Boston College Libraries **Join HathiTrust**

Chestnut Hill, MA, October 30 – The Boston College Libraries have become the newest member of HathiTrust (www.hathitrust.org), a partnership of major academic and research libraries collaborating in an extraordinary digital library initiative to preserve and provide access to the published record in digital form.

HathiTrust includes material from the Google Books Library Project, an effort by Google to scan and make searchable the collections of several major research libraries, as well as material from the Internet Archive, a non-profit that offers free online access to historical digital collections, in which the Boston College Libraries have been an active participant since 2007.

"The Boston College Libraries are pleased to be joining in this important initiative," said Thomas Wall, University Librarian. "HathiTrust leverages the collective strength of leading academic research libraries in an effort to preserve and provide reliable access to the digital record of scholarship. We look forward to expanding the virtual collections available to our students and faculty, as well as making unique Boston College collections openly accessible to a broader audience."

"We are delighted to welcome Boston College to the HathiTrust partnership," said John Wilkin, Executive Director of the HathiTrust. "The Boston College Libraries bring a strong spirit of collaboration and community service that will support the mission of HathiTrust."

HathiTrust allows users to do full-text searches of all of the books in the repository, as well as download material that is in the public domain. It also allows visually impaired users at member institutions full access to *all* of the material in the digital library, for use with assistive technology.

Launched in 2008, HathiTrust has a growing membership currently comprising more than fifty partners.

Over the last two years, the partners have contributed more than 9 million volumes to the digital library, digitized from their library collections through a number of means including Google and Internet Archive digitization and in-house initiatives. More than 2 million of the contributed volumes are in the public domain and freely available on the Web.

HathiTrust serves as a trusted repository, guaranteeing the long-term preservation of the materials it holds while providing the expert curation and consistent access long associated with research libraries. It also enables members to provide enhanced discovery and access services to their users.

HathiTrust was named for the Hindi word for elephant, *hathi*, symbolic of the qualities of memory, wisdom, and strength evoked by elephants, as well as the huge undertaking of congregating the digital collections of libraries in the United States and beyond. HathiTrust is funded by the partner libraries and governed by members of the libraries through an Executive Committee and a Strategic Advisory Board. More information on HathiTrust is available at: http://www.hathitrust.org/.

The Boston College Libraries house more than 2.6 million print volumes and provide users with access to a rapidly growing collection of electronic journals and books. The BC Libraries have renowned special collections, with particular strengths in the areas of Irish studies, British Catholic Authors, Jesuitana, Catholic liturgy and life in America (1925-1975), Boston history; Caribbeana, and Balkan studies.

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