

# Educational Resources and Facilities

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## BOWDOIN COLLEGE LIBRARY

The Bowdoin College Library has long been among the more distinguished liberal arts college libraries in the country, known for its outstanding book, journal, and manuscript collections. Today, the Library combines its constantly growing treasury of print material with a wealth of electronic resources, as well as instructional programs in their use.

The Library's collections, developed over a period of 200 years, exceed one million volumes and include over 18,000 current print and electronic periodical and newspaper subscriptions, over 27,000 audiovisual items, 40,000 maps, over 35,000 photographs, more than 4,500 linear feet of manuscripts, and archival records. Approximately 14,000 volumes are added annually. Subscriptions to over 194 online indexes and databases provide access to thousands of full-text electronic books and journals and other information resources.

### **Library Resources and Services**

The Library's Web site (<http://library.bowdoin.edu>) serves as a central portal to online information: the Bowdoin library catalog, the catalog holdings of the Colby and Bates college libraries, and other libraries in Maine and throughout the world; electronic periodical indexes in a broad range of disciplines; the Library's subscriptions to thousands of electronic full-text journals; electronic course reserve readings; and links to hundreds of additional e-text reference works and research collections. The Web site also provides links to the wealth of digital information available through the Internet, including text, audio, video, and image collections.

Librarians and faculty members work together to teach research skills and to encourage the use of library resources throughout the curriculum. Librarians provide an active instruction program, teaching students to develop effective research strategies and to identify, select, evaluate, and analyze information for course-related research and independent scholarship. All students receive information literacy instruction in their first-year seminars. Librarians also develop Web pages offering research strategies for specific courses and guides to resources for the major fields taught at Bowdoin.

Through an active interlibrary loan program, materials arrive daily from the library collections of Colby and Bates colleges, and from other libraries in Maine and beyond, often incorporating the use of high-speed electronic document delivery services. Through Maine Info Net and NExpress, catalogs of Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin, other Maine libraries, and selected libraries in New England are searchable simultaneously, and students and faculty can initiate their interlibrary loan requests online for materials held by libraries worldwide.

### **Library Branches and Collections**

Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, the main library, houses humanities and social sciences materials, as well as the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives and a depository of federal and Maine State documents. The Library also includes four branch libraries: the Hatch Science Library, the William Pierce Art Library, the Robert Beckwith Music Library, and the Language Media Center. Notable collection strengths lie in British and American history, French and American literature, Arctic studies, Maine history and Maine writers, anti-slavery and the Civil War, World War I, and modern European history.

The **Hawthorne-Longfellow Library** building, which was opened in the fall of 1965, was expanded in 1985 to include five tiers of stacks and a reading room in Hubbard Hall, and was further remodeled in 1993–94. The building was completely renovated between 2001 and 2005 to provide new individual and group student learning spaces, a faculty research room, an information commons, increased network access, wireless connections throughout the building for laptop use, improved instructional facilities, and a modernized reading room in the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives.

A variety of new facilities support the integration of technology into teaching and learning. These include a computer laboratory; a twenty-five-seat electronic classroom for instruction in online resources and the use of general and instructional software; the USG Corporation Library Technology Seminar Room; and the Chandler Reading Room for literary events, lectures, and student presentations. The Library also collaborates with Information Technology specialists to support the integration of technology into the curriculum and research.

Complementing historical holdings in other parts of the library, the **Government Documents Collection** is a rich repository of resource writings for over two hundred years of federal and state history. From its beginning, the Library actively acquired government publications, even prior to becoming a Congressionally designated depository in 1884 and thereby receiving free documents directly from the Government Printing Office. The Government Documents Collection has substantial holdings of nineteenth- and twentieth-century publications, containing both official ongoing series such as the *Congressional Record*, and such varied individual reports as railroad surveys of the West, nineteenth-century Maine geologic studies, 1930s Women’s Bureau pamphlets, hearings on the attack at Pearl Harbor, and NASA atlases. Since most current government documents are published digitally, the Library designs Web sites and uses the online catalog to maintain its tradition of providing access to government information for the Bowdoin community and all citizens of midcoast Maine.

**The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives** includes rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, recordings, the College Archives, as well as the papers of Senator George J. Mitchell (Class of 1954). All of these research materials, described on the Web at <http://library.bowdoin.edu/arch>, serve an important function in introducing undergraduates—in their research projects, class assignments, and other independent work—to the experience of performing original research and evaluating primary source materials, and they support faculty in their own research interests.

Collection highlights include the James Bowdoin and Benjamin Vaughan family libraries of early imprints; extensive published and manuscript materials by and about Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, both members of the Class of 1825; books, periodicals, and pamphlets of the French Revolution period; the double elephant-folio edition of John James Audubon’s *Birds of America*; E. S. Curtis’s *The North American Indian*; a broad representation of early American and early Maine imprints; the work of three distinguished Maine presses: the Mosher Press, the Southworth Press, and the Anthoensen Press; artists’ books by Maine artists; and the Maine Afro-American Archive, a depository for rare books, manuscripts, letters, and other works about slavery, abolitionism, and Afro-American life in Maine; and important collections of designer bookbindings and pop-up books.

Among the papers of Maine political figures are important collections related to Bowdoin alumni William Pitt Fessenden (Class of 1823) and Ralph Owen Brewster (Class of 1909). Special Collections also includes the Bliss collection of books on travel, French and British architecture, and the history of art, all housed in the Susan Dwight Bliss Room in Hubbard Hall, and the monumental “Flora of Maine” botanical drawings by Brunswick naturalist Kate Furbish.

Other manuscript collections include the papers of General Oliver Otis Howard (Class of 1850), director of the Freedmen's Bureau; papers of prominent Bowdoin faculty and most of Bowdoin's presidents, especially Jesse Appleton, Joshua L. Chamberlain, William DeWitt Hyde, and Kenneth Charles Morton Sills; and works by Kenneth Roberts, Robert Peter Tristram Coffin, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Elijah Kellogg, and such contemporary writers as Vance Bourjaily, John Gould, Marguerite Yourcenar, and Hilton Kramer. Access to all of these collections is enhanced by descriptive information on the library's Web site.

The Bowdoin College Archives, established in Special Collections through grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation, serves both as a repository for two centuries of the College's historical records and as a vital information center for the campus and the larger scholarly community; students frequently incorporate archival material into their research.

The **Hatch Science Library**, opened in the spring of 1991, offers science-related materials, including print and electronic periodicals, microforms, maps, government documents, a wealth of electronic indexes, reference materials and other digital resources, as well as a full range of reference and instructional services to faculty and students. The building accommodates readers at individual carrels, study tables, informal seating areas, seminar rooms, and faculty studies.

The **William Pierce Art Library** and the **Robert Beckwith Music Library**, housing small departmental collections in art and music respectively, are located adjacent to the offices of those departments. The glass-wrapped Art Library provides an elevated view over the campus green and offers a strong collection of art books. The Music Library, which was renovated and expanded in 1994, offers a handsome study room with computer and listening stations, and houses scores, sound recordings, videos, and books about music. Both branch libraries serve as art and music research and study centers respectively.

The **Language Media Center**, located in Sills Hall, provides audio, video, and multimedia facilities to support the teaching of foreign languages and houses the major portion of the Library's collection of audiovisual materials numbering over 9,000 titles, with special emphasis in the areas of foreign culture, second language acquisition, and film. It is equipped with playback stations for individual viewing of non-print materials, and fourteen networked computers supporting a variety of instructional software, including specialized word processing tools and desktop videoconferencing. The Center's Web site provides links for students of both classical and modern languages to online resources that include streaming audio and video from international radio and television, links to online foreign language newspapers and magazines, and an annotated list of language-specific resources. Eleven foreign-language television stations received via satellite are directed to all classrooms, offices, common areas, and residence halls over the campus network.

Particular strengths of the Center are the support provided for the creation of multimedia presentation materials and the support of the film studies curriculum. The Center also offers a classroom for twenty that supports high-resolution display of multimedia presentations. The lobby provides a group area for language discussion groups and viewing of live foreign language television.

Library operations and the development of its collections and services are supported by the general funds of the College and by gifts from alumni, other friends of the Library and the College, and by foundations. In 1998, the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library was awarded a \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities toward the building renovations completed in 2001, and to establish endowments for future purchases of

information resources in the humanities. The Library benefits from the income of more than two hundred endowed gifts, and it also receives generous donations annually, both of library materials and of funds to support the immediate purchase of printed works and electronic resources that the Library would otherwise be unable to acquire.

### **BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art, the cornerstone of the arts and culture at Bowdoin, reopened in October 2007 after a four-year renovation and expansion to better house and display its renowned collection. The earliest collegiate art collection in the nation, it came into being through the 1811 bequest of James Bowdoin III of 70 European paintings and a portfolio of 140 master drawings. Over the years, the collection has been expanded through the generosity of the Bowdoin family, alumni, and friends, and now numbers more than 15,000 paintings, sculpture, decorative objects, works on paper, and artifacts from prehistory to the present from civilizations around the world.

The Museum's landmark Walker Art Building was commissioned for the College by Harriet and Sophia Walker in honor of their uncle, a Boston businessman who had supported the creation of the first small art gallery at Bowdoin in the mid-nineteenth century. The Walker sisters, encyclopedic collectors and supporters of art education, stipulated that the building be used exclusively for art. Designed by Charles Follen McKim of McKim, Mead and White, the building was completed in 1894 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its brick, limestone, and granite façade is based on Renaissance prototypes, with a dramatically shadowed loggia flanked by large lion sculptures upon which generations of Brunswick children have been photographed.

The antiquities collections contain over 1,800 Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine objects and constitute one of the most comprehensive compilations of ancient art in any small college museum. European art includes paintings, illustrated manuscripts, sculptures, and decorative arts. Among twelve European Renaissance and Baroque paintings given in 1961 by the Kress Foundation is a panel depicting nymphs pursued by a youth that recently has been attributed to the young Fra Angelico. The works on paper collections of prints, drawings, and photographs is large and varied, numbering more than 8,000 works and representing artists from Rembrandt and Rubens through Callot, Goya, and Manet to Picasso and Warhol.

The Museum's American collection includes an important grouping of colonial and Federal portraits, with, for example, seven major paintings by Gilbert Stuart, including the famous presidential portraits of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, together with other works by Robert Feke, John Copley, Thomas Sully and Joseph Blackburn. Among other notable works are the murals commissioned by McKim to decorate the Museum's rotunda by the four leading painters of the American Renaissance: Elihu Vedder, Kenyon Cox, Abbott Thayer, and John LaFarge. The collection also includes works by significant nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists such as Mary Cassatt, Thomas Eakins, John Sloan, Rockwell Kent, Marsden Hartley, and Andrew Wyeth, and an archive of artifacts and memorabilia from Winslow Homer's Maine studio.

Non-western materials range from Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Southeast Asian prints, ink paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts to modest but distinguished holdings of African, Pacific, Pre-Columbian, and Native American artifacts.

The recent renovation expanded galleries and other program spaces, and improved art storage facilities. The restored Museum retains the building's iconic architectural features and provides state-of-the-art climate control and mechanical systems. A new, dramatic glass