

Suggested Projects for the Friends of the Van Pelt Library

January 14, 2010

Collections Projects

\$1,000 to \$2,000 each

Selected titles from recommended books lists:

Environmental studies

Nanotechnology and biotechnology

Science, technology and society

Reference

-- Funds to decorate the library's instruction classrooms. A faculty member commented on how boring/drab/uninviting these rooms are. At Michelle Mitcham's recent talk to the faculty about diversity, she suggested that photos of students from different cultures be used to decorate campus buildings. So one suggestion is to decorate the classrooms with such photos. There may be some available in the files of University Marketing & Communications, or new ones could be taken of students using the library. Cost would be in securing enlarged duplications, framing, and hanging hardware.

- Invest some money in more audiobooks. Students have been asking where they can get them. Perhaps there is a "rental" system similar to the service we used for popular fiction?

- Invest some money in more DVD movies. Students have been asking where they can get them. Perhaps there is a "rental" system similar to the service we used for popular fiction?

- Fund an annual summer graduate library student intern program. Would need \$3,000-\$5,000 to cover basic housing/living costs. Library departments could suggest projects - or intern could cycle between units from year to year. Reference, for instance, could see using an intern with identifiable skills to develop online tutorials. Archives has several projects, including cataloging activities, user-initiated exhibit software, etc.

Archives

- Increase FVPL funding of Archives Research Travel Award program from current level of \$1,500. Would be pleased to go to \$2,000, but would welcome whatever increase the FVPL thinks they can bear.

- One-time money to re-house Calumet & Hecla drawings collection. I could work up specific amount, but last time we checked this was about \$4,000. We are currently spending about \$500 per year on folders, and refolding as specific drawers are requested.

Fund a Michigan Tech grad student worker in Archives. We have had several volunteer