Summary of Activities in 2008-09

- The library planned, raised money for, and implemented the Learning Commons. Billed as the “Roctober Makeover,” the project brought new, flexible, comfortable, colorful furniture to the library’s first floor. The change was an instant hit with students.

- The Provost accepted the recommendation of the Standing Council for Academic Planning (SCAP) to approve the library’s proposal for a new course for academic credit entitled Research and Technology 2.0.

- The library supported the creation and introduction of 40 online courses in summer 2009, double the number of courses offered the previous summer. The library met with faculty and staff in the College of Social Sciences to plan for the development of online programs in Nursing, Criminal Justice, and the Loyola Institute for Ministry. It also discussed the prospects for the development of online courses in the College of Business with the Assistant Dean and initiated a discussion of possible online programs in the College of Music and Fine Arts with the incoming dean of the college.

- The library expanded the scope of Blackboard through the installation and implementation of Learning Object’s campus pack, which includes the ability to create blogs and wikis directly into the Blackboard framework, as well as several other Blackboard building blocks (safeassign, scholar, sync, turning point, etc.)

- The library expanded Blackboard training to include summer student orientation and faculty training on new Blackboard functions. The library trained and supported faculty in use of media resources such as Audacity, Screenflow, Powerpoint, and A/V equipment.

- The library met with the director of the School of Nursing to discuss the planned online Doctor of Nursing Practice program and did a careful analysis of existing and additional resources needed to support the program, based on comparisons with library resources at peer programs and usage patterns of nursing resources at the Monroe Library. This process could become a template for analyzing and developing support for other online programs at Loyola.

- The library organized an exhibit on the History of Loyola Athletics. The exhibit was very well received and was the focus of several alumni events.

- The library began a project to digitize and conserve 44 field notebooks from the Cornet Collection. The project is funded by a grant from the RosaMary Foundation.
• The library initiated several blogs, including the Blackboard Center Blog, the Learning Commons Blog, and the We Recommend Blog.

• The library filled two library faculty positions (Outreach and Development Coordinator, Information Literacy/Learning Commons Librarian) and initiated a search for a third library faculty member (Online Learning Librarian).

• The library initiated space planning intended to expand the Learning Commons, co-locate library faculty and staff who perform similar or complementary work, address the space needs of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and create enhanced teaching and meeting spaces.

• The library initiated an annual lunch for honors students that gives librarian liaisons a chance to meet honors students in their disciplines and offer assistance as the students begin research for their honors theses.

• The library began a comprehensive review of collection development data, including circulation data, data on expenditures, and interlibrary loan statistics, which will help in making informed decisions for future collection development.

• The library upgraded the instructional technology in 29 classrooms. Thirteen of these rooms have new projectors or plasma televisions with laptop hookups, enabling professors to display PowerPoint slides, webpages, or other information from a laptop. Now virtually all the pool classrooms are “smart.”

• The library conducted research on classroom response systems, formed a “Clicker Workgroup” that included faculty from the Colleges of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Music and Fine Arts, organized demonstrations and conducted analysis of three different products, and provided the leadership to choose the i>Clicker system for Loyola.

Selected Faculty/Staff Highlights

• Susan Brower chaired the Course Development/Faculty Development Committee.
• Teri Gallaway did a presentation (with Alicia Hansen) at the Southwest Regional Educause conference.
• Alicia Hansen did two presentations at the Music Library Association Annual Meeting and one (with Teri Gallaway) at the Southwest Regional Educause Conference.
• Trish Nugent served as president of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscript Association.
• Brad Petitfils was elected to the Administrative Senate.
• Laurie Phillips chaired the University Grants and Leaves Committee and authored a chapter in More Innovative Redesign and Reorganization of Library Technical Services edited by Brad Eden.
• Deborah Poole chaired the Advisory Committee of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

New Initiatives in 2008-09

• Implementation of the Learning Commons.
• Approval of the library’s proposal for a new course for academic credit.
• Planning for online graduate programs.
• Space planning to enhance the Learning Commons, co-locate library faculty and staff who perform similar or complementary work, address the space needs of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and create enhanced teaching and meeting spaces.

Challenges in 2008-09

• Much of the library’s 10% operating budget increase in 2008-09 was eaten up by inflationary price increases in journals and electronic databases.

• The library worked with the KI furniture company to bring Learning Commons furniture prices down and solicited Visiting Committee members and friends for funding. A solicitation of parents done through the Annual Fund was not as successful as hoped for.

• The library was challenged to respond to the explosion of interest in online learning at Loyola. The library worked to move from a reactive to a proactive position.

• With both the library’s Outreach Coordinator and Development Coordinator gone and not yet replaced, the library was challenged to fully support outreach and fund raising initiatives.

Planned New Initiatives in 2009-2010

Jesuit Values:

• The library will organize, process, and produce finding aids for the papers of Catholic social and community activists Janet Mary Riley and Bill Quigley and for the archives of the Environmental Center of Louisiana.
• The library will work with the Common Curriculum Implementation Committee to ensure that Loyola graduates have the necessary skills for critical thinking and lifelong learning.

Retention:

• The library will work to extend the Learning Commons into other parts of the library and to enhance library teaching and meeting spaces.
• The library will work with colleges and faculty to develop online courses for summer school and to develop online graduate programs.
• The library will collaborate with the Office of Information Technology to enhance lab space and extend library hours on Friday and Saturday evenings.
• The library will invite college deans and associate or assistant deans to meet with the library faculty to discuss plans, needs, and possible collaborations.

Reputation and stature:

• The library will conduct space planning and raise funds to meet the space needs of the Center for Teaching and Learning, including work space and teaching and meeting space.
• The library will work with the colleges and their faculty to develop online graduate programs.
• The library will focus on outreach and development work to raise the visibility and profile of the library and university and attract support for library needs.
• The library will complete the conservation and digitization of the Cornet field notebooks and explore the possibility of adding the collection to Aluka, a digital library of scholarly resources from and about Africa.

Challenges Anticipated in 2009-10

• The library will be challenged to continue providing needed access to information resources as prices rise by 7 to 9% and budgets fall by 10%.
• The library will be challenged to maintain flexibility to shift resources (financial, personnel, etc.) where they are most needed.
• The library will welcome three new library faculty members and ensure that they feel welcomed and are productive in their new jobs.
• The library will play a coordinating role in the development and support of online programs.

Support Needed in 2009-10

Certainly additional financial support would be welcomed, although I know it is unlikely. However, I also think support for innovation, for risk taking, for making hard decisions is important as well in the current economic climate.