



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

Falvey Memorial Library

MEETING AT THE COMMONS PARTNERSHIP & INNOVATION IN THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Standing on Principles: The Library as Commons

► This is an extraordinary era for academic libraries, full of promise and peril, at once rife with opportunities to craft a compelling mission for the digital environment while also laden with threats to our continued existence as distinctive entities within the academy of the future. In Falvey Memorial Library at Villanova University, we embrace this complex situation as a challenge to innovate and invent a model organization fit for the digital future.

Our mission is built on bedrock premises about the unique cultural and social role of libraries – premises that are in effect medium-independent, e.g., as applicable to the digital environment as to the print environment. In sum, we focus our efforts around core beliefs that libraries serve as the knowledge and cultural “commons” for their host communities. This concept of the commons extends across all library domains, from physical spaces in facilities, to collections, to functional principles of openness (and open access) in the networked digital information environment. The commons is the pool from which advancements in knowledge and culture emerge.

In addition, our abiding technical commitment to open source / open data / open application program interface (API) technology for libraries rests on this principle and reflects a belief that libraries need to engage in new modes of collaboration and infrastructure development in order to embed technology and knowledge creation in the very fabric of our professional practice. Further, we affirm through many dimensions of our enterprise that great libraries are products of continuously engaged imagination, invention and ingenuity as much as they are repositories of the human intellectual and cultural record. In that light we work to assure that our physical spaces communicate and inspire a dynamic sense of connection to intellectual and imaginative enterprise.

We frame these principles directly in our most recent strategic plan (April 2012), asserting that Falvey Memorial Library will strive to function as “an intellectual and cultural commons” by providing

- a physical setting for engaged learning, social interaction and the exchange of ideas;
- a barrier-free digital environment for information discovery, inquiry and the creation of knowledge; and
- a trusted repository for access to and promulgation and preservation of University intellectual assets.

For these reasons and more, we submit this application for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Institutional Background

Villanova University is a Catholic university founded in 1842 by the Order of Saint Augustine in the western suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It occupies a unique position on the landscape of American higher education as a top-ranked regional Masters university⁽¹⁾ with an increasingly national profile, both for the excellence of its undergraduate programs and for the scholarly distinction of its faculty. Four undergraduate colleges (Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering and Nursing) and a School of Law comprise the University, with the College of Engineering ranked 10th nationally among non-doctoral colleges and the School of Business among the top 15 undergraduate business programs.⁽²⁾

Villanova University has a full-time undergraduate enrollment of roughly 6300 and a graduate student population of approximately 3,000 FTE across the four colleges and the Law School. Though the University maintains its focus on providing high quality undergraduate programs, its graduate schools are evolving in scope and stature, with notable doctoral programs in Philosophy and Nursing. In short, Villanova University is an elite undergraduate university with a growing national footprint in graduate education and research. As a signature for its growing visibility and impact, the University recently embraced a bold new motto that expresses the power of the Villanova educational experience: *Ignite Change. Go Nova.*

At Villanova University, in the words of our President, the Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA, PhD, “educational experience is rooted in a passionate, collaborative pursuit of knowledge and service to others. This commitment to our Augustinian ideals of *Veritas, Unitas, Caritas* – Truth, Unity, Love – serves as a living embodiment of the University’s mission and creates exciting opportunities for learning, growth and personal development.”⁽³⁾

The University’s most recent strategic plan expresses these ideals in imperatives for action in 1) enhancement of academic distinction through a rich liberal arts core and curricular innovation across all programs; 2) expansion of intellectual diversity both through increasing the accessibility of the Villanova University experience to students of all backgrounds and through recruitment of students of the highest caliber; 3) growth of faculty research and scholarly output and of distinctive graduate programs; 4) sharing our story in engaging and effective ways; and 5) securing resources that will support our institutional ambitions now and in the future.

Intrinsic to the Villanova experience is a commitment to community, a core Augustinian value, that nurtures the whole person in an environment supportive of differences and resolute about the necessity of mutual respect across the lines of difference. Community is also expressed through a deep and programmatic embrace of service to others, to the pursuit of and support for the common good, and to ongoing engagement with Catholic social teaching understood as a struggle for justice, concern for the poor and compassion for the suffering.

The Library in Context

We are medium-sized (with a staff of 56), but we have established a culture of invention and risk-taking that has an impact well beyond our scale, perhaps best exemplified by the continually growing international embrace of the VuFind open source library discovery software developed and supported by Villanova University. We believe that the Villanova University Library success story, built on a commons-centered understanding of the library mission, is unique in the way it integrates vital activities across a range of domains, from organizational design through technological innovation, from team-based academic service delivery to extensive and various intellectual programming, from new forms of internal and external partnerships to incremental re-invention of our physical facilities from the inside out.

Falvey Memorial Library at Villanova University supports the learning and research needs of students and faculty in Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering and Nursing. The Falvey library staff has taken the strategic imperatives of the University to heart and strives to function as an engine of academic excellence

Recognition as international leaders in the development of open source library discovery technology through the VuFind project.

Development of a flexible, team-based matrix organization that effectively connects the Library to academic programs and priorities through our Academic Integration framework.

Design and implementation of an institutional digital library that is built around content in our Special Collections and from materials related to the mission and heritage of Villanova University from partner organizations throughout the greater Philadelphia region.

Ongoing exploration of the intersection between scholarly communication and technology through our Community Bibliography, Faculty Full Text, open access journal publishing and digital humanities initiatives, and the creation of a context for regional community dialogue and exchange about these emerging areas through our annual VuStuff meeting.⁽⁴⁾

and as a center for the intellectual, cultural, public and social life of the institution.

The Villanova Library is above all else an aspirational organization, with an explicitly stated goal of becoming a model of digital age innovation across the enterprise. We are engaged in developing and exploring new frameworks for service delivery, for the allocation and use of library physical space, for the integration of library expertise into the learning and research environment, for the enrichment of community intellectual life, for exploration of new modes of scholarly communication, and for the development and dissemination of new technology – tools and infrastructure – that foster and reinforce the unique role of libraries as facilitators of open access, open source and open knowledge culture.

The Library at Villanova is characterized by a process of continual self-invention and is as much a product of imagination as it is an outgrowth of long established values and practices. In broad outline, some of our major accomplishments include:

An ambitious agenda of cultural and intellectual programming, in partnership with a wide range of University offices and departments that supported approximately 150 formal events in the Library during academic year 2011-12 (including readings, lectures, panel discussions, debates, visiting scholar seminars, topical presentations and musical performances).

Creation and co-sponsorship of the now eight-year-old One Book Villanova community-wide reading program that annually selects a book for adoption across all levels of the University curriculum and that presents a series of events focused around that book, including an author lecture that averages over 1,000 attendees.

A systematic and comprehensive communication program that spans modes from a print newsletter to a series of topical blogs to a stratified approach in social media space that is coordinated in its totality with our overall University communication and branding program. ⁽⁵⁾

A phased reinvention and renovation of the spaces within our facility, including the creation of an "agora-like" collaborative study environment on our first floor (including a large 24-hour café) and a Learning Commons on our second floor that provides access to Research Librarians in proximity to the Writing Center, the Math Learning Resource Center and Learning Support Services.

The Matrix Reloaded: A Multiple-team Staffing Model

In 2006 we developed a new organizational framework for our Library, based on an understanding that to do new things – and to invest as many staff as possible in thinking and working in new ways – we must structure our operational environment in a manner that encourages and supports dynamism, cross-functionality, continuous learning and task variety for staff.

We engaged the University's Office of Planning and Institutional Research in a self-study in relation to our service environment (including focus groups) and worked closely with Human Resources to create job definitions that would allow for the formal assignment of all staff to multiple teams in a manner that would encourage flexibility and periodic reallocation of effort without wholesale organizational restructuring. This flexible framework facilitates "load balancing" as new initiatives and new priorities emerge.

Our model is built around interdisciplinary workgroups or teams and produces a setting in which staff members officially contribute effort to at least two (and in some cases three or four) teams that cut across all of the prior operational lines of division in the Library. In organizational design terms, this model makes use of team-based and matrix-oriented staff assignments. It is also an intrinsically flat organization, with most team leaders reporting to the library director and participating in the management roundtable.

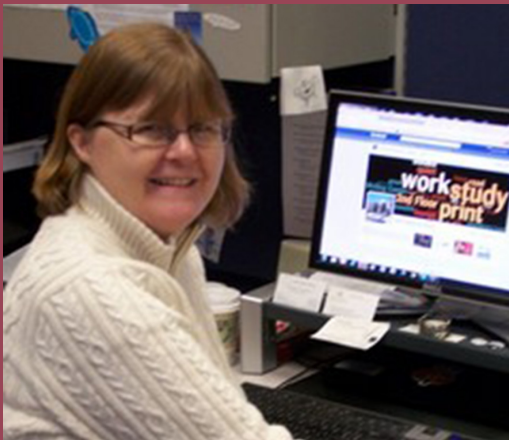
The team/matrix approach introduces challenges of complexity and effort management, but it also enfranchises staff to take on new activities while unleashing a level of energy and creative engagement that is ongoing throughout the Library. It has effectively enabled us to increase library capacity and sustain a broader range of commitments without an increase in headcount, and without a substantial long-term impact on burnout or staff morale. In fact, as indicated through a recent University climate study, morale in the Library has improved substantially over the past five years. Most importantly, this framework has created an environment hospitable to accelerated evolution, in which small team-centered projects and innovations are allowed to flourish and aggregate over time into substantial and broadly disseminated initiatives and services.

The Library currently includes teams and work groups for Academic Integration (discipline-focused services); Access (desk services, circulation, inventory); Assessment; Business and Administration; Collection Management (strategic collection and materials budget planning); Communication; Digital and Special Collections (including the Digital Library); Information and Research Assistance (moment of need user contact); Instructional Design; Resource Management; Scholarly Outreach (intellectual and cultural programming and scholarly initiatives such as open access publishing); Systems Support; Technology Development; and Web Services.



The team work environment is ideal for my situation. As a librarian/technologist, being able to spend time on the Digital Library team lets me keep my library skills polished along with my technical ones – the current dime novel project has been a great break from the routine and a useful way to productively fill short increments of time that could not be easily used for solving technical problems. Having a small amount of time with the Information and Research Assistance team is also extremely valuable, putting me in contact with the patrons who use the software I write and thus providing a real context for the rest of my work.

- Demian Katz
Technology Development team



Overall, I think the matrix environment has opened doors for me and broadened my expertise in the Library. Going beyond the service desk to the online and print communication arena gives me the chance to shout about our wonderful Library! It's been a mostly positive experience with the exception of trying to balance out my time on each team. The fact that our environment encourages experimentation, play and conversation has a lot to do with our growth as professionals.

- Luisa Cywinski,
Access team leader.

I have found the team based model to be indispensable in helping myself and my colleagues to better manage our professional duties, while assuring that each sector of the Library receives the attention it deserves. Personally, I find that the team model helps me prioritize my workload, manage my time in a more efficient manner, and refocus my overall duties to better optimize my output from semester to semester. I also find that the personalized attention we receive from our team leaders facilitates collaborative projects and informs team oriented instruction and collection development goals.

- Rob LeBlanc
First-Year Experience Librarian



“Academic Integration” in Practice

“Allowing allied subject librarians to function as teams and giving the teams budgets to expend and monitor has been empowering. It allows librarians to better serve students and faculty in collection building and provides a fertile stimulus for substantive and sustained conversations about what library resources should or should not be acquired or retained in a particular disciplinary area.... The liaison teams are small enough to be nimble decision-making working groups while at the same time functioning as collegial deliberative bodies that can evaluate their own efforts and learn from what other liaison teams are doing in collection development, research support, instruction and communication with academic departments, programs and research centers.”

– Darren Poley, Philosophy and Theology liaison librarian

At the core of the organization is a “super cluster” of workgroups: the Academic Integration unit, which is focused on connecting the Library’s resources and expertise directly to academic programs and priorities in colleges and departments. A series of liaison teams (with 2-3 librarians assigned to each team based on their subject backgrounds) manage collection investments and deliver instructional and research support services by academic affinity area (e.g., Business, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Nursing and Life Sciences, Language and Literature, Philosophy and Theology, etc.).

Academic Integration also includes an Instructional Development team focused on establishing an overarching framework for library education activities and improving librarian pedagogical competencies. A goal for the liaison teams is to personalize the relationship among faculty, department chair, and the Library. One exemplar of that philosophy is the “Take a Faculty Member to Lunch” program through which all liaison librarians are encouraged to invite selected faculty colleagues to lunch, on the Library’s dime, once per semester. But more than merely being familiar faces for faculty outreach, the liaison teams provide pools of expertise that deepen and strengthen academic service offerings through ongoing collaboration.

Liaison librarians also see it as their mission to support and advance the scholarly profile of our academic programs, and to bring new tools and resources to the attention of their constituents. Examples include the creation of exhibits that feature faculty publications from a

particular department adjacent to items describing specific library research resources relevant to that area of scholarship (most recently for the History Department and for the Environmental Studies Program).



In the online world, the Academic Integration group maintains active blogs on new library resources, services and hot research topics.⁽⁶⁾ In the library discovery system, searches for keywords that match up with University departments or programs retrieve a “business card” of the corresponding subject librarian. Also some innovations in the physical library enhance the reach and accessibility of liaison librarians. Patrons who wander in the book stacks come across mounted posters that alert them to services provided by librarians. Each magnetic frame has a pocket with business cards for the appropriate contact in that subject area.

Each team takes its own approach to service development, informed by the profile of their clientele



The Nursing and Life Sciences team, for instance, has taken a mobile approach by providing “emergency research assistance” to students and faculty from a medical crash cart, while dressed in surgical scrubs, on site in the College of Nursing corridors.

At left, Life Sciences Librarian Robin Bowles and a Nursing student consult at the Emergency Assistance Cart in the College of Nursing.

The Business Research team has grown a thriving research consultancy within the Villanova School of Business. This service model is grounded in team support for the innovative core curricular course, Competitive Effectiveness (CE), in which sophomores engage with management and marketing theory and practice. The Business Research team does in-class presentations, one-on-one coaching and assesses research skills of student teams for real world marketing problems posed by corporate clients. According to Assistant Professor Julie Pirsch, PhD, the Business Research team leader is a “key ingredient” in making CE work.

In the College of Engineering, librarian Alfred Fry has collaborated with faculty on embedding information literacy in the curriculum through co-teaching in a number of core courses, including development of standards-based modules for ongoing use in civil engineering, where he collaborates with Associate Professor Andrea Welker, PhD, on assessment of engineering students’ information competencies. Alfred recently co-presented with multiple faculty collaborators on the effectiveness of this approach in the Civil Engineering curriculum at Villanova’s 2012 Teaching and Learning symposium.

In Arts and Sciences, First-Year Experience Librarian Rob LeBlanc has created and presented problem-based research challenges to Ethics classes as part of the freshmen core curriculum. Rob also coordinated the creation of two unconventional projects in the required freshmen seminar on Augustine and Culture, which resulted in exhibits in the Library. The first one explored the impact of popular music on the cultural consciousness of the 20th century, and the second introduced students to major artists through a comprehensive research project and “docent tour” of works held in the nearby Philadelphia Museum of Art.



Faculty testimonials for the Library’s approach to academic support are frequent and effusive, as can be seen in these recent comments:

“Falvey Memorial Library represents a crucial intellectual space for me. Nearly all my students attend a “library information session” directed by Jutta Seibert, reference librarian for the History Department. Ms. Seibert plans and presents a comprehensive overview of Falvey’s holdings relevant to the course of study, such as American Environmental History or Introduction to Sustainability Studies, introducing students to various primary source collections and journals as well as more traditional sources such as American History and Life. In addition, she posts an online “course guide” for students’ later consultation. These sessions and course guides have proved invaluable to me and to my students as they prepare their research papers. Falvey’s central importance is highlighted in light of Villanova’s new emphasis on the value of student research.”

- Prof. Paul Rosier

“When I discuss my position at Villanova University with colleagues from other universities and colleges they are always impressed at the lengths the staff of Falvey Library go to support my research and teaching. I am constantly impressed by the staff’s tireless efforts to improve the collection, their incredible bibliographical skills in paper and on-line media and, simply put, brilliant and creative strategies to support students and faculty.”

- Prof. Rebecca Winer

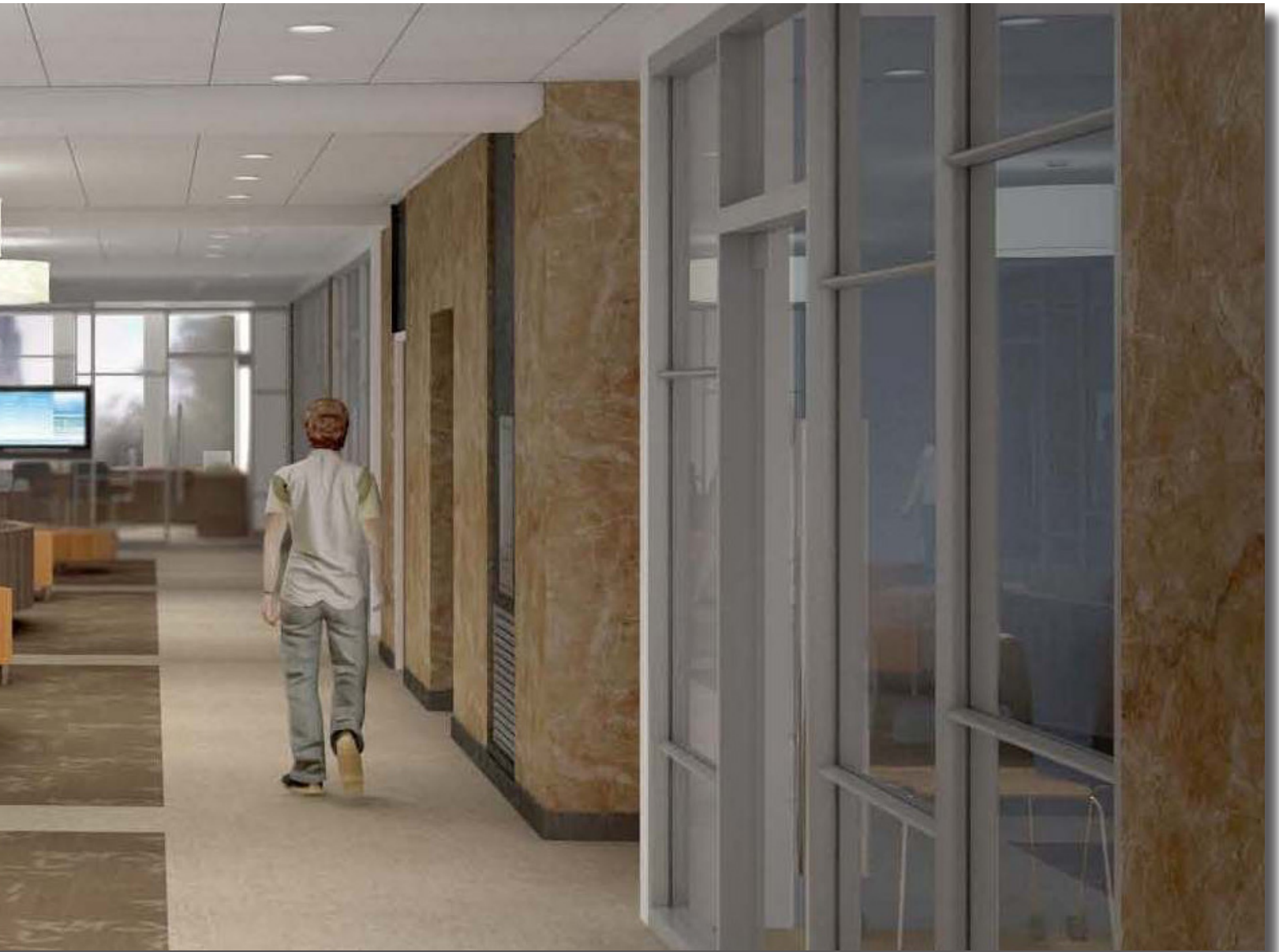
Common Interests, Common Spaces:



At the geographical center of the Villanova University campus, Falvey Memorial Library has long served as a center for study and learning. In recent years, as a result of renovations that created a large café / 24-hour lounge and converted most of the first floor to a lively agora-like collaborative work environment supporting a mix of academic and social activities, the Library has intentionally embraced and amplified its role as crossroads and intellectual commons. The evolution of this role occurred in parallel with an institutional conversation about the value of providing undergraduates with a single point of access to a range of academic support services. The vision included the collocation of library Research Support, the Writing Center, the Math Learning Resources Center and Learning Support Services (special needs and study skills). Outside the Library, these important academic services were dispersed across campus, in often inadequate spaces and in out-of-the-way locations.

During academic year 2010-2011 we had an opportunity, working with our Facilities department

The Learning Commons in Falvey



and an external architectural firm, to develop a long-term program for the Falvey building that would allow for incremental renovation and reinvention of library spaces in several distinct phases, with the first phase being the creation of the Learning Commons on the second floor. When this plan was presented to the University president and other top administrators, it was greeted with enthusiasm, notably because of the clear and immediate value of the proposed Learning Commons for the undergraduate educational experience. Funds were quickly identified from a pool for strategic initiatives, and an aggressive timetable for renovations was established, with a plan to open the new space in academic year 2011-2012. During the 2011 summer months, 130,000 volumes from the second floor were relocated into a nearby stack area that had been freed up in 2010 through the transfer of historical bound periodicals to an on-campus remote site. The second floor was gutted soon thereafter, and construction of the Learning Commons took place over the next five months, with an end-of-year completion date and an operational opening in mid-January 2012 for the spring semester.

The new environment is sleek, elegant, architecturally integrated and conducive to interaction, with distinctive spaces communicating visually through the use of glass walls and shared furnishing and design elements. It includes several shared meeting rooms and two large multi-purpose facilities that are media-equipped for talks, seminars, classes and presentations but that also serve as quiet and group study areas accessible by swipe card to students when the rooms are not in use for scheduled events.

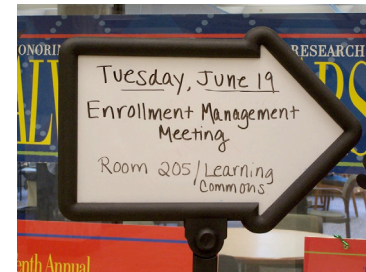
The four educational centers within the Learning Commons have distinctive but overlapping missions. They remain administratively autonomous, yet their collocation provides fertile ground for collaboration across distinctive academic support domains. We hope over time to move from adjacency to appropriate levels of interconnection, as we come to understand competencies and interests across our various domains. Opportunities for collaboration and cross-referral between groups have emerged after two semesters together in the space.

We have clearly established in the Learning Commons a forward-looking facility that positions our librarians in the midst of an evolving interdisciplinary enterprise. We've already had several informal sharing sessions among the workgroups in the Commons. It's clear that we have a strong ally in the Writing Center. Librarians are now developing topic guides for finding online reference materials and are presenting workshops on the RefWorks research management tool for writing tutors.

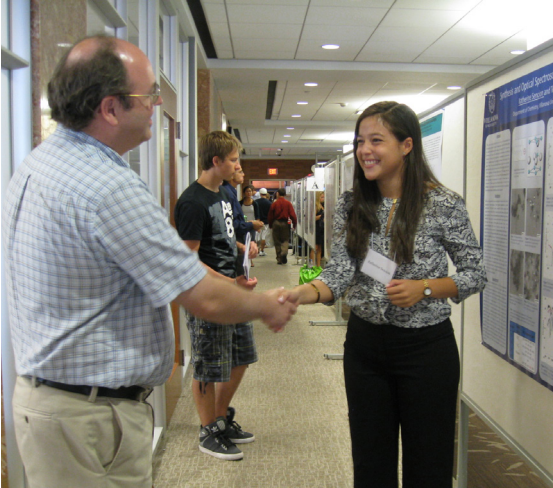


It is the trend in universities now to incorporate these centers into the library. Villanova is recognizing the success of other universities and following suit. Students are using the Library in different ways, and it creates a new "synergy" to bring all the centers into one space.

-Mary Beth Simmons, Director of the Writing Center

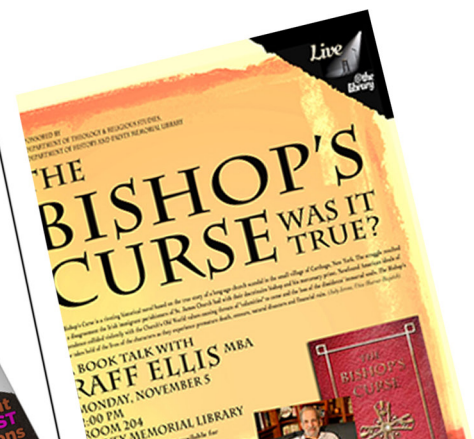


Intellectual Life in the Public Sphere



At Villanova University, the Library vigorously enacts its role as the “intellectual commons” for the University community – as a gathering place that serves all disciplines and provides a public forum for the exchange of ideas. A conscious deepening of this role (moving beyond occasional lectures and “books talks” to a programmatic event agenda) occurred in 2004, with the creation of a café area designed to accommodate presentations, lectures, readings, panel discussions and debates. Since then, the Library has established itself as a key partner with academic departments and University offices for event sponsorship and event hosting. It has also become a recognized forum for faculty and students to showcase their scholarly and creative work.

To support continued growth, the Library recently added three new spaces to accommodate events, including a large open “Speakers’ Corner” on the first floor and two media-equipped multi-purpose rooms in the Learning Commons. From 2005 through 2009, the Library sponsored or hosted an average of 50-60 events annually. In academic year 2009-2010 that number grew to 75, and in 2011-2012 it doubled to 145 events. Our new facilities have given us the capacity to meet demand. This trend reflects the significant amplification in the Library’s perceived value as a center of intellectual and cultural life – as a venue where academic partners want their events to occur because of visibility, because of audience and because of the professionalism of the library staff in handling logistics for programs of many different kinds.



Some key partnerships have resulted in annually recurring event series:



The Falvey Scholars program, in which the Library works with faculty in all four colleges and with the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships to recognize extraordinary scholarship as represented by Honors theses and other similar capstone projects by graduating seniors.

Scholarship@Villanova features six lectures annually by faculty presenting their research and recent publications to a general audience, including an Endowed Chair talk and a presentation by the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Research Award.

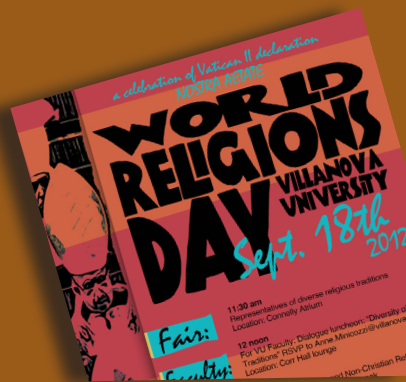


Black History Month events, notably the Ida B. Wells Lecture sponsored by Africana Studies and the History Department.



Women's History Month Lecture Series, co-sponsored by the History Department and the Women's Studies Program.

World Religions Day Lecture, sponsored by Campus Ministry



Literary Festival Readings, sponsored by the English Department



The Mannella Endowed Lecture in Italian-American Studies



Earth Day Lecture and Panel Discussion, co-sponsored with Environmental Studies.

Villanova Center for Liberal Education "classical texts" series, featuring full live readings of major works studied in freshmen seminars, which have included St. Augustine's *Confessions*, Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* and, for 2013, Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

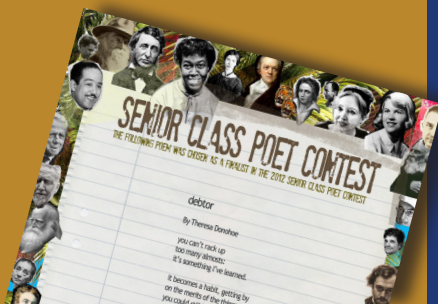


Hispanic Heritage Month Lecture series, co-sponsored by the Romance Languages Department and the Latin American Studies Program.



Irish Studies Cultural Events, including lectures and musical performances, co-sponsored by the Irish Studies Program

Senior Class Poet award promotion, open mic poetry reading and student literary journal launch, co-sponsored by the English Department.



One-time event highlights from 2011-2012 include

The Villanovan Digitization Celebration, to announce the full historical digitization of *The Villanovan*, the University student newspaper, by Falvey's Digital Library team, featuring past and current editors and past and current faculty advisors reminiscing and discussing the changing role of student journalism.

Nova Fèis, a celebration of Celtic culture featuring performances by the Philadelphia Ceili Group, the Villanova Irish Step Dancers, accompanied by a display of instruments and costumes.



Sorcerer's Semester, a weekly full-length book readings of the entire Harry Potter series (over 11 weeks) by students, faculty and staff in conjunction with our First-Year Experience program.



Many events

also feature complementary promotional displays. Our commitment to an extensive event calendar reflects a philosophy about the Library as a space in which social and educational environments intermingle. We look to increase our "gravitational pull" by facilitating chance encounters, impromptu conversations, the accidental discovery of shared interests and serendipitous opportunities for collaboration across institutional domains.

This active function of the library as an intellectual and cultural center brings people – who in the digital age no longer need to come to the building for materials – into stimulating adjacency. The library as "commons" is a convergence point, a contact zone, a site of inspiration, a vital and lively "temple of knowledge" or mousseion, as Sam Demas would have it.⁽⁷⁾

And the goal is to fully realize that vision in the day-to-day library experience in Falvey.



ONE BOOK VILLANOVA



One of Villanova University's signature intellectual and cultural programs, One Book Villanova, is itself the result of a chance encounter in the library café. In early fall of 2004, following a faculty lecture, University Librarian Joe Lucia and Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Affairs Terry Nance engaged in a conversation about their mutual interest in enhancing the intellectual climate at the University and engaging the whole community in a conversation about books and ideas.

Within a few weeks of that conversation, Joe and Terry brought in a third partner, Tom Mogan from the Office of Student Development, and began intensive work together on a plan to select a book for campus-wide distribution in the coming academic year (2005-2006). They assembled a working group that cut across all colleges of the University, developed selection criteria, solicited nominations, and ultimately, by April 2005, selected Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* for the inaugural One Book Villanova. They then secured a date for an author visit in January 2006 and built a series of events, a number of which were held in the Library, including facilitated book group meetings, panel discussions, lectures on the history and culture of Afghanistan, a theatrical adaptation of episodes from the story, a book signing and a community dinner featuring foods from the book, all designed to stimulate broad engagement with the program.

The University purchased 7,400 copies of the book and distributed them to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff in the fall of 2005. That an inaugural program was an enormous success, with over a thousand people attending the culminating author lecture, established a model for a program that is now in its eighth year.

The Library is a key sponsoring partner and major contributor to the support of the program, along with Student Development and Multicultural Affairs. A unique dimension of One Book Villanova is the way it reaches across the University community, involving not only students and faculty, but also staff from many areas, including Dining Services, which puts on the annual dinner, Facilities and Custodial areas, and many other groups. In addition, the major events of the program, including the author lecture, are open to the public, and the Library has co-programmed (and sponsored book groups) in collaboration with the nearby Lower Merion Public Library. Many independent book groups in the local area adopt the One Book selection and come to such events as the book signing, the community dinner and the author lecture. One Book Villanova has become a hallmark of community life. ⁽⁸⁾

Extending the Global Knowledge Commons: Digital Initiatives

Falvey Memorial Library takes a powerful collaborative approach to building a digital library that expresses the institution's unique mission and history in the broadest and deepest possible manner. One of the most extensive digital collections in the nation created by an organization of our scale, the Villanova University Digital Library⁽⁹⁾ connects materials from Falvey's Special Collections with similar items digitized by Villanova but owned by organizations from across the greater Philadelphia region through a formal Digital Partners program. This approach has enabled us to expand substantially the scope of our content while also providing a means for partners to expose to the world their very rich troves of cultural and intellectual records that would otherwise molder on shelves for many more years.

Villanova's Digital Partners are selected based on the nature of their holdings, the connection of their mission to the history and mission of Villanova University (with an emphasis on Catholic and Augustinian social and intellectual history), and their willingness to sign a formal legal agreement placing their content online in an open, copyright free environment as part of a "knowledge commons" that enables inquiry and scholarship.

AMONG THOSE IN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP (WITH EXTENSIVE MATERIALS ALREADY ONLINE)

- American Catholic Historical Society
- Independence Seaport Museum
- LaSalle University
- Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center
- Ryan Memorial Library & Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua Research Center, St. Charles Seminary.

PARTNERSHIPS IN PLACE BUT WITH LESS COMPLETED DIGITIZATION INCLUDE:

- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities;
- Catholic Library Association;
- Two women's religious orders:
Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, and the Society of the Holy Child Jesus
- Two local Catholic churches:
St. Agnes Parish, West Chester, PA, and St. Anne Parish, Philadelphia, PA
- The nation's oldest free Catholic High School for boys:
Roman Catholic High School, Philadelphia, PA
- The nation's second oldest lay-led Catholic retreat center: Malvern Retreat House/Men at Malvern



[Our] collaboration with Villanova University's Falvey Library has allowed students, teachers, researchers and scholars all

over the world to have access to one of our most highly prized collections: the Barry-Hayes Papers. When patrons are aware that this digitization is occurring, and that they are able to see the finished parts, they are overjoyed at their luck of finding that these materials are part of a collaborative project.

*– Megan Good,
Independence Seaport Museum
Library Director*



I want to personally thank [the Library] for all the work you have been doing for Irish music through the Digital Library initiative. The ongoing collaboration with the Philadelphia Ceili Group has been a wonderful resource for my class on Irish music.

I have been asked to teach a few more courses on Irish music and popular culture in the future, and plan to continue to draw on the resources at the Library, and have students engage with Falvey's archival and digital resources. I'm quite enjoying the opportunity to get to know the Irish music archives and resources of the Philadelphia area, and am quite delighted to have an association with an institution that values these cultural treasures.

- Prof. Scott Spencer, Irish Studies

Extending the Global Knowledge Commons...

Villanova University is a significant contributing member of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA), which has as its mission “to provide enduring global access to Catholic research resources, beginning with access to the rare, unique and uncommon research materials held by college, university and seminary libraries and archives in North America.” Our digital projects are among the most extensive currently online in the CRRA portal, and the CRRA online discovery environment is supported by Villanova’s open source search software, VuFind.

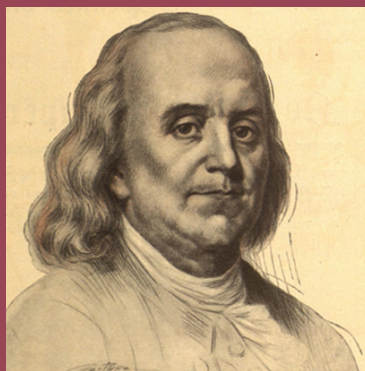
Other active projects include digitizing audio recordings for the Philadelphia Ceili Group and books owned by the Berkshire Athenaeum (the public library of Pittsfield, MA) related to American author Herman Melville for Melville’s Marginalia Online. New digital library partnerships

with organizations external to Villanova University continue to be developed.

In addition to digitization initiatives, Falvey Memorial Library’s commitment to open access content (and for new modes of library-based publishing) extends to support for e-journals, via the open source OJS (Open Journals System) toolkit. The Library’s journal hosting service offers a node of scholarly outreach to the academic community, providing faculty who are inclined to pursue original journal publishing projects with the opportunity to explore their ideas in a professional quality online environment with negligible cost. The Library’s journals pages are currently home to *Praxis*, a startup journal organized by the Theatre Department; *Expositions*, a previously established humanities

journal that greatly increased its readership when it chose to abandon its subscription-based commercial publishing model in favor of an open-access online-only arrangement with the Library; and *Concept*, a long-standing interdisciplinary Graduate Studies journal that has increased its profile not only on campus but in the greater academic community through a library journals site that has all the functionality and indexing presence of a commercially published journal but at no cost to either the journal or its readership.

Falvey’s journals project has also recently expanded into providing hosting services for journals published by organizations outside the University community, using a variety of subscription models beyond open access. This fall the Library will debut access to the journals of two prominent Catholic institutions: *The*

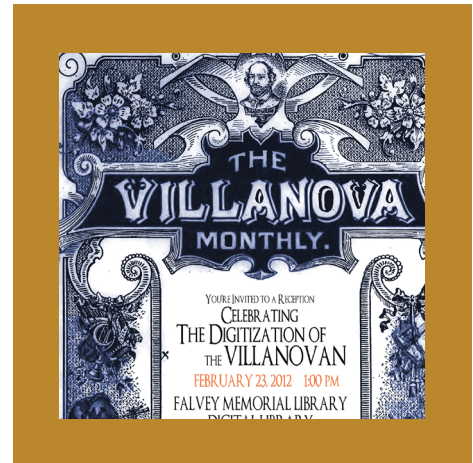
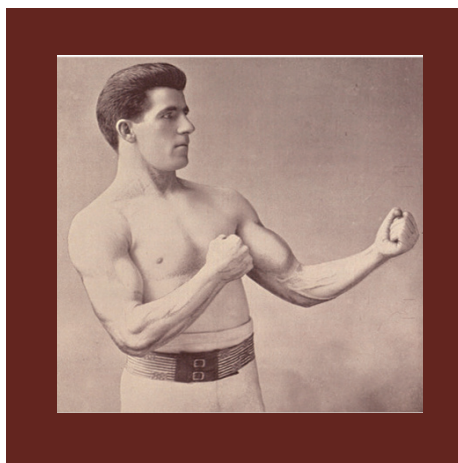
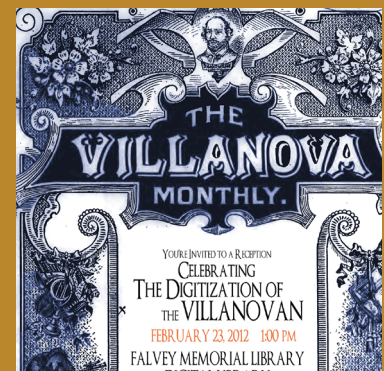
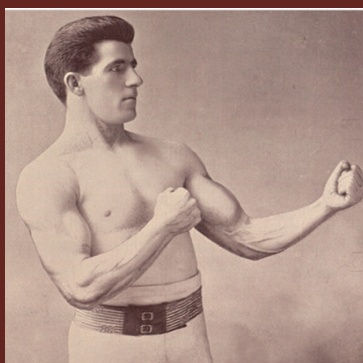


Journal of Catholic Higher Education, published by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and *American Catholic Studies*, published by the American Catholic Historical Society, will both offer online access to their member institutions and individual subscribers through Falvey Memorial Library's Web pages. These new projects will increase the profile of Falvey in the national Catholic higher education community and further establish the Library as a viable choice for hosting journal content in a high quality, low-cost environment.

The Library has also taken a unique approach to mapping the University's intellectual footprint through the Community Bibliography, a library-generated online citation database that aims to compile a complete record of the published work of the Villanova University community, faculty, staff, alumni

and Augustinians, from the most current scholarship all the way back to the University's inception in 1842.

Complementing this database is Faculty Full Text, a collection integrated with the Villanova Digital Library that contains publications by current scholars cited in the Community Bibliography.⁽¹⁰⁾ With these two projects, the Library serves up a version of a typical institutional repository, enhanced by historical content, and optimized by use of separate open-source software platforms (developed at Villanova) for the citation and full text components. There are approximately 10,000 items in the bibliography and 2,000 items in the repository at this moment.



Sharing our tools, Sharpening the Ax

At Falvey, we believe that the principles of knowledge sharing and collaborative creation intrinsic to open source software communities are paradigmatic for an understanding of the library mission. Open source software regimes are governed by principles of the commons, and libraries themselves facilitate the creation of new ideas by preserving and extending the intellectual commons. In short, we operate on the assumption that embracing open source software principles and open source tools deepens and amplifies the library cultural mission and social function. We live this in practice in a number of distinct ways.

Our most notable locally initiated open source project is VuFind, a “next generation” discovery tool that can be used as a search system in front of all major library management packages. It was initially released in an experimental alpha version in July 2008, rapidly moved through several beta versions, and well before reaching an official 1.0 full release, had been deployed in a significant number of technologically innovative libraries across North America.

It is built on a stack of robust open source compo-



nents, including the Apache Web server, PHP, MySQL, the SOLR index faceting toolkit and SolrMarc for data imports. It is flexible, scalable and relatively lightweight to implement, and it is at least as feature-rich and as stable as commercially offered “next generation” library discovery systems from library software vendors. It can integrate for multiple channel searching with most major aggregated discovery indexes (including Summon, EBSCO and Primo Central).

VuFind is supported by an active international community of developers, led by Demian Katz at Villanova University, with frequent fixes, updates and a development path defined and managed collaboratively through frequent developer teleconferences. It is deployed in hundreds of libraries worldwide, with notable installations in the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, Finland, Nepal, Canada and throughout the United States. VuFind is in use in a number of the largest libraries in North America, was adopted as the initial search front-end for the HathiTrust, and is being widely and rapidly deployed in libraries in the developing world. We do not at present have an accurate count of installed and live sites, but we know thousands of libraries have used the software, with almost



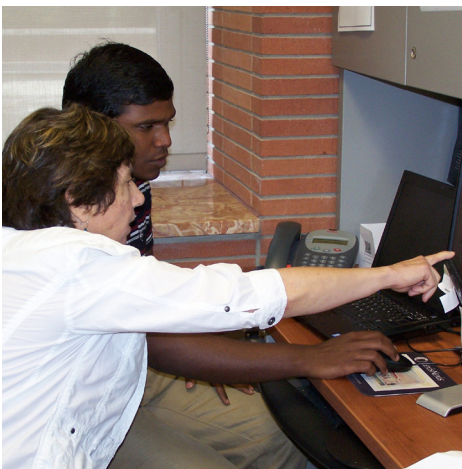


26,000 downloads of the source code from sourceforge.net as of this writing.

In 2009, VuFind received a Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration. We have hosted two VuFind Summits at Villanova University, the first in 2010 and the second very recently, in October 2012. These meetings bring together VuFind developers and implementers from around the world (international attendees have come from Australia, Ireland, Wales, Germany, Portugal, Finland, Nepal and Canada) to discuss issues related to project evolution, technology requirements and governance. The 2010 Summit yielded a collaboratively-authored application roadmap (publicly disseminated) that has become a central construct for the development of VuFind 2.0, with a new highly modular and easily extensible underlying architecture. VuFind 2.0 is now in alpha release and will go into full production release during the first half of 2013. Proceedings from the most recent VuFind Summit will guide the development path beyond 2.0 and may incorporate a framework for the development of a large-scale open discovery environment as an alternative to

commercial products like Summon and EBSCO.

Beyond VuFind, another open source project originating in the Villanova Library, VuDL, is an open source digital library framework that undergirds the Villanova University digital Library that is being built out to full-scale Fedora compliance. We envision VuDL as a lightweight open source alternative to such commercial digital library platforms as OCLC's CONTENTdm. VuDL is designed to provide comprehensive out-of-the-box searchability for all data types via VuFind. The content of the Villanova Digital Library has been indexed via VuFind. It is built on an XML document repository framework and includes a METS editor and an OAI server. We are actively seeking partners to experiment with a hosted version of the application and with the development of a simple migration path from CONTENTdm. We believe that library-developed infrastructure can empower libraries to make a larger impact in the digital environment, and we are investing effort in projects like VuDL in order to model this opportunity for the broader library community.





In VuFind, Villanova has achieved something truly remarkable. Firstly, the implementation of high-quality, extensible, robust software has attracted a vibrant developer base. Secondly, Villanova's exceptional commitment to user engagement and support has made VuFind a viable option for organisations of all sizes and technological expertise. The result is not only a product which rivals any commercial offering but also a community which drives innovation in resource discovery.

- Eoghan O Carragain, National Library of Ireland

In addition to these local projects, much critical infrastructure in the library environment at Villanova is built on open source components, including Concrete5 as the content management engine for our website and our subject guides system, ResourceSpace for digital asset management and LibStats for transaction tracking. Our developers are actively involved with the technical communities supporting these projects and have themselves contributed code when we build useful extensions in-house.

While we are still using the proprietary Ex Libris system for library management, in July 2012 we became development partners in Kuali OLE, and we are planning an aggressive implementation timeline (following the initial implementations at Lehigh University and the University of Chicago) so we can arrive at a state in which virtually all library tools and infrastructure will be built from open or community source components. We plan to be a success model in that domain and to provide assistance to others in the library community who see the significance and value of following this path.

GLOBAL REPRESENTATION OF VUFIND USAGE

Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Czech Republic
Germany
Hong Kong
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Mexico
Nepal
Russia
Spain
Thailand
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom (England/Wales)



Visit
http://vufind.org/wiki/installation_status
for a list of institutions currently running
or testing VuFind

Ambitious Dreams

We dream big in Falvey Memorial Library.

But we do so with practical intent. We have seen in many direct ways the degree to which moving aggressively in new directions and striving to invent a future for our Library around the construct of the “commons” has demonstrated value and direct impact on our campus and beyond. We have numerous constituents who are genuinely excited about and supportive of the “new library” we continue to build. We believe our distinctive efforts on multiple fronts make Villanova’s Falvey Memorial Library worthy of the ACRL Award for Excellence. We recently participated in the Pennsylvania-wide Snapshot PA celebration of libraries. On that day we solicited comments from our users. The two quotes below express the level of enthusiasm and support we enjoy from our community members.

1 Comment »

1.

Comment by Kathy Overturf — October 3, 2012 @ 8:52 am | [Edit This](#)

Love, love, love the library. It has become the hip place to be...to learn Gaelic, hear a marathon Harry Potter reading, or an all day marathon reading of Augustine...so many good things, so little time.

Question: What does the Library mean to you?

Answer: “It stands as a pinnacle of knowledge and human achievement, a depository of near infinite information. A place to inspire dreams and fuel greatness. (And pick up cute ladies who like to read.)”

-- Anonymous undergraduate student.



Endnotes

- (1) Villanova has been number one in *US News & World Report* "America's Best Colleges Rankings," in the Regional Masters University category, North region, for 20 consecutive years as of September 2012.
- (2) College of Engineering rank is reported in *US News & World Report* "Best Colleges 2013" and the School of Business ranking is from *Bloomberg Businessweek* "Best Undergraduate Business Schools 2012".
- (3) From the President's welcome message, on the University website at <http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/president.html> (visited 10/12/2012).
- (4) Background on the three VuStuff meetings to date viewable online at <http://vustuff.org/vustuff/about/>.
- (5) A sampling of current library blogs is viewable online at <http://blog.library.villanova.edu/>.
- (6) Viewable online at <http://blog.library.villanova.edu/news/category/research-tools/>
- (7) Sam Demas, "From the Ashes of Alexandria: What's Happening in the College Library," in *Library as Place: Rethinking Roles, Rethinking Space* (Washington, D.C.: Council on Library Resources, 2005), p. 25.
- (8) Information on books selected and activities associated with the program can be seen online at <http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/onebook.html>
- (9) Viewable online at <http://digital.library.villanova.edu/>
- (10) The Community Bibliography is viewable online at <http://bibliography.library.villanova.edu/> and Faculty Full Text as online at [http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Villanova Digital Collection/](http://digital.library.villanova.edu/Villanova%20Digital%20Collection/)

Supporting Materials



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

REV. KAIL C. ELLIS, O.S.A.
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

November 27, 2012

Ms. Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe
Award Committee Chair

Re: ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, 2013

Dear Colleague,

I write in support of the application of the Falvey Memorial Library of Villanova University for the Association of College and Research Libraries Excellence Award. Since the purpose of the award is to recognize the staff of a college, university and community college library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution, I believe that the program initiatives undertaken by the Falvey Library are consonant with this value.

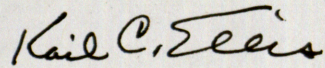
The Falvey Library exists within the context of a medium-size university. At the risk of repeating the information contained in the application narrative, I wish to emphasize that under the leadership of its director, the Falvey Library has compensated for its limited physical space by creative inventions and risk-taking with limited financial support. It sustains the needs of the University's undergraduate and graduate programs as well as those of the larger community. Through its "Academic Integration" framework, it effectively connects the library to the University's academic programs and priorities. Through its many initiatives, it has fostered the intersection between scholarly communication and technology that is achieved, among other means, through its Community Bibliography, Faculty Full-text, Open Access journal publishing and Digital Humanities initiatives. In addition, it has fostered regional community dialog and exchange. Most importantly for the cultural and intellectual life of the University, is the Library's programming of readings, lectures, panel discussions, debates, musical performances and visiting scholar seminars. Finally, under the leadership of its director, the Falvey Library has significantly reinvented itself by going beyond the traditional, now obsolete concept of the library as a place that houses print collections, to that of an "agora-like" collaborative study environment that includes a 24 hour café and a Learning Commons that provides space for the University Writing Center, Math Resource Center, and Learning Support Services. On the latter, I cannot say enough about the tremendous importance of the Learning Commons as it combines essential services to our students in a central, ADA-compliant space, something that we were not able to do previously.

I hope that I have given you a flavor of what I consider to be the Falvey Library's Accomplishments and its contributions not only to Villanova University, but to the advancement of library culture, generally.

November 27, 2012
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of the application of the Falvey Memorial Library for The Association of College and Research Libraries Excellence Award.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kail C. Ellis".

Kail C. Ellis, O.S.A.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

5 Oct 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

Falvey Library has helped me transform my teaching and research at Villanova. The members of the library staff make things possible; they are forward thinking, proactive, and always prepared to assist faculty and students alike in meeting the challenges of changing academic environments.

I have benefitted enormously from the support of library liaisons who have: introduced more efficient book ordering procedures; held classes to instruct my students how to best navigate the collections; and made presentations in departmental meetings to keep faculty abreast of recent developments in the library sciences.

The staff members of Special Collections have gone out of their way on numerous occasions to help me develop course materials. In particular, staff members have involved me in the process of selecting materials to be scanned and included in a digital library of the McGarrity Collection (one of the best holdings of printed Irish primary source material in the country). This initiative has allowed my students to use archival material more easily, and has opened up access to the collection to the general public.

At a time when costs are being cut across the board, the library has done an amazing job assembling a first-rate collection of online databases (I would note that a senior colleague at a prestigious Research I University has told me that our collection of online resources is far superior than his own institution's). Access to *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*, *Making of the Modern World*, the *Burney Collection*, and other databases enabled me to finish crucial research that I incorporated into my forthcoming book, *Irish London: Middle-Class Migration in the Global Eighteenth Century* (Liverpool University Press). I also use these databases in my teaching, and they add an important dimension to all of my undergraduate and graduate courses. Most recently, the library responded to my request to purchase Ancestry.com. Although aimed primarily at genealogists, this database is extremely powerful, and I have constructed an entire course around it, which gives our juniors (in the history department), a chance to undertake real, primary research, in preparation for their senior thesis.

Finally, I would note that the library staff facilitated a remarkable transformation of the physical space of the library itself; and their imaginative approach has produced the most engaging and exciting space on campus.

Our staff members have created a library that punches above its weight; they do not merely provide support, but are integral participants and leaders within our academic community.

Craig Bailey, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of History
Villanova University
800 Lancaster Ave
Villanova, PA, 19085

craig.bailey@villanova.edu
610 642 3251



PALCI

Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc.

November 23, 2012

Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe
University of Illinois
1408 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801-3607

Dear Ms. Hinchliffe:

It is with great pleasure I submit this letter in support of Villanova University Falvey Memorial Library's consideration for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. I have worked closely with Joe Lucia and the Falvey Library staff since 2002 as the Executive Director of PALINET/LYRASIS and now of PALCI. They are an inspiring group of colleagues, proven leaders among leaders within our PALCI Consortium and well beyond.

Falvey Library has become an increasingly integral part of the life at Villanova through a series of important organizational changes. They were among the very first to institute a One Book program for the entire campus to engage the community. This endeavor has led to a highly-regarded series of lectures and educational events hosted by the Library, involving much of the campus in extended curricular and extracurricular learning opportunities. Their schedule of events is impressive.

I have visited Falvey Library many times and am always struck by the volume of activity in the building. Students everywhere, working individually and in small groups, meeting with faculty in the coffee shop, working with staff at the service desk, and the list goes on. From my observations, the Library is clearly a valued place on campus for personal growth and community.

To shape the new library program about 10 years ago, the director and staff started by rethinking their organizational structure, seeking the optimal way to increase their support of the curriculum within the context of their existing personnel and financial resources. They instituted an innovative team-based matrix structure that allows for collaborative program development and management. I was fortunate to serve as facilitator for one of their early planning retreats to refine this organizational structure. Initial and understandable reluctance to changes was quickly put aside, resulting in a highly-effective structure that supports staff growth and independence with plenty of space to be creative with programs and services. Their structure is built on their Academic Integration framework, which is directly correlates with the University's curriculum.

*100 N. 20th Street, Suite 302
Philadelphia, PA 19103*

www.palci.org
215.567.1755

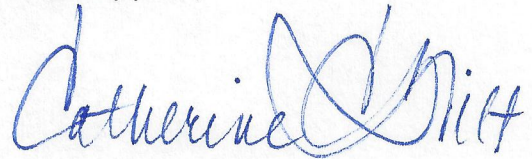
Home of EZ Borrow

Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe
ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
November 23, 2012
Page 2 of 2

Perhaps the most stellar example of the innovative environment is Villanova's development and continued support of VuFind, open source library discovery software used by libraries around the world. Seeing the need for easy access to all their owned and leased resources through a single point of entry portal, they added developers to the staff and built the software needed to provide this customizable approach to resource management. VuFind continues to be an industry standard in libraries and has been emulated by many of our commercial vendors.

The Falvey Library has undergone dramatic change over the past 10 years and weathered it remarkably well. They are clearly an indispensable part of their Villanova community. I am honored to recommend them as leaders among US academic libraries, and trust you will find they are clearly worthy recipients of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine C. Wilt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Catherine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wilt".

Catherine C. Wilt
Executive Director

November 15, 2012

Award Committee, ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
Association of College and Research Libraries
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Committee Members:

Please accept this letter of support for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award application of Falvey Memorial Library at Villanova University.

Falvey Memorial Library is a model of excellence for all academic libraries in its creative and innovative service to Villanova University, its faculty and students, and the cultural heritage communities of greater Philadelphia and the Catholic Church. Its commitment “to function as an engine of academic excellence and as a center for the intellectual, cultural, public and social life of the institution” is made visible through the multitude of accomplishments and programs described in the application. From its flexible infrastructure, focused Academic Integration programs, innovative technology applications, and collaborative facility through its cultural programming and community partnerships, such as One Book Villanova, Falvey Memorial Library demonstrates an organization-wide commitment to engagement, invention, and active support for teaching and learning.

In addition to the excellence of its staff and services, Falvey Memorial Library and Villanova University are leaders in the library community with exemplary programs that advance “open access, open source, and open knowledge culture.” Its Digital Partners program ensures open access to intellectual records of many organizations through digitization, and its Open Journals System supports open access to several e-journals, both internally and externally published. The Open Journals System toolkit demonstrates Falvey Memorial Library’s facility with open source, as does the internationally recognized VuFind discovery tool and the VuDL digital library framework. By sharing these tools and the staff’s technical knowledge with others, Falvey Memorial Library and Villanova University contribute to the dynamic evolution of library technology and the critical integration of technology with current and future scholarly research, communications, and teaching.

LYRASIS members and our organization have benefited greatly from the contributions of the staff at Falvey Memorial Library, especially from their willingness to share their knowledge and insight and to serve in leadership roles on collaborative projects. From my perspective working with hundreds of academic libraries in the US, I see Falvey Memorial Library admired, emulated, and held forth as a model for innovative service. It is an exemplary library with exemplary staff, well deserving of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

Sincerely,



Kate Nevins
Executive Director

Center for Multicultural Affairs
Villanova University
Villanova, PA 19085

December 5, 2012

It all started with a conversation in the Fall of 2006. Joe Lucia, Director of Falvey Memorial Library and I talked about the importance of libraries as a way of creating and sustaining communities. From that conversation was born One Book Villanova. Together with our colleague from Student Life, Tom Mogan we created a college reading program that includes the entire Villanova University community. Many college reading programs include first year students or perhaps the entire student body. One Book Villanova includes everyone—faculty, staff, professional, and paraprofessional. At Villanova the spirit of inclusion and community originates in the writings and spirit of St. Augustine the patron saint of the Order who founded the University in 1842. Each year, we are joined by a committee of individuals representing every facet of the University to select a book that will appeal to all of our constituencies. Among the other unique features of our program we include:

- an author's visit that we open to our entire campus community and to our neighbors in community that border our University
- a conversation about our selected book during Parent's Weekend held in the social room of the library
- and a spectacular community dinner hosted by our own Dining Services staff who carefully read the text and create a dinner reflective of the book's theme and including special dishes or foods mentioned in the text.

One Book Villanova is a signature event at our University. To my mind this program is a celebration of reading, a celebration of community and most important a celebration of the central role our library plays in the intellectual and social life of Villanova University.

Sincerely yours,

Teresa A. Nance, Ph.D
Assistant Vice President, Multicultural Affairs
Associate Professor of Communication



Catholic Research Resources Alliance

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

Date: December 5, 2012

To: Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, Chair
ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Committee
University of Illinois
E-mail: ljanicke@illinois.edu

Re: Nomination of Villanova University Library for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award

From: Jennifer Younger, Executive Director
Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) and
Edward H. Arnold Director of Hesburgh Libraries Emerita,
University of Notre Dame
younger.1@nd.edu

Joe Lucia, University Librarian, and his team present an extraordinarily compelling description of an academic library making a most positive impact on the educational mission of Villanova University. My support for their case is based first on my direct collaboration with Joe, Darren Poley and Demian Katz and personal knowledge of their outstanding work on specific initiatives, and only secondarily on their presentation. As is often the case, however, in supplementing one's own knowledge with a fuller, more systematic account, I saw a picture of a library continually striving to ensure its vision and activities would embrace and fully support community needs in the future. With an emphasis on partnership and innovation, a willingness to take risks, and an immutable belief that the library serves as the knowledge and cultural "commons" for the university community, the entire Villanova Library team has demonstrated its commitment to affecting changes in the lives of faculty and students, in the past, present and future.

Here I want to speak specifically to the ways in which Villanova has fostered positive outcomes for the community of librarians, archivists and scholars at CRRA member institutions, but also for the global community of librarians, archivists and scholars with interests in advancing Catholic Studies. The Villanova team has, and continues to do so:

- Developed and made VuFind freely available for use as a discovery search system,
- Participated in and supported the extension of VuFind to accommodate EAD metadata and enable deep searching of these records,
- Contributed over one thousand records to the Catholic portal for discovery and access of Catholic research resources at Villanova,
- Developed the Villanova Digital Library as a repository,
- Initiated digitizing partnerships with CRRA members in the Philadelphia area as well as with the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (another leading source of Catholic research resources),
- Created the digital Villanova Catholica Collection accessible via the Catholic portal, and

- Through its membership in the CRRA, put its financial support and expert team of librarians, archivists and staff to work with CRRA in carrying out our shared mission of providing global enduring access to Catholic research resources in the Americas.

Founded by eight Catholic university and college libraries, the 35 member and partner institutions in CRRA today include a predominant number of academic libraries but also a growing number of diocesan, religious and seminary archives. CRRA members benefits result from our shared mission and collaborative activities that:

- Supports their faculty and students with increased capacity for scholarly research across the disciplines,
- Expands access to the library's rare, unique, and/or uncommon resources,
- Advances the teaching, scholarship and research mission of their institution, and
- Supports Catholic Studies as a field of scholarship and research.

Let me speak also to the some examples of the positive outcomes realized by the communities of librarians, archivists and scholars within and outside of CRRA members. For each of these examples, there are others among our membership with similar results,

- Access to the collection of Catholic research resources via the portal, powered by VuFind, that puts individual collections into the context of larger, more comprehensive collections, bringing greater visibility, continuing expansion with the holdings of more libraries and a larger critical mass for scholarly use. Marquette University is well known for holding the archives of Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Far less known, almost invisible in fact, are letters and correspondence between Dorothy Day and other leading figures, held in the Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Similarly, the significance and relationship of Ade Bethune to the Catholic Worker Movement is readily seen in the collection accessible via the portal. This realization by librarians at Marquette, St. Catherine and The Catholic University of America prompted them to seek a grant together for making these hidden collections accessible via the portal. A key element in receiving the award was the fact of making these materials discoverable via the Catholic portal.
- Librarians and archivists are better equipped to assist scholars discover specific information deep within Encoded Archival Description (EAD) records. Scholars identified the ability to search the full EAD records right from the beginning as a primary need. Having this ability is changing the ways in which subject librarians help scholars find resources beyond their own institutions. Realizing that travel funds are not as plentiful and that archival collections at other institutions cannot be borrowed restricts their ability to connect scholars and students with key resources. Through the portal, they can learn far more about the contents of individual collections and assist users in getting access to specific contents within a collection.
- St. Norbert College, a Catholic liberal arts college embracing the Norbertine ideal of *communio*, provides an educational environment that fosters intellectual, spiritual and personal development. The Mulva Library, the Center for Norbertine Studies, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs saw participation in the Catholic portal as a compelling fit with their strategic aims of making resources about the Norbertines more accessible to students and scholars, locally and globally. Knowledge of these resources would be a significant factor in supporting further studies of the Norbertine Order, its traditions and beliefs, thus helping them achieve their educational mission.
- Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Library is able to digitize the *Philadelphia Catholic Standard & Times*, an important Catholic newspaper, for easy and direct access by scholars and students

around the world. At the CRRA Symposium on Advancing Catholic Scholarly Research, November 9-10, 2011, in Pittsburgh Dr. Paula Kane, John and Lucine O'Brien Marous Associate Professor of Contemporary Catholic Studies, University of Pittsburgh, spoke about the value of Catholic newspapers as primary sources in her research and how she directs her students to the Pittsburgh Diocesan Archive for use of the printed *Pittsburgh Catholic* newspaper. She endorsed expanded digitization efforts, one of which is the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and Villanova partnership, as good news for scholars of Catholic Studies.



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT

December 7, 2012

Ms. Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe
Award Committee Chair

Dear Ms. Janicke Hinchliffe:

I am writing to support our Falvey Memorial Library for the Association of College and Research Libraries Excellence Award. While I admit to some bias, the library's administration and staff go above and beyond the call of duty to provide an atmosphere of educational quality to our faculty and students. They are a central part of the Villanova University accomplishing our academic mission and our strategic plan of elevating our national reputation and academic rigor.

I would be the first to tell you the facility is a challenge. However, that has not daunted the creative energies of the Library Director, Joseph Lucia, and his extremely energetic and imaginative staff. They have secured the resources to make innovative and significant changes to enhance the library as the campus academic center. While a more detailed renovation of the building is part of our capital campaign, the library staff has not taken the position of let's wait and see but rather let's start the project. Their work has demonstrated to the Board of Trustees that with the necessary financial resources, Falvey Memorial Library will continue to evolve into our nucleus of knowledge.

The Library's statement of support, will demonstrate the quality of work they are doing and the mantle of academic excellence they have placed upon Villanova University.

Sincerely,

Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., Ph.D
President