

# Cartouche

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WAIDNER-SPAHR LIBRARY, DICKINSON COLLEGE

SUMMER 2006

## NOT JUST OUR PARENTS' LIBRARY



Take a look around the Waidner-Spahr Library. On any given day you might find poetry readings, poster sessions or photography exhibits. There are students clustered around computers, collaborating on group projects and students outside using borrowed laptops under the umbrellas. Couches are pulled in front of monitors, with students watching *Good Night and Good Luck* on DVD. There are faculty research teas. A student relaxes in a leather armchair, reading a novel.

This isn't just our parents' library anymore. The academic library is now as much a part of the social and cultural fabric of the campus as it is central to the learning, teaching and research missions. The programs, technology and even the furnishings reflect that.

How we acquire, access and present information is increasingly responsive to the ways our millennial students prefer to interact with their environments.

The services we offer support both the time-honored and innovative ap-

proaches of our users. Researching a topic in journals? On our computers, students can select a database, type in search terms and read it on the spot or e-mail it to read later on—in their rooms or on the lawn. Need an article from another library? Find it online, request it online and receive it via e-mail within days. Reading John Dickinson's *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* for a history class? Students can hold the original 1774 volume in their hands in the Archives and Special Collections but also read the electronic facsimile online through the Dickinson digital project, Their Own Words, or the commercial database, Eighteenth Century Collections Online.

Also, answers to questions on how to cite a book (printed or electronic) in a bibliography are just a click away through instant message to a librarian.

Our resources are richer, both in print and online, than in our parents' day. And the expert help needed to locate, evaluate, use and cite those materials is available in Dickinson's library.

## Instant Reference Service

From the comfort of her residence hall, a student sends an electronic instant message (IM) to the librarian: "I've searched through the books in our library and the databases and journals, but I can't seem to find what I'm looking for. Do you have any recommendations?"

This new way of seeking assistance became possible in No-

vember, when the Dickinson librarians extended their reference services to include an online, instant message service.

Our screen name, RushRef, has a distinctively Dickinson twist, as we pay tribute to the college's founder, Benjamin Rush.

Students can add RushRef to their buddy lists and easily connect with a librarian from

anywhere. The reference staff members have answered questions on such topics as database selection, citation format and topic development.

This service was a natural outreach to students who are used to being constantly "connected."



*"Thanks so much. It was great to not have to walk across campus when it was 20 degrees out!"*

*—Student using RushRef instant-reference service*

# EIGHTEENTH CENTURY COLLECTIONS ONLINE

*“It is invaluable for my research and already is playing a large role with several papers I am writing. Having access to such a large collection of material that is searchable dramatically cuts down on prep time and having to convince other libraries to loan books, many of which have not been reprinted.”*

*—Edward McPhail,  
associate professor  
of economics*

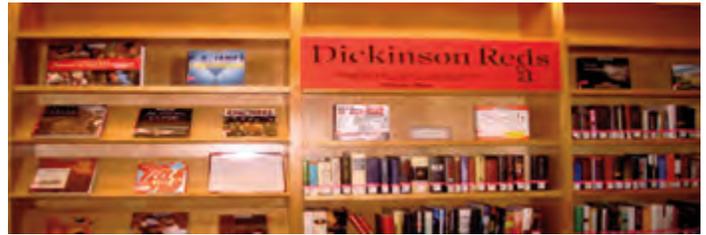


The Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) is an important new addition to the library's growing list of databases. ECCO includes the full text of each significant English-language and foreign-language title printed in the United Kingdom, as well as key works from the Americas during the 18th century. The collection contains a wide variety of books, directories, bibles, sheet music, sermons and advertisements.

Faculty members are full of praise for the scope and sequence of this online collection. ECCO is a fully searchable database with advanced browsing capabilities. It supports teaching and scholarship across the disciplines, such as social science, fine art, history, geography, law, religion and philosophy, making new course assignments and research opportunities possible for the campus community.

The Dickinson community now has access to primary historical documents that otherwise would only be found in vast research libraries such as Oxford's Bodleian Library, the Yale University Library or Harvard's 90-plus libraries.

Using this new tool, Dickinson students may read a 1786 medical textbook on the principles of midwifery, a 1794 sermon on the immortal spirit of man, or a bawdy, Dublin drinking song to gain insight into the social, political or religious climate of the 18th century.



Some selected titles with high circulation statistics are *Missing Mom* by Joyce Carol Oates, *Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld, *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman, *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith, *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova, *Julie & Julia* by Julie Powell and *The Tulip and the Pope* by Deborah Larsen.

## Dickinson Reads

To entice students to read for pleasure outside of course requirements, the library has highlighted an eclectic array of appealing books. Literary-award winners are shelved next to graphic novels, social commentaries, biographies and best sellers.

The library acquires new books for this section every month from Carlisle's Whistle-stop Bookshop, owned by Jeff Wood '85, and has arrangements with publishers to receive finalists for a number of literary prizes.

During the last eight months, the volumes in this collection have been borrowed at a much higher rate—30-50 percent—than those in the general collection.

Since the inception of Dickinson Reads, the library has received more than 100 suggestions from our users for new books to add. This insight into what the campus community is reading helps guide our future selections.

We invite you to browse, select and offer your thoughts and ideas for this dynamic collection.

## Library Honors Student Employees

The Waidner-Spahr Library hosted a pizza party to recognize the contributions made all year by the library's student workers. Without students, the library would not be able to support the quality or number of services it provides.

Graduating student employees received a special gift—they selected a book from the library and a commemorative plate was placed in the book in their honor. The book plate was inscribed with the student's name, year of graduation and number of years employed by the library.



# NEW TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

During the last year, through the generous funding of the Friends of the Library, the Archives and Special Collections has acquired five James Buchanan letters, a Joseph Priestley pamphlet, a photograph of an 1865 alumnus and three books for our private-press collections. Among the latter is the second Gehenna Press book printed, and the first to include artwork by Leonard Baskin.

Personal gifts to our collections include a scrapbook of Marion Bell '46; a letter from Robert Emory (president of the college, 1845-48); photographs of Charles Eckels, class of 1885; and various personal and professional papers of former college treasurer George Shuman

Jr. '37. We thank Dr. Whitfield Bell Jr. '35, John McKenney, Karen Carroll and Leigh Espy for these additions to our collections.

Perhaps the most notable gift, however, is a watercolor of West College attributed to Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the building. John Dann '66 purchased the watercolor a few years ago from a rare-materials dealer. Slight inaccuracies in the drawing suggest that it may have been rendered before the building was constructed. In any case, John "couldn't stand to think that it would be lost to Dickinson." It is a most exciting addition to our collections, and we thank John for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

*A watercolor of West College attributed to Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the building, purchased by John Dann '66 and donated to the Archives and Special Collections.*



## The Stafford Room Shines On

With a generous gift from Inge Paul Stafford '58 and John R. Stafford '59, the library's first-floor study room named in their honor, has been enhanced. With suspended lighting, leather and upholstered seating and individual study tables circling the room, this space is a favorite for Dickinsonians seeking a respite from the bustling, technology-rich environment in the library.

When you are in the library, be sure to come to the Stafford Room to browse today's newspapers; bring a volume from the nearby Dickinson Reads collection and settle into a comfortable armchair; or just enjoy the light and views offered by the floor-to-ceiling windows. This gift has enabled us to create a modern and elegant space for our campus community to enjoy.





*“The Waidner-Spahr Library is one of the most cherished and important campus resources where Dickinson students can work, research and receive help with research and writing. I firmly believe that extended library hours would be an excellent move toward an academically stronger Dickinson College.”*

*—Survey comment from Dickinson student*

## Library Hours Task Force

In response to student requests for expanded library hours, a task force was charged to investigate library usage and the feasibility of extending hours. Access and Research Services library staff members, a library student supervisor and a representative from the student senate comprised the team.

With the help of the Office of Institutional Research, the task force developed a survey that was e-mailed to all students in November. While 87 percent of students reported a general satisfaction with current hours, a majority of respondents also indicated that they would like the library to expand its general operating hours.

Additionally, students have asked for: increased hours for the lower-level side entrance to the library; 24-hour operation during exams; and earlier opening times on the days before classes resume after breaks.

The library responded by expanding the hours at the lower-level side entrance and opening earlier after breaks. The library staff will give careful consideration to the survey data and consider how to adjust its current hours. A proposal is in the works for the fall semester.

## Recent Library Events

- **FaculTeas:** Faculty members share recent projects or publications, followed by light refreshments.
- **Citation Station:** Bibliography workshops help students use information responsibly.
- **Poetry Slam and Erotic Readings:** Held by students in the Stafford Reading Room.
- **Photography Club Exhibit:** Showcasing students' photographs.
- **Molecule Mania:** Chemistry student-poster session.
- **Food for Thought:** PB&J sandwiches, cookies and beverages provided during exam week.



*Photography Club exhibitors Khalifa Al Kindi '07 and Anna Aperans '06.*

## Suggestion Box

By listening to what our users say through the comments they submit to our suggestion box, the library has enhanced services and made policy changes to better serve their needs. Students help themselves at the printing station, which is now closer to the computers. We've raised the limit on borrowing CDs to five, and students can keep them out for three days instead of one.

Tell us more of your ideas and help us think outside the box.

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