Your Invaluable Support

Thank you for your ongoing support of Murphy Library! Your tax-deductible donations help maintain and strengthen our dynamic and essential role as a keystone for users’ intellectual growth.

In 2005, Endowment funds enabled the library to acquire and preserve library collections, upgrade user space, and design new note cards. As budgets remain flat while book prices, and journal and article database subscriptions increase exponentially, the Endowment remains an oasis of support for innovative projects and special acquisitions.

As of December 2005, the endowment fund reached $235,794.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your support!

From Print to Digital: Endowment Funds Help Enrich Collection

In 2005, Endowment funds were used to purchase print materials, enabled preservation of university and area history materials, and helped us add to our digital works on UW-L and La Crosse County history.

New or forthcoming print works include award-winning K-12 curriculum texts for science technology and math, as well as three fine press books printed and authored in Wisconsin.

500 prints were made of previously unprinted steamboat negatives. Additionally, the process of converting more than 30 16mm color motion picture footage to DVD began with UW-L’s two oldest films: 1951 and 1954 Cigar Bowl football games in which La Crosse played.


Also digitized were 11 books on La Crosse County area history including titles such as From Sawmills to Sunfish: A History of Onalaska by John and Joan Dolbier and Leonard’s Dream: A History of West Salem by Errol R. Kindschy.

500 steamboat photograph prints from previously unprinted negatives were one of many collection projects supported by Endowment funds in 2005.
New Murphy Library Note Cards

Among Endowment expenditures this year was a new Murphy Library note card series featuring images from Special Collections’ Steamboat Collection. Three of the four highlighted images are photographs, the *White Beaver*, which provided daily steamboat service between Brownsville, Minnesota and La Crosse; the excursion barge, the *Frontenac* at La Crosse; and the famous *War Eagle* which later burned at La Crosse on the Black River in 1870. The fourth image is a drawing of the La Crosse waterfront circa 1873. The note cards, with descriptive text, are used for special personalized correspondence and showcase a few of the treasures among the 50,000 images in the Steamboat Collection.

The Library as Place: Endowment Funds Help Meet Student Needs

Reminiscent of Chicago O’Hare, Murphy Library is a lively place. Weekday mornings, students gather outside the library’s doors anticipating the 7:40 am opening. Then, and until close, keyboards and mice click rapidly as students conduct research, write papers, or create presentations. Groups gather around tables with books and papers or around computers to collaborate on projects.

From July through December 2005, the library doors swung open 20,000 more times than from July through December 2004. In the 2004/2005 school year, librarians answered over 9,000 reference questions.

With all this activity, and observing new ways students use today’s academic library, Endowment funds are helping upgrade library space. Last fall, two new tables and accompanying chairs replaced unused carrels so that students can spread their work before them for both solitary and group study.

Additionally, in Spring 2006, Murphy Library received funding to turn the first floor into a collaborative learning space. Endowment funds have been earmarked to help with the project.

Library staff and students alike are looking forward to a first floor that mirrors the needs of today’s students!