

FALL

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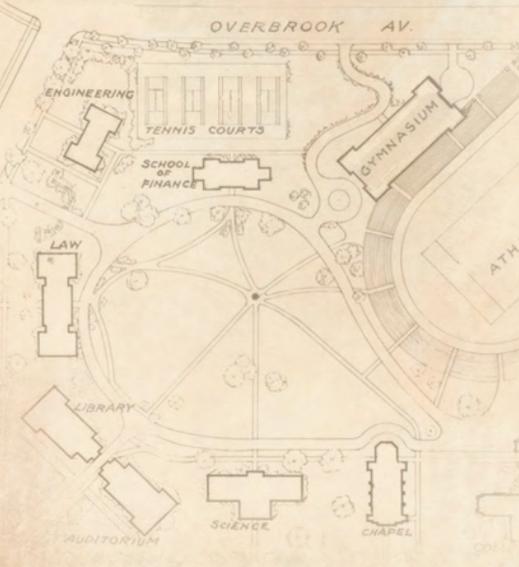
## LIBRARY LINES

*Francis A. Drexel Library Newsletter*

## ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS MAKEOVER



The Archives and Special Collections at Saint Joseph's University, housed in and curated by Francis A. Drexel Library, got some long overdue sprucing up this summer. The collections, tucked away in the basement of the Library, have grown dramatically over the years and the room in which they were housed was bursting at the seams. Providing access to the collections, heavily used by alumni, students, faculty, campus departments and outside researchers, in such an overcrowded space was becoming more challenging for staff so a face lift was essential.



The first step, which was taken last year, was to install compact shelving in a room adjoining the main Archives. This provided an opportunity to house many materials in that area, alleviating the crush in the Archives room and giving staff some badly needed work space. A third room on the ground floor was annexed to house the Thomas M. Foglietta and other special collections. With those expansions, plans could then be made for the main Archives room.

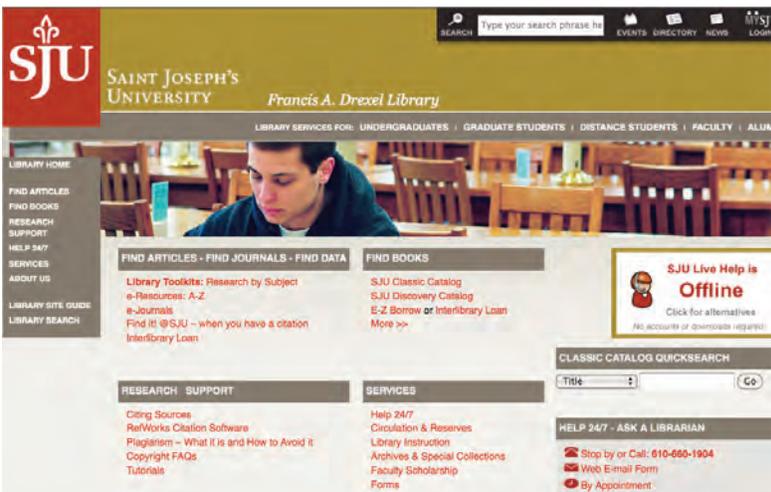
This summer, remedial work on the vents and pipes was completed and the room was freshly painted and tiled, after the removal of some musty old carpet. The physical layout of the room was rethought and the furniture rearranged to afford a work space for visiting scholars and others needing to use the collections.

Display cases were installed to house memorabilia and map cases were added to accommodate oversized documents and floor plans as well as maps. A few more nips and tucks, and the Archives room was transformed!

Now that the physical space had some work done, it was time to begin on the materials themselves. The Library transitioned a librarian, Christopher Dixon, into the operation to provide a professional eye for long-term planning and to assist archival technician, Patricia McAvinue, with the work load. PastPerfect, approved by the American Association for State and Local History as "exemplary software for museums and historical societies", was acquired to manage the intellectual content of the collections and will, eventually, provide item level access to individual materials. Features of this software will also assist in creating a digital presence for the Archives and Special Collections.

The makeover did not only improve the appearance of the existing Archives and Special Collections Room, but will allow this service area to function more efficiently and effectively until new and expanded quarters, including exhibit and event spaces, are created in the anticipated addition to Francis A. Drexel Library.





## LIBRARY'S NEW WEB PAGES GO LIVE!

On August 25, 2009, the Library shifted its entire web site over to an updated system, in line with University Communication's new platform for all the University's web pages. The website has a new, sleek look that will hopefully make the pages easier for faculty and students to navigate. We have always continually worked to update and refine the content of our pages to make explanations, resources and online tools more accessible to our users, but the new platform gives us a chance to think about the "big picture" of how our community is using our web pages. We will continue to refine the pages during the next academic year, but we encourage you to take a look, browse around, and get comfortable on the new pages! <http://www.sju.edu/resources/libraries/drexel/>

The Library would like to thank Linda Kubala, the Web Resources Librarian, for all her hard work and long hours in making this switch possible!

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

### Expansions

Two database collections in our electronic resource holdings are seeing continued growth in their offerings. The Medieval and Early Modern Sources Online database (MEMSO) and Cambridge Collections Online and Cambridge Histories Online are three such resources. MEMSO, a storehouse of digitized primary sources, archival materials, and document calendars, provides full-text access to essential materials for scholars of Medieval and Early Modern England, Scotland and Ireland, as well as peripheral coverage of European courts and cities. The majority of the materials come from the Rolls Series, administrative and diplomatic records (state papers, royal letters to foreign courts, and judicial records), as well as the publications of the Royal Commission of Historical Manuscripts. An impressive digitization of original manuscripts complements and expands upon many of these resources, providing full-text scans of hand-written letters and records. Though primarily directed to historians, these texts offer a wealth of information for use by other fields including Political Science, English, Foreign Languages, and Economics. Furthermore, the publishers of MEMSO are exceptionally welcome and responsive to suggestions and requests for sources for future digitization, provided the texts are not covered by copyright laws. Click [HERE](#) to access MEMSO.

Cambridge Collections Online is the collective name for the full-text electronic editions of the Cambridge Companions to Literature, Classics, Philosophy, Religion, and Culture. A number of the texts covered can also be found in print in the Library collection. However, the advantage to electronic copies of these works is the ability for multiple patrons, from multiple locations (both on and off campus) to access these sources at any time. Additionally, through Cambridge Collections Online we can offer increased access to patrons without sacrificing shelf space for multiple copies of specific titles, which can then be used for other acquisitions. Click [HERE](#) to access the collection.

Cambridge Histories Online is perhaps the most unique of the Cambridge collections. Through this resource we are able to offer updated editions to the print collections currently available in the Library, with the increased benefits of electronic access. For example, we currently have print editions of the Cambridge Ancient History and Cambridge Medieval History, but through Cambridge Histories Online we are able to provide access to the new and updated volumes of the Cambridge Ancient History as well as the completely updated New Cambridge Medieval History. Click [HERE](#) to access this database.

*The texts offered between all three electronic Cambridge Collections add over 550 volumes to our standard and electronic holdings, covering nearly as many fields as campus departments.*

### Additions

- The Library's JSTOR <http://www.jstor.org/> collections are now complete with the addition of Ireland, Life Sciences, and 19th Century British Pamphlets.
- Access to The Times Digital Archive, 1785 - 1985 is now available - thanks to a generous donor. (See Donations)

### Changes

- Due to budget cuts, the Library's subscription to LexisNexis® Congressional has been cancelled but LexisNexis® Academic has been retained for your use.

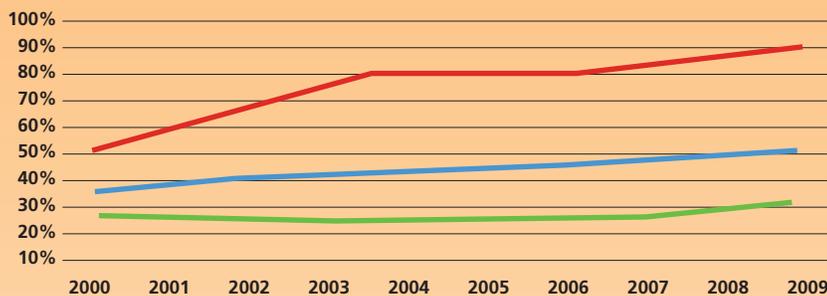


# From the Director

## Faculty Members Speak their Minds

Last spring, we asked SJU faculty members for their perceptions of library resources and services, as well as their views of library use by students. The survey yielded one hundred and sixty-one responses. Since the survey has been offered since 2000, it is possible to see how faculty attitudes have changed over time. Notable changes occurred in the following three areas:

- In 2000, 50% of faculty were satisfied or very satisfied with the Library's databases for research, and in 2009, 87% are satisfied.
- In 2000, 16% of faculty agreed or strongly agreed that students could distinguish quality resources on the web, increasing to 33% in 2009. Although still far from the majority, the numbers are going in the right direction.
- The percentage of faculty who were either satisfied or very satisfied with Library instruction has gone from 35% in 2000 to 47% in 2009. This reflects the library's increased emphasis on instruction. In 2009 the library reached 3,825 students, an increase of 38% over the previous year.



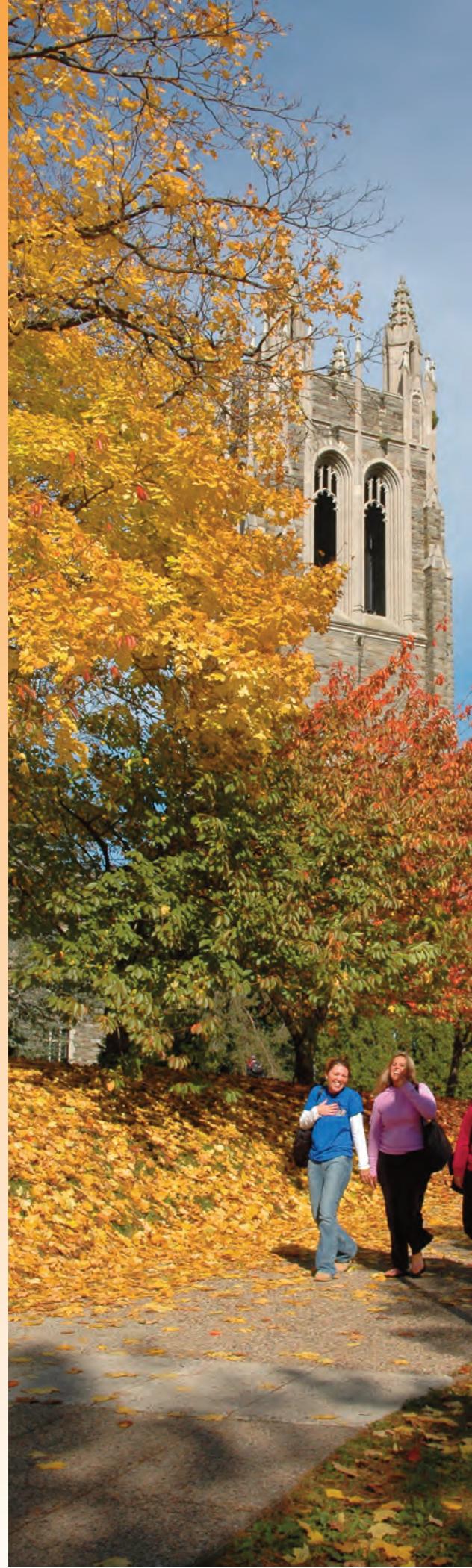
## Percentage of Faculty Satisfied or Very Satisfied

— Instruction Program  
— Electronic Holdings  
— Student's Effective Use of Web

Survey comments were overwhelmingly positive. Faculty members expressed appreciation for the various options for acquiring materials not owned by our library, whether it be interlibrary loan, the EZ Borrow service, or the speedy article to the desktop. Faculty were very complimentary about the high level of service provided by Library staff. The few areas that received negative comments were related to inadequate Library spaces and the breadth of print collections.

Those interested in the complete survey results can contact Evelyn Minick at [minick@sju.edu](mailto:minick@sju.edu)

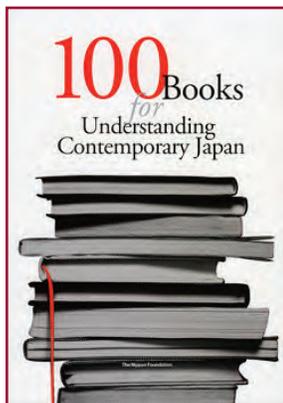
Evelyn Minick,  
Library Director



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## FROM SAMURAI TO MANGA

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The Nippon Foundation is an independent, non-profit, grant making organization that supports projects both in Japan and overseas. As a means of facilitating understanding of Japan overseas, the Foundation produced a catalogue detailing 100 carefully selected books that provide information on contemporary Japan in the English language and began donating these books to selected university, special and public libraries. Francis A. Drexel Library submitted a grant application to the Foundation at the suggestion of Dr. Kazuya Fukuoka, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and was chosen as a recipient. The donated books cover such topics as foreign policy, business and management, society and culture, films and animation, classic and contemporary literature, and history. Most of the books have fairly recent imprints, but some are older classics and, in toto, are intended to provide an extensive education of modern Japan. The titles can be located in our catalog, <http://catalog.sju.edu/> with the key word phrase "Nippon Foundation". We have also included the catalogue itself, the cover of which appears here, in our collection to provide an overview of all 100 books. For more information on the Foundation, click [HERE](#).

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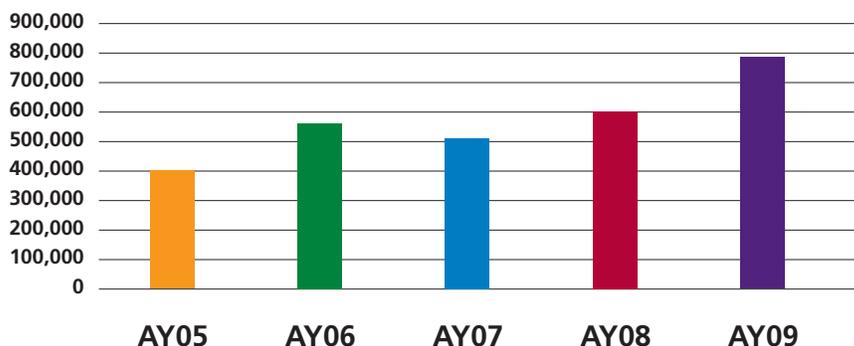
## ACCORDING TO THE NUMBERS

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Are students and faculty using our licensed resources? The numbers resoundingly say "yes!" Over the past five years, the number of searches grew from 403,000 to 763,000. While some of this growth can be attributed to the size of the student body, some is certainly due to the increased number of resources that Drexel Library makes available. Databases for which these searches were reported more than doubled in those five years from 50 to 120.

Thanks to Google-type search engines, keyword searching is a popular way of finding material. The advanced research tools available in licensed databases permit scholars to perform more sophisticated and precise searching. Interested in knowing more about your favorite database or in arranging an instruction session for your students? Be sure to contact your liaison or Sara Franks, Instruction and Outreach Librarian, [sfranks@sju.edu](mailto:sfranks@sju.edu), 610.660.1913.

### Database Searches



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## FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR

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As the University moves forward with plans for a fall 2010 implementation of the new curriculum, the Library is taking the time now to prepare for the required library instruction component that will be embedded into every First Year Seminar course. While most people hear 'library instruction' and automatically think of a session covering our rich collection of online databases and print materials, our mission also includes making sure that students understand how to be skeptical about all the information they find. For most students, contact with information certainly doesn't begin and end on the Library web page or in the Library building: they use Google, blogs, wikis, social networking sites, and news sites multiple times a day just for keeping up with the things important to them. In each First Year Seminar, we hope to pose critical and complex questions for students about the information they seek and use on a daily basis, preparing them for an expanded conversation about different types of resources

and the relevance they should have in their academic information seeking. We hope that students come away with not only with an appreciation of library resources, but also a new understanding of how information is directed and manipulated across different types of publications, including the open web. Teaching them to think critically about the vast amount of information that bombards their daily routine is of invaluable importance and will build not only more thoughtful students, but more thoughtful lifelong learners.

If you're developing a First Year Seminar, click [HERE](#) to read about the goals and instruction options for the Library component. For questions, contact Sara Franks, Instruction and Outreach Librarian, [sfranks@sju.edu](mailto:sfranks@sju.edu), 610.660.1913.

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## LIBRARY RENOVATIONS: COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE GRANT



To meet the needs of student course work, Drexel Library has renovated Room 218 into a Presentation Practice Room with the assistance of a Competitive Advantage Grant. The room is fitted with a white board, LCD screen and large meeting table and is designed to assist students with their group projects and presentations. Students can connect their laptop to the screen as well as rehearse an upcoming presentation. The room is available only to currently enrolled SJU students and can be reserved by calling extension 1906. For more information about the room, please contact Anne Krakow at 610.660.1906.

For a Full Listing of  
**FALL EVENTS & EXHIBITS**

CLICK HERE



## TOOLKITS: DE-MYSTIFYING RESEARCH

In our last newsletter, we introduced something called, “Library Toolkits.” The toolkits are customized lists of resources for specific subjects or courses, an invaluable aid for student research. Created by library subject liaisons, the pages include other useful information, such as: help before you search, an overview of quick searching vs. more in-depth searching, how to cite, databases for images, professional organizations in a particular field, and a general “help” tab. Also included is a photo of the subject librarian along with contact info and areas of expertise. To view the pages created so far, click [HERE](#). For more information about creating a course-specific page, please contact either Sara Franks, Instruction and Outreach Specialist at [sfranks@sju.edu](mailto:sfranks@sju.edu) or 610.660.1913, or your library subject liaison [HERE](#). As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions, too.

## RECENT DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

As many might know, a multitude of monographs in the Library contain bookplates designating individuals and organizations who have contributed resources to the collection. These identifiers serve as more than just a tribute. For students and patrons of the library they signify a dedication to scholarship and research outside of the classroom, especially when individuals whom they know appear on the plates. A number of recent donations to the Library collection have been made which deserve public notice.



*Thomas M. Keefe, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of History*

In addition to his long-standing generosity to the Library, Dr. Thomas M. Keefe has recently donated funds for the purchase of the “Times Digital Archive”, a comprehensive full-text database of the Times of London spanning 1785-1900 with additional access through 1985. The “Times Digital Archive” supports the study and research of a vast array of fields and scholarly interests. This comes atop monetary donations that will support the eventual cataloging, organization, digitization, and housing of his Popular American Culture Collection, which includes an extensive collection of

American radio classics. Previous support from Dr. Keefe has ranged from donations for monographs and microfilm collections to an additional microfilm reader housed in the Library.



*Maria Marsilio, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of  
Latin and Classics  
Department of Foreign  
Languages and Literature*

The students are given the chance to sign their books and leave a message for future readers and scholars. These donations, made from Dr. Marsilio’s personal funds, will be continued on a semester basis. The Classics Program, itself, has also donated books to the Library. A keyword search in the Library’s Classic Catalog <http://catalog.sju.edu/> under “Maria Marsilio” allows you to view the books as they are cataloged along with a digital image of the bookplate.

The generosity of all who donate to the Library, in funding or in kind, is greatly appreciated.

## SJU ONLINE

Reference Librarians at Drexel Library have been busy assisting faculty in developing their distance learning courses. Drexel Library has many resources to offer to distance learners, regardless of where the student is located.

To respond to the growing number of courses online, Drexel Library produced a guide to embedding library resources into an online course. Faculty can use this guide as a reference when developing their online course. <http://librarytoolkits.sju.edu/sjuonline>

  
THE FRANCIS A. DREXEL  
LIBRARY PRESENTS

# CENSORSHIP IN THE MEDIA

September 26 –  
October 3, 2009

FREE EXHIBIT

in observance of the American Library Association's  
Banned Books Week.

 SAINT JOSEPH'S  
UNIVERSITY

Francis A. Drexel Library  
5600 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19131-1395  
[www.sju.edu/library](http://www.sju.edu/library)



## STAFF NOTES



Business Research Librarian, Cynthia Slater, received approval for a Curriculum Course Development Grant for *Becoming a Smart Healthcare Consumer*. Cynthia will be working along with Thani Jambulingam, Ph.D. and George P. Sillup, Ph.D., both members of the Pharmaceutical Marketing Department at SJU to develop this course.



Sara Franks, Instruction and Outreach Specialist, attended the American Library Association's College and Research Division's Institute for Information Literacy Summer Immersion '09 Program.



Susan Cheney, ILS Administrator/Catalog Librarian, taught a session on "Technical Services in an Academic Environment" for Steven Bell's Academic Librarianship class at Drexel University.



Evelyn Minick, University Librarian, chaired the 2009 Program of ACRL's University Libraries Section at the American Library Association Conference in Chicago, in mid-July. The program, titled, "Millennials in Graduate School, How do we Support Them?" dealt with the characteristics and special needs of millennial students in university graduate and doctoral programs.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *The Francis A. Drexel Library of Saint Joseph's University strives to promote the best possible student and faculty scholarship, convenient access to relevant, high quality resources, and instruction in the skilled use and understanding of information. In addition, the Library provides environments conducive to quiet study, purposeful research, and the thoughtful exchange of ideas. Library Lines serves to highlight the efforts of the Library toward this end.*

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