2004 Murphy Library Endowment Fund Report

Thank You for Your Support!

Supporting the library’s central role in UW-L’s dynamic learning environment, your tax-deductible donation helps provide a strong foundation for our users’ intellectual pursuits.

This year’s Endowment fund projects enhanced the library’s digital and print collections, the library environment through purchases of student artwork (pictured), and access to the steamboat photograph collection.

Endowment funds also helped provide an appealing incentive (iTunes gift cards) to participants in LibQUAL+®, a survey measuring the quality of library services. These survey results are very significant in helping plan for the library’s future.

Your generous financial gifts to the Murphy Library Endowment Fund helped increase the Endowment by 9% and provided $5,706 for library projects in 2004. As UW-L faces $1.7 million in budget cuts over the next two years, the entire Murphy Library staff extends sincere gratitude for your support!

Enhancing & Sharing Murphy Library’s Steamboat Photographs

The Murphy Library Endowment Fund made two awards in 2004 to help preserve and make accessible historic steamboat photographs from the Special Collections Department of Murphy Library.

The first award supported on-going efforts to print the backlog of unprinted negatives in the steamboat photograph collection. Last year, with additional funding from the J. Mack Gamble Fund and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, the library printed over 3,000 negatives. Staff are also using this opportunity to compare all the photographic images in the collection to clarify steamboats’ identity and remove duplicates.

In conjunction with the arrival of the Grand Excursion 2004 steamboat flotilla and passengers last June, Special Collections prepared steamboat photographs for a three week exhibit held at the Pump House Regional Art Center in June and July.

The second award from the Endowment Fund paid for the enlargement of 36 photographs used in the exhibit.

In addition, Special Collections had a booth at Riverside Park in La Crosse on June 30 during the flotilla’s arrival and accompanying Grand Excursion 2004 events.

At the booth, the library displayed additional steamboat photos and information on the Murphy Library Steamboat Project.

On the evening of June 30, Special Collections hosted a reception and guest speaker who lectured on the origins and significance of the original 1854 Grand Excursion.

The exhibit, booth, and reception had good attendance, received positive reviews, and were made possible by the assistance of the Murphy Library Endowment Fund.
Digital Collections Expand

Thanks to endowment funds, digitization of *Memoirs of La Crosse County* by Benjamin F. Bryant is complete. This work, along with *History of La Crosse County, 1881* (noted in last year’s endowment report), are the preeminent published sources for 19th century La Crosse history.

Bryant’s *Memoirs*, as it is commonly called, is a wide-ranging work that covers the early history of La Crosse as well as the social, education, government, religious, and business institutions. The book is divided into 22 chapters and also includes brief histories of the smaller towns of La Crosse County. An alphabetical name index to Bryant’s *Memoirs* was prepared and digitized in 2004.

Also digitized in the last year were 33 UW-L theses and seminar papers on La Crosse History.

These theses and papers represent research from the UW-L community. It also greatly contributes and expands the collection of digital histories and research on La Crosse topics. These theses and papers are also a part of the La Crosse Unbound project done in conjunction with the La Crosse Public Library.

Visit these and other Murphy Library digitized resources at: http://murphylibrary.uwlax.edu/digital/.

Endowment Enhances Library Collections

One way to counter static budgets (since 2000) and steep publisher price increases is through an infusion of funding from private donations. Ultimately, everyone benefits from such funding as the library collection expands in both quality and volume.

In fact, Endowment funding is especially helpful in crafting a portion of the library’s collection for faculty members’ or programs’ specific research and curricular needs.

Evidence of various endowment-funded projects is visible throughout Murphy Library. One needs only to browse the various collections and note the numerous Endowment bookplates to observe how endowment funds have helped to build this University’s diverse collection of materials increases.

Endowment monies have improved the library’s multicultural and technology resource holdings. More recently, endowment funds were used in conjunction with fall 2004’s Hispanic Heritage celebration (on campus and nationally) and were made available for students taking Latin American courses in English, History, and Modern Languages Departments. Since many new faculty from various disciplines were teaching in this area, having resources for students to utilize was critical.

Endowment funds also supported the purchase of award-winning science books (such as those found in *Science Books & Films*) for the Alice Hagar Curriculum Center. Educators at UW La Crosse will be utilizing these items in order to create science-related lesson plans.

With budget cuts rather than funding increases forecasted for the immediate future, there is a greater need for Endowment monies to subsidize the collection building activities in the library. In addition, this type of funding strengthens positive relationships with the various constituents of the university.