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Input Culture

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Library Profile

Baker Library, Dartmouth College

Column Editor: **Roger Williams** (Input Culture)
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At the peak of fall foliage in New England, we got in touch with **Ann McHugo** at her office in Hanover, New Hampshire, where she is acquisitions services librarian for Baker Library at Dartmouth College.

The Dartmouth College library system predates the American Revolution. Dartmouth, along with a library that existed at the time, was founded in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1769. The college's first librarian, **Bezaleel Woodward**, maintained its 300-volume collection in his home. A century later at the time of the Civil War, the Dartmouth library included 15,000 volumes, and by 1928, when all the collections moved into Baker Library building, they comprised about a quarter of a million volumes. In 1970, the library became a system of libraries, with total holdings of 2 million volumes and 21 thousand journal subscriptions. Baker Library, the largest of nine in the system, houses the undergraduate social science collection and parts of the humanities collections — separate libraries are dedicated to the disciplines of art and music.

Ann has been head of the acquisitions department at Baker Library for two years. She began working in the Dartmouth libraries as a paraprofessional in 1983, and after taking her professional degree from Simmons College, became director of cataloging. Then in 1994, Ann says, a major reorganization of her division, the Collections Services Division, changed the shape and responsibilities of the departments within it. Until 1994, the division comprised four departments: Cataloging, Acquisitions (monographs), Serials, and Catalog Maintenance. The reorganization of Collections Services merged acquisitions responsibilities for monographs and serials and resulted in the formation of four new departments: Acquisitions (monographs and serials), Pres-

ervation, Bibliographic Control, and Bibliographic Records and Maintenance. Although the reorganization was partly aimed at streamlining library staffing, Ann says it was to some degree prompted by upcoming retirements. "We went from two departments of 14 each to one department of 21," and most of the 7-person staff reduction was managed through attrition. Ann's full-time staff of 21 includes 1 other professional and 2 paraprofessionals. The Acquisitions Department also employs 4 to 6 students.

The Dartmouth Libraries manage the acquisitions process through the Collections Management and Development Program, which is directed by the Collections Management and Development Committee. Purchasing decisions are made not by faculty but, subject to budget considerations, by the libraries' professional staff members, each of whom buys materials for specific subject areas. One of Ann's areas of bibliographic expertise, for instance, is Russian language and literature.

Dartmouth's annual Information Resources budget of \$4 million is distributed about three to one, serials to monographs. Budget lines for acquisitions in the various subject areas are determined by the director of Collections Services. In establishing budget allocations, the director considers the size of the academic department or interdisciplinary program, precedent, inflation, and in consultation with the bibliographers, trends in specific fields. This last consideration takes into account such external realities as skyrocketing prices in the scientific fields and — in one of Ann's areas of acquisition — increases in the costs of materials from Russia.

The acquisitions function is automated through Dartmouth's **Interpac** library management system, which is used in conjunction with a locally developed online catalog.

Interpac was purchased and implemented module by module, with the first installation being the acquisitions module in the latter 1980s. The system has since added the serials control and local processing modules, and for the near future, Ann says, she does not anticipate any need to alter the libraries' present system.

At the same time the Dartmouth libraries are stewards of collections that have been under development for two centuries, they are also responding assertively to the challenges of contemporary and future electronic resources. Ann tells us the Dartmouth libraries have determined to stay on the "cutting edge" of electronic resources. Funds for these resources are drawn from the same subject-area budget lines that support acquisitions in other media, and for resources that will have broad-based applications throughout the Dartmouth community, budgets are created by sharing funds across budget lines.

A very well organized Web site <<http://www.dartmouth.edu/acad-support/library/>> with its immediately accessible homepage is a good example of the libraries' mission with regard to electronic resources, and the Dartmouth system frequently serves as a beta-tester for new electronic products. Ann directed us to the electronic journal project being tested through the Web site — click on the project name, and begin a tour of the possibilities for online journals. The goals of this project are to discover how the Dartmouth community will use the journals and how the journals will control access and serve these "subscribers."

The mix of long tradition with emerging technology, Ann says, typifies the Dartmouth libraries. "It is an extremely old system — with old and rich collections. This is balanced with a commitment to cutting edge technology."

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In Tucson, I was a library manager for Burr-Brown Corporation, which manufactures electronic components. I never worked in libraries in India. I came to Canada to do graduate work in physics and decided to go to library school after I got my masters in physics and didn't want to go on for the PhD. I decided I didn't want to work as a scientist. The job opportunities in Physics weren't that good. So I got my PhD in library science from SUNY Buffalo. My first professional job was as a science reference librarian at University of Nebraska at Omaha. (That's where I met my wife.)

I was pleased to come to the conference and pleased with the AAUP publisher preconference. It's great to meet and talk to people who are having similar problems. For me, my problem is how to get the collection development librarian interested in a new publisher like me.

ATG: What do you do in your spare time?

RA: I used to have spare time. I used to have more time than money, but, now after four years in publishing, I have neither time nor money!

I do volunteer work for "Meals on Wheels" and I volunteer to prepare taxes for

senior citizens. I've joined the local rotary club. Mary and I have one child, a boy, Krishna, who is nine years old. We've had the joy of being older parents. Krishna is learning more about book publishing and I am hoping to get more and more of his help. I just printed 4000 catalogs and I need help putting labels on catalogs.

NB: Hey, y'all, I enjoy ALL of these interviews, I really do. It gives me a chance to meet someone new and talk about common interests. Hasn't this been fun? And next time, I think we should interview **Mary Reichel!** — **KS**