Allen Library 75th Anniversary

This year, the Allen Library proudly celebrates its 75th anniversary, as well as its 50th “naming” anniversary. Take a glance at the library’s history...

First, What IS the Allen Library?

Contrary to what you may have heard, the Allen Library is not just for Hartt students. Its facilities, services, and collections of music, dance, and performing arts materials are open to all UHart students, faculty, staff, alumni, and university groups such as Presidents’ College fellows, the libraries’ Board of Visitors, and University and Hartt Trustees. The general public may also visit. The library has instrumental and vocal music, musical theatre songbooks, and instruction and research books on music and dance. It has opera and dance DVDs, and a large collection of CDs and LPs including classical, jazz, and musical theatre, and some world music. Thousands of additional audio and video resources can be streamed online.

Early Days at the Hartt School

The library began as the “Hartt Library” in 1938, 18 years after the founding of Hartt. During those early years, Hartt faculty worked together communally, pooling resources and even growing some of their own food in a collective vegetable garden. Funds were short and group members shared a common financial pool as well as other resources. The same communal spirit prevailed during the creation of the library. Gladys Pellettieri, wife of Hartt professor Louis Pellettieri, brought together books, scores, and recordings donated by faculty members.

In 1946, Wanda Schwerdtfeger was named librarian. She was succeeded by librarians Ethel Bacon (librarian, 1960-1987), Linda Solow Blotner (head, 1987-2007), and Tracey Rudnick (head, 2009-present).

The library moved to the University of Hartford campus along with The Hartt School in 1957, located within The Hartt School’s Alfred C. Fuller Music Center.

In 1963 the library was formally dedicated as the Mildred P. Allen Memorial Library. More than 300 people attended the ceremony, including Governor John Dempsey, community dignitaries, university regents, and Chancellor Vincent B. Coffin. The Allen Memorial Fund committee, co-chaired by former governor John Lodge and Mrs. George Lane, strove to equip the library at the new Fuller Center. More than 1,200 contributed to the fund. A photo of the committee and Secretary of State Ella Grasso suggests the committee raised more than $40,000!

The Allen Library moved to the Harry Jack Gray Center above Wilde Auditorium in 1989 and today is part of the University Libraries.

Who Was Mildred P. Allen?

Mildred Pomeranz Allen (1908-1961) was Connecticut Secretary of State (1955-1959), a Republican National Convention delegate (1956), concert pianist, music-lover, friend of Hartt, and a university founder. Her husband, Edward N. Allen, was head of the Sage-Allen department store and former...
Humphrey Tonkin steps down as chair of the University Libraries Board of Visitors. Eunice Groark steps up.

For the past 13 years, President Emeritus Humphrey Tonkin has led the University Libraries Board of Visitors through changes in the board membership and expectations of its members, and many changes in the Libraries themselves. Selected by Provost Donna Randall and President Walter Harrison to help the new library director bring about change not only to the board but also to the Libraries, Humphrey has been at the helm and in the libraries on a daily basis. With Humphrey, the libraries witnessed the addition of the Goodwin Café, the moving of the reference office, and renovation of the Circulation Department. Two new state-of-the-art classrooms were built, which are used not only by library staff, but just about every on campus. When the classrooms are not in use for the Presidents’ College sessions, reference instruction, meetings, or the Faculty Center for Learning Development, we share the space with other groups. Both rooms are always in demand.

Under Humphrey’s watchful eye, the libraries were able to secure funding for additional endowments, more databases, and regular upgrade and replacement of computers. The Presidents’ College became the outreach arm of the University Libraries and has seen steady growth. We opened up the library for after-hour events from weddings, to parties, to educational sessions, and to lasagna during the Fridays at the Mortensen.

I will miss my regular conversations with Humphrey because they always started with a cup of tea (and sometimes a cookie).

Although I will miss those conversations, I look forward to my time with Eunice Groark. Eunice was asked by President Harrison to take the chair position and help guide the libraries forward.

Eunice is widely known in both Connecticut and the United States. She was elected the first female lieutenant governor of Connecticut in 1990. She ran with Lowell Weicker, both of whom were members of the Connecticut party. Prior to her election, Eunice served as Corporation Counsel of the City of Hartford from 1987 to 1990. Before that she was a Republican member of Hartford’s City Council. Currently, Eunice serves on many boards across the country.

I cannot wait to get started on the next chapter in the life of the University Libraries with Eunice. On behalf of an entire University community, I want to thank Humphrey for his many years of service and I also want to thank Eunice for what will hopefully be many years of service to come.◆
Wish List

Print


Each section covers, on average, five to seven days. Users seeking events that occurred on a known date need only turn the page to the correct date. For those looking for an event but uncertain of the date, volume two contains a name index and a separate subject index. Additional features include a summary of events by year and also by decade. UHart owns the subsequent decades (1940s on) in Reference Collection.


Comprehensive Biographical List of Prominent American Women. This would supplement the last installment that we have from 2000. We would prefer to update these biographical resources every five years.


This is updated to include the first Obama election. We would like to purchase this item after each presidential election. This would replace the volume currently in reference which covers only up to the 1984 election of Ronald Reagan’s second term.


Folklore and Myth is a very popular subject for aspects of several classes at the university. Our current encyclopedia in reference is from 1997. This edition is updated and over 100 new entries have been added. This would replace the 1st edition in our collection.


Wage and salary information for the major occupations with salary statistics from data derived from state and federal source. We would be replacing the 6th edition that is in our reference collection. This title is not available online from Gale.


Three-volume set that covers reporting and statistics on land use codes and statistics. We have the 4th edition, 1987, in reference.


Financial ratio benchmarks using institution’s financial statements as well as calculations for industries to measure industry default probabilities and cash flow measures. We have over 20 imprints through the years, but have not added a new study since 2006-07.


This is a biographical sketch of all of the sitting court justices from the first sitting judges to current. This is great for historical, legal, and social studies and would replace the the volumes that end in 1978.


The five-volume set of standards in building codes are extremely expensive for us, but important to architecture and engineering students. This edition would replace the 2000 codes.

Online


Chronicles the history, development and current status of the world’s most lucrative and high-profile industries. We would be replacing the 1996 edition that we have in print in reference.
Encompasses the comprehensive and complex history of the native peoples of North America updated with 18 new tribes and new information on current cultures. This replaces the 5-volume set 1998 imprint that we have in our reference collection.

For researchers who want to quickly and easily compare and contrast the six living generations—iGeneration, Millennial, Generation X, Baby Boom, Swing, and World War II. This replaces the 4th edition that we have in print in reference.

We currently own volume one in print, but gaining access to volume two online would be a huge benefit to the business students.

Three-volume set that covers multinational and national membership organizations from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. UHart has the 2008 imprint in print and should be updated every five years. These types of directories lend themselves to an online platform so much better than print.

Incredible in scope and depth, this has the most comprehensive information regarding the legislative process, its functionality, and its history. Reference has the 1976 edition in print, so updating and migrating online is a priority.

In depth legal and historical coverage of the mechanisms and the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. We do own the 2007 imprint in reference, but the students would be better served with access to the online and updated edition.

More needed in depth coverage of the workings and legal decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. The 4th edition in print would be updated by access to this online edition.

This, in print, is a two-volume set that covers more in depth the history, development, and information about the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. This would replace the 4th edition in print and bring this resource online.

Comprehensive entries on the current global education systems in 180 different countries. This would replace our lost copy of the 1995 imprint with an online copy that would not be stolen or get lost.

The manuscript of one of Beethoven’s most famous works was divided and stored in Berlin, Bonn, and Paris for many years and only reunited in 1990. This facsimile presents all the sections together for the first time in large-format paper, where students, faculty, and music aficionados can see the work in Beethoven’s own writing and observe how he wrestled with composition down to the last detail. The editors trace the work’s history, explain the composer’s process, and describe the composer’s message and how views of this have changed over the centuries. ♦
The University of Hartford Libraries continue to seek out ways to harness the vast research information that is available to its research community. Every year we try to purchase access to as much content as we can afford and continue to exceed the needs of the different academic departments on campus. Every new electronic resource allows access to content 24/7 either on or off campus as well as much needed space gained on the crowded library shelves. The Libraries began offering access to biography, general essay literature, engineering, computer science and music streaming databases on July 1. We were able to pull together some really great deals with our vendors to offer the University of Hartford community access to millions of new and improved indexed resources that can be easily downloaded or procured through our Interlibrary Loan Program (ILLiad @ H).

Association for Computer Machinery (ACM) Proceedings—While the University has had access to the ACM Online Guide to Computing Literature for many years, we were able to make a substantial purchase of the ACM Proceedings. The access to the major run of full text Conference Proceedings will prove to be a valuable resource for computer science, computer engineering and mathematics students. The database has access to a large amount of full text for articles, book chapters and crucial Conference Proceedings.

Compendex (Engineering Village)—The Engineering Village Compendex is an amazing resource of indexed article material for Engineers. It is highly comprehensive with abstracts and article information. Much of the content is proprietary but there are links to content that we own and linking into our ILLiad @ H (Interlibrary Loan request form) is a snap. There is full text linking to any content we own through subscription to Elsevier publishing. This megadatabase platform searches multiple engineering databases to perform a comprehensive and exhaustive search on your terms. You may set up your own username and password to tag searches and records that may be helpful in the future. Please check it out if you are looking for comprehensive engineering content.

IEEE Xplore—IEEE Xplore harnesses the most comprehensive electrical engineering, computer science and electronics articles and resources. The database includes 120 journals, over 2,000 conference proceedings and over 1,000 ebooks. Embedded in the database for the University of Hartford are books published by MIT Press in the engineering field, all in full text, searchable and linkable. Also embedded in the database in full text is the IEEE Journal Archive covering article material in the database from 1884-1994. We also have access to full text for 14 engineering journals. Any articles indexed that are not freely available may be requested by following the link to our ILLiad @ H (Interlibrary Loan request form).

Essay & General Literature Index and Retrospective—This resource begins with articles published in 1900 to the present time. What is unique about this database is that it not only indexes articles, but gives introductions to published works and collections of essays in books. One of the goals of the University Libraries is to move print subscriptions online whenever financially possible. Indexes to articles are seldom used in print by students at the University. The trouble with that is that students may miss access to vital information that will augment their scholarship and learning while fulfilling their degree. The Essay and General Literature Index gives researchers online access to knowledge information accessible in no other comparable resource. Links to items that we own are provided as well as linking to our Interlibrary Loan Service, ILLiad @ H.
Libraries Host Welcome Table

This Fall, to introduce ourselves to the new students and welcome back returning ones, the University Libraries hosted a welcome table outside the front door with balloons, chocolate bars and door prizes.

New students (and even some not-so-new students) can feel intimidated by the big building full of books, so reference and circulation staff went outside the doors of the library in the first week of classes to greet students and answer questions. Meeting the library staff wasn’t the only thing bringing people to the table, though. Students (and even some faculty) put their names in for a chance to win some fabulous prizes. The Presidents’ College donated two Kindles, and the publisher, Elsevier, donated an iPod shuffle.

Cassidy Carlson was the lucky winner of the iPod Shuffle and Austin Bardaji and Dana Thomas won the Kindles. We enjoyed seeing their smiles, and all the new smiles around campus!

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New Electronic Resources

Smithsonian Global Sound—In an effort to invest in streaming audio, vast collections of music were procured for University of Hartford patrons with the Smithsonian Global Sound database. Thousands of albums of recorded music are now indexed and available for streaming at this site. World music, jazz, American folk music, American Blues and music from ethnic regions are cataloged in one source. All are performed by top musicians and/or original creators of the music. Along with searchable streaming audio, biographies and articles regarding the music are available and the recording of the music and its performers are associated with each recording and album. Also, every two weeks, the database will offer free featured downloads for the University of Hartford population to use on computers and music devices.

Biography Reference Bank—This database is a combination of the Biography Index (in print up until July 1) and a myriad of powerful indexing tools developed by the H. W. Wilson company to offer a complete resource for biographical research. The interface allows for linking to full text of the Wilson biographies plus journal titles that we own at the University of Hartford and links to our ILLiad @ H service. We were able to move to this platform in an effort to digitize our print subscriptions, saving much needed space. This database solidifies and augments undergraduate and graduate research on prominent people now and throughout history. ✪
Koha Speed, Part 2

August marked our fourth annual conference of Westchester Academic Library Directors Organization (WALDO) LibLime Academic Koha users. This year it was held at Fordham University’s beautiful Rose Hill campus. It’s been another exciting year of Koha development and there is perhaps, an even more exciting one to follow. These conferences are always a great opportunity to learn more about what enhancements LibLime, our system vendor, has planned and what our colleagues in the WALDO consortium are doing. And it’s always an ego boost to have people compliment us on all the innovations the University of Hartford has brought to Koha development.

This year’s conference touched on many things, but speed continues to be a motivating factor in Koha development. In the spring 2013 issue of *ReSources*, we talked about how the underlying search engine of Koha was upgraded. Although that upgrade provided a major boost, the enhancements aren’t done yet. Now LibLime is focusing on getting browser response time faster, too.

Not all of the information we create for our bibliographic records is designed for public viewing. All of it is important, but some of it is information only a librarian would care about. What’s more, much of the information in a bibliographic record isn’t stored in plain English. There are a lot of codes and abbreviations, and some of the information is processed differently based on how a line of data is tagged numerically. Right now, the way that information gets translated for public consumption is through the use of something called EXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations (XSLT). XSLT processes the record data stored on LibLime’s servers, modifies it, and then sends the modified version to your web browser. The modified information displays just the data that matters to our users, in an easily understood format.

The problem with XSLT is that all this translating takes place on the server, slowing it down. Looking at this from the perspective of a single search it might not seem like an issue. However, every bit of information needs to be recalled from the database, reprocessed in the server’s active memory, and then sent to your browser window. And don’t forget that we share server space with other WALDO libraries using LibLime. During peak demand, there are thousands or even hundreds of thousands of instances where reformatted information is loaded to server memory before being passed on to users. That can really slow things down. The solution to this is to stop using XSLT for the server-side reinterpretation of data and replace it with JavaScript. JavaScript has the same ability to reinterpret data but it operates on the user’s computer so there’s much less burden on our servers.

However, the University Libraries staff has put considerable effort into customizing our Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), and much of that relied on tweaking XSLT. When that gets replaced we will have a bit of work to do reestablishing all the features we have now. Fortunately JavaScript is easier to work with and many more people understand it than XSLT. Also, LibLime has modeled the new version’s default setting to match much of what we’ve done with XSLT—another example of University of Hartford innovations leading development. ◆
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Exploring Africa: How the West Claimed the Continent is the title of a course on the history of African exploration to be taught by Michael Robinson, who is currently writing a book on the subject. The course begins on February 4.

The Origins of Human Language will be the subject of a course by linguist Michael Horwitz, who will look at the issue through the lens of a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, biology, psychology, and history.

Amanda Walling will examine the endlessly fascinating topics of Monsters and Magic in the Middle Ages. What are those curious creatures at the corners of maps, carved on churches, or suddenly exploding into chivalric romances?

For those who like to read along with their instructors, Catherine Stevenson will lead us through the intricacies of one of Virginia Woolf’s greatest and most evocative novels, *To the Lighthouse*, and Marie Healey will conduct a similar expedition through the pages of Gustave Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary*.

Art historian Alexandra Onuf returns to the Presidents’ College to look at *The World of Northern Renaissance Art 1450-1530*, paying particular attention to such major figures as Jan van Eyck and Rogier van der Weyden.

For those interested in recent political history, East European historian Mari Firkatian will explain *How the Cold War Was Sold to Americans in the Aftermath of World War II*, and Robert McLaughlin will look at a contrasting story: How Costa Rica Chose a Path to Peace.

Also returning to a topic that particularly endeared her to the Presidents’ College, Maria Esposito Frank will offer a close examination of those parts of *Dante’s Inferno* that deal with schismatics and heretics.

On the musical front, Willie Anthony Waters will explore the world of *Italian Bel Canto Opera*, and Michael Lankester will return in April for a course whose topic is yet to be decided. Also returning will be Stephen Pier with a course on dance.

Biologist Stephan Bullard’s course will deal with environmental challenges facing the globe over the next hundred years, and Jean McGivney-Burelle will once again treat us to a course on how to make sense of mathematics.

Humphrey Tonkin will offer a course *Air and Angels: The Poetry of John Donne*, beginning at the end of March.

Jennifer Steadman is weighing the possibility of a course on Katharine Hepburn in conjunction with an exhibition opening at the Connecticut Historical Society in April. Historian Robert Churchill will examine the period right before the Declaration of Independence.

The monthly *Tuesdays at Duncaster* series will continue, as will the Friday lectures at The McAuley, also on a monthly basis. And we will be continuing the monthly *Fellows Lectures*.

And that’s not all. Among others who we hope will be offering courses or lectures are Javon Jackson, Jacob Harney and Zina Davis.

Registration for the spring semester will open on December 2. Be first in line!
The University Libraries are pleased to welcome Andrew Ardizzone as the Allen Library’s new public services coordinator. Andrew will handle Allen’s physical and electronic reserves, help oversee Allen circulation activities—including the work of student assistants—and contribute to other Allen services and projects. You may already know Andrew from his work at the Mortensen Library’s circulation desk. Andrew has a BM in Composition from the University of Pacific in California, a MM in Composition from Arizona State University, and is working toward a DMA in Composition (minor in theory) at The Hartt School.

Sam Cook left his position as the Allen Library’s public services librarian in September to accept a new position at Library Connection, Inc., in Windsor, Connecticut. Library Connection is a consortium of one academic and 26 public libraries. Sam will be a systems librarian for Public Services, and one of his first duties will be to serve as migration manager in the consortium’s transition from one online system to another system. Please join us in wishing Sam well.

Please join us in congratulating Kristina Edwards on her new job. Kristina moved on to Bridgewater State University where she is now the collection development and acquisitions librarian. Kristina was a regular fixture in the University Libraries from her beginnings as a student employee to her work as serials and stacks coordinator earning her MLS and becoming acquisitions librarian. Her absence here will be felt for a long time. Bridgewater State’s gain is truly our loss. Best wishes for Kristina in her exciting new position.

Benjamin Klein resigned from his position as the Allen Library’s public services coordinator, in July, to move to Minneapolis, Minnesota to pursue a PhD in Music Composition with an emphasis in Creative Studies and Media at the University of Minnesota. As a graduate assistant there, he is teaching a music history survey in popular music. We wish Ben the best in his new endeavor.

It is my pleasure to announce our new acquisitions librarian, Kyle Lynes. Many of us remember Kyle. She started her career in librarianship here as a volunteer at Mortensen Library, moving from her position as assistant wardrobe supervisor at the Hartt School’s Costume Shop into the Master of Library Science program at Southern Connecticut State University. Since then she has worked at Bolton High School, Three Rivers Community College, UConn, and Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. Kyle also served on the Connecticut Information Literacy Conference Committee and was instrumental in their wonderful conference this past June. Kyle brings a wealth of experience to this position, not just from her time working here and at other libraries, but also as product manager and design coordinator in New York’s fashion industry. Kyle’s first day here was November 4th.

Barbara Dessureau, web applications developer and chair of the Web Advisory Committee, worked with Craig Campbell of Office of Marketing and Communication, Bonny Stoecklin of Career Services, and the Student Government Association (SGA), to develop the new Student Clubs and Organizations website. It is accessible at http://www.hartford.edu/clubs-organizations/list-club.aspx.

The purpose of this project was to create a “one-stop-shop” for current and prospective students to seek student clubs or organizations that they may wish to join. A biography page was created for each group that included a brief description, a mission statement, the president’s name, the advisor’s name, the website URL, and current contact information. Collaboration on this project began in the fall of 2012 and focused on the SGA student clubs and organizations; phase two will focus on clubs within each school.

Staff Happenings – Tracey Rudnick, Ben Ide

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10
You are invited to our Spring Preview Reception

Friday, January 17, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Mortensen Library, University of Hartford

Learn about our spring program.
Meet the instructors. Register for courses.

860.768.4495 • pcollege@hartford.edu

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

hartford.edu/presidentscollege
New Smart Boards

There is always something happening in the Libraries—especially during the summer. The Woods Family Classroom received a new smart board from the Provost’s Office. With more and more smart boards appearing on campus the Faculty Center for Learning Development (FCLD) needed to be able to train faculty on the technology. So, the old projector screen and ceiling projector was replaced with brand new equipment.

This is also another teaching tool for the Reference Department. The reference staff now has the ability to highlight and draw the attention of students to pertinent information on the board. The information can be captured for future use.

A second smart board was installed for student use in one of the upper level collaborative spaces. This board was a gift from Staples, Inc. Dennis Gacioch, director of Purchasing, worked with Staples to get the Smart Board.

The collaborative space has had increasingly been used by students and also as a small class room.

Thank you to the Provost’s Office, Staples and to Dennis for additional equipment.

M is for Mitten and Mittens to Help Keep People Warm

For the past six years a tree has sprung up by the front door of the Mortensen Library. It was not decorated with ornaments but, with items that keep people warm: mittens, hats, scarves, and an occasional coat. The items just appeared during the day and night, maybe from elves, maybe not. For three weeks, the tree graced the Mortensen Library and, at the end, all items were collected, boxed and delivered to Matt Blocker at the Center for Community Service for distribution. This year’s crop of warm items numbered 85. It was a great growing season.

The Mitten Tree appeared on November 25 and we have already caught some student elves hanging mittens. This year, all items were given to The House of Bread, which provides urban ministry to the economically disadvantaged in the Hartford area. It all began with two Sisters of St. Joseph, armed with a 12-cup coffee pot, a two-slice toaster and a few dollars. The dream of feeding the poor and meeting the basic needs of Hartford’s poorest people materialized and grew. In fulfilling the dream of assisting Hartford’s poor, The House of Bread embarked on programs focusing on hunger, shelter, transitional living, affordable housing, education, a Thrift Shop, and job training programs.

The House of Bread’s target population has grown and expanded through the years and its hope is to continue to offer services to the poor and needy in Hartford with dignity and respect. The agency’s services have grown beyond food to encompass support from the street to your feet.
You are invited to our 2014 tribute events

Dr. Martin Luther King

Monday, January 20 • Observance
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Ceremony
11 a.m.-noon, Lincoln Theater
Speaker: Linda Kelly, president,
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Stay on campus for a special matinee Hartford Hawks
men’s basketball game (special family-friendly ticket
packages available, call 860.768.4295) at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18 • Re-enactment
Private William Webb, Civil War Era
12:30-1:30 p.m., Wilde Auditorium
Actor: Kevin Johnson

Wednesday, February 19 • Symposium
Civil Rights and Immigration:
The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King
3-6 p.m., Wilde Auditorium
Speaker: Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar, vice president
for diversity and professor of history, UConn
refreshments will be served

Thursdays, February 13, 20, and 27 • Film
Film Series and Discussion: Celebrating
African-American Service in the Military
12:15-1:30 p.m. (2/13, 2/20); 7-8:30 p.m. (2/27)
Wilde Auditorium, refreshments will be served

Events in red are free and open to the public

for more information
860.768.4220 • cgrant@hartford.edu

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lieutenant governor of Connecticut. Allen was born in Hartford and studied piano under Josef and Rosina Lhévine in New York and Europe. She served as a founder and director of the University of Hartford and received an honorary doctor of laws from the University in 1960. She also served as vice president of the Symphony Society of Greater Hartford and as a director of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, the Instrumental Music Foundation, and the Connecticut Opera Association. After her death, some 45 friends formed the aforementioned fundraising committee and selected the music library as a permanent memorial to Allen.

**Technology in the Allen Library**

In the early days, the library relied on card catalogs, turntables, and reel players. By 1987, the University Libraries owned perhaps four computers, all dedicated to staff cataloging, and by 1991 moved from traditional card catalogs to an online catalog. Today’s staff now participate in ongoing development of the University Libraries’ open-source next-generation system, Koha. Visitors can use Allen’s rich array of 17 public computers, listening/viewing facilities, scanner, printers, wireless networking, high-definition monitors, and AppleTV. Allen also loans laptops, iPads, and portable recording devices to students, faculty and staff.

**Collection and Services**

The Allen Library’s original mission still holds true: to foster academic inquiry, scholarly communication, and lifelong learning in the performing arts.

For decades, The Hartt School has supported formal library instruction for its students, first through Hartt’s weekly Musicianship Class and by 1998 via an information technology course. By 2001, Allen staff were delivering the course via Blackboard (an online course management system). Today, HLM 020 *Information Literacy in the Performing Arts* is a robust, multimedia online course with custom units for different majors. It is required for all first-year Hartt students.

In 1939, the library had over 9,000 items and today has around 80,000 items. Circulation and daily visitor statistics remain robust. Loan privileges have expanded, and users can take more materials from the library. More materials (e.g., DVDs and VHS) are now in public browsing areas. The collection started with just classical music, but later expanded to support newer programs in dance, theatre, musical theatre, jazz, music production, and arts management, as well as interdisciplinary areas such as film, world music, and popular music and culture. New online resources are regularly added, including two recent world music databases. Endowed music funds established long ago help bring in new materials.

**Conclusion**

Visitors at Allen will see that modern and traditional resources are used together. Electronic databases, streaming media, and “creativity” tools (such as notation or movie-making software) are used in conjunction with scores, books, and discs. The physical space remains important for contemplative private learning as well as lively collaboration with peers or faculty. Professional library staff members are eager to assist patrons with use of resources. All of these features are emblematic of today’s modern libraries, and continue a tradition that started decades ago.

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Some material in Blotner’s article was adapted or reused with permission.
Dartmouth College Library’s October Conference — Abbie Weinberg

On October 18th, Abbie Weinberg, reference librarian, at Mortensen Library, and Jill Adams, employment specialist, Farmington Valley Transition Academy (FVTA), presented at Dartmouth College Library’s annual October Conference. Their session was entitled “People I Can Trust: Life Skills Through Shelf Reading” and described the partnership that the University and Mortensen Library have with the FVTA’s job placement program.

FVTA is a post-secondary program for students with learning and developmental disabilities and provides employment and life-skills training through hands-on experiences at job sites. In the partnership with Mortensen Library, students from FVTA come once a week and shelf read the collection (that is, check that the books on the shelf match the list of books in the catalog). This is a mutually beneficial partnership that has been going strong since 2010: the students gain experience in performing an inventory, and the library has one of those omnipresent tedious-but-necessary tasks completed.

The website for the Dartmouth conference (including slides from all of the presentations) can be found at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~biomed/octcon2013/. ♦

June 11, 2013 – What a Day!

The Libraries have fire extinguishers on all the floors and in all departments. The big question is: Do folks know how and when to use them? Part of the professional development for the Libraries staff this summer was to learn when it is appropriate and safe to try to extinguish a fire and when not to.

The Library staff worked with Public Safety Officers Dan Peeler and Kerry McGill for a live fire event. The day started with a presentation of fire safety and the explanation of how an extinguisher works, the different types, and when not to even try to put out a fire. Staff had hands-on experience, which will hopefully keep them safe on campus and at home.

A big thank you goes to both Dan and Kerry who gave up an entire morning to work with the staff and to Mike Kaselouskas (assistant chief, Public Safety) who approved of us setting fire to the back of the Mortensen Library. ♦
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