

Final Report: Activities of COL, School Term Year 2001-2002, presented by James Aronson, Chair.

It was a busy and productive year for the COL, greatly aided by the Library's enthusiastic and diligent Director, Richard Lucier (RE gan with the opening of the Berry part of the new Baker-Berry and the further strengthening of The Dartmouth Digital Library; we ended our term as the merged Baker-Berry facility was about to be completed. The COL learned that with projected flat budgeting and inflation there will be an 8% decrease in the growth of the collection, making our budget ~75th out of the ARL member libraries, but that we are in the top 10 in the purchasing of electronic resources. The following were our most important items of business:

(I). Library Role in Electronic Information Literacy. We examined and affirmed the library's goals to achieve electronic information literacy for the Dartmouth community. Friendly pro-active approaches will work best, especially ones using special "teaching moment" opportunities, like the 1st year seminars, the Summer Session, and before and during Off-Campus programs, and through out-reach sessions with departmental faculties. We examined jointly with COC the network developments planned by Computing Services that will serve the needs of the Digital library. Our Library maintains strong consortial ties with fellow libraries and is to be the first to use the Scholar's Portal Project allowing very efficient multiple database searching by users.

(II). The Physical Library.

(A). We are not yet at the state of "the Steady State" library where constraints of space and dollars become extreme and the COL affirmed its constant need to creatively continue the growth of the physical library, especially for the in-print resources.

(1) The Council was very sensitive to the needs of significant portions of Library users to have ready access to in-print resources. Close off-campus storage was expressed as the favored way to manage Dartmouth's future space needs, as long as the excellent retrieval system of today can be maintained. However, with the opening of Baker-Berry, acquisition of new space may be on the back burner for a couple years.

(2) Inter-library Loan was affirmed as critical to Scholarship at Dartmouth, and a key way of surmounting the "Steady State" constraints. To this end we were very supportive of the "Borrow Direct" consortium of all the Ivy libraries except Harvard. This very efficient system effectively pools the in-print resources of all these outstanding libraries. This system is to be operative this Fall ('02), using Fed-X transfers.

(3) Faculty and other Quiet Study Areas in Baker-Berry. In response to several faculty letters, we examined the question of developing a Quiet Reading Space in the completed Baker-Berry, an issue that resonated well with general perceptions amongst the Council that Berry lacked an air of scholarship. One such space was already to be, that the elegant multi-arched periodical reading room, yet to be crafted from the former Reference Room in Baker. After a tour the most appropriate spot was deemed to be the awkwardly arranged triangular shaped stacks area on Berry level Three. This area has the convenience of being connected by bridge to the Baker stacks and of having an expansive North-facing window wall conducive to pleasant study. With full COL backing REL secured the contribution from the Callendar family to bring it about. By the

Council's ending a working group on the design of the Callendar Room was to be appointed during summer '02 with a diverse user membership. Much concern was expressed from some faculty that the Callendar Room would lose use of the shelf space and the COL agreed that the Library would make every effort to replace a significant portion of the removed shelving elsewhere Baker-Berry.

(4) Scholar Studies (formerly Faculty Studies) All 46 of these highly popular units were remodelled and to be re-opened for use this fall after a lapse of 2 years during Baker-Berry construction. With REL and Cindy Pawlek input we developed and approved a formal policy for the securing and use of these Studies. We extended their use beyond the faculty to include in approved circumstances undergraduate and graduate student users recommended by faculty, as well as emeriti faculty, scholar spouses, and administrators (ie, all scholars). The library will administer the assigning of Studies on receipt of brief proposals from applicants. The distribution of the studies by duration of use was tentatively established, subject to future alteration. It is expected that as in the past the Studies will be in high demand, providing faculty, especially, the quiet study space close to their resources, critical to accomplishing their scholarship.