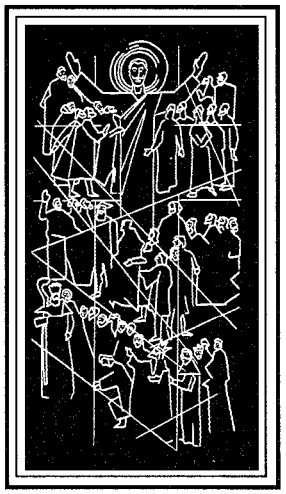

Access

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF NOTRE DAME

Number 78 Spring 2001

Hesburgh Library Renovation

by Richard Jones

Renovation (rĕn´-ō-vā'shŭn), *noun.* The act or process of state of being renewed or revived.
Innovation (ĭn´-ō-vā'shŭn), *noun.* The introduction of something new.

These two words and concepts -- renovation/innovation -- have been adopted as the watchwords for the Hesburgh Library renovation project. They frame a portion of the library mural as the renovation logo at the Libraries' renovation website [**http://www.nd.edu/~renovate/**] together with the motto: "Building Hesburgh Library for the Future."

Neither of these is a new concept; the University and the library staff have been devoted to "building...for the future" since the building was first opened in 1963, and, indeed, from the beginning of the University. (A summary history of the University Libraries of Notre Dame is at: **http://lib.nd.edu/aboutlib/history/timeline.shtml**.) Almost from the first moment after the Hesburgh (formerly Memorial) Library building was occupied, changes were made in the manner in which the space was utilized, reflecting changing needs of students, scholars and researchers, and of new media and technologies. Despite its age, the building is in remarkably good physical condition, especially compared to other buildings constructed at the same time, and it has been amazingly flexible in accommodating the changing needs of the University community. But, in fact, one can make *ad hoc* changes and adaptations for only so long before any sense of coherence in the arrangement of services or collections disappears, before any additional changes would require other moves just to accommodate a possibly unrelated service or collection, before patrons of the library become confused by the organization. The Hesburgh Library has reached that point: "building for the future" has become much more difficult than it needs to be.

The need for renovation of the building was first officially recognized in the *Post-Colloquy Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on University Libraries* (1994). In addition to calling for dramatic improvements in library collections, services and staff, the teaching and research faculty, University administrators and librarians who performed the study and wrote the report identified renovation of the Hesburgh Library

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Why Digital Archiving?

by Daniel K. Marmion

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could watch as Homer kept his audience enthralled with stories of Odysseus and Hector, or if we could hear the child prodigy Mozart entertaining at the Austrian court? Who wouldn't be thrilled to observe Patrick Henry addressing the Virginia Provincial Convention in 1775, or Abraham Lincoln speaking at Gettysburg in 1863? These things are not possible, of course, because although we have a written record of what transpired, there was no technology capable of capturing the actual event and preserving it for posterity.

Will future generations be able to experience the joy of a Louis Armstrong performance, the humanity of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech or the wonder of that one giant leap for mankind? We were able to capture those events, but can we preserve them? Their analog "bodies" are extremely fragile and tenuous, and the mere act of making use of them damages them to some extent. Fortunately, we can digitize them, making seemingly exact replicas of the original. In digital form, they are less susceptible to the ravages of use and deterioration. Once we have a digital copy of something, we can always make another, identical copy.

This is good, because not only does it give us a way to preserve the past, it also allows us to expand access to it. An example

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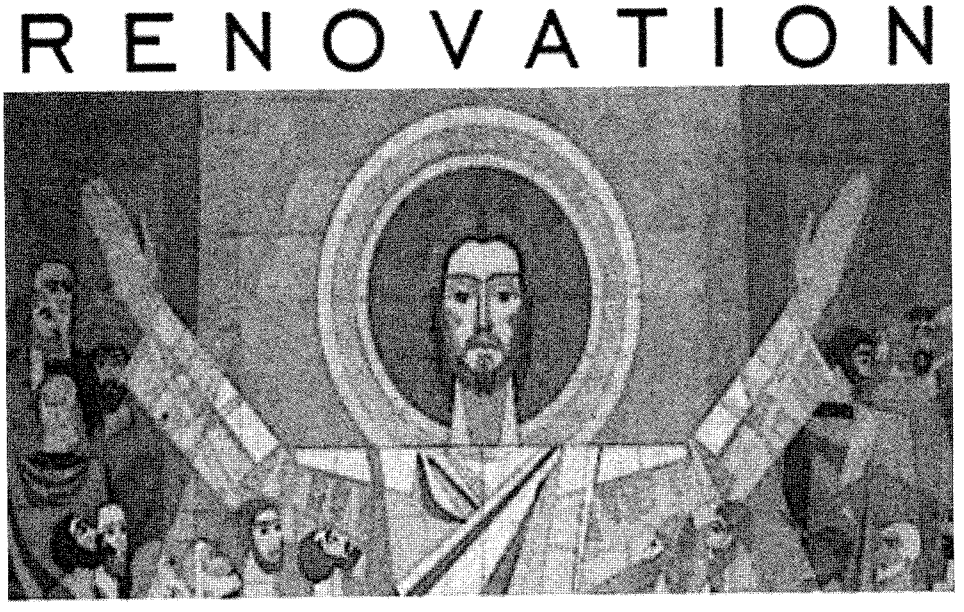
Renovation *continued from page 1*

building as one of two major expenditures that were enthusiastically recommended. A generous gift from the estate of William J. Carey was dedicated, to be devoted to this project. (Carey, a 1946 graduate of Notre Dame and a member of Badin Guild, was a devoted alumnus whose generosity will afford many improvements to benefit the students.) In 1998 the University administration authorized the Libraries and Facilities Engineering to undertake a study to determine what was needed and how it could best be accomplished. The process began with the design and provision of space into which the non-library residents of the library's lower level could be moved, with that space being "recaptured" for library uses. The architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott (SBRA), a group widely experienced and respected in the field of library design, was employed to guide a self study of the Hesburgh Library building and its uses.

The self study was guided by the Program Planning Committee, a group comprised of: four members of the library staff; Paula Carlaccini, representing Facilities Engineering and acting as project director for the renovation; and the Director of University Libraries, Jennifer Younger. The committee began meeting weekly in 1998. Among the things discovered and documented quickly were: (1) the Libraries have made great strides in embracing new forms of communication and knowledge or information, but that development has been *ad hoc* rather than planned; (2) services are scattered and poorly distributed for patron understanding and ease of access; (3) the library has no growth space; (4) seating is poorly organized and not reflective of newer methods of teaching and working; and (5) the next years will see many new developments and innovations that will demand more flexibility than the current physical arrangements will allow.

In order to seek solutions to these fundamental barriers to the development of a 21st-century library, the committee sought to discover in what other ways the library was not meeting current and future needs. The Program Planning Committee and SBRA organized a series of discussions with the University Committee on Libraries, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, and representatives of the student government and the Graduate Student Union. A series of "town meetings" with faculty and students from related disciplines and with library staff were held during the spring of 1999 in which open-ended discussions examined how the Libraries serve the University community and what needs are not being met. A renovation website provided a means for follow-up, two-way communication and for asking questions and receiving answers. The committee was expanded to include teaching faculty and student representatives and met regularly with library administrators. From this, the committee developed a series of themes and perspectives on the basis of which future needs could be documented. SBRA took these, turned them into measurable quantities of space and types of spaces, and laid the needs (the Libraries' future "program") over the existing building's floor space in order to determine if or how these needs could be met. In addition, SBRA employed building and civil engineers to examine every inch of the Hesburgh Library structure and mechanical systems to determine the condition or need for renovation or updating. The result was a report, over 75 pages in length, documenting the needs for library services over the next 15 years and a proposal on how these needs could be met: *Master Plan for Theodore M. Hesburgh Library* (August 2000). This *Master Plan* has been accepted by Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., executive vice president, on behalf of the University officers.



Now the project begins in reality! The immediate aim of the renovation effort now funded is to reclaim the space on the lower level, turn it into a desirable location for working, integrate it into the main floor as a whole, contiguous space, and move collections and services there which will support the academic life of Notre Dame well into the 21st century. It is anticipated that the lower level will include a snack facility, 24-hour work area and graduate student computer cluster. Compact shelving will house 700,000 volumes, most of which will be from current Hesburgh collections but will also include materials in temporary storage for the Law Library and the University Archives. Complete collections expected to move to the lower level will include microforms and government documents, with appropriate service modules. The special collections area will be expanded and furnished with compact shelving, thus greatly increasing its capacity. Most of all, we intend that this floor will become a desirable location for work, study and research.

The Libraries have established the Hesburgh Library Renovation Planning Team, which began meeting weekly in September 2000. The team, in turn, has authorized several working groups:

- Temporary Locations (led by Marsha Stevenson, head of the Reference Department), to plan the move of collections, staff and services to locations away from construction and find ways to facilitate library use during construction;
- Compact Shelving (led by Thurston Miller, chemistry/physics librarian), to examine various types and arrangements of compact shelving and to recommend what materials should be housed on them;
- Lower Level Services (led by Jean McManus, head of the Resource Delivery Department), to describe the nature of public service on the lower level and to define the physical arrangements;
- Special Collections (led by Louis Jordan, head of the Department of Special Collections), to plan the move of the special collections materials and staff and to maintain operations during the construction; and,
- Communications (led by Richard Jones, music librarian), to keep all of the Libraries' publics informed as things are happening.

The selection of the Troyer Group as the architectural firm to carry out the redesign of the lower level is the first major step and a very welcome one. Other Notre Dame projects previously designed by the Troyer Group include the Early Childhood Development Center, the Morrissey Quadrangle, the furniture in Reckers and the theology/philosophy addition to Decio Faculty Hall. With headquarters in Mishawaka, Indiana, the firm has designed several other local libraries, including Bethel College's Memorial Library, Mishawaka-Penn Public Library, Wakarusa Public Library and the Centre Township Branch Library in South Bend. The next important happenings will be:

- presentation of architectural designs (fall 2001?)
- library collections and services begin to move from the lower level (summer/fall 2001?)
- bids sought from construction firms (late 2001/early 2002?)
- construction contract awarded (early 2002?)
- construction begins (summer 2002?)
- construction ends and the Libraries assume control of renovated space (2003?, after about 16 months of construction)

We must anticipate that there is not a member of the library faculty or staff or a piece of the library collections now on the lower, main or second levels that will not be moved at least once during this time. Unfortunately, there will be probably more than a few library patrons who will be disconcerted, confused or inconvenienced at some time. The library faculty and staff, the Planning Team and working groups are committed to making this happen as infrequently as possible and to solving problems when they are unavoidable. This will continue the University Libraries of Notre Dame's commitment to *renovation, innovation and building Hesburgh Library for the future.*

From the Director

by Jennifer A. Younger,
Edward H. Arnold Director of University Libraries

This year finds us deep into the challenges and complexities of planning the initial renovation of the Hesburgh Library. Accepted by the University of Notre Dame in September 2000, the *Master Plan for Theodore M. Hesburgh Library* provides a visionary and flexible framework. This *Master Plan* anticipates the future: expanded print and digital collections; new partnerships with users in electronic learning; delineation of clear pathways to library services; a greater emphasis on inquiry-based education; extended collaboration between teaching and library faculty in the creation of digital collections; a greater ability to teach in proximity to primary, unique or rare collections; and the continuing presence of the library as a

dynamic, academic gathering place for beginning and expert scholars alike. It addresses these conceptual requirements in full recognition that future events, such as the cooperative archiving of print materials, will shape and reshape specific plans over the next 15 years, yet it provides a solid foundation for realizing our dream of becoming a great library in a great Catholic university.

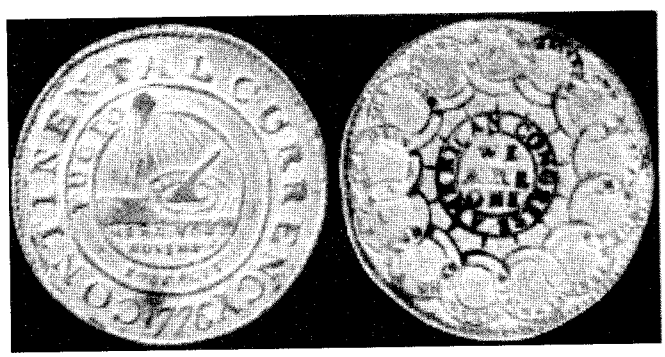
The *Master Plan* proposes five phases. We have determined that the basement is the logical starting place and will thus be the first phase. This renovation project will include compact shelving for general and special collections, a new microform center, inviting and comfortable reader space, computing space for graduate students, temporary storage for materials belonging to the University Archives and the Law Library, a vending area, continued housing of University Telecommunications and life safety improvements. Additionally, the project will open up visual connections between the basement and first floor and provide an improved telephone and security system for the entire building. Joanne Bessler, associate director for user services, is coordinating the Libraries' project team which consists of five working groups. They will work closely with University Project Manager Paula Carlaccini and the Troyer Group, the architects whose selection was recently announced. The project team and working groups have been meeting for several months. Reports of their meetings and work are available at the Hesburgh Library Renovation web site at **http://www.nd.edu/~renovate/**.

Significant achievements have again been made in regard to collections, delivery of information and library services via the network and cooperative activities. We have doubled the number of electronic journals and licensed 500 electronic books. Although it is too soon to understand the full impact of e-books, we are encouraged by the initial enthusiasm of readers. Paper is not disappearing, however, and our acquisition of books and journals in print has been enhanced by recent purchases of unique and rare Latin American literary manuscripts and first editions. We hosted the first North American Aleph Users' Group (NAAUG) last spring which brought together library staff from six university libraries and are looking forward to extended cooperative activities in the development of system enhancements.

All of these achievements would not be possible without the initiative and innovation of library staff, which in turn could not have been accomplished without the expanded financial support from the University. In 1994, the Ad Hoc Committee on University Libraries set the stage for dramatic improvements in library collections and services with its recommendation to increase the annual library budget through additional University funding and endowments. Both have been realized, and we are particularly grateful for the extraordinary success of the Generations Campaign. As was reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 19, 2000), Notre Dame ranked first among research institutions in the increases in total library expenditures, reporting an increase of 67.9 percent over a five-year period from 1993-94 to 1998-99. The success in augmenting resources for the Libraries is also reflected in the rankings of the Association of Research Libraries, which compares resources and expenditures of research libraries throughout North America. Together, the University Libraries and Kresge Law Library rose once again for 1998-99, from 53rd to 51st. While not a measure of the quality of library collections and services, the ranking indicates the serious commitment of the University, through its emphasis on securing additional funds, to becoming a great Catholic university with a great library.

Digital *continued from page 1*

is the Colonial Currency collection at Notre Dame. Prior to the advent of digitization, you would have to go to the Department of Special Collections in order to see it. That's not necessary now, because it is online. Anyone with a Web connection and a browser can view the entire collection.[1] What's more, many people can examine the same item simultaneously.



The Continental Currency "Dollar" of 1776
From the Robert H. Gore, Jr. Numismatic Collection, University Libraries of Notre Dame

Digitizing also makes it possible to utilize the power of the computer to enhance the researcher's tools. We can run optical character recognition (OCR) software on a digitized book to make an electronic file that we can then index and search for specific words and phrases. I can, for example, go to the Making of America site[2] at the University of Michigan and very quickly search the full text of approximately 8,500 19th-century books. I learn that the phrase "University of Notre Dame" appears a total of 36 times in 24 of the books. I find a nice picture of the campus ca. 1870 in one and learn in another that the library had 10,000 volumes in 1876 and added on average 700 new volumes per year.[3]

Sometimes we can use the computer to gain even more information from a document or artifact than is possible otherwise. The original plan for the District of Columbia that Pierre-Charles L'Enfant prepared for George Washington in

1791 is in such bad shape that even if researchers could handle it without it disintegrating, it is so discolored and faded with age that not much is discernable. Fortunately, however, researchers can manipulate a digital image, enhancing sharpness and contrast, zooming in on specific areas, to the extent that it is possible to see the entire plan and even make out notations added by Thomas Jefferson.

Despite these several advantages, however, there are some drawbacks to digitizing. One is that even though a scanned image of something seems like an exact replica, it in fact is not, and cannot be so. This is due to the inherent differences between analog and digital technology, which in a way is like the difference between a slide trombone and a piano. You can make a sound or pitch on a trombone that gradually merges up or down into a different pitch, and the transition from one sound to the other is gradual and unbroken. An analog tape recorder can capture that transition and reproduce it faithfully -- an exact replica of the original.

Digitizing requires converting the analog information into zeros and ones, and this changes the original in very subtle ways. Just like the piano cannot perform a *glissando* the way a trombone can, neither is the digital recorder able to reproduce exactly the gradual and unbroken movement from one pitch to another. Human ears may not be able to detect it, but in fact the digital recorder will reproduce the transition as a series of discrete steps that move from one sound to the next, just as the keys of the piano strike a series of strings that are each tuned slightly differently. Thus in converting from analog to digital, some information is inevitably lost.

Another issue with digitizing has to do with the medium that holds the digital document. While few materials are truly indestructible or impervious to deterioration, we do think of the life span of a book to be many decades, if not centuries. We have paintings and sculptures many hundreds of years old. Digital media, on the other hand, are much more fragile. The actual physical lifetime of digital media is but a fraction of these other types of storage. Even more life threatening than physical decay is the fact that digital media become obsolete in just a few years.

Most of you probably have never even seen an eight-inch floppy disk, yet less than two dozen years ago that was the storage medium for many word processor documents. I have in a cupboard at home several dozen five-and-a-quarter-inch floppy disks (don't ask me why) -- let's hope I never have to retrieve any of the information on them. One of the problems with digital archiving, then, is that ten years from now you may not be able to get the archive back from the medium that contains it. It becomes necessary, therefore, to copy digital archives from one medium to another on a periodic basis. Fortunately, because it's digital, we can make an exact copy without loss of information.

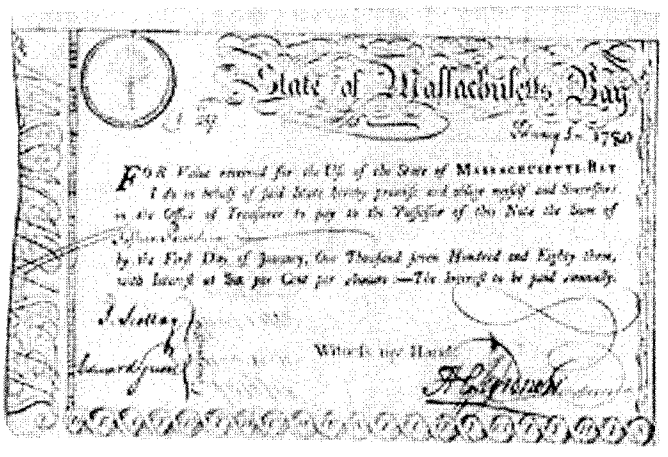
Apart from the media, there is another issue with obsolescence. Both the hardware and software that is needed to view, hear or read the digital information also become obsolete. How many copies of WordStar are still around to display and print the thousands of documents composed on that venerable word processor so popular in the mid-1980s? What kind of hardware and software platforms will we have fifty, one hundred, a thousand years from now? It's a safe bet that they will be radically different from those of today, so how will we be able to retrieve information from the archives?

Several solutions have been proposed to address the problem. One is to keep a hard copy of everything that is digital. Another is to ensure that all digital archives use the same standards, so that presumably the data is stored in a format that will persist into the future. A third approach is to have "computer museums" that contain at least one of every kind of hardware and software that ever existed. Yet another approach is to move digital documents from the old to the new platforms continually as they come online. Finally, there is the emulation solution, which says that even if we can't keep the original systems around forever, we should be able to build our future systems so they can emulate the older ones. Therefore they would be capable of running the original software and in that way make the digital archives accessible.

There are some problems with these proposals. Can we really keep a hard copy of, say, a Web site? Standards are good, but it's unlikely there's ever been a software company that didn't add just a few proprietary secrets to increase sales. Just because we have an ancient computer in a museum doesn't mean we can keep it running forever. Migrating data to new platforms is labor intensive and can lead to data corruption.

Obviously we are not where we need to be in our quest to make sure that future generations can experience and benefit from those things that we wish to preserve. In the opinions of most experts, however, we are on the right path in taking a digital approach.

[1] See: **http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCurrency/**
[2] See: **http://moa.umdl.umich.edu/**
[3] United States. Office of Education. *Public Libraries in the United States of America: Their History, Condition, and Management.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1876. Pp. 1010, 1035.



Fourth Class Lottery Payment - Treasury Certificate,
Dated February 5, 1780
Purchased through the Robert H. Gore, Jr.,
Numismatic Endowment
University Libraries of Notre Dame

Librarian-In-Residence Program Begins at Notre Dame

by Laura Bayard

Increasingly, academic and research libraries have begun to establish internship and residency programs to support their institutional diversity goals. Professional library organizations extend these initiatives by aggregating program descriptions and by offering leadership and career development programs and workshops. The Spectrum Initiative, sponsored by ALA (the American Library Association), addresses the issue of underrepresentation of racially and ethnically diverse librarians within the profession by recruiting scholars, awarding library school scholarships and providing mentoring and leadership training.[1] Sometimes academic and research libraries work collectively through associations, such as ARL (the Association for Research Libraries). The University Libraries is a "Signature Institution" for assisting in building a financial base for ARL's Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce. This initiative offers stipends to library school students from underrepresented backgrounds who agree to work for two years in an ARL library upon graduation.[2] These examples represent a portion of the library profession's long-term efforts to increase the availability of diverse applicants for academic library positions.

The Librarian-In-Residence Program at the University of Notre Dame was made possible in spring 2000 when Jennifer Younger and Roger Jacobs, directors of the University Libraries and the Kresge Law Library, respectively, committed funding for the new position. G. Margaret Porter, Andy Boze, Dwight King and I were named to a newly established Diversity Committee which was charged with defining, implementing and evaluating a residency program. The Librarian-In-Residence Program at Notre Dame is intended to recruit a recent library school graduate who can contribute to the diversity of the profession and the University while developing career interests in various aspects of academic librarianship. Carol Mooney, vice president and associate provost, who leads campus efforts to increase faculty diversity, offered the committee valuable advice as it proceeded to describe the position. We designed the program to accommodate both the professional interests of a successful recruit and the needs of the Libraries. The program definition, therefore, is drawn in broad terms, allowing one residency to be different from another in order to achieve relevancy for the resident, the University Libraries and the Law Library. The programmatic goals establish the program's parameters. During the first year of the two-year program, the resident will gain meaningful work experience within a minimum of three departments or operational units. As the first year draws to a close, the second year will be defined in consultation with the resident and others. The year will be tailored to the resident's interests and the Libraries' needs, with time allotted for a research and/or a writing project. The resident's general experience with research and law libraries will be gained through participation in administrative assignments, library committees, specialized training and professional activities. The resident is eligible for travel support to pursue professional activities. Appointed as a visiting librarian, the resident is awarded a rank and salary commensurate with his/her experience and qualifications.[3]

The implementation phase included recruiting, interviewing, recommending for hire and structuring the resident's two years. The Diversity Committee, also acting as the search committee, attempted to enhance the chances of obtaining a viable pool of applicants by placing advertisements not only in professional journals, listservs and a Web-based jobs line for librarians, but also in other venues, such as ARL's database of residency programs and placement services at national professional conferences. I attended the 2nd National Reforma Conference in Tucson with the objective of building connections for future recruiting efforts.[4] The committee met with the University counsel to insure that we were conducting a fair and equitable selection process. We set up a process for two-day on-campus interviews. Finally, the committee was able to recommend a qualified candidate. Hector Escobar, Jr., a Spectrum scholar, was selected to be the first Librarian-In-Residence at the University of Notre Dame.[5]

The committee issued a call to the library faculty for proposals describing work to be accomplished during four rotations of three months each. Marsha Stevenson designed the first rotation in Reference and Instructional Services. Escobar was assigned reference desk duties and a special project. He was named to the Task Force on Library Instruction which will span the years of the residency. Currently, he is providing reference services in the Law Library with Dwight King, who designed the second rotation which included auditing the fall legal research course as preparation. Carole Richter, electronic resources coordinator, and Scott Van Jacob, subject librarian for Iberia and Latin America, will provide Escobar's third and fourth rotations.

The committee soon will begin to plan the evaluation component and the shape of the program's second year. Making the Librarian-In-Residence Program a reality required cooperation and good will freely given by many people. My sincere thanks go to my colleagues for shouldering the additional responsibilities incurred by proposing and managing the rotations.

[1] Read more about the ALA Spectrum Initiative at: **http://www.ala.org/spectrum/**.

[2] ARL's Diversity Program, Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce, is described at: **http://www.arl.org/diversity/init/index.html**.

[3] The entire description of the Librarian-In-Residence Program is available from the database *Research Library Residency & Internship Programs* at: **http://www.arl.org/careers/residencies.html**. Then follow the path: Review Database \ All Records--by Library; then scroll down to **University of Notre Dame**.

[4] Reforma, a national association that promotes library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking, is described at: **http://www.reforma.org/**.

[5] "Escobar Named First Librarian-In-Residence," *Access: News From the University Libraries of Notre Dame*, 77 (Fall 2000), p. 2.

Libraries Welcome Sherri Edwards

The University Libraries are pleased to welcome Sherri Edwards, who joined the library faculty as life sciences librarian on December 1, 2000. A native of West Virginia, Edwards holds a B.A. in biological and general science, *magna cum laude*, and an M.A. in secondary education from Marshall University. Her master's degree in library science is from Kent State University, and she comes to us from the University of Akron where she served as head of its Science and Technology Library since 1996. Edwards has also held positions within the Ohio State University at Mansfield as reference librarian and then as director of its Bromfield Library, appointments she took after a decade of teaching science at the junior high and senior high school levels.

A member of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries and the Reference and User Services Association of ALA, Edwards has published and made presentations in the areas of collection development and bibliographic instruction with a focus on different levels of student populations. She has a lengthy record of service in various capacities on regional, national and local professional committees and service organizations.

Edwards may be reached at (219) 631-4034 or at **edwards.49@nd.edu**.

Notre Dame Photographic

Sherri Edwards

An ALEPH Reprise

by J. Douglas Archer

Though it may seem to have occurred in the dim past, the migration of the University Libraries' catalog from NOTIS to ALEPH only occurred a little over two years ago -- during January 1999. Since then most users have become reasonably comfortable with the new catalog, though there have been problems, of course.

The first year was particularly difficult as users coped not only with a new type of catalog (point and click rather than command line) but with a new method of access (the web rather than telnet). Switching to a web catalog using client-server computer architecture rather than the trusty old mainframe meant a greater variety of choices in searching the catalog. Initially, however, it also meant greater instability and, goodness knows, there was a more than sufficient supply of that during the first few months.

By the fall of 1999, the Libraries' staff was able to customize the look and feel of the catalog to more closely match users' needs and to bring a much greater level of stability and consistency to the catalog's performance. During 2000 much time and effort went into strengthening system infrastructure, including the recruitment of additional, highly skilled professionals for the Library Systems Department and the purchase and installation of significant additional hardware.

During migration the Libraries relied on two servers, one to hold the new ALEPH databases and one the old NOTIS files. Now there are three dedicated to ALEPH. There is a production server (supporting what you see and use daily), a backup server that mirrors the production server and engages whenever production is interrupted and a test server for experimentation and special projects. The addition of equipment and the people to make use of it means that the previously untapped potential of this new type of integrated library system is now beginning to be exploited.

We have used many analogies and metaphors to describe the choice of ALEPH from among its competitors. One favorite was to describe ALEPH as the Mercedes-Benz of library catalogs. One colleague shot back, during a particularly trying week, that he would have settled for a Ford. To push the analogy a little further, we purchased the first production run of a new model Mercedes. Everyone knows that there are problems with a first run -- even that of a Mercedes. But we were under time pressure and were confident that the end result would be the best system on the market based on the reputation and experience of the manufacturer.

One of the factors in the selection of ALEPH was the apparent flexibility and responsiveness of the company and the system. Unlike some companies which respond to requests for fixes by referring customers to the next major software release (the "just be patient" strategy), Ex Libris has proved to be as good as their word. They send improvements on a weekly if not daily basis. This has presented a mighty

challenge, but it has also meant that many of those little irritations such as adjacency searching failures and screen printing problems have quietly disappeared.

During this spring and summer a new version of the ALEPH 500 system will be tested with the intent of having it ready for use by the start of classes this fall. It is tempting to list in great detail the improvements which should come with this new version. However, we have learned the hard way that promised enhancements don't always appear as announced or scheduled. At a minimum, you will notice a change from three frames to two, easing navigation among screens. Our guiding principles for implementing this upgrade will be simplicity, clarity, reliability and ease of maintenance.

Another development of note during the past two years has been the expanding ALEPH user community in North America. When the University Libraries selected Ex Libris as its vendor of choice in the fall of 1997, there were only three libraries in the United States using the ALEPH system, and they were smaller installations using an older version, ALEPH 300. They were the Judaica Collection at The Ohio State University, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Index of Christian Art at Princeton University. This was, of course, a major concern. While ALEPH was in use in academic, research, business and public libraries in nearly 40 countries throughout the world, especially in Europe and Latin America, we needed and expected to have colleagues in the American academic community who would share our concerns and contribute to the continuous adaptation and improvement of the ALEPH system.

Now there are more than a dozen ALEPH 500 customers in the United States and Canada representing well over 100 academic libraries. The first to join Notre Dame were McGill University, the University of Iowa and Boston College. After a lull, as several migration teams from both the east and west coasts and from as far away as Iceland visited campus and examined our installation with no new announcements of domestic customers, there was a flurry of commitments. Brandeis University, the State University of New York with over 60 campuses, the City University of New York with its 21 campuses, the University of Minnesota including all Minnesota state colleges, the 16 institutions of the University of Maryland system, the University of California at Santa Barbara and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology all chose ALEPH 500 and have migrated or are in the process of migrating. And on November 15, 2000, Harvard University, with the nation's largest and most prestigious academic library, announced that it too had selected Ex Libris and ALEPH 500 as its new library system.

You can access the University Libraries' catalog at:

http://libcat.nd.edu

Notable Acquisitions*

In November 2000 the University Libraries acquired a rare Middle English manuscript. Dated to the 1430s (ca.) in England, it is written in an easy to read semi-cursive gothic script on high-grade vellum and was probably produced at a Carthusian monastery. It is 12 inches high and 7 inches wide and consists of 127 folios. The opening page is illuminated with an armorial initial (reproduced above) and an elaborate full-page border. There are several painted initials and two historiated initials at the start of the second major text.

This manuscript is a significant addition for several reasons. First, Middle English manuscripts are extremely rare; to find a very well preserved and illuminated work with two complete Middle English texts is extraordinary. Second, the first text, called "A Myrrour to Devote Peple," which is found on folios 1-108, is likewise a very rare text and survives in this manuscript and only one other, now in the Cambridge University Library.

The other major text, on folios 109-126, "The Tretise of the Craft of Dying," survives in 13 manuscripts. Known in Latin as the *Ars moriendi*, this very influential late medieval work discusses the proper way to die by preparing one's soul for death. Between these two works are two folios of orations to the Virgin Mary in Latin.

The manuscript not only presents some rare Middle English texts but it is also a devotional manual for the laity. Made for Elizabeth Chaworth, wife of John, Fourth Baron Scrope of Marsham, as indicated by the presence of her coat of arms, the manuscript was clearly intended for use by a devout woman.

Through the generosity of Notre Dame alumnus Robert (class of '63) and Beverly O'Grady we are creating a Southern Cone Literature Collection in the Department of Special Collections. The collection includes manuscripts and books by many of the most significant writers of the 20th century from this Latin American region. Of particular interest are over 70 letters by Gabriela Mistral, the Chilean poet who received the Nobel Prize for Literature, and about 50 manuscript items from the Argentine writer, Ricardo Güiraldes. The enhancement of this collection is an ongoing initiative within the University Libraries.

*Descriptions by Louis Jordan and Scott Van Jacob.

Dannelly Appointed UCLA Senior Fellow

Gay Dannelly, the University Libraries' associate director for resources and collection services, has been appointed a UCLA Senior Fellow for 2001. Dannelly is one of 15 top managers of academic libraries to receive the honor following a nationwide competition. The fellows will attend a three-week program at UCLA July 16-August 3, 2001. Featuring select faculty and invited speakers, the program is designed to facilitate focused investigation and advanced study of topics key to research library administrators. Over 150 academic library leaders have participated in the program first established in 1982. The program is directed by Beverly P. Lynch, professor in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

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