

Blake Library  
Serials Department

Annual Report  
FY 2008



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**General statistics:**

- The current serials collection consists of 340 titles: 285 are paid subscriptions, 43 are gifts/free, and 12 are purchased with the Inez Day Richards fund.
- Last year 9 titles were cancelled and 9 were added to the collection. Of the 9 titles added to the collection, 8 are paid subscriptions.
- Blake Library patrons also have access to over 29,064 electronic journal subscriptions, which are accessible through various full-text databases (or even more conveniently through SerialsSolutions).
- In FY2008, 22 titles were routed to 11 faculty. These figures are higher than last fiscal year’s numbers of 20 titles routed to 6 faculty.

In order to ensure a collection that best reflects and responds to the needs of the campus community, serials usage is monitored and the collection is adjusted accordingly. Because of past diligence, fewer subscriptions were cancelled this fiscal year. A detailed list of titles cancelled and added can be found in Appendix A.

Blake Library offers to UMFK’s faculty and staff routing of periodicals of their choice. This practice proves popular, as the number of faculty requesting this service has increased, although the number of titles has decreased. A list of routed serials can be found in Appendix B.

**Serials usage, including microfilm:**

- In FY2008 148 titles were shelved a total of 2,711 times.
- In FY2008 12 titles on microfilm were used 17 times. The titles most used were the New York Times (3) and the Saint John Valley Times (3). In FY2007, microfilm use included 12 titles used 32 times.
- In FY2008, 23 separate titles were checked out by a total of 9 faculty and staff. Items were checked out a total of 43 times.

Blake Library continues to track serials usage as this information provides usage trends useful in determining if collection adjustments are necessary. Table 1 shows the results of tracking serials usage over the last 5 years. Although the number of titles used has decreased, issue usage has increased. This trend most likely reflects the increased use of online journals; those titles not available online continue to have steady usage in the library. For complete survey results of serials use, see Appendix C.

<b>Table 1. Serials Usage Results FY2008</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Titles Used</b>	<b>Items Used</b>	<b>Title Usage Change</b>	<b>Items Usage Change</b>
FY2008	148	2710	14.9%	63.7%
FY2007	174	1655	-9.8%	-5.5%
FY2006	193	1568	26.1%	101.3%
FY2005	153	779	-45.9%	-41.3%
FY2004	303	1326		

Tables 2 and 3 list the top ten titles shelved for newspapers and periodicals, respectively. This data is helpful in determining usage. Unfortunately, the serials usage count is imperfect, as it often happens that a patron will look at a magazine or newspaper and place it back on the shelf (thereby not getting included in the serials usage count). Posted signs requesting that patrons not re-shelve periodicals helps, but does not entirely solve this problem.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>#</b>
1. Bangor Daily News	438
2. Boston Globe	226
3. New York Times	225
4. Portland Press Herald	223
5. Wall Street Journal	207
6. Saint John Valley Times	178
7. Barrons	27
8. Aroostook Republican	23
9. Acadie Nouvelle	12
10. Maine Organic Farmer & Gardner	9

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>#</b>
1. Sports Illustrated	51
2. New Scientist	48
3. Time	48
4. Maclean's	46
5. Educational Leadership	42
6. Newsweek	31
7. U. S. News & World Report	22
8. Smithsonian	22
9. Natural History	21
10. National Geographic	21

In FY2008, a large number of serials were moved to the back serials room, from which they must be requested, due to both lack of space and disuse. These titles are currently shelved directly out back. Throughout the year serials staff monitored and kept track of requests for these titles. These statistics will be used in FY2009 to determine whether some of the titles should be brought back to the front stacks and whether some subscriptions should be cancelled due to low (or zero) use.

Microfilm usage continues to decrease, a trend perhaps explained by increased access to online journals. This year, the library acquired 1,161 reels of the New York Times, filling a large gap the library's run. Whether this completion affects usage numbers will be determined in the next fiscal year. For complete microfilm use results, see Appendix D.

Faculty and staff are given a 1-week period for serials checkout. The number of titles checked out has not changed in the past year, however the number of faculty accessing these titles increased by 2. For a list of titles checked out, and faculty and staff by division, see Appendix E.

#### **Electronic journals:**

- The library provides access (in addition to the many electronic journals and databases) to an additional 94 journals online.

Online access is included in the library's subscriptions to several print serials through the vendor SerialsSolutions. As shown in Table 4, there has been a continuing increase in the number of databases, unique titles, and searches accessed through this subscription.

<b>Table 4. Serials Solutions Statistics FY2008</b>					
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b># of Databases</b>	<b>Unique Titles</b>	<b># of Searches</b>	<b>Titles Change</b>	<b>Searches Change</b>
2008	54	29,064	6,424	40.0%	102.9%
2007	51	20,764	3,166	16.3%	68.6%
2006	27	17,848	1,878	9.0%	363.7%
2005	25	16,374	405		

**Continuing projects and goals:**

- Serials shelving space
- Stolen journals
- *Saint John Valley Times* digitization project

Serials staff continue to work with a limited amount of space for keeping back holdings of serials. Serials staff have maintained a weekly discarding of issues that are kept for a limited period of time (i.e. 2 years), in order to keep holdings correct, and provide as much available space as possible. Serials staff hope to revisit the idea of compact shelving for the serials room as a solution to the space issue. Compact shelving would create the necessary space for best providing access and availability for patrons.

Serials staff continues to monitor missing issues from the library's serials collection. Due to the nature of serials, even a single missing issue can greatly affect all who use the library's resources. Serials are usually printed in limited quantity within a limited time period, making the replacement of missing issues very difficult. *Rolling Stone* continues to be used very regularly; the current issue is placed in a secure binder, while past issues are kept at the circulation desk. *Mother Earth News*, although popular for theft in the past, has decreased in usage, owing to the lack of accessibility to this title, as it was placed on reserve to deter its disappearance. Serials staff continue to track other titles with missing issues, a task made more difficult by the library's lack of a security system.

Unfortunately, the digitization project for the *Saint John Valley Times* newspaper has been put on hold until the newspaper company determines whether it will allow the project to continue. As this newspaper has high usage, a digital archive would be a huge benefit to the community. Hopefully this project will continue in the coming fiscal year. A grant has been written for this project; should it continue, the library is prepared for the next step.