

Blake Library
Serials

Annual Report
2005/2006



- A. Serials Collection – The current serials collection consists of 317 titles, 266 are paid subscriptions, while 39 are gifts/free, and 12 are purchased with the Inez Day Richards fund. Last year 7 titles were cancelled and 13 were added to the collection. Of the 13 titles added to the collection, 9 are paid subscriptions and of the 9, 6 titles were requested by faculty. A detailed list of titles cancelled and added can be found in Appendix A. In past years the print serials collection has steadily declined in the number of paid subscriptions. In FY2006, the library staff felt that the current collection was supporting the current curriculum and no more cancellations were possible without negatively impacting students and faculty.

In addition to the print serials collection Blake Library patrons have access to over 17, 800 electronic journal subscriptions. These titles can be accessed through a number of full-text databases or more conveniently through SerialsSolutions.

Blake Library routes periodicals to faculty and/or staff. In FY2006, 22 titles were routed to 5 faculty. These figures are almost identical to last years, 18 titles and 5 faculty. Some of the lack of interest by faculty to have titles routed to their offices could be due to a new service made available by the electronic databases which will send email notification on articles and/or the lack of a full-time staff person in serials. In previous years serials staff would notify all faculty of titles the library subscribed to in their discipline and offer the routing service. Library staff hopes to return to past practices this fall by sending out current title lists to all faculty. A list of the routed periodicals can be found in Appendix B.

- B. Survey of Serial Use – In FY2006 193 titles were shelved 1568 times. This is the third year the serials department tracks serials use. The problem in comparing the data is the varied times in which the data was collected. Table 1 survey results shows the varied collection periods. In FY2007 the staff will continue to count the titles being shelved. This data will be collected for the same period as FY2006 allowing staff to determine if serials use is staying relatively constant. For complete count use results see Appendix C.

Table 1. Survey Results			
Fiscal Year	Titles Used	Items Used	Period Data Collected
FY2004	303	1326	Oct-April
FY2005	153	779	Sept-April
FY2006	193	1568	May-April

Table 2 shows the top ten titles shelved for newspapers, while Table 3 shows the top ten titles shelved for periodicals. This data is helpful in seeing which titles are

being used, but it is imperfect. Oftentimes a patron will look over a magazine or newspaper and place it back on the shelf; therefore it would not be included in the count.

<i>Title</i>	<i># of Times Shelved</i>
Bangor Daily News	163
Wall Street Journal	99
Back Stage	59
New York Times	48
Saint John Valley Times	42
New York Times Magazine	37
Aroostook Republican	21
New York Times Book Review	21
Portland Press Herald	20
Barron's	18

<i>Title</i>	<i># of Times Shelved</i>
Time	58
Newsweek	45
New Scientist	34
Educational Leadership	31
Technology & Learning	26
Maclean's	23
Rolling Stone	22
Artnews	21
Mother Earth News	20
RN	19

In FY2006 24 titles on microfilm were used 87 times. The titles used the most were The New York Times (41) and The Saint John Valley Times (7). With increased access to journals online, patrons are often able to find back issues without using the microfilm. For complete microfilm count use results see Appendix D.

- C. Staff – In FY2006 the library hired its first full-time library assistant in serials. For many years the position was twenty hours for 9 months. The library was then able to extend the position to twenty hours for 12 months. Finally, the position is forty hours for 12 months. Lack of staff time had not allowed for careful management of the serials collection or management of the electronic journals collection.

- D. Clean-up – The new staff had clean-up in many areas. The serials storage rooms were the first to be organized. Journals needed to be shifted and the area cleaned-up so staff could access the journals. Holdings listed in Millennium and the local serials database needed to be verified to ensure they correctly listed what Blake Library truly owned. Shelf labels were made to help manage the titles with special holding restrictions (i.e. 2 Years + Current). Serial staff, now that it's warmed up

in the back rooms, will be able to complete labeling the shelves. The public shelving area has also been “shaped up.” The shelves were shifted, alphabetized, re-labeled, and dusted.

Holdings clean-up in both Docline and EBSCO were top priorities. The Docline software is an Interlibrary Loan software, and incorrect holdings can delay patron access to articles. Managing holdings in EBSCO is important to properly alert patrons which titles Blake owns as they search among the various EBSCO Host databases.

- E. Electronic Journals – Staff investigated both Project Muse and JSTOR to increase access to electronic journals. There are several different collections available with a wide range of pricing. Finding collections which currently do not overlap with current holdings, are financially possible, and meet the research needs of our students has not been easy. Staff will continue to investigate ways in which to increase electronic journal holdings.

This is the second year which Blake Library has access to SerialSolutions to manage electronic journal subscriptions. Electronic subscriptions rose from 16,374 unique titles across 25 databases in FY2005 to 17,848 unique titles across 27 databases in FY2006. More importantly is the dramatic increase in use of the SerialSolutions portal to access electronic journals. In FY2005 405 searches were conducted compared to 1,878 searches in FY2006. A breakdown of searches can be found in Appendix E. Possible explanations for the increase use may be the use by the Interlibrary Loan department verifying access to an article before requesting it from another library, and awareness by patrons that this service is available.

The Blake Library serials web page (<http://www.umfk.maine.edu/infoserv/resources/serials/bysubj.cfm>) allows the patron to search for electronic journals and print journals. Added to the page was the ability to search electronic journal by subject and the ability to search print holdings by title. In addition the layout and wording was modified hoping to make the page more understandable.

A new service purchased from SerialSolutions is Article Linker. This software provides links across databases to full-text articles. The Serials department worked closely with the Reference department to customize the results page the patron sees when looking for articles.

The serials staff have begun to work through additional full-text journal titles which need to be added to SerialSolutions. The process is slow but hopefully will be completed during the summer for patron access in Fall 2006. The slowness can be attributed to the varied ways in which publishers allow access to electronic journals. Each individual publisher needs to be contacted before access

to the journal can be set-up. In addition set-up is different depending on the publisher.

- F. Budget – The line item in the library budget for serials increased in FY2006 from \$32,500 to \$50,000. For the first time in many years the library did not need to cancel titles. It was crucial that the library not undergo further cancellations. The current serials purchased for Blake Library is 266 compared to the average of 350 reported by peer institution to ACRL.

- G. Space – During the summer of 2005 the library staff discarded a number of serial back issues to create space. In addition to discarding back issues, for many titles it was decided to keep only a limited number of back issues. Decisions were based on whether the title was “dead” (no longer subscribed to) and whether patrons had access to the title online. The large number of titles available online made the process easy and enabled the library to gain back space for titles not online.

- H. Research – Staff investigated the possibility of purchasing back issues of the Bangor Daily News on microfilm. Frequent requests for the newspaper spurred the investigation. Though the acquisition of the older edition of the Bangor Daily News is tempting, the cost to acquire versus the need, doesn’t justify the purchase.

The library staff would like to investigate the possibility of indexing the St. John Valley Times. Ideally the staff would like not only to have the newspaper indexed but made available electronically.

- I. Stolen Journals – The serials department has noticed what appears to be an increase in missing journals. Two titles identified as regularly missing were Mother Earth News and Rolling Stone. After consideration, a clear periodical binder was purchased for each journal, which includes a lock that secures the magazine in a hard binder. The current issue is kept out on the shelf in the binder, while two previous issues are kept on reserve at the Circulation Desk. This solution has worked well, and has solved the problem for these two journals. However, journals are becoming missing more frequently and this solution is not feasible for the entire collection.