

Executive Summary

The following four themes broadly describe how far the Libraries have come in the past several years, and how we have successfully mapped our initiatives to the BC Strategic Initiatives. These are further articulated in the following pages of this document.

- Global Outreach in the Digital World
- Scholarly Content
- Student Formation and Engagement
- Collaboration and Partnerships at BC

The Libraries have undergone transformational changes that both continue and enrich our established roles. Moving beyond traditional library functions, we have become an institution that leads, innovates regularly, anticipates and adapts to change, communicates and collaborates widely and maintains a strong appreciation for the Boston College tradition. This has been accomplished with the same level of staffing, along with the much-appreciated support for space projects and collections.

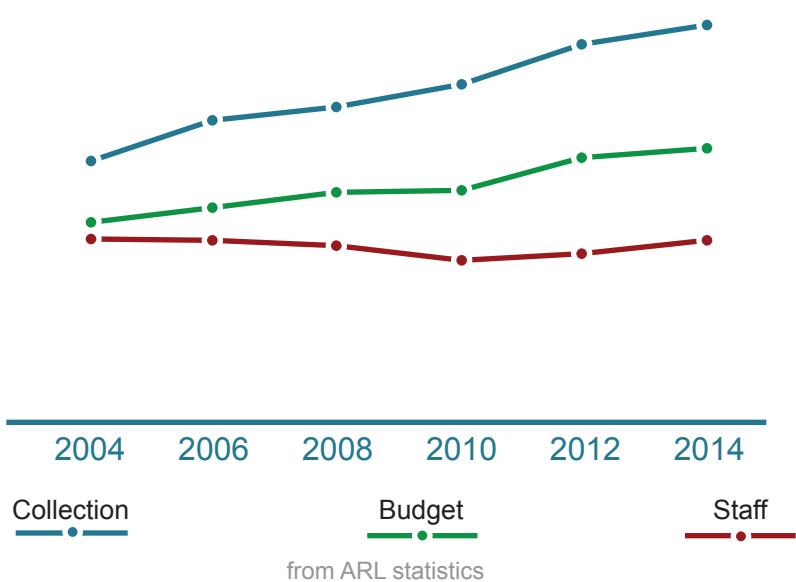
In recent years we have focused on four important initiatives: 1) digital scholarship, 2) building a digital library with local and global content, 3) scholarly communications and e-scholarship, and 4) accelerating processing of special collections to increase access for teaching and learning.

Additionally, during this time the BC Libraries co-developed the first ALMA integrated library system in the world, now widely used; created a new website and renovated spaces based on input from students and faculty; participated fully in the Sesquicentennial Celebration; collaborated with faculty departments and vice-president areas; and broadened the services and hours in our locations.

The BC Libraries staff remains focused on the highest level of service, committed to continued improvement and dedicated to listening to and collaborating with all our constituencies.

Executive Summary

Responsible Growth



55%
increase in collection size

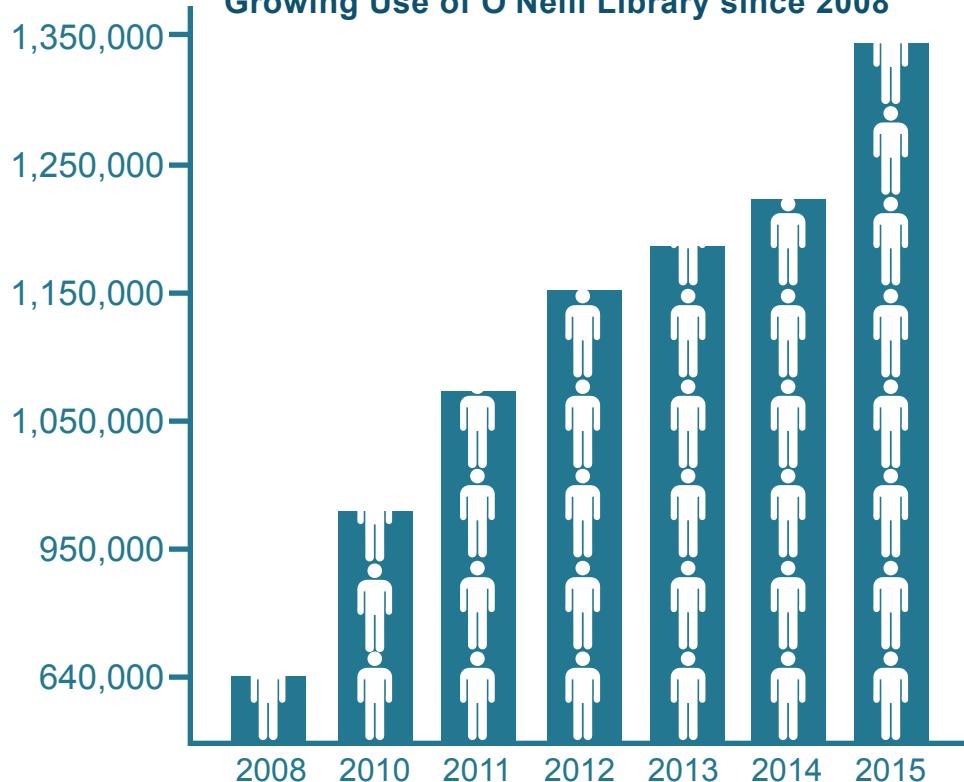
0%
increase in library staff

Collection grew from
1.8 to 2.9 million
volumes

Expenditure increased
from
\$14.1 to \$19.7 million

Staffing remained
the same

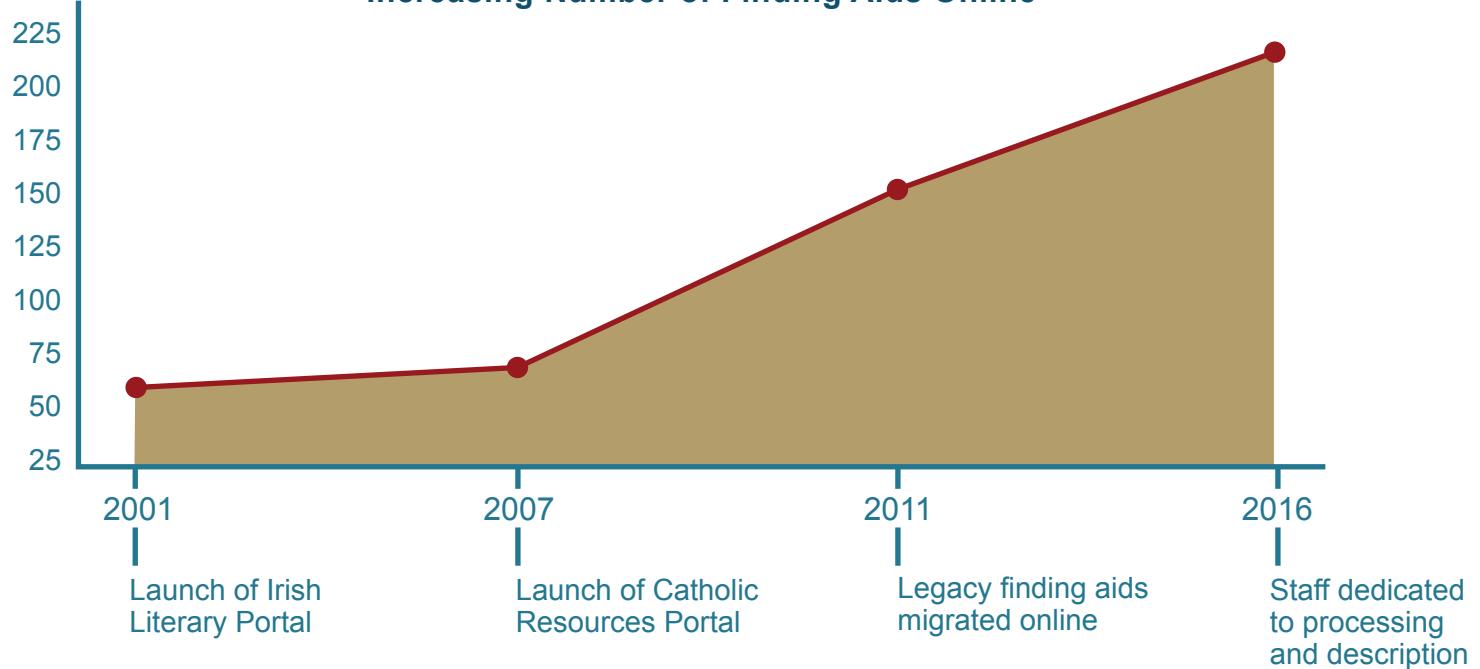
Growing Use of O'Neill Library since 2008



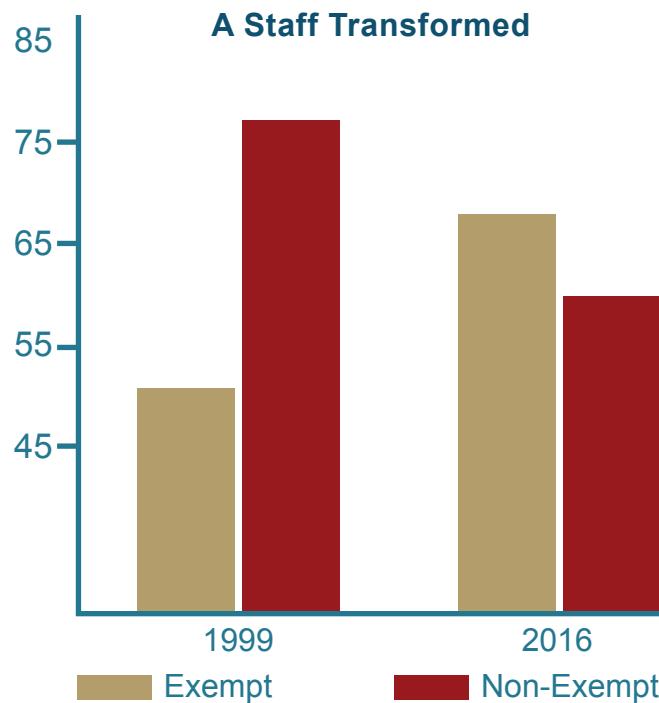
110%
increase in
Library usage

Executive Summary

Increasing Number of Finding Aids Online



A Staff Transformed



Global Outreach in a Digital World

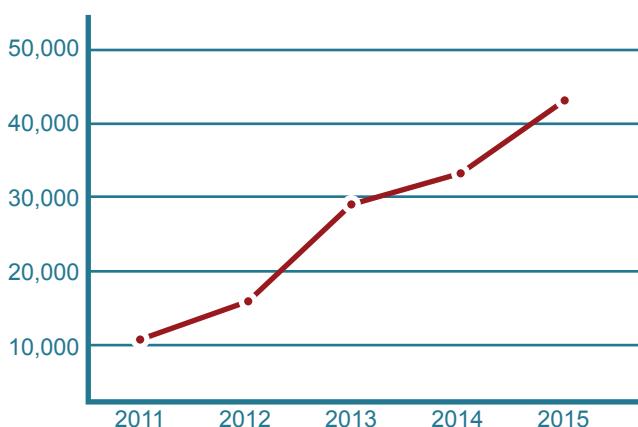
In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, scholars expect more of library services: instant, ubiquitous access to digital resources; support for rapidly shifting scholarly publishing models; and partnerships that develop new modes of teaching and learning. The Boston College Libraries achieve excellence in this ever-changing academic environment by continually transforming.

Some examples of our extensive reach and impact:

- A robust digitization program has developed over the last eight years. Scanning projects such as Catholic newspapers, Woodstock Letters, pre-Vatican II Catholic pamphlets, and Boston College publications highlight our unique resources and communicate Boston College identity, giving researchers around the globe access to our treasures and exposure to our mission.
- New technologies enhance discoverability for all users wherever they are. We have led the University in developing state-of-the-art online spaces accessible from all devices, and new systems are consistently evaluated for better performance and usability. These materials have been used over 195,000 times by scholars from over 207 countries.
- Through exponential growth in electronic resource acquisition, we meet researcher expectations for online and global access to resources. Open access publications are hosted and archived by the Libraries, and the suite of electronic journals and databases is ever-increasing.
- Digital Scholarship staff provide faculty and students with the technologies, expertise, and infrastructure needed to successfully engage with new modes of research and pursue new lines of academic enquiry. For example, the current Jesuit grammars project will examine 18th century texts in ways that allow wide manipulation and reuse, increasing the impact of that research, and a new music portal for the folk tune collection of Séamus Connolly will be online in 2016.



Digitized Materials



302%
Increase in digitized collection
items online since 2011

Scholarly Content

The Boston College Libraries serve as stewards of scholarly content across libraries and online, regardless of format, from incunables to e-books, Mesopotamian tablet to email. We are vigilant in caring for our collections -- protecting them from crumbling, fading, or corrupting -- to ensure that they will be available to future scholars. Building strong scholarly and documentary collections and maintaining them for perpetual use is central to our mission as a research library.

Building the Libraries

We review and acquire, through purchase, licensing, or gift, print monographs and serials; e-journals and e-books; subscription databases and datasets; open access content; and special collections. Acquisition decisions impact the future research and the documentary record.



Creating and Exposing Content

We support the work of our faculty and students throughout the research lifecycle through our digitization and publication efforts. Library metadata and content is shared across institutions and platforms in partnerships including HathiTrust, Internet Archive, and Digital Public Library of America, which increases awareness of our work and collections.

Using What We Have

We expose students, faculty, and other researchers to a tangible experience of Library resources through classroom exploration, personal research, and curated exhibits. Digitization contributes to the global digital landscape and serves as a preservation tool.



Keeping Collections Safe

We are active caretakers of all our content. Physical collections are protected through rehousing, conservation treatments, environmental management, reformatting, and migration, while digital content benefits from internal and international preservation initiatives.

Collaborating across digital portals

Digital Commonwealth

4,977

Internet Archive

4,093

HathiTrust

3,558

for a total of **12,628** items

Student Formation and Engagement

Boston College's commitment to student formation and engagement makes us unique among liberal arts colleges and universities. The Boston College Libraries support this core tenet of the University's mission by engaging and supporting students in a myriad of ways.

Supporting Students

Recognizing the high expectations of our students, we offer services in anticipation of student needs. Whether it is our integrated services points, personal librarian program, enhanced delivery of electronic and physical materials, or the increasing number of technologies that students can borrow, students think of the libraries as the place to go for their information needs.

Empowering Students

When students discover the Libraries during their First Year Writing Seminar, analyze Japanese prints in the Burns Library classroom, learn about text encoding tools to make Joyce novels digitally available, or consult with a subject specialist on a specific area of research, they progress on their journey to become independent, sophisticated researchers who think about information in a global environment.

Mentoring Students

Whether student employees are blogging about special collections, taking on supervisory roles, or creating videos to promote and educate others about the Boston College Libraries, all student employees work alongside staff committed to providing them with a meaningful employment experience.

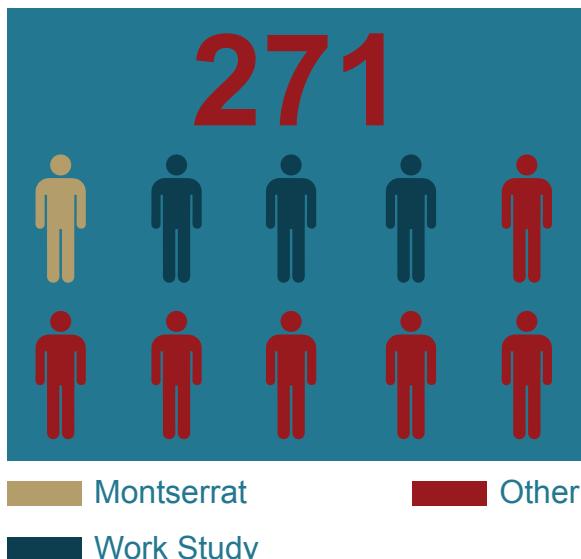
Boston College Libraries - Students' Home Away from Home

Within any of the Boston College Libraries, there is a steady hum of activity. Students are working collaboratively, browsing exhibits, studying independently, and interacting with library staff. In consultation with student advisory groups, the Libraries have extended hours and improved teaching, group, and individual study spaces. Students settle in for the semester and call the Boston College Libraries their home away from home.

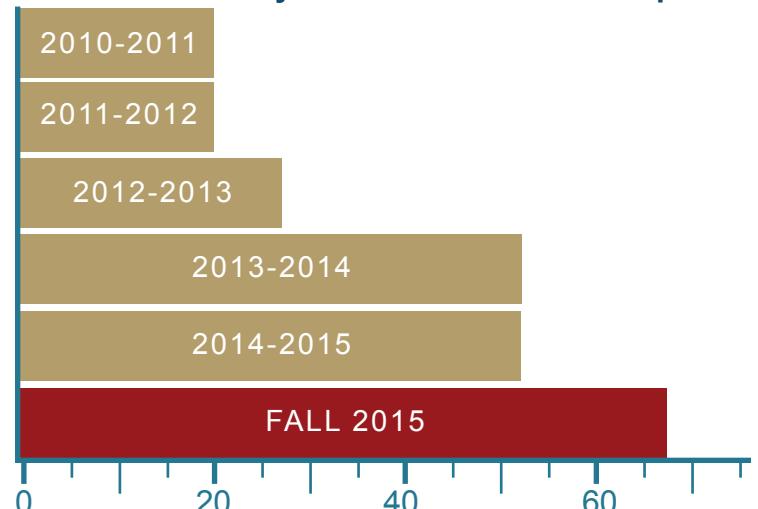


Supporting Students

Students employed by the Libraries



Burns Library Presentations to Groups



Resources Delivered to Researchers

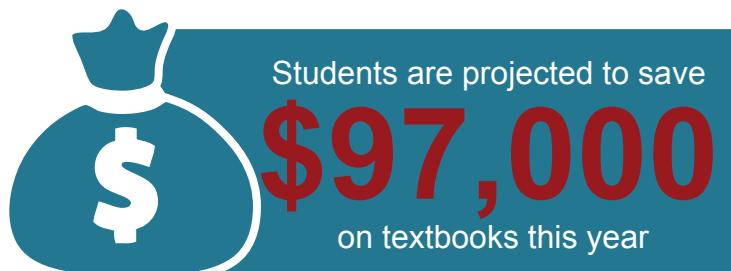


Collaborating and Partnering with the BC Community

The evolving landscape of higher education demands collaboration between different campus entities. These partnerships enable the Boston College Libraries to be fully engaged with the University community and to achieve the educational mission of Boston College.

Some examples of partnerships with Departments, Institutes, and Programs:

- The Libraries have formed a strong partnership with the Center for Teaching Excellence in support of innovative practices in teaching and learning. Through this partnership, we have collaborated on events and workshops in support of digital scholarship and integration of technology services across campus in a triumvirate with ITS, including supporting the Renewed Core and investigating web hosting options.
- Library staff are increasingly integrated in faculty instruction, including the History Department's "Making History Public," a recurring class that involves in depth use of special collections to create a student-curated exhibit open to the public in Stokes Hall.
- In support of building an inclusive environment, the Libraries actively collaborate with the Montserrat Task Force as well as Accessibility @ BC to ensure that everyone is able to avail themselves of library services, collections, and facilities. A recent example includes taking a leadership role in the Affordable Course Materials initiative.



- We are partners on digital initiatives across campus. We have worked with the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies to digitize collections and plan a new research portal and the McMullen Museum to create a digital exhibit component.
- We collaborate closely with the Office for Sponsored Programs, including developing a customized instance of a Data Management Planning Tool to support faculty seeking grant funding and assisting with other faculty research and teaching efforts.
- We have made it possible to showcase and preserve Boston College's scholarly output through eScholarship@BC, the institutional repository, offer new platforms to host large research datasets, and implement the latest tools to disseminate faculty academic publications and professional activity.

eScholarship@BC repository content by contributor			
Faculty	Boston College Research Centers	Graduate	Undergraduates
1,786	1,264	1,210	503
for a total of	4,763		works made available online in 2015