In 2008 donors generously gave $17,935 to the Murphy Library Endowment Fund. Although market conditions at the end of 2008 drove down the fund to $219,400, the Endowment Fund will rebound as the economy improves and with the continuing support of donors.

This report highlights the Endowment Fund at work: funding projects that benefit students, faculty and staff from all corners of campus.

Thank You for Your Contributions!

The LibQUAL+ survey, an instrument developed in part by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to measure user perceptions of library services, was administered in spring 2008. The results have been invaluable in helping us discern current strengths and where to focus attention on improving services, facility and information resources. Some of the survey costs related to incentives were funded through the Endowment Fund.

Hmong Children’s Literature Event

Thanks to continuing sponsorship by the Murphy Library Endowment Fund and the UW-L School of Education, Murphy Library was able to host another in the series of annual programs on multicultural children’s literature and its integration into the PK-middle school curriculum. The program was held in the Library’s Alice Hagar Curriculum Resources Center on April 23, 2008. The purpose of the event was to introduce the curriculum resources of Murphy Library and highlight its children’s book collection to education students as well as teachers and librarians from school districts in the Coulee Region.

The 2008 program, which was titled Books - New Immigrants: Embedding Hmong Culture and Literature in School, featured speakers from the Twin Cities. Karen Nelson Hoyle, Curator, Children's Literature Research Collections, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis discussed children’s books about Hmong and Hmong culture. Pangjua Xiong, Hmong Programs Manager, English Language Learner Department, St. Paul Public Schools and Bounthavy Kiatoukaysy Thao, Hmong Community Specialist, English Language Learner Department, St. Paul Public Schools showed the audience how to embed these books into the curriculum. Dr. Richard Gappa, who teaches children’s literature on campus, moderated the event.

As in the previous year, two presentations were given for pre-service and in-service teachers. Over 130 students, librarians, and teachers attended the panel presentations, which included exhibits of children’s books and curriculum materials.
Endowment Fund = Access & Preservation

After ten years without a budget increase, the library has few opportunities to build the journal collection, and maintaining the journal collection we do have becomes more challenging every year. Thanks to the generous support of the Murphy Library Endowment Fund, librarians have been able to purchase a perpetual license to the electronic archives of the journal *Science*, covering the years 1880-1996. This one-time purchase replaces the microfilm version that has become heavily scratched from frequent use. The electronic version provides more user-friendly access to the content. *Science* articles enjoy some of the highest citation rates among the peer-reviewed scientific literature. In our first year of access, articles from the archives accounted for nearly 40% of all *Science* articles downloaded.


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Japanese Prints Enhance Library Spaces

Beautiful Japanese prints now adorn the walls of Murphy Library’s first floor Collaborative Information Learning Commons. Artists represented include Ando Hiroshige, Kawamata Jogyo and Takahashi Shotei. Under the direction of Prof. John Ready, students from the UW-L Art Department framed the prints which had been donated to the university. The framing materials used by the students were purchased with funding from the Library Endowment. This is one of several collaborative projects with Art Department faculty and students to add artwork, student pieces and art representative of diverse cultures, to Murphy Library spaces.

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Japanese Prints in Murphy Library

The Harbor Shrine and Inari Bridge at Teppozu by Ando Hiroshige

Sakawa Bridge by Takahashi Shotei

Street in the Evening by Kawamata Jogyo

Image of *Science* page header, circa 1886.

One favorite reading spot in the library for students is the New Books alcove. Two Flexsteel chairs and a loveseat funded from the Library Endowment in late 2007 were added spring semester 2008.