In 2006, Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin (CBB) libraries embarked on a 3-year Mellon funded grant to support collaborative collection development among the three libraries. The grant’s goals were to 1) expand CBB’s collections; 2) build a culture that views CBB collections as a single shared collection; and 3) facilitate cost- and space-sharing among the three libraries. Upon completion of the grant this past fall, CBB not only successfully met these goals, but the collaboration resulted in several unanticipated outcomes that have strengthened the CBB partnership. Several conditions were already in place that facilitated the grant’s process.

1. CBB institutions are similar in size and curricula, and all had approval plans from the same vendor. (An approval plan is a template that guides what books a vendor will automatically send to a library, based on a number of criteria including subject matter, publisher list, cost, etc.)
2. CBB has a 20-year history of trust and working together
3. Several important infrastructures had already been established – same borrowing privileges for CBB faculty, staff, and students and an expedited delivery service.

A centerpiece of the grant was the establishment of a combined approval plan. An analysis of our purchasing history and circulation showed potential savings for each library if our three approval plans merged, eliminating automatic duplication of titles at each campus. Merging the plans took many months and involved negotiating a number of points such as paper vs hard copy. CBB worked with our vendor to distribute publishers, subject matter, and costs evenly among the three libraries - no small feat.

While the combined approval plan automatically sends a single copy of a title to one of the CBB libraries, a key understanding among the libraries is that there will be cases where duplicate and triplicate copies of a title will be necessary. Librarians monitor the collection and act on faculty requests. Likewise, each library purchases its own copies for reserve use. Coupled with the print approval plan, CBB negotiated with several electronic book distributors for CBB-wide access to scholarly e-books. E-books complement our print collections by providing immediate access and searching. Another key element of the grant was the expansion of our CBB collections. To this end, CBB is looking at other approval plans that will bring in diverse material from other parts of the world. Savings realized though reduction in duplication also mean that supplemental or more expensive titles enter the collections.
Given a four-star rating by Library Journal in its recent evaluation of popular culture e-resources for libraries, Rock’s Backpages is an online library of the best in rock music journalism. Over 13,000 articles on rock music musicians culled from magazines and newspapers like Creem, Melody Maker, Rolling Stone, and New Musical Express, cover a huge spectrum of the popular music scene—from Elvis to Amy Winehouse. The database is fully searchable and also browsable in a convenient A-Z format. Articles by respected rock music journalists such as Dave Marsh, Nick Tosches, Carol Cooper, Lester Bangs, and others are featured. Primary source material in the form of audio interviews with artists like Little Richard, Joni Mitchell, and Tom Waits can be found on Rock’s Backpages. This is a resource for the serious rock music enthusiast, as well as for anyone wanting to while away an afternoon reading about their favorite rock star.

The Colby Libraries recently purchased a subscription to AP Images, the photojournalism archive and image database of the Associated Press. Users can search for specific events by keyword or date, or browse through preselected topics for images of current events. The photo archive contains close to 1 million images dating from the late nineteenth century to the present day. Users can download good quality images for educational and editorial use.

Here are some ways we’ve been able to assist students and faculty doing research:

A student doing a thesis on early soviet photography needed examples of images. She was shown how to do an advanced keyword search, limiting the results to the period from 1900 to 1930.

A faculty member came in to Bixler Library seeking photographs of protest marches from the late 1960s to demonstrate what an artist might have been looking at when creating a piece in the Museum entitled, “Protest March.” Using the advanced search capabilities, we discovered such images quickly.

The Art and Music Librarian used AP Images to locate depictions of contemporary stagings of Shakespeare to use in a PowerPoint presentation on theater history research and library resources.

Feel free to consult with a librarian for help in using AP Images or any other image database. Contact either Marty Kelly, Visual Resources Librarian (Miller Library), or Margaret Ericson, Art and Music Librarian (Bixler Library).

Continued from front page: Collection Development Grant

providing added depth. In order to facilitate the idea of a CBB-wide collection, users needed to be able to view the collections as a whole. A shared list of new materials presents new CBB acquisitions by subject, language, and type and can be set up as an RSS feed. An unexpected outcome of the grant was the development of an RSS feed. An unexpected outcome of the grant was the development of a catalog that presents Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin holdings under one umbrella. CBBcat is currently in beta and is presented on the Colby Libraries Web page.

CBB also created a governance structure across the three libraries to maintain the momentum generated by the grant, facilitate communication, and further collaborative development of our collections.

CBB collaboration in our collections has come about at a crucial time for our institutions, as financial constraints mean we must realize full value for our dollar, while presenting strong, relevant collections for our students and faculty.
Images @ Colby: IMAGO & ARTstor News

Colby has joined ARTstor as a development partner in Shared Shelf, an image sharing project that will make finding and using educational images a simpler and richer experience. Our Shared Shelf partners include Harvard, Yale, MIT/Society of Architectural Historians, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Miami, Cornell, NYU, and Middlebury College. With Shared Shelf, the Colby community will have access to Colby’s Imago collections (the teaching collection, Colbiana photographs, Colby College Museum of Art), ARTstor’s 1 million-plus images and selected collections from other institutions, all within the user-friendly ARTstor Digital Library interface. Shared Shelf will come online in stages, with a beta version available beginning in the summer of 2010. Meanwhile, ARTstor’s image collections continue to grow and increasingly feature content of interest to those outside of the Fine Arts disciplines, as illustrated by the recent acquisition of the Magnum Photos collection of approximately 80,000 images documenting 20th century and contemporary life. Get ready for the transition by connecting to ARTstor today and exploring image downloads, personal and shared image groups, and 1 GB of free personal storage for Colby faculty.

⇒ Shared Shelf press release
⇒ ARTstor images by subject
⇒ Magnum Photos in ARTstor
⇒ IMAGO Images @ Colby:
⇒ Colby Visual Resources News & Help

For help with ARTstor, IMAGO, and other digital images, contact:
Margaret Ericson, Art & Music Librarian (Art and Music students and faculty);
Maggie Libby, Visual Resources Curator (Art faculty only).

Combined CBB catalog, Sara Prahl, Reference & Instruction Librarian

This January, you will find the catalog search on the Colby Libraries homepages has expanded to include the collections at Bates and Bowdoin College Libraries. The combined CBB catalog (aka CBBcat), a product of the three-campus Mellon Grant work, will make it easy to identify materials from libraries on any of the three campuses, while continuing to allow for the direct request function our patrons enjoy. The initial CBBcat search is a keyword search. Once you have performed a search, you will be able to apply a variety of additional criteria to your search to narrow your results. This is an exciting expansion on the limited choices available in a classic catalog search. Once within the CBBcat interface, you will have the option to search for items within specific material types: books, journals, scores, music, video, audio books, government documents, and Special Collections materials, for example. This past fall you may have noticed CBBcat offered on our homepages as an alternative catalog search while we worked on improving its functionality. During January and spring semester we will be conducting formal usability studies and look forward to hearing about your experiences using the new catalog. To help everyone make the transition to CBBcat, we will feature a short video on the Libraries’ homepage that will explain some of the unique search functions of the new catalog. Our old catalog will still be available to you from the CBBcat header under the name Classic Catalog. We’re excited to offer CBBcat as our primary catalog search and hope that you will give it a try!
Colby Library Mission Statement

The mission of the Colby Libraries is to provide resources and services to support the teaching and research needs of faculty and the information and research needs of students.

Clem’s Corner

The work of Elinor Ostrum, 2009 Nobel Laureate in Economics, is informative for 21st century libraries. Her work examines the use of collective action, trust, and cooperation in the management of common pool resources and its connection to maintaining long-term resource yields.

Libraries, likewise, must opt for collective action to collect and preserve the scholarly resources necessary for the academic enterprise. Based on the economies of collective action and trust, Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin libraries are building a collection to support the teaching and research needs of faculty and students. The global nature of academic interest requires that libraries provide a wider range of materials to support both institutional curricula and individual research. We have moved from a model where all three libraries bought the same academic monographs to one in which we buy only one or two copies among us, allowing us to purchase more widely and build a broader collection of materials.

Physical delivery of materials to faculty offices and searchable e-books available 24/7 are also part of our strategy.

As part of our collaboration we have created a new joint catalog, CBBCat, that provides a Google-like interface and gives a relevancy-ranked set of search results. CBBCat is a discovery tool that allows users to search and browse through the collections in new ways. The classic library catalog remains available for those who prefer it. CBB Libraries together bring you the world!