

7-2010

## Transforming our Library Reading Room for a Leisure Reading Collection

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### Recommended Citation

Roybal, Suzanne, "Transforming our Library Reading Room for a Leisure Reading Collection" (2010). *Collected Faculty and Staff Scholarship*. 113.

<https://scholar.dominican.edu/all-faculty/113>

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# Transforming our Library Reading Room for a Leisure Reading Collection

Suzanne Roybal

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## Introduction

A major goal of Dominican University of California's new strategic plan is to transform our library into a center where students can develop a life-long habit of reading. Our drab 1960's style reading room was the ideal location to refurbish and to locate our new leisure reading collection of books and magazines.

By updating the room with new carpeting, shelving, tables, chairs, and ottomans, we wanted to change the philosophical perception of the library so the students would have an inviting place to satisfy both their educational and entertainment needs.

Then by adding a leisure collection of books and magazines, our goal is to increase the reading amongst the students and improve their college experience. So far our project has been well-received on campus with good circulation and student use of the reading room for browsing, reading and studying.



View of the newly remodeled reading room with leisure collection from the second floor of the library

## A Plan

- Attract students to library
- Entice students to read more
- Update reading room for comfort, reading and studying
- Keep up-to-date with reading materials, displays and weeding.

"I had an unexpectedly wonderful moment two weeks ago when in the middle of a presentation about my library's short-range strategy I displayed a photo of Dominican's lovely popular reading room...The change-making image from Dominican wasn't a comparison of what money can do. That photo was a comparison of what leadership can do" (Schneider, 2009).



Amy Whiteley, Assistant Director, and Gary Gorka, Library Director implemented the plan for the reading room and leisure collection.

## Beginnings

- from old tile floors to new carpeting
- no space for books to new shelving and kiosks
- from funky old chairs & tables to new chairs with laptop tables and new study tables
- additional electrical outlets added for student's computers
- new moveable ottomans for added comfort



From the before to the after pictures—how the reading room was transformed

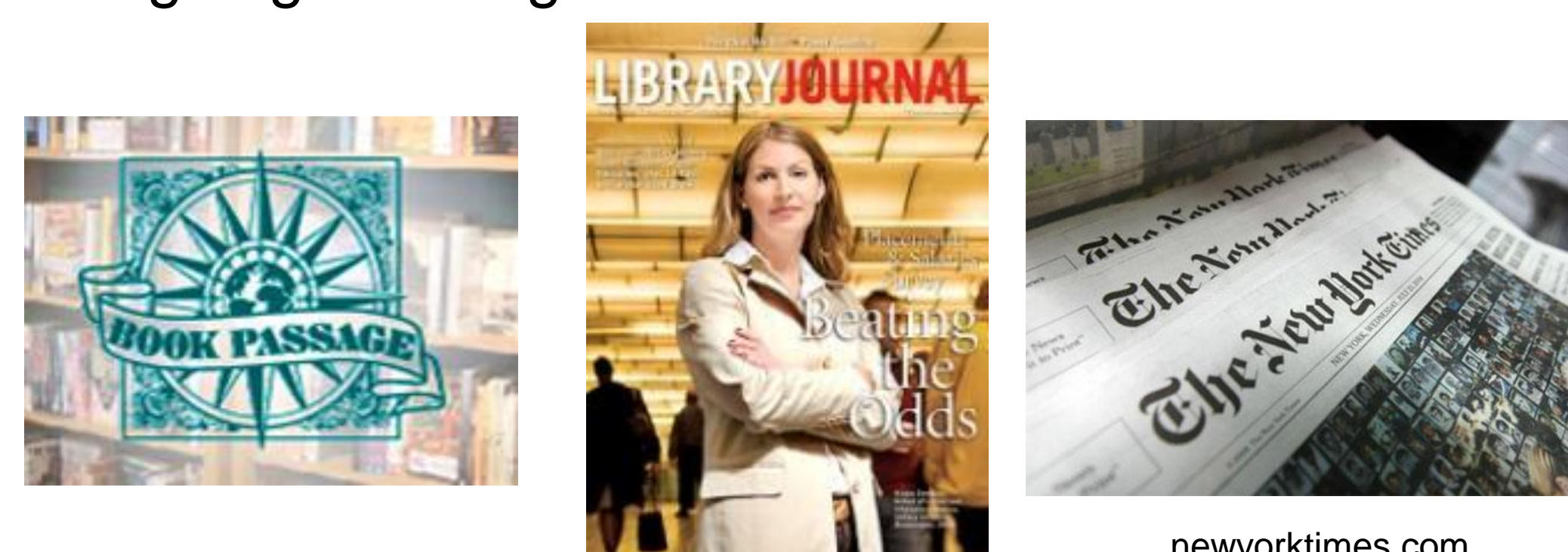


## Budget & Purchasing

- \$3000.00 annual budget
- Buy from local bookstores and online when necessary
- Purchase paperbacks when available
- Decisions based on book lists from newspapers, library journals, and patron and staff suggestions
- Ongoing weeding

### Best Sellers

**Hardcover Fiction**  
House Rules  
The Help  
Fantasy in Death  
Worst Case  
**Paperback Fiction**  
Little Bee  
A Reliable Wife  
The Last Song  
Shanghai Girls



newyorktimes.com

## Shelving & Display

- Genre designations
  - Genre sticker on each book for shelving
  - Labeled with LC numbers for tracking
- New books displayed on kiosk
- Books faced out to browser
- Stands for paperbacks
- Rearrange frequently



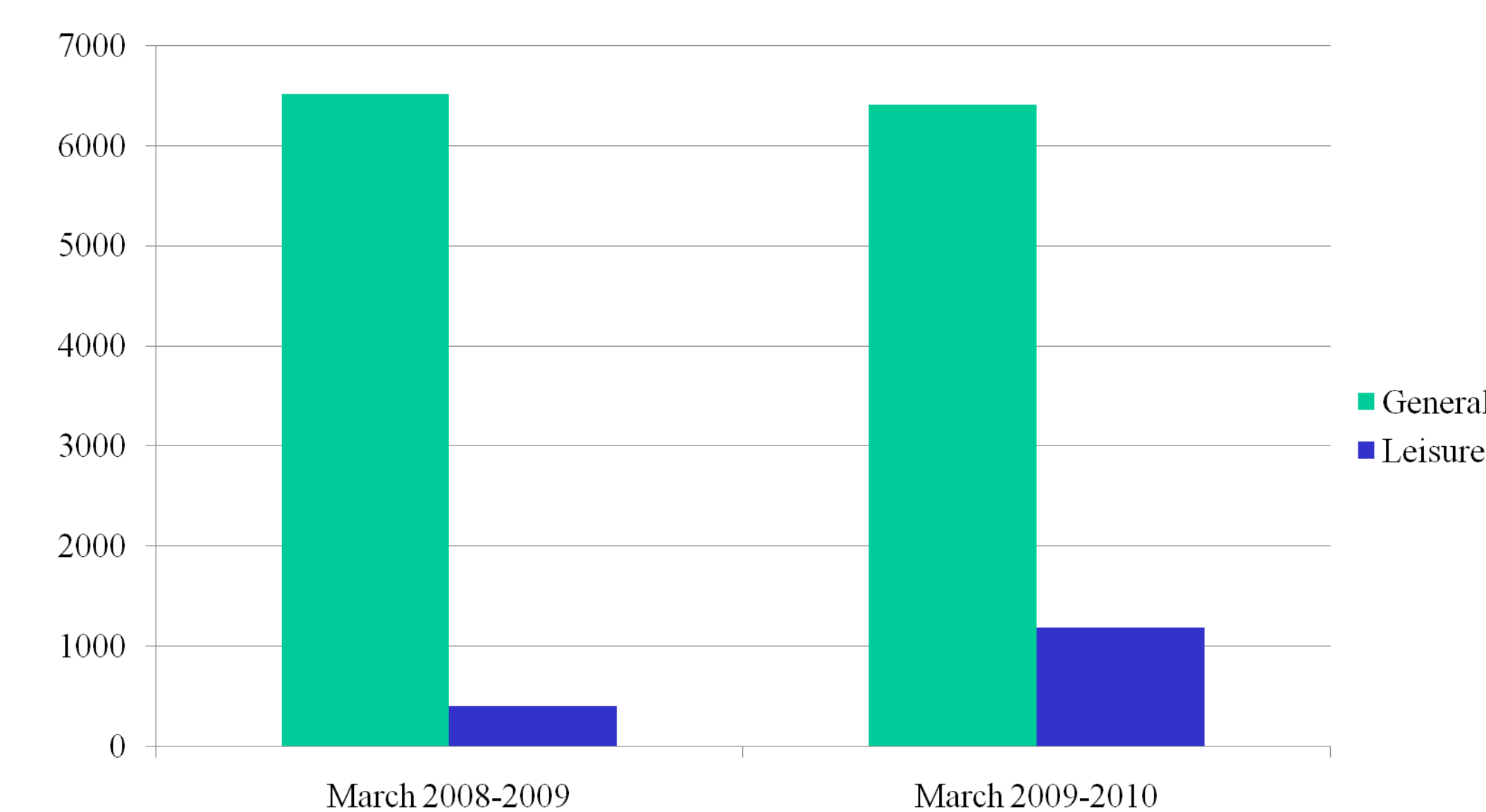
## Marketing

- Blog
  - Updates on newly added books
- Library Thing
  - “Catalog by genre” as first word in tags
- Facebook
- Suggestion Box
- Events



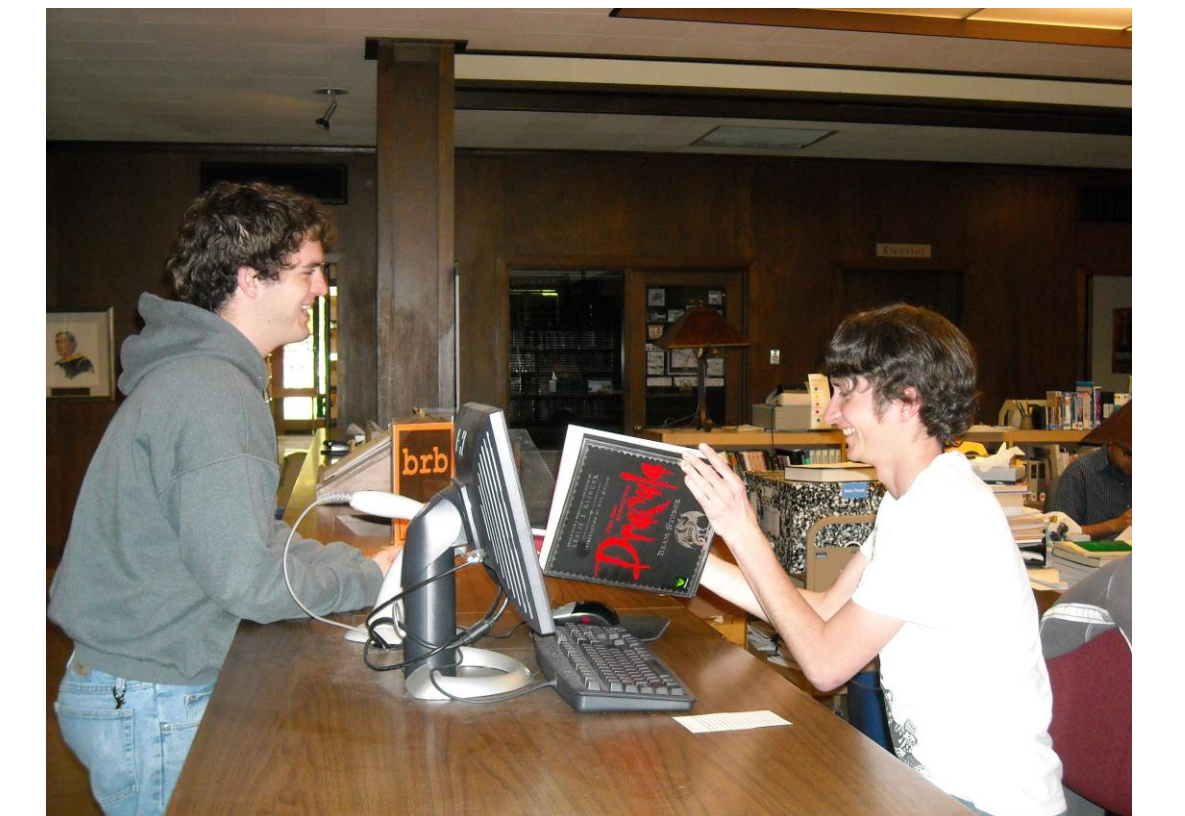
author talk

## Circulation Statistics



## Results—Student Satisfaction

- Increased usage of reading room
- Improved check out of reading material
- Not only student, but also faculty and staff approval of collection



Graphic Novels



Browsing the Kiosk

## Literature cited

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## Acknowledgments

I thank Gary Gorka and Amy Whiteley for their help and encouragement in this process, A.J. Real for his assistance in acquiring the necessary circulation statistics, Steven Polacco for his digitalization support, Michael Pujals for research suggestions, Annie Berger for editing, Jane Droogsmas & Marques Daniels & of the IT department of Dominican University of California for editing, technical ideas and printing of this poster. A special thanks to the students in this poster for their enthusiasm and desire to promote the leisure collection at the library.

## For further information

Please contact [suzanne.roybal@dominican.edu](mailto:suzanne.roybal@dominican.edu). More information on our library can be obtained at <http://www.dominican.edu/academics/resources/library>. Make note on the library homepage of our blog, leisure reading collection on Library Thing and our facebook link.

