Traffic in the Library has doubled since the Learning Commons opened in 2005.

Help Desk stats are up 150% over last year.

In a recent survey of students, 79% said they visit the Learning Commons either daily or more than once a week.
Every day, Special Collections & University Archives grows, thanks to gifts from our donors. From cookbooks to freshman beanies, rare books to scholarly manuscripts, it is our honor to make these treasures available to students and scholars.

Here are a few highlights from the past year:

**JAMES ELLIS THEATRE COLLECTION**

Renowned Mount Holyoke College English Professor James D. Ellis donated his large and important research collection, adding over 7,500 new titles to our already rich holdings for the performing arts. Throughout his career, Ellis collected books, broadsides, posters, and letters pertaining to the English and American stage, 1750-1915.

**Gittings-Lahusen Gay Book Collection**

Kay Tobin Lahusen donated an extraordinary collection of over 1,000 books documenting the history and culture of homosexuality in America. Kay and her life partner, Barbara Gittings, were gay rights pioneers for several decades starting in the 1950s. The collection includes psychology, novels, periodicals, and examples of pulp fiction.

**Solidarity Collection**

Barbara Jakubowska donated her extensive collection of underground literature amassed during her years as a member of the democratic resistance to the Communist regime and the Solidarity movement in Warsaw, Poland from 1977-1989. From early on, Jakubowska recognized the importance of the Solidarity publications and the need to preserve them for future generations.

Lorrey and Kathleen Bianchi Pledge to Special Collections

Kathy and Lorrey J. Bianchi ’69 appreciate libraries. “I can remember going to libraries in elementary school, being absolutely amazed, and thinking I have to read all the books!” recalls Lorrey Bianchi. His wife Kathy’s appreciation of libraries also started early: “In my family, a library visit was considered a normal part of life—you go to the grocery store, you go to the library.” The Bianchi’s have made a commitment to help the Library take its place among the top research libraries in the country. The Library is expected to receive a multi-million dollar gift from the Bianchi’s. The gift will create the Lorrey and Kathleen Bianchi Library Special Collections Fund to endow support for the Special Collections and University Archives Department.

We achieved great things this year.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Welcomed an all-time high of over 1 million visitors to the Library—doubling the number since opening the Learning Commons in 2005.
- Received a record high of over $1.5 million in donations, a total of 7,845 gifts from 6,216 donors in fiscal year 2007.
- Created a comfortable reading room with various areas of 80 popular magazines and newspapers in the Learning Commons.
- Debuted ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst, a digital depository, at the scholarly colloquium “Showcasing Research & Teaching in the 21st Century: A Digital Approach.”
- Launched a partnership with the Boston Library Consortium and Open Content Alliance to digitize millions of books for public use.
- Conducted LibQUAL™, an electronic survey, of all faculty members, graduate students, and 2,000 undergraduates to guide future improvements such as the expansion of the Learning Commons.
- Redecorated several study carrels for faculty and graduate student use, thanks to our generous donors.
- Enhanced new Five College Libraries Catalog, providing improved access to the millions of resources at the UMass Amherst Libraries, and our neighboring Five College Libraries.
- Opened the Faculty Writing Place in the Du Bois Library with the help of the Office of Faculty Development, to provide a quiet, comfortable space for writing.
- Conducted a 100 year celebration as a Federal Government Documents Depository.
- Celebrated two milestone anniversaries: the Learning Commons 10th anniversary and the Library’s 100th anniversary.
- Hosted students, alumni, and community members at our Dinner with Friends, Fall Reception, Colloquium on Social Change, Academic Success Open House, and Student Activities Fair.

In the last two years, the Library now provides access to nearly 49,000 online journals, over 300,000 ebooks, and 260 online indexes.

Hector, student, alumni, and community members at our Dinner with Friends.

Kathy and Lorrey J. Bianchi’s appreciation of libraries inspired an all-time high of over 1 million visitors to the Library—doubling the number since opening the Learning Commons in 2005. They have made a commitment to help the Library take its place among the top research libraries in the country. The Library is expected to receive a gift with a multi-million dollar value from the Bianchi’s. The gift will create the Lorrey and Kathleen Bianchi Library Special Collections Fund to provide support for the Special Collections and University Archives Department.

Every day, Special Collections & University Archives grows, thanks to gifts from our donors. From cookbooks to freshman beanies, rare books to scholarly manuscripts, it is our honor to make these treasures available to students and scholars.

Here are a few highlights from the past year:

**JAMES ELLIS THEATRE COLLECTION**

Renowned Mount Holyoke College English Professor James D. Ellis donated his large and important research collection, adding over 7,500 new titles to our already rich holdings for the performing arts. Throughout his career, Ellis collected books, broadsides, posters, and letters pertaining to the English and American stage, 1750-1915.

**Gittings-Lahusen Gay Book Collection**

Kay Tobin Lahusen donated an extraordinary collection of over 1,000 books documenting the history and culture of homosexuality in America. Kay and her life partner, Barbara Gittings, were gay rights pioneers for several decades starting in the 1950s. The collection includes psychology, novels, periodicals, and examples of pulp fiction.

**Solidarity Collection**

Barbara Jakubowska donated her extensive collection of underground literature amassed during her years as a member of the democratic resistance to the Communist regime and the Solidarity movement in Warsaw, Poland from 1977-1989. From early on, Jakubowska recognized the importance of the Solidarity publications and the need to preserve them for future generations.

Lorrey and Kathleen Bianchi Pledge to Special Collections

Kathy and Lorrey J. Bianchi ’69 appreciate libraries. “I can remember going to libraries in elementary school, being absolutely amazed, and thinking I have to read all the books!” recalls Lorrey Bianchi. His wife Kathy’s appreciation of libraries also started early: “In my family, a library visit was considered a normal part of life—you go to the grocery store, you go to the library.” The Bianchi’s have made a commitment to help the Library take its place among the top research libraries in the country. The Library is expected to receive a multi-million dollar gift from the Bianchi’s. The gift will create the Lorrey and Kathleen Bianchi Library Special Collections Fund to endow support for the Special Collections and University Archives Department.

We achieved great things this year.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Welcomed an all-time high of over 1 million visitors to the Library—doubling the number since opening the Learning Commons in 2005.
- Received a record high of over $1.5 million in donations, a total of 7,845 gifts from 6,216 donors in fiscal year 2007.
- Created a comfortable reading room with various areas of 80 popular magazines and newspapers in the Learning Commons.
- Debuted ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst, a digital depository, at the scholarly colloquium “Showcasing Research & Teaching in the 21st Century: A Digital Approach.”
- Launched a partnership with the Boston Library Consortium and Open Content Alliance to digitize millions of books for public use.
- Conducted LibQUAL™, an electronic survey, of all faculty members, graduate students, and 2,000 undergraduates to guide future improvements such as the expansion of the Learning Commons.
- Opened the Faculty Writing Place in the Du Bois Library with the help of the Office of Faculty Development, to provide a quiet, comfortable space for writing.
- Celebrated two milestone anniversaries: the Learning Commons 10th anniversary and the Library’s 100th anniversary.
- Hosted students, alumni, and community members at our Dinner with Friends, Fall Reception, Colloquium on Social Change, Academic Success Open House, and Student Activities Fair.

In the last two years, the Library now provides access to nearly 49,000 online journals, over 300,000 ebooks, and 260 online indexes.