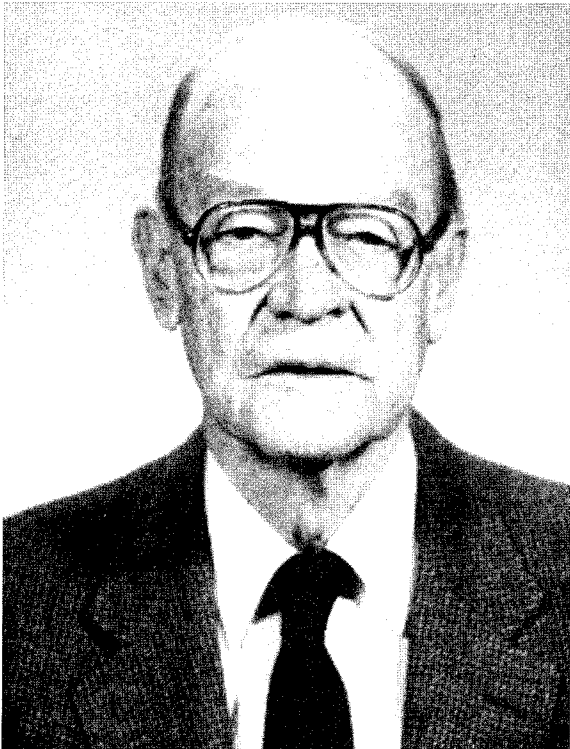
Schaefer came to the directorship in 1952 with a mandate for change. Philip Moore, C.S.C., described the situation of the University of Notre Dame in the years after World War II thus:

Faculty members have been continuously recruited, library resources built up, laboratory facilities expanded, sponsored research tremendously augmented, symposia, lectures and publications multiplied, and the quantity and quality of the student body increased. Doctoral programs have more than doubled...<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing that the Library as it then existed was not prepared to meet these demands, the University commissioned the American Library Association to do a thoroughgoing survey of it and make recommendations for its improvement. The survey was conducted in 1950 by two

prominent librarians, Louis Wilson and Frank Lundy, and it was to implement its recommendations that Schaefer was appointed director. That he took this charge seriously can be seen in the fact that the annual reports of library departments until the 1960s reported progress under the headings established by Wilson and Lundy. Schaefer acted to reorganize the Library by subject divisions, hired librarians with master's degrees from several accredited programs and began more systematic collection building. Library holdings increased from 342,000 volumes to 780,000 volumes during the years of his directorship and several special collections were acquired. It was Victor Schaefer who recognized the value of microfilming Catholic newspapers, an effort which continues to this day. And of course, in 1963, he directed the move of the Library from its overcrowded 1917 building to the present Hesburgh Library.

Schaefer resigned the directorship in 1966 and took a leave of absence to serve as director of a newly established Library of Congress office in Wiesbaden, Germany. His charge was to expedite the cataloging of all scholarly material published in Germany, a role which called on his professional knowledge, his language skills and his commitment to support scholarly research. In September 1967 he returned to Notre Dame as director of Special Collections, a post he held until his retirement in 1976. Special Collections continued to expand under his direction, and he was instrumental in establishing what was then called the International Sports and Games Collection.



Notre Dame Photographic

Victor A. Schaefer

Victor Schaefer and his wife Agnes raised their family of three sons in South Bend and he was active in community and church organizations. He worked with the Boy Scouts and helped organize the Babe Ruth League in South Bend. In recognition of their religious contributions he and his wife were invested with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Until a few years ago, Schaefer and his wife lived in a house on East Angela Avenue near Notre Dame Avenue and he could often be seen walking toward the Hesburgh Library where he pursued his bibliographical and genealogical interests after retirement. Schaefer had many talents, including playing the piano and organ. After retirement he took up golf and gardening, and remained a busy and productive individual throughout his long life.

The nine directors of the Notre Dame Library since its beginnings in 1843 have each shaped the Library in ways that reflect the situation of the University and its library during their tenure, as well as their own beliefs and personal style. Victor Schaefer brought many valuable qualities to the Libraries during a period of movement toward professionalization and academic growth. We honor him for his commitment to the University of Notre Dame and its Libraries.

1. Sophia K. Jordan, "Notre Dame's Contribution to the Order of Knowledge in America," in Maureen Gleason and Katharina Blackstead, eds. *What is Written Remains: Historical Essays on the Libraries of Notre Dame* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994), 161.
2. Philip S. Moore, *Academic Development: University of Notre Dame: Past, Present and Future* (University of Notre Dame, 1960), 139.

The new Web catalog is now available for testing. Through it you may access the library catalogs of the University of Notre Dame and fellow MALC (Michiana Academic Library Consortium) members Saint Mary's, Holy Cross and Bethel colleges. It is available from the University Libraries' homepage at <http://www.nd.edu/~ndlibs/> and will replace UNLOC in early January 1999. Please try it out and send us your feedback.

# ItalNet Launches Database of Early Italian Vernacular Sources

by Christian Dupont

By now we have all become familiar with the large commercial databases that enable us to quickly retrieve a bibliographic citation, browse an article or search its full text online. These products, often massive in scale, are likewise designed to serve mass user groups and typically carry massive price tags. But what about the needs of scholars who work in specialized fields and who, in order to reap the benefits of the electronic revolution, require access to specialized resources?

To bring the benefits of the new Internet technologies to researchers in the field of Italian studies, the William and Katherine Devers Program in Dante Studies in the Department of Special Collections and the Department of Romance Languages at Notre Dame has joined forces with the Centro di studi Opera del vocabolario italiano (OVI) in Florence, Italy, the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Reading, England, and the ARTFL (American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language) Project at the University of Chicago to form the ItalNet consortium. "The goal of ItalNet is to strengthen and revitalize Italian studies by providing scholars with high quality yet economical state-of-the-art research tools," explains Theodore Cachey, Devers program director and executive director of ItalNet.

This November ItalNet launched a full-text database of early Italian vernacular sources which linguists at Opera del vocabolario have been carefully editing in electronic form over the past 30 years for their use in preparing a new historical dictionary of the Italian language, the *Tesoro della lingua italiana delle origini*. By publishing the OVI database on the Web, ItalNet has enabled scholars around the world to benefit from this rich textual resource.

The scope of the OVI database is comprehensive, comprising some 1,369 documents dated prior to 1375 (the year of Boccaccio's death) and representing a wide range of authors and genres. Indeed, nearly all of the known texts from this early stage in the development of the Italian vernacular are included, from the works of Dante, to the legal statutes of Siena, to medical treatises, to obscure chronicles of medieval history. Thanks to the powerful ARTFL search engine which runs the database, users can select from a number of bibliographic criteria to define a search corpus which can then be queried using pattern matching features to uncover complex linguistic variations. "The philological quality of the texts and the broad, interdisciplinary distribution of documentary and literary genres represented constitute the distinctive features of the database," Cachey observes. An added benefit for local users, by virtue of the role of the Devers Program as a founding member of the consortium, is local access to the complete texts. Thus

researchers at Notre Dame can use the OVI database as a digital library.

For other institutions search access is easily affordable. During the initial phase of its release there are no user fees. Beginning in 1999 ARTFL subscribers will continue to receive the database as a part of their normal subscription while other institutions will be asked to contribute a modest annual subscription fee (\$150) to help maintain and expand the database in the future.

The ARTFL project is one of the leading humanities computing groups in the country and furnishes much of the technological expertise for ItalNet initiatives. The other consortium members contribute scholarly, editorial and administrative support as well as additional programming and networking services. It is this pooling of resources that enables ItalNet to take on significant ventures while minimizing direct costs.

Among the first fruits of the ItalNet collaboration was dissemination of the Inventory-Catalogue of Drawings in the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan, Italy. Since 1982 Robert R. Coleman, associate professor in the Department of Art, Art History and Design at Notre Dame, has cataloged more than 5,000 drawings, working from photographic reproductions housed in the Mary M. Davis Collection of Ambrosiana Drawings at the Medieval Institute in the Hesburgh Library. Coleman's detailed catalog descriptions were turned into an online database in 1995, rendering them searchable according to attribution, artistic medium, provenance, subject keywords and several other fields. "As far as I know the Ambrosiana Drawings Project was the first of its kind to be available on the Web," notes Coleman, who has since seen similar drawings projects being undertaken at other institutions, like the British Museum. "The great benefit of Web publication," Coleman continues, "is that a resource of this size would be impossible to publish in book form, and furthermore it can be updated continuously." The Inventory-Catalogue of Ambrosiana drawings is widely used not only by art historians, but also by other scholars, such as historians of medicine interested in studying early anatomical drawings.

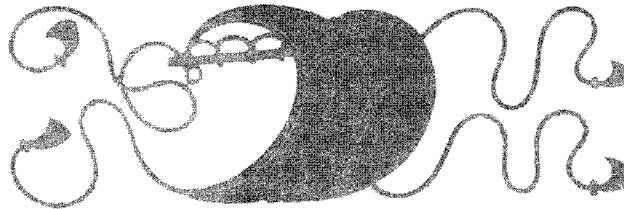
More recently ItalNet has created a Web site for the International Gramsci Society which includes an online version of the Society's *Newsletter*, edited by Joseph Buttigieg, professor of English at Notre Dame and editor of Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*. Between the bibliographic articles published in the *Newsletter* and a link to a database of Gramsci bibliography maintained at Queen's College, Gramsci scholars worldwide now have easy access to an exhaustive listing of publications addressing the work of one of Italy's foremost political philosophers of this century. Buttigieg is enthusiastic about the Web site which was launched this past spring: "It reaches out to more than just the members of the Society, who already number more than 500." From e-mail links on the homepage, Buttigieg receives about half a dozen communications a week from correspondents around the world. Looking toward the future, Buttigieg sees the online version of the *Newsletter* as an

opportunity to expand its contents to include significant articles on Gramsci that are too lengthy to include in the print publication.

Future ItalNet projects include a database of Franco-Italian literature to be developed in conjunction with an international group of contributing scholars. This corpus of mixed language texts originating in the Veneto region of Italy during the late Middle Ages will complement the OVI database and aid the work of scholars who are editing texts and glossaries for this specialized linguistic field. ItalNet

also has plans to develop a Web interface for the Dartmouth Dante Project, a full-text database of some four dozen historical commentaries on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, conceived and directed by Robert Hollander of Princeton University and engineered by computer specialists at Dartmouth college in 1991.

To learn more about the ItalNet consortium and its founding members, as well as to access the collaborative projects described in this article, visit the ItalNet Projects Page at <http://www.italnet.nd.edu/>.



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