hundred mile walk which he believes will help a very old acquaintance stay alive in a distant hospice.

It is Rachel Joyce’s debut novel, and introduces an author with a poignant, unpretentious, and insightful voice.

If you missed reading and discussing Grennan’s book, you can still catch his presence on campus. Joyce’s book will be discussed four times from Tuesday Oct. 9 to Monday, Oct. 15. Contact Renata Cioffi (203-371-7700) or cioffi@sacredheart.edu for more information.

The Library has introduced a new book club for reading and discussing books across the curriculum and usual organizational lines. More than forty-five people signed up indicating their interest. Because of different schedules, discussions have been organized at 8 different times (4 for each book).

The Club will be reading two books. The First is Little Princes: One Man’s Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal by Conor Grennan. This book combines several narratives: travelogue, adventure, social outreach, a love story, and a journey of faith as Grennan narrates his work with children who have been separated from their families by civil war and criminal deceptions. (Grennan will be speaking on campus – see accompanying article below.)

The second book is The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel, by Rachel Joyce. It’s a story of devotion and determination, as Harold Fry sets out on a six-hundred mile walk which he believes will help a very old acquaintance stay alive in a distant hospice. It is Rachel Joyce’s debut novel, and introduces an author with a poignant, unpretentious, and insightful voice.

Author Conor Grennan to speak October 17

Conor Grennan was twenty-nine years old and looking for adventure. After several years of working very hard at an international institute in Prague, he set out to travel around the globe. He didn’t expect what would happen.

While in Nepal (remote and mountainous Himalayan country) Conor volunteered to work at an orphanage for three months, mostly to squash criticism that his trip was simply self-indulgent fun. Nepal was in the midst of a civil war, and Conor discovered that the children he cared for had been separated from their families by a criminal racket that simply pocketed the money meant to keep them safe.

Conor made a promise to several children to re-
This summer the Library marked a milestone: more than 50% of the titles listed in the library’s catalogue represented digital resources (periodicals, books, and DVDs). The University Library is now a predominantly digital collection – and will only grow more so.

The past decade has seen the rapid emergency of digital periodicals and books, listed in indexes, the library catalogue, Google, and other sites. At first (2002) only a handful of periodicals were online, quickly joined by numerous others. Publishers and content aggregators continued to expand both the number of publications and the retrospective range, in some cases back to the 19th century. Growth can be seen in the numbers of ebooks included in two of our first e-book collections: eBrary grew from 32,000 to 79,000 titles in five years, and the Humanities Ebook Collection (American Council of Learned Societies) has grown from 1,400 titles to 3,500 – a rate of 250% in each case.

Digital books (or “e-books”) have been slower to catch on. Most users want only one article from a periodical – they don’t want to browse a whole issue online. Books are different: often users have to size up a book in order to figure out what section of it (content, layout, tables) they really want. The interface for digital books on normal computer screens can become tiresome, and the design of many academic or technical books on reading devices (Kindles, Nooks, iPads, etc.) has been less than optimal. Even now, many students really prefer printed textbooks over digital.

Nevertheless, the shift is on. Already the library provides access to other 80,000 digital books, most of which are downloadable (though thanks to publishers’ worries, the process can be cumbersome). Digital book design is improving rapidly – no longer is a simple .pdf page really enough. A year ago a professor asked the University Librarian, “Are you really worried about e-books?” “After the first 50,000 I got used to them” was his response.

The new world of digital resources has arrived!

DigitalCommons@SHU continues to represent the University’s scholarship in the digital world. Now holding more than 400 items, the site counter more than 3,000 full-text downloads in August, and nearly 40,000 downloads since the site began in 2010. The site includes numerous issues of the Sacred Heart University Review, The Shenachie (the newsletter of the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society), and WCOB Working Papers (from the John F. Welch College of Business). (Many thanks to Beverly Lysoobey in particular for her work on this project.)

As university presses face economic pressures and the costs and opportunities for publication become more challenging, the open-access model of digital publication through University digital commons has grown more attractive. Open Access Week is designed to publicize open access initiatives such as those of the World Bank’s Open Knowledge Repository. SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) is promoting Open Access Week with the World Bank. More information can be found at http://www.openaccessweek.org
Novelist Michael White to Read

Michael White, author of *Soul Catcher*, will be reading in the Library Café on Tuesday, October 16 at 3:30 p.m. Originally scheduled as part of the 2012 “Literary Spring” series, Michael was forced to delay his reading until this “literary autumn.” A local writer, White lives in Guilford and directs and teaches in Fairfield University’s MFA Creative Writing Program. White has also written *A Dream of Wolves*, *The Garden of Martyrs*, and most recently *Beautiful Assassin* (William Morrow, 2010).

Author Conor Grennan to speak October 17

- Continued from page 1 -

unite them with their families, but after his return to the USA he discovered that unexpectedly their situation had become even worse. He resolved to re-unite them, and set out on an almost quixotic and certainly dangerous journey that took him to some of the remotest valleys of that war-torn country. Simultaneously, Conor discovered—hesitantly, even shyly—the love of his life. He built an organization dedicated to reconnecting children and families—Next Generation Nepal.

Grennan’s life-work surprised his college classmates and even himself. His book is hard to put down, especially when he searches Himalayan valleys for families who haven’t seen their children in years. He will be speaking in University Commons at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17 – don’t miss it!

Constitution Day

Be sure to visit the Constitution Day display on the library’s lower level, created by Stephanie Sorbara ’15 and Robert Berry, Social and Behavioral Sciences Reference Librarian.

New Library Databases

Three new databases are available for SHU Library users.

**Passport GMID** from Euromonitor International is a global market information database and analysis tool containing comprehensive data and reports across all industries, countries and consumers. It is ideal for tracking trends, modeling and forecasting, and profiling consumers or customers.

**Philosophers’ Index** is the world’s most current and comprehensive bibliography of scholarly research in philosophy, serving the philosophical community worldwide. It contains nearly 500,000 journal articles and book citations, and provides authoritative abstracts, indexes, and enhanced searches.

**EdITLib** (Education & Information Technology Digital Library) facilitates learning, discovery, and innovation by connecting scholarly research on Educational Technology and E-Learning with learning opportunities. It provides access to over 30,000 papers and is sponsored by AACE, the Association for Advancement of Computing in Education. This tool provides important information not only for the Farrington College of Education, but for educators across the University curriculum. (Many thanks to Nancy DelVecchio for her work organizing this project.)

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Cindy Li, Director of Digital Library Technology and Services, has been appointed to the International Relations Committee of the Library Information Technology Association (LITA). LITA is the leading professional organization of digital librarians and is a division of the American Library Association. Her term began in June 2011 and will conclude in June 2013.

In April, Cindy also presented a paper, “The Practicality of Cloud Computing” at the International Conference on Information Systems, Engineering, and Management Science (ICISEMS) conference in Hong Kong. Her selection indicates her stature in the professional as well as the contribution of Sacred Heart University to this scholarly venue. Congratulations Cindy!