

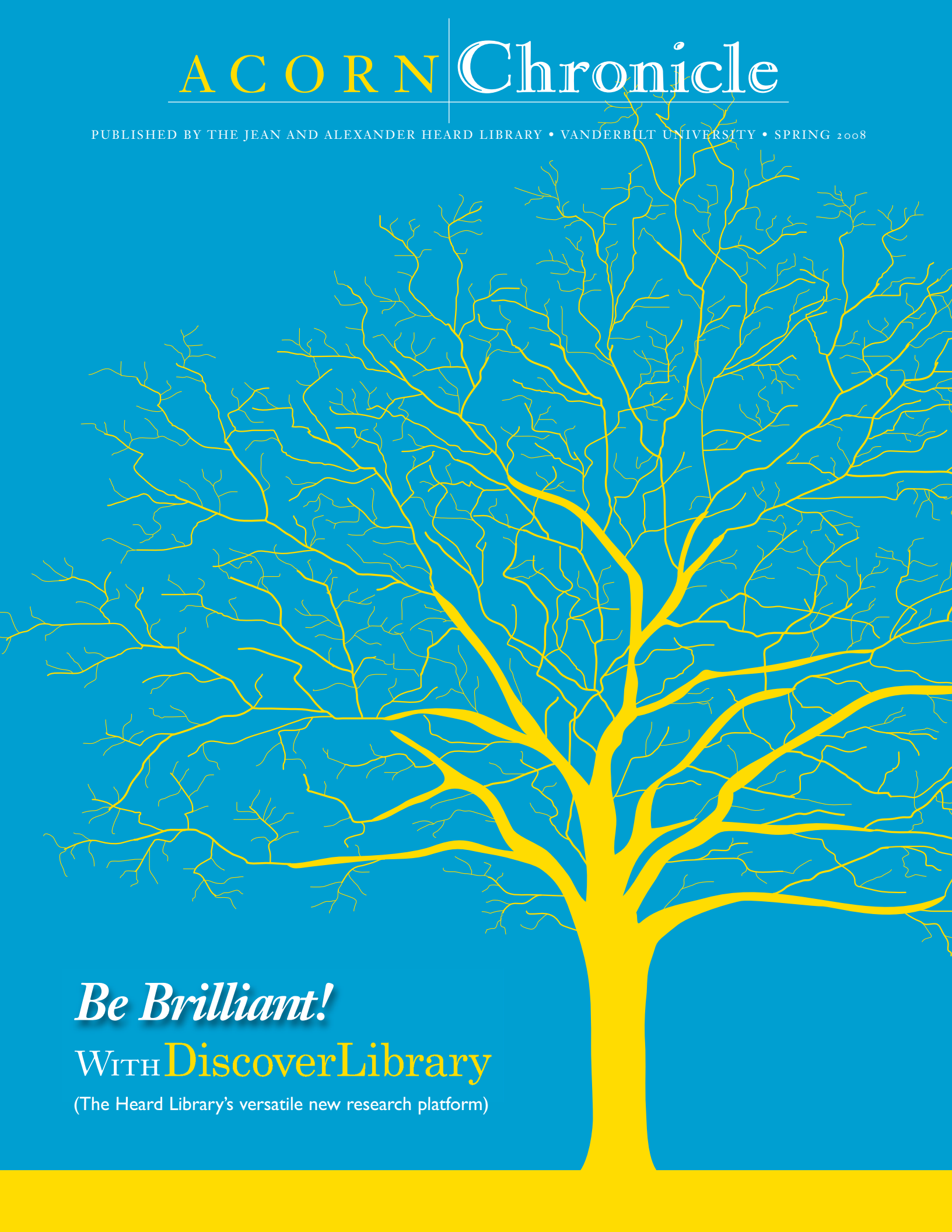
# ACORN | Chronicle

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*Be Brilliant!*

WITH **DiscoverLibrary**

(The Heard Library's versatile new research platform)





Paul M. Gherman  
University Librarian

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Move over, Google. DiscoverLibrary, the Heard Library's new research platform, will enable library users to search multiple resources with one simple query. It is far more versatile and comprehensive than Acorn, the search interface used by the library since 1996.

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Finding the right answer to a specific question in today's infinite ocean of Internet information is the most challenging part of research. Our students rely more and more on Google to find answers to their questions. But Google does not lead you to the high value information available in the Library, nor does it provide seamless access to other resources. So, more than a year ago, we set out with a commercial development partner to create a much more powerful mechanism for our students and faculty. This new tool is called DiscoverLibrary. More than 40 of our staff members worked on specific parts of DiscoverLibrary, either designing how the system will function, or testing specific features. Today's librarians must have new skills to develop computer systems that manipulate information, as well as to deal with the age-old book. Jody Combs, our assistant university librarian for information technology, led the effort and spent countless hours on the phone to Israel, where our commercial partner, Ex Libris, is located.

DiscoverLibrary is in no way a finished product, but even in its first generation is far more powerful than Acorn, the search interface used by the library since 1996. DiscoverLibrary allows one to refine a search in many ways, uses relevance ranking to arrange the results, and includes many resources Acorn never offered. It also aims to provide the shortest route between discovering a resource and getting to it. If the resource is an online full-text article, for example, a single click takes the user to the full-text. Eventually a wide range of information will be searchable via DiscoverLibrary. Video, music and images are instantly retrievable using DiscoverLibrary. All 800,000 news clips from the Vanderbilt Television News Archive are only a click away using DiscoverLibrary. Other unique resources developed at Vanderbilt will be added in the near future.

—PAUL M. GHERMAN

## The Wild Bunch Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Heard Library Book Fund

The Wild Bunch celebrated both their 30th Reunion and the 10th anniversary of the Wild Bunch Book Fund at Reunion Weekend last October. The Wild Bunch was a plucky group of seven future campus leaders who had clicked as friends almost immediately upon arriving on the Vanderbilt campus as freshmen in the fall of 1973.

Thanks to the group's generosity, the endowment has made it possible for the Heard Library to purchase 126 books and to fund an electronic jour-



nal in the field of sociology. Each volume is marked with a special Wild Bunch bookplate, so current and future generations of students will be made aware of the group's legacy.

The Wild Bunch got its name from Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard. They had taken up an offer Chancellor Heard had extended to the entire freshman class during a picnic he hosted at his home at the

beginning of classes—that his door was always open.

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# New Chancellor Zeppos Describes Library's Future to Heard Society

BY LEW HARRIS

Heard Society members received a special treat in the form of an update on the Vanderbilt Library's bright future from Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos just three days after he had been elected to the university's top post by the Board of Trust.

"We didn't know when we set this date that we would have this sort of intersection with rare privilege, but aren't we glad that we believe in libraries and that we got to be here tonight?" said Heard Society President Ann Jenalgie Cook, professor of English, emerita, in opening the March 4 event.

The Heard Society, comprised of donors who give \$1,000 or more annually, also paid special tribute to University Librarian Paul Gherman for his service and innovation while leading the library the past 12 years. Gherman announced last summer that he would retire at the end of the spring semester this year.

Zeppos began his talk by quoting Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard, for whom the Jean and Alexander Heard Library is named.

"Alex Heard used to say that the library really is the heart of the university, and I believe that," Zeppos said. "For Vanderbilt, with its strong tradition of discovery and research and its aspirations to continue to be a leader, it is essential that our library continue to be world class."

Zeppos recalled occasionally doing research in the Library of Congress while he was an attorney for the U.S. Justice Department early in his career and marveling at the beautiful interior and exterior of the building. He also noted that visitors to Yale University often visit its much-heralded Sterling Memorial Library. He would like to see the Vanderbilt Library achieve a similar reputation.

"We have a great library, but at Vanderbilt we need a library that people will say, 'I'm coming to Nashville, and I want to see the Vanderbilt Library,'" said Zeppos, drawing a strong round of applause from the audience. "That will be our aspiration for this library. We need [to build] a new addition, a bigger library for our faculty, students, alumni and the community."

The chancellor said that selecting a new university librar-

ian will be made easier by the manner in which Gherman has transformed the library from a more traditional library to the digital library of the future.

"We are positioned very well because of Paul," he said. "We have riches of candidates who want to be at Vanderbilt and who would then help plan for a new building and weave the library into what the university is—an integrated, intellectual, interdisciplinary, academic community. It's about no



Chancellor Nick Zeppos (right) provides his vision of the library's future to members of the Heard Society. Zeppos spoke at the March 4 event just three days after he had been elected to the university's top post by the Board of Trust.

boundaries to the areas of inquiry in which our students and faculty are interested."

Zeppos said that among the university's next considerations will be how patterns of use for its libraries may change and how to respond to such change. For instance, the shift of first-year students to The Commons on the Peabody campus may alter the balance of use from the Central Library to the much closer Peabody Library as students search for a quiet and focused place to study.

"Like so many of you, I love libraries," Chancellor Zeppos said in his closing remarks. "You have my unyielding support of the library to our mission, and to hiring a great [university] librarian and building a great new library."

# State Historian Still Remembers Influence of *While Time Remains*

BY RAY WADDLE

*Which books matter most in your life? That's the question we asked five lifelong readers in the fall 2007 issue. We wrote about their responses and were pleased with the positive reaction the series elicited. So we decided to continue it in this issue with Tennessee State Historian Walter Durham and Vanderbilt Professor Robert Barsky. Even in the era of i-Pods, blogs, podcasts and satellite radio, a book you can hold in your hand still has the power to influence lives. Yes, books still matter.*

In 1946, Walter Durham was a World War II veteran enrolled at Vanderbilt, a 22-year-old trying to figure out the big dangerous world and his victorious nation's role in it.

That's when a fellow student put a new book into his hands. *While Time Remains*, by journalist Leland Stowe, warned that America needed to face up to its new world responsibilities and was unprepared to do so. The book demonstrated to a young man from Gallatin, Tenn., the power of words to catch a political vision for the times.

Now 83, Durham today is official Tennessee State Historian, a man who has read countless books and written 18 himself, but Stowe's work lingers in his mind with fresh force after six decades.

"It gave this country boy something of a world view—the book put it all together," Durham recalls.

"The war was behind us and we were the most powerful nation on earth. We had the atom bomb and were regarded favorably by our allies. Would we share power judiciously? Would we face our internal problems? Would we wake up to the fact that with great power came great responsibilities?"

Though Hitler and Japan were defeated, fearful uncertainty remained. The Cold War standoff with Stalin's Soviet Union suddenly defined every geopolitical horizon.

Stowe (1899-1994) was a war correspondent who worried that the nation took little interest in the history of other cultures or why some nations might find Soviet communism attractive. He argued that we needed to make democracy as compelling as possible by improving race relations at home (segregation still reigned in the South), strengthening our economy at all levels, and cooperating with nations abroad in matters of mutual interest.

"We were sitting on top of the world, but we needed to take care of business," says Durham, who has donated his papers to the Special Collections Department of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

Some of Stowe's criticisms haunt today's war effort, Durham notes. "American arrogance was much in evidence when we invaded Iraq against the advice of the United Nations and all of our allies except Great Britain."

Part of the appeal of *While Time Remains* for Durham was Stowe himself, a well-known newspaper correspondent. Durham had dreams of being a political writer too, and he had followed Stowe's far-flung dispatches from the dramatic world stage.

Durham graduated from Vanderbilt (BA,'48; MA,'53) with



Walter Durham holds a copy of *While Time Remains*, the book that most influenced his life. Durham, who has written 18 books, is the Tennessee State Historian and has donated his papers to the Special Collections Department of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

both degrees in political science, but the need for steady work to provide for family led him into a successful business career. Only after the late 1960s did he pursue writing earnestly. He became an independent scholar, focusing on Tennessee history. He was named state historian in 2002, a position appointed by the governor.

*While Time Remains* is still lodged in the stacks of his own memory, a book that made forceful arguments, global in scope, at a pivotal time in world history and in the life of a young veteran on Vanderbilt's campus.

# Professor Barsky Influenced by Lord Byron and Poem *Don Juan*

BY RAY WADDLE

Robert Barsky has made a career of writing about intellectual renegades—people who live by provocative ideas and force the world to take note.

Barsky is something of a renegade himself—a Vanderbilt professor who stretches across departments, disciplines, even continents (professor of English, professor of French and Italian, editor of *AmeriQuests*, Director of Graduate Studies, professor-in-residence of Vanderbilt-in-France), bridging the ivory tower and the politics of social change.

He discourses about his heroes with zest. One of them is Noam Chomsky, the bespectacled linguist who is also one of the most influential left-dissident intellectuals in the world today. Barsky has written a Chomsky biography, *Noam Chomsky: A Life of Dissent* (MIT Press, 1997), and a new book, *The Chomsky Effect: A Radical Works Beyond the Ivory Tower* (MIT Press, 2007).

But Barsky credits his entry onto the road of ideas and action to a singular fellow traveler—a club-footed 19th century English lord who swaggered into the world's imagination on the strength of his poetic wit, reckless charisma and political daring.

## Robert Barsky, Meet Lord Byron.

"As an undergrad (at Brandeis), I had studied poetry—learned symbolism, artifice, the secret language of poetry, how to slow down and read it," Barsky recalls.

"But then you encounter a guy like Byron, who uses artifice yet also steps out of it, giving us a man of action and letters. His writing was overtly sexual and autobiographical. He turned this wild life into art, not in a quiet way but in an aggressive, powerful way."

For Barsky, one book summarizes Byron's personality and achievement: his vast, satiric poem, *Don Juan*.

In the mid-1980s, the Montreal-born Barsky was 22, wandering around Europe after college as a bartender and extreme skier when he stepped into a Trieste, Italy, bookshop and bought a volume of Byron's works, the only book there in English.

The Byronic voice spoke to him immediately. The Romantic poet par excellence—the writer who fled England and later spent his own wealth to raise an army for Greek independence before dying in 1824 at the age of 36—became Barsky's traveling companion across time. Byron remains a political hero in Italy and Greece today.

Byron's *Don Juan* is one of the longest poems in the language, taking the ruthless ladies' man of legend and turning

him into a complicated, likable character who is as much the amorous victim as victimizer.

"I loved the gustiness of it," Barsky says. "He changed my view of things. Ever since, I've made a life of writing about people who are similarly fearless."

Barsky had planned on law school, but Byron inspired him to switch to literature. In graduate school at McGill Uni-



Professor Robert Barsky sits astride his silver and purple Italian Moto Guzzi Brevia ie 750 motorcycle while holding a copy of Lord Byron's vast, satiric poem, *Don Juan*.

versity in Montreal, Barsky managed to combine literary studies with a passion for human rights and social justice.

"I decided I'd reimburse Byron for the nights he stayed with me. He encouraged me to continue in literature."

Ever since, Robert Barsky has honored irreverent public intellectuals who, in an age of fear and self-censorship, speak out defiantly for difficult political truths.

# Transforming the Library: The Internet and the Flow of Information

BY PAUL GHERMAN, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

*(Editor's note: University Librarian Paul Gherman announced a year ago that he would retire at the conclusion of this academic year. Gherman engineered the transition of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library from a more traditional university library to a digital library of the future. Highly respected by his peers, he served as president of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries from 1999–2001. Gherman was also named the 2005 recipient of the American Library Association's Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award as the academic librarian who has made the most significant contributions in the area of library automation and management. We asked Gherman to reflect back on his Vanderbilt tenure, which began in 1996, and provide a retrospective of the Heard Library's accomplishments over the last decade.)*



*While the Jean and Alexander Heard Library holds more than three million volumes, many of its new services are digital via the Internet.*

It once was that a book or journal was printed, the words affixed to the page, and there they stayed for sometimes hundreds of years waiting for the reader to discover them. Books and journals were added to the Heard Library's collection year by year and placed on the shelf for generations of Vanderbilt students and scholars to use. But in the last decade this has changed; information is no longer static. Now there is a constant flow of information that enriches, overwhelms, confounds and challenges us. It is the Internet in all its power, expanse and rapid evolution. No one really controls it, and it evolves at lightning speed as each bright and creative individual adds his or her contribution. The Internet has changed all our lives to some degree or other; it has created unimagined wealth, defeated established companies and livelihoods, and challenged the underpinnings of how we learn and teach, explore and discover.

The library, as an organization charged with accumulating, preserving and making accessible information to our community, is buffeted by the evolving Internet and our users' changing behavior. Our strategy has been to stay attuned at all times, listen carefully, modify our approach, and step forward boldly, day after day. Surviving and remaining relevant to the needs of

our users has been paramount and to do so we have changed—changed rapidly, often profoundly, painfully at times, and with excitement and sometimes trepidation. But we have changed; so that today the Vanderbilt Library is a far different organization than it was at my arrival in 1996. This change has come about by the hard work, creative thinking, cooperation, determination and good will of a very talented library staff which daily moves itself outside its comfort zone to assure our survival and relevance to the Vanderbilt academic community.

## From Print to Digital

In 1996 the library subscribed to fewer than 25 electronic journal subscriptions, held no electronic books, and offered access to digital databases on individual computers housed in the reference room. Today our electronic subscriptions exceed 32,000. More than 375,000 electronic books are immediately accessible from our catalog, and hundreds of electronic databases are available via the Internet. Our students and faculty have continuous access to an ever-expanding universe of information as we build the infrastructure to make discovery and

access ever more seamless. Our budget expenditures reflect this change. We have gone from spending less than 20 percent of our materials budget on electronic information in 1996 to almost 60 percent today.

Our librarians spend countless hours scouring the Internet for relevant Web sites to enhance our faculty's research and our students' learning experiences. The structure of our Web pages and the functioning of our search engines are all designed, crafted and discussed repeatedly as new resources are discovered and added to the information environment we are creating. More

## DiscoverLibrary

*The new logo for DiscoverLibrary*

than 44 staff members have been engaged for the past 18 months in producing our latest offering, DiscoverLibrary, for our users this spring. DiscoverLibrary now brings together many different information resources from books, journals, images, spoken word, music and video. A search on former President Ronald Reagan can yield books, articles and even news clips drawn from the Vanderbilt Television News Archive.

Google has had a major impact on how the library is perceived. Although the sophisticated user understands that Google only leads to the world's free information, a lot of our undergraduates simply use Google to do the research for many of their assignments. Increasingly, it has become important for librarians to educate our users about finding high-quality, reliable information on the Web. The library spends millions of dollars providing scholarly information for our students and faculty. But many times Google will not lead them to these resources. Our students must first visit the library Web sites to be connected to these riches. Drawing the students to our Web sites is a major challenge. DiscoverLibrary is designed to be embedded into other Web sites students frequent to lure them to us. But it is still not enough.

## Teaching the Path

Today the information universe is far larger and much more fluid: hundreds of indices exist; any library catalog is accessible via the Internet; information is accessible far sooner than the indices can capture the information; Google and WorldCat bring access to information that may not even exist in print or be part of library collections; music, images, video, data sets and geospatial data all comprise the new universe of information beyond books and journals; parts of books are searchable and accessible. Therefore the challenge of researching a topic is far more complex and can be infinitely expansive. To meet this challenge, Vanderbilt librarians engage numerous instructional methods to help our

students and some faculty master the new information landscape and gain life-long skills to succeed in the information society.

For academic libraries, the focus of library instruction over the past decade has centered on information literacy, which encompasses a student's ability to determine what information is needed and how much to use, to understand how to search for and access that information, to evaluate the quality of the information found, and to incorporate it effectively into his or her writing or other coursework. To that end, the Association of College and Research Libraries approved standards for incorporating information literacy on college and university campuses. Now more than ever, librarians are collaborating with faculty to support student learning. At Vanderbilt, library instruction is being integrated into the classroom at a variety of different levels. The library has been part of the university's common first year orientation program for undergraduates, which includes an introductory library and research component to build on as they continue their education. This in part has contributed to a 50 percent increase in the number of formal instruction sessions offered by the library, with the number of participants in these sessions more than doubling. At the same time, our library staff is exploring new ways of



*Leslie Foutch, a librarian at Peabody Library, shows students how to access the online catalog. Library instruction is being integrated into the classroom at a variety of levels, including the university's first year orientation program for undergraduates.*

reaching students, such as visiting classes on a regular basis as an "embedded librarian" and leveraging new technologies for creating online tutorials to teach specific skills to students whether they are sitting at a computer in one of our libraries or in a café in Paris while studying abroad. We strive to provide guidance to our students when and where they need it.

## Accessing Collections

The mandate of libraries is to preserve the collective memory of our society. Each library acquires and saves that information it deems most important to its users. Research libraries like Vanderbilt cast the widest net, hoping to supply most of the needed information immediately to their faculty and students. But as the world's information explodes exponentially, the library cannot hope to meet our users' needs singlehandedly. Therefore our strategy has been to work closely with other libraries to share our materials freely and quickly in order to offer a far richer collection to all of our users. A decade ago, we had very few cooperative agreements in place to expand our offerings, to more wisely spend the collection money we had.

The Nashville Area Library Alliance (NALA) was established in 1997 to enhance access to books for academic libraries within a 50 mile radius of Nashville. The goal was to create a catalog called Athena with all the holdings of the participating regional libraries that could be searched at one time and to have courier service to deliver books quickly between those libraries. The underlying belief was "Why recall a book from one Vanderbilt student to give to another, when the same book might be sitting on the shelf at Belmont University?" Ten years later, thousands of books move around Nashville between our libraries, meeting our students' needs without us ever buying multiple copies to meet high demand. The Heard Library has about three million volumes, and the other participating smaller libraries in Nashville have another three million on their shelves. NALA gives us all a six-million volume collection on which to draw. The computer system that makes Athena possible is operated by Vanderbilt's library, a significant contribution to learning in Nashville.

The same model is used to join 14 research libraries in the Southeast in a similar project called "Kudzu" which provides access to more than 14 million volumes for our students and faculty. The University of Tennessee at Knoxville and the University of Kentucky are our two closest partners of the 14. Each year thousands of books are shared among our three libraries. But with these partners we have taken the concept further: our bibliographers also work together to coordinate the purchase of books so that all three institutions do not spend our funds buying the same material. Many of our bibliographers have met with their counterparts to iron out agreements for cooperative purchases. Each of us, for instance, purchases books by different German authors so we do not duplicate materials by these authors, thus offering a wider array of books without spending any additional money. We have been a leader in what is now known as "cooperative collection development." The idea of libraries coordinating their purchases was unheard of just a decade ago.

## Preserving Cultural Heritage

Libraries have always preserved the important documents, books and manuscripts of our society. The papers of famous authors, rare books and documents from governments and politicians

form the basis of the scholarship of our faculty and graduate students. The historian's laboratory is the library. But in the digital age, far more cultural heritage is being generated in unexpected places. Libraries are saving parts of our culture that until recently were being lost.

The Vanderbilt Television News Archive is just one of those unimaginable efforts that, although begun in 1968, has only recently become a world renowned resource for scholars and students. The archive records the nightly television news each day, creating the world's largest repository of news events available to the public. In recent years the collection has been digitized and made available to more than 150 academic institutional subscribers in the United States and Canada. By allowing Google to harvest our archive database, use by individuals has grown many fold. The Vanderbilt Television News Archive has been the basis of numerous scholarly articles and it supports the research of thousands of individuals each year.

Four years ago our then music librarian Dennis Clark, along with Professor Greg Barz of Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music, took recording equipment to Uganda to capture indigenous folk music that had never been recorded. Thousands of these



The performance group, "Uganda Heritage Roots," comprised of street children from Kampala, Uganda, obviously is enjoying this native dance. Four years ago, then music librarian Dennis Clark, along with Professor Greg Barz of Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music, took recording equipment to Uganda to capture indigenous folk music that had never been recorded. Thousands of these songs are now mounted on the Wilson Music Library's Global Music Archive for the world to enjoy.

songs have now been sent to the Wilson Music Library for cataloging and then mounted on the Web for the world to enjoy as part of the "Global Music Archive". The Ugandan music is searchable by artist, instrument, and song title. This rich collection should become an important resource for the study of African culture and music for generations to come. There are plans to add indigenous music from other areas of the world as the archive grows.

In the summer of 2005, Professor Jane Landers of the history department and her graduate students, along with the Heard Library's Hispanic bibliographer, traveled to Cuba and Brazil to



Professor of History  
Jane Landers

photograph very early church records that document the migration of African slaves through those countries on the Diaspora that would eventually lead them to this country and Canada. More than 60,000 pages were digitally photographed and placed into a computer database called "Ecclesiastical Sources for Slave Societies" that is searchable via region and by church name. These records will help scholars trace and document this important historical event. The original books are in such a bad state of deterioration that soon

they will simply be lost forever because of climate, bug infestation and other damage. With the library's help, however, the information from these cultural documents has been saved.

The Heard Library also hosts a Web site called Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives, a comprehensive Web site for the study of the ancient Near East. ETANA is a cooperative venture between scholarly societies, libraries and directors of excavations in the Near East. More than 350 rare texts about the ancient Near East, many available in only a few libraries, are available digitally on the ETANA site free to scholars worldwide. Another segment of ETANA, called Abzu, is a database of more than 10,000 Internet sites where specific information about the ancient Near East exists. But the most revolutionary part of ETANA is DigBase, where the raw results of excavations are held. DigBase allows scholars to study the exact contents of each basket of material that was dug from a specific site. For the first time, researchers will have immediate access to this data. Additionally, this data will be preserved as archaeologists retire and their life's work needs a secure home. In the digital age, preserving cultural heritage cannot be left to chance. A conscious effort must be made to refresh and transition data from older systems to new ones as technology advances.

## Place and Space

Libraries are special places with a unique purpose which have represented a place of learning and contemplation to society for hundreds of years. Not only do libraries house books, but they

provide an atmosphere where individuals can engage with the most important ideas and thoughts held for us in books. It is no wonder that Americans flock to bookstores like Barnes and Noble that have transformed themselves from a retail atmosphere to that of a library. Libraries are inviting places; even as children we remember them as a place of refuge and excitement. Although much of our information is now in digital form, a great deal remains in print both new and old. The Heard Library still acquires more than 40,000 volumes in print each year, and some of the three million volumes on our shelves have been held since the university's founding.

Six of the libraries on campus have been remodeled and upgraded during the past decade, leaving only the Central Library to be fully remodeled and expanded. The Eskin Biomedical Library opened in 1994. The library at the Blair School of Music is twice the size it was a decade ago. Having undergone a major remodeling in 2003, it is entirely new with many more features to allow students access to music, including listening stations, study carrels and additional shelving areas.



Blair School students can complete listening assignments in the comfort of their own dorm rooms via OAK (Online Access to Knowledge). The Heard Library is closely aligned with this effort on a variety of levels. Previous Blair students had to complete listening assignments at the Blair Library.

During the summer and fall semester of 2006 the first and second floors of the General Library Building were completely renovated and expanded to house the Divinity Library. The Divinity Library now occupies space previously used for the Central Reserve Room and oversized stacks on the second floor. The renovation demolished a number of walls dividing up the main entry area and created a much more open and unified space. The architects added new seminar rooms and enhanced many spaces with wooden finishes to complement the historic wooden paneling in the main reading rooms. New flooring and wooden end panels for the stacks provided a dramatic upgrade to the quality of the space.

During the expansion of the Law School, the Law Library was completely remodeled in 2004; no additional space, however, was given to the library. Instead it was decided to rely heavily on sending books to the Heard Library Annex where low-use material is housed. The library was completely remodeled

with enhanced lighting, new furnishings, new carpet, and attractive wooden paneling. The circulation patterns of the building were also modified to draw more students into the library.

The Peabody Library creates an energizing environment for a building preparing to celebrate its 90th birthday in 2009. Designed by New York architect Edward Tilton as a classical Carnegie library, the building opened to great fanfare in the summer of 1919.

Renovation work began in 2001 with a cosmetic facelift for the Grand Reading Room and a new service desk that combines reference and circulation tasks. In 2003, the old cloakroom was converted into a café with adjoining terrace and sculpture garden. On many days, every seat is filled with students and faculty who use the space to meet and visit informally. Three individual study rooms, two group study rooms, and a large comfortable reading room with a fireplace were also added to the first floor. A learning commons was added to the building in 2004, providing a much needed resource for study and instruction. Finally, the library's skylight, fondly remembered by many alumni, was renovated and now has become a focus of the library's rotunda. Plans are being made to move back into the ground floor of the library, which has been occupied by other university departments for a number of years.

The Management Library public spaces were completely renovated during the summer of 2006. A number of group study rooms were added in space freed up by transferring the book collection to movable compact shelving. A new service desk offers all services in a combined service point. A smaller refurbishing project in 2001 added and replaced a significant amount of older furniture, enhancing the public spaces.

The Science and Engineering Library, which is open all night, was subject to a more limited refurbishing than the other libraries in 2004 and again in 2007. Yet it is inviting, with excellent lighting from windows, and modern furniture adapted to the new technology. Since the Science and Engineering collection has mostly shifted to digital, a significant number of stacks were removed to make way for open seating and computing. This library and Peabody led the way in combining the circulation and reference desks, allowing for greater efficiency of staffing and improved service.

Libraries consume space by their very nature. As the Heard Library purchases millions of dollars of books and journals each year, more shelf space is needed to store them. Indeed the conversion to digital has decreased the physical growth rate of the collection, but at least 40,000 new volumes are added to the collection annually. Some years ago, the decision was made to limit the size of the book collection on campus and to remove lesser used and mostly older books off campus to a storage facility, the Annex. Courier service retrieves needed volumes back to campus twice daily, and in many cases scanning and faxes can send the needed journal article directly to a faculty member's office. For all collections, books are now actually delivered directly to faculty offices as a new service meant to make access to the

library even easier for Vanderbilt's faculty.

Our Annex is about full, so a second building has been purchased and is undergoing remodeling to accommodate the long-term storage and preservation of documents and books. This new facility will give the Heard Library system another 20 years' growth space, and we expect that the continued shift to digital may extend the life of the new facility many years beyond that.

**Future**

We hope the future promises an even more vital Heard Library system, whose organization is ever more attuned to the digital age. Our strategic plan of three years ago envisioned a library that might be better called the "Center for Academic Life" to house all the various academic support units that help our students and faculty be successful scholars, learners and teachers. Drawing together disparate units on campus like the Center for Teaching or the University Press could aid them in reaching a wider audience than they can now.

The future will certainly be increasingly digital, and computers and the Internet will become increasingly powerful allies for our faculty and students in helping them in every aspect of their work at Vanderbilt. The Heard Library's role can also be expansive, going beyond being the passive purveyor of information, to become an active participant in the learning process, working with faculty to archive and manipulate their data, and joining with students in the learning process as they gain new survival skills for the digital age.



**Television News Archive and NBC Universal Partner to Deliver Streaming Video Access**

The Vanderbilt Television News Archive and NBC Universal have formed a new partnership to provide streaming video access for students, researchers and faculty at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. This multi-year agreement allows the Vanderbilt Television News Archive to deliver 8,800 hours of NBC news broadcasts in its collection of streaming video to the colleges and universities that subscribe to its online service. The online video will bring sight and sound to students and faculty as they study major events that transpired over the last four decades in American history, culture and politics.

**Combs Promoted to Assistant University Librarian for Information Technology**

Jody Combs was promoted to assistant university librarian for information technology in early January. With the new role, he has assumed full responsibility for all information technology activities of the library and will lead technology planning in the future. Combs



Jody Combs

has provided outstanding management and leadership of the library's information technology efforts. His leadership in the development of Primo, a next generation search, discovery, and delivery platform now called DiscoverLibrary, was exemplary. Combs' new responsibilities also include oversight of the Vanderbilt Television News Archive.

**Walker to Serve as Director of the Peabody Library**

Paul Gherman and Peabody Dean Camilla Benbow announced last fall that Celia Walker has agreed to serve as director of the Peabody Library until the summer of 2010. She previously served as acting director of the Peabody Library and director of communication and library advancement.

**Romans Receives American Library Association Award**

Larry Romans has been honored as the 2008 recipient of the James Bennett Childs Award presented by the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table. The award is given annually in tribute for "lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship." Romans will receive the award and plaque during a reception at the ALA annual conference in June.

**WILD BUNCH**

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The group quickly made an appointment to have lunch with the chancellor. At one point during the meal, after hearing their various leadership agendas and their busy social calendars, he noted in admiration, "My, you are a wild bunch." Thus the group was named and a longtime association with Chancellor Heard was born.

"We were all pretty entertaining and I think the chancellor was just a little taken aback that we weren't this quiet freshman group sitting there not saying anything," remembers Cathy Madigan, BSN'77. "In fact, I'm not sure he had a chance to get a word in edgewise."

The group's most infamous caper came on April Fools' Day of their senior year



The Wild Bunch at a Reunion Weekend brunch in October 2007, hosted by Marty Baither Conrad, BSN'78, and Jim Conrad. David Blum, BA'77, is at the left end of the second row (in black and gold striped shirt.)

when, with the help of several staff members, they entered Kirkland Hall brandishing squirt guns and "kidnapped" Chancellor Heard and several other senior administrators. The "captives" were taken to the farm of alumni Battle Rodes (BA'24) and his wife, Sara (BA'22), where they feasted on champagne and hot dogs and were initiated into the Wild Bunch.

"We wouldn't pull that off today, for sure," says David Blum, BA'77. "Walking into Kirkland Hall now in commando clothes and squirt guns definitely would not cut it."

At the group's 20th Reunion in 1997, they decided to honor the chancellor emeritus and his wife by creating an endowment to purchase books for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. "The Heards were very pleased and touched," says Blum.



**“It makes me feel good to share some of what I’ve been given.”**

**—Jean Acker Wright, BA’49, MALS’51**

Vanderbilt has been an important part of Jean Wright’s life since she was five years old. That’s when her father, Sidney Acker, joined the faculty as a professor of mechanical engineering. In keeping with that tradition, Jean has worked off and on at the Library since 1946.

Because Vanderbilt means so much to her, Jean has made provisions in her will to help future students with scholarship support. You can support the Jean and Alexander Heard Library in the same tax-effective manner through various types of planned gifts, including:

- A bequest
- A Life Income Gift (support the Library and receive income in return)
- Naming the Library as beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy
- A gift of real estate

If you’d like to join Jean in supporting Vanderbilt through a planned gift, please contact Katie Jackson in Vanderbilt’s Office of Planned Giving at 615/343-3858 or 888/758-1999 or [katie.jackson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:katie.jackson@vanderbilt.edu).

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