



A Year of Achievement Highlights

Following are some of the initiatives that staff of the Archibald-Thomson Library undertook during the 2006-2007 academic year to improve service to our various user-communities.

Library Design. We have been working closely with our architect to plan a building that will accommodate a growing student body, an anticipated increase in group study, and a book collection of 150,000-160,000 volumes. Most libraries must sacrifice study space to accommodate collection growth, but we've decided to put our patrons first. To that end, we will be housing 70% of our collections on compact shelving. In fact, we hope to replace all of our traditional shelving with compact shelving within 10 years. That way, if we continue to acquire books and bound periodicals at the current rate—3,200 volumes a year—we won't have to change the new facility's shelving footprint for 17 years.

Pruning the Collection. This year's statistics (see back page) seem to indicate that we withdrew 14,350 volumes from the collection over the past year. Actually, that's the number of unneeded duplicates and out-of-scope volumes that we've removed over the past four years in combining the former AUC and NUC libraries. It's standard practice for librarians to prune their bibliographical gardens to make room for new growth: our volume count has dropped, but the quality of the collection has increased. The book collection alone still exceeds 100,000 volumes, and at 136,472 total volumes ours remains the largest collection of any university college in the province, and the largest theological library in the Prairie Provinces. As for the weeded volumes, we've recycled those that were badly damaged, and either sold the rest to faculty, students, and other book-lovers or shipped them to needy libraries.

Increase in Digital Resources. Thanks in large part to the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library initiative, the number of electronic databases to which the library subscribes has almost doubled: from 28 to 53—and at no additional cost to us. New additions include JSTOR, Old Testament Abstracts, New Testament Abstracts, BioOne, SocINDEX with full text, and History Resource Center.

User Survey. In January 2007 the library staff distributed a survey questionnaire to the students of Canadian Theological

Seminary (now Ambrose Seminary) to determine whether the library was meeting their research needs. An overwhelming majority of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the library's collections and services. They also volunteered comments that will help us continue to improve services. In 2007/08 we hope to survey our undergraduate users.

Indochina Project. In January 2007 the library hosted a meeting of the Indochina Project planning team that was chaired by David Fitzstevens of World Vision. This project commemorates the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Protestant church in Indochina. One of its chief goals is to provide church leaders in Indochina with some of the literary resources they will need to write the centennial histories of their churches. In conjunction with this initiative, the library received a grant from Samaritan's Purse to hire Ambrose history major Peter Stanulonis for the summer to digitize Christian and Missionary Alliance Indochina missions periodicals. As part of the project Peter also transcribed oral histories, created finding aids for our archives' Indochina collections, and developed a proposal for an archives website.

Library Technician Training. During the past year the library again provided a three-week practicum for a student in SAIT's Library and Technology program. Colleen Charter, who supervised our intern, reported that the experience continues to be positive for both parties: the intern receives a broad, guided exposure to many aspects of library work, and the library uses the additional staff hours to complete cataloguing projects.

A Literary Discovery. As was mentioned earlier in the year on the library's website, Sandy Ayer discovered in a shipment of donated books a letter by noted nineteenth-century American author Edward E. Hale. The letter now resides with the Hale papers in the archives of Harvard Divinity School.

The Mission of the Archibald-Thomson Library

The goal of the Archibald-Thomson Library is to serve as the primary library resource for the educational and research programs of Ambrose University College and Ambrose Seminary, and to assist these institutions in fulfilling their respective missions and objectives. The Archibald-Thomson Archives, which is administered by the library, serves as the



Library Report 06-07



official repository for the institutional records of Ambrose University College, the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, and the Church of the Nazarene Canada.

Our goal as a library staff is to personalize this mission. We do not see ourselves as purveyors of information, but as mediators of personal knowledge for the attainment of wisdom. Like scribes trained for the kingdom of heaven, we bring out of our storehouse treasures old (books) and new (electronic databases)—and quickly, so that our users will be able to concentrate on research rather than on searching. Everything we do, from selection, to ordering, to cataloguing, to helping patrons match resources to assignments, is done with these goals in mind.

Planning for the Future

Projects for 2007/08 include redesigning the library's electronic databases page, inputting journals holdings information into our patron catalogue, designing research guides, conducting a user satisfaction survey of undergraduate students and, of course, getting ready for the move to the new campus. Moving the library will be the biggest single project in the relocation of the campus, and the library is working together with the Moving Committee to ensure that it is executed as well as it was in the relocation to the present campus in 2003.

Archibald-Thomson Library

Contact Information

Phone: 403.410.2946
 Fax: 403.571.2556
 e-mail: library@ambrose.edu
 website: www.ambrose.edu/library

Hours of operation *

Mon-Thur 8:00 am -10:45 pm
 Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Sunday Closed

*(while school is in session)

Check Out These Statistics

	July 05- June 06	July 06-April 07*
Books purchased	2,097	2,093
Books added via donation	464	1,034
Total	2,561	3,127
Books withdrawn	816	14,350
Net book volumes added	1,745	-11,223**
Total book collection	111,782	100,559
Bound periodical volumes added	217	104
Bound periodicals withdrawn	0	192
Total bound periodicals collection	4,519	4,431
Videorecordings (VHS and DVD) added	36	32
Total video collection	501	533
Sound recordings (CD's) added	20	70
Total sound recordings collection	1,614	1,684
Choral and orchestral scores added	28	14
Total scores collection	671	685
Microform journal units added	160	160
Microform journals (units)	28,420	28,580
Total volumes	147,507	136,472
Current journal subscriptions	353	353
Full-text electronic journals	17,649	36,495
Items circulated	46,901	47,077

* Note that 06-07 statistics reflect a ten-month reporting period because Ambrose changed to a May-April fiscal year in 2007.

** See explanation above under "Pruning the collection."

