

ASSESSMENT OF ARCHBISHOP ALEMANY LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTION (February 8, 2007)

As of February 2007, the Library's book collection consists of approximately 100,000 volumes, of which some 78,500 items are individual titles. Publication dates range from the 16th century through 2007, with the bulk of the collection (53%) having been acquired between 1950 and 1990 under the direction of Sister Marguerite Stanka, O.P. The strengths of the collection, therefore, reflect the emphasis on liberal arts and the humanities that predominated at Dominican College of San Rafael during that period.

Based on data provided by OCLC's WorldCat Collection Analysis and a review of purchasing patterns over the past few years, our collection offers strong holdings in: biography, art history, iconography, photography, women's studies, cross-disciplinary multicultural materials with particular strengths in African American and Native American perspectives, American history and politics, European history, English and American literature and criticism, literature in French and Spanish, Western philosophy and ethics, political theory, biblical criticism, church history and Roman Catholic theology, Islam, special education, the history of education, ornithology, and occupational therapy.

Although progress has been made since our last WASC visit in developing our collections in the natural sciences and professional programs (i.e., business, nursing, occupational therapy, counseling psychology, and education), gaps continue to exist in most of these areas. Enhancing monographs in business, counseling psychology, and education remains a priority. It should be noted, however, that book resources are not necessarily optimal in support of natural sciences and professional programs; in these disciplines, expanding full-text electronic database access and the availability of print journal literature is to be preferred. In developing such resources in these subject areas, the Library has made considerable progress in the last five years. Consequently, while enhancing the book collection in support of the natural sciences and professional programs (especially business, counseling psychology, and education) remains a library goal, we recognize that the rapid pace of change and the high cost of acquisitions in these disciplines mandates that such growth occur in even closer cooperation with disciplinary faculty than might be the case in the humanities.

The following broad subject areas are represented in the collection and are listed in order of depth of holdings:

Language, Linguistics and Literature: 21,826 volumes or 27.8%
(Strengths in English and American primary literature with supporting criticism and substantial collections in Spanish and French literature)

History, Anthropology, and Archaeology: 12,909 or 16.4%
(Strengths in English, American, Native American, general European and women's history as well as the genre of biography)

- Philosophy and Religion:** 8883 volumes or 11.3%
(Strengths in Christianity, Roman Catholic theology, biblical criticism, ancient through modern philosophy and ethics, and Islam)
- Studio Art and Art History:** 5963 volumes or 7.6%
(Strengths in painting, iconography, the decorative and visual arts, photography, print making and the graphic arts)
- Music and Performing Arts:** 5423 volumes or 7%
(Strengths in music history and criticism)
- Education:** 3494 volumes or 4.5%
(Strengths in educational theory, school administration, early childhood and primary education, the history of education, and special education)
- Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physical and Earth Sciences:** 2638 volumes or 4.3%
(Strengths in general biology, ornithology, and natural and environmental history)
- Business and Economics:** 3091 volumes or 4%
(Strengths in business administration, marketing, economic history and theory, and economic conditions)
- Nursing and Allied Health:** 3024 volumes or 3.8%
(Strengths in medical history and ethics, nursing theory, nursing practice, complementary health care, and occupational therapy)
- Sociology:** 2834 volumes or 3.6%
(Strengths in the social aspects of women, marriage, family and human sexuality, especially gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues)
- Political Science and Law:** 2136 volumes or 2.1%
(Strengths in international relations, American political institutions, and political theory)
- Psychology:** 1476 volumes or 2%
(Strengths in major systems and theories and psychotherapeutic technique, especially psychoanalytic psychology)
- General Reference Works, Book Arts, and Library Science:** 1355 volumes or .017%
- Computer Science and General Technology:** 701 volumes or .009%
- Mathematics:** 641 volumes or .008%

Journalism: 231 volumes or .003%
(Strengths in the history of the press in the United States)

Miscellaneous Disciplines: 1183 volumes or .015%