

NEWS *at* YOUR LIBRARY

The Saint Michael's College Library & Information Services Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2010

STUDENT RESEARCH & ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

By John Payne, *Director of Library & Information Services*

Two questions: Does more student research make for a better college? And how does student research at Saint Michael's stack up against other institutions? The evidence indicates that the answer to the first question is "Yes" and the answer to the second question is "It depends on how you look at it."

Compared to our *peer* institutions, Saint Michael's is above average in library circulation.¹ We come in third among 10 peer institutions, tied with Siena and Stonehill—a very respectable ranking.

However, when you look at *aspirant* institutions, you see a dramatic difference. The average circulation per student at those institutions is about three times that at Saint Michael's, and more than three times the average at our peers. Not surprisingly, we fall below all of those institutions—clearly one of the things that makes them aspirant.

Some people have asked if the difference is caused by the size of the libraries. The answer is no. If our library was twice as big, you could expect circulation to go up, but would every student suddenly check out twice as many books as before? The library at Holy Cross is about twice as large as ours, yet their students check out six times as many books. So size is not the answer. Others have asked if the difference is that students at aspirant colleges are smarter and harder working than students at Saint Michael's. That's a little harder to measure, but personally, I just don't believe that students at Holy Cross are six times smarter and more dedicated than ours.

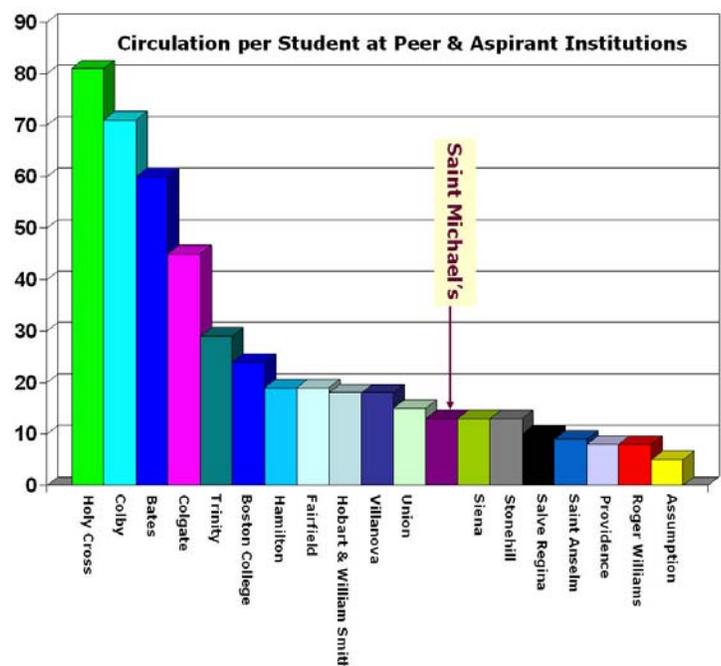
So what's the difference? Simple—the amount of research that students are required to do. The truth is, whether at Saint Mike's, Trinity, or Holy Cross, most students don't do research just because they want to—they do research because they have to. And at our aspirant institutions, they clearly think that more is better.

KNIGHT OWLS

Many people have asked if students are taking advantage of the [library's extended hours](#). The answer is a resounding "Yes!" As this issue goes to press the number of students in the library after midnight is averaging around 30, while on the busiest nights there are more than 60 students working the late shift.

John Payne, Director of Library & Information Services

¹There is no one way to measure all of the research that students do, but there are several statistics that serve as indicators of an overall high level of research. These would include hits on the library website, searches in research databases, journal article downloads, and book circulation. Unfortunately statistics on most of these are very difficult to obtain, but the [U.S. Dept. of Education](#) regularly collects information on circulation of books and other items and publishes figures on circulation per FTE student for all colleges and universities. While it is an imperfect measure, circulation provides the best apples-to-apples indicator of the level of student research at different colleges and universities.





Rabbi Max Wall
photo credit: Frank Star

THE RABBI'S BOOKS

By **Laura Crain**, *Associate Director for Collection Services*

For decades Saint Michael's was privileged to call Rabbi Max Wall friend and teacher, and we mourned his passing in May 2009. We are again privileged that his family members have continued the longstanding connection with Saint Michael's by donating the Rabbi's personal library of more than 1,000 books to the Durick Library.

Five library staff members went to Rabbi Wall's home in February and were welcomed by his daughter Mindy Evnin. During our day working together in Wall's home, we felt the warmth of this family as we moved from room to room, bookshelf to bookshelf. The rooms told the story of generations of the Wall family in photographs and in art work by children and grandchildren.

The books we brought back to Durick Library are a rich and diverse collection of Judaica:

holy books, literature written by well-known and lesser-known Jewish novelists, histories, anthropologies, works in Hebrew and in English.

Max Wall was a scholar, teacher, human rights activist, spiritual guide and family man. Wall was born in Poland in 1915 and arrived at Ellis Island with his family in 1921. He became a rabbi, entered World War II as an Army chaplain, and ministered to Jewish and Christian troops on the front lines of European battlefields.

Described as one of the best known and best loved religious leaders in Burlington, Max Wall was rabbi at [Ohavi Zedek synagogue](#) for over 40 years. He guided his synagogue from Orthodox to Conservative, and established a new interfaith dialogue in Vermont as the first person to teach Jewish studies at Saint Michael's. For over 30 years, Rabbi Wall taught

courses at Saint Michael's, including "Judaism & the History of the Jews in the US" and "The Making of the Modern Jew."

Father Richard Berube, SSE, enjoyed a long friendship with Max Wall and, as a young seminarian, was among the Rabbi's first students at Saint Michael's in the summer program in 1964. He notes:

"Max's intellectual heritage is certainly one to value and to celebrate, but we all know there's something deeper still: the spirit and the spirituality of the man, the Rabbi, the son of Abraham, the man who lived his faith, who shared his faith, and who opened doors for sharing across religious boundaries."

It will take several months for the Rabbi's books to be processed for inclusion in the Durick Library. The books contain Max Wall's personal bookplate.

"I think of Rabbi Wall as a person of humor and quick wit, a wise and compassionate individual who gave his full attention to everyone whom he encountered, and who ultimately was centered on the well being of others."

--Edward Mahoney,
Professor of Religious
Studies

45 YEARS AFTER MARCH, SELMA PRIEST REMEMBERS...

Photographs and documents from the [Society of Saint Edmund Archives](#) were featured in a recent [CNN story about the Catholic role in civil rights](#) recounting the experiences of Rev. Maurice Ouellet, SSE, during the March 7, 1965 voting rights march (Bloody Sunday) in Selma, Alabama. At [cnn.com](#), search "Selma priest." *Liz Scott, Archivist*

News at your library

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LIBRARY HEROES: CLASS OF 2010

If you walk around the library any given evening, you will come across a scene of three, four, five, or even more students hunched around the screen of a single laptop. Collaborative group projects are common and like most other student work they usually require the use of a computer.

To help make group projects more convenient, the Class of 2010 has voted to use their senior class gift to install large screen, wall-mounted monitors in the library for use by groups. The monitors are equipped with cables but not computers—students can plug in one of their own laptops or borrow a tablet from the circulation desk. The first of these is ready for use now in plenty of time for end-of-semester projects.

John Payne, Director of Library & Information Services

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

[Times \(London\) Digital Archive](#) A welcome addition for those in search of primary source news articles: the **[London Times Archive](#)** is full-text and full-image for the years 1785-1985. A quick browse of articles from Jan. 1, 1785 reveals an “exercise-only” cure for the gout, the price of a Lady’s Bath Beaver Italian Great Coat, and high water time at London Bridge.

[Burlington Free Press](#) 2003-present Finally! Full text for Burlington, Vermont’s daily newspaper.

[Dissertations & Theses Full Text](#) Includes 2.7 million searchable citations to dissertations and theses from around the world from 1861 to the present, together with 1.2 mil-

lion full text dissertations. At Saint Mike’s, dissertations are one of the most frequently “clicked” on citations in popular indexes like *PsycINFO* and *MLA Bibliography*.

[eHRAF World Cultures](#) An anthropology database of full text ethnographies on ethnic, cultural, religious, and national groups worldwide. This is a unique database that provides information in cross-referenced layers: an A-Z list of cultures, a linked list of cultures by region, an A-Z subject list, and the ability to search by subject or keyword. In case you’re wondering, eHRAF stands for Electronic Human Relations Area Files.

[Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy Online](#) Browsing in this is lots of fun. The online ver-

sion of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (originally released in print in 1998) contains over 2,000 articles from over 1,300 experts across the discipline of philosophy. Counterfactual conditionals! Identity of indiscernibles! Indiscernibility of identicals! The “see alsos” and hyperlinks make this truly enjoyable (and useful).

[Taylor & Francis Social Sciences and Humanities Full Text journals](#) Over 950 full text journals from Taylor & Francis, Routledge & Psychology Press have been added to the Library’s online journal holdings. Access through [Journal Finder](#) or the link resolver in library databases.
Laura Crain



SKYPE. STOPMOTION. LIVE STREAMING. VIDEO MESSAGING.

Anything’s possible. Check out a Webcam from the Durick Library. These Microsoft LifeCams have built in microphones.

JUST ONE CLICK, THAT’S ALL IT TAKES

Ever see a book while browsing Amazon or a library database and wonder if the Library owned it? With a quick install of the **[LibX Toolbar for SMC Resources](#)** (a browser plug-in for Internet Explorer and Firefox), you can search the Library’s resources wherever you go on the web. From the toolbar, you can directly search the library catalog, WorldCat, and other library resources.

When you are on a page that cites a book, article, or journal the toolbar creates an icon that

lets you link to library holdings for that item (just one click). You can also highlight a phrase on a page and quickly select a library resource to search by right-clicking on your mouse. If you regularly use both the library and the web for research or entertainment, this is a very handy tool.

It’s easy to download and install. To download the Toolbar, go to <http://libx.org/editions/download.php?edition=59139FFF>. You can find a link on the Library’s

Information for **[Faculty & Staff page](#)**. Contact me for assistance (sknight3@smcvt.edu). *Stacey Knight, Associate Director for Systems & Metadata*

Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America (Paperback) 
~ Ira Berlin (Author)

In Amazon.com
click this icon
to search the library catalog

QUICK LOOKUP

Often students just want to do a quick look up in the library catalog for a book or DVD. Three kiosks have been installed, one for each level of the Library, so that researchers no longer have to login to their MIKENET account to use the library catalog.



photo credit: Tina Ryan

GLOBAL BOOKSALE

The annual M.O.V.E. Book Sale, with books provided by the Library, was held in February and raised \$1930 to support M.O.V.E. partners in Kolkata, India and the Dominican Republic.

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Reference Coordinator

Marilyn Scoville

Instruction Coordinator

INTERNS IN ARCHIVES

This academic year the [Archives](#) became a host site for Saint Mike's interns. This allows students to gain valuable archival experience while the Archives benefits from the interns' assistance on various projects.

From a student perspective, this works just like any other internship run through the Saint Mike's Internship program. Students must meet academic requirements, identify a faculty advisor and apply for a position. The only real difference is that the student does not need to leave campus.

Advantages are certainly apparent in the Archives. The backlog in the Archives is extensive, and our staff is small. The internship program allows us to identify potential projects that match student interests and skills, and then set forth a plan for the students. Ideally interns will complete a project that will make materials more widely accessible. In the fall semester, Katy Wuerker began the internship program by jumpstarting our cataloging of an extensive backlog of rare books. Katy put her Classics minor to work assisting

in the cataloging of Latin books destined for Special Collections.

This semester, Karyn Norwood, a senior History major, is busy processing the manuscript collection of Dr. Henry Fairbanks. The collection includes materials related to the Humanities program at Saint Michael's, his scholarly work and an extensive collection of his personal correspondences, much of it from World War II, when Fairbanks wrote to his fiancé at least once a week. In Karyn's first look in the boxes she came across Fairbanks' Brownie camera and a bow tie! The hours spent in the Archives have proven helpful to the students and both Karyn and Katy have applied to graduate school in Library & Information Science. Their work experience may help them gain admittance, and should also help as they narrow down their interests and define their specialties within their chosen profession. If you know of any potential interns, please have them contact the Archives (escott@smcvt.edu). *Liz Scott, Archivist*

WHERE'S MIKE?



If you miss seeing Mike Arena behind the circulation desk, you just need to drop by a little later. Mike volunteered

Mike's schedule is just one of the changes in library staffing needed to make this change possible. Naomi King, whom you may know from Interlibrary Loan, is now working half time at the circulation desk during the day, and Tina Ryan, Executive Assistant to the Director, is pitching in at crucial hours. *John Payne, Director of Library & Information Services*

to take the late shift as part of the recent expansion of library hours to 1:00 am on weeknights, so his workweek is now Sunday-Thursday, 5:00 pm to 1:00 am (and later during exams.)

And what does Mike think about it? "I love working nights. Nights have a different vibe. Students aren't rushing to class. They're lounging in pajama pants." Any regrets about the change? "Of course, I do miss seeing some faculty and staff members I saw regularly during the day."

NEW BOOKS IN YOUR SUBJECT AREA

A feature that has been quietly delivering for over a year is the [New Books](#) link on the Library website. Click on a subject (like Religious Studies, Mathematics, Global Studies or Education) and see a list of all recently acquired books. You can also click on DVDs to see a list of new movies in the Library.