When it came time to write my senior thesis, I felt overwhelmed by the task. There was a vast amount written on my subject, and I was not sure how to choose what to read, or, once I had chosen, how to find the materials I needed. Thanks to the Librarians at Hesburgh Library, I was able to complete a project I am proud of.

My thesis discusses female martyrdom under Queen Elizabeth I, which means I look at the sexist application of treason laws towards Catholics. This topic requires an understanding of women, Catholics, and treason in Elizabethan times, topics which overlap and connect in diverse ways, requiring a great deal of research. In the writing of my thesis, I checked out more than forty books from the Hesburgh Library, and also used online sources, such as JSTOR and Hathitrust. Without the resources provided by OneSearch and the Library web site, my project would have been impossible.

The Rare Books and Special Collections was invaluable in teaching me how to operate in libraries. Led by Julie Tanaka, the librarians here gave lessons to the History Honors Colloquium class in examining Rare Books. This six-week course covered topics such as how to examine diaries, letters, and photographs; the lessons helped me understand how to examine different sources. For example, in my thesis, I discuss the difference between a hagiographical biography about one martyr, Margaret Clitherow, and a letter which mentions another, Margaret Ward.¹ The two sources needed to be treated differently, which this class helped me to understand.

Julie Tanaka also gave the Special Collections Letter Assignment, which required that we go to the Rare Books Library and research. I found and read *Letters on the Spanish Inquisition*, by Joseph de Maistre, using the Rare Books and Special Collections webpage. While I did not use this source in my final work, doing this research gave me a new perspective on the topic of Elizabeth’s treatment of Catholics. I also learned how to work with rare books, use lead snakes, and take meaningful notes. These skills were necessary the following summer (2017) when I spent three weeks in London doing research at the National Archives, British Library, and Jesuit Archives, funded by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

Julie Tanaka helped me individually in my search for Anthony Champney’s *Annales Elizabetheae Reginae*. This manuscript was mentioned in the footnotes of *Memoirs of Missionary Priests*, and I needed to examine it for information on Mrs. Swithun Wells. Due to the specificity of my topic, and time period of study, I often had to seek out very specific sources. The information in Champney’s Manuscript does not exist in any other form. Dr. Tanaka found that this book was in the Westminster Diocesan Archives. I contacted the Archivist, Father Nicholas Schofield, who connected me with Peter Holmes, a historian who was translating and transcribing the manuscript. Dr. Holmes was kind enough to send me the relevant section of the document, and this allowed me to argue that Mrs. Wells was treated differently than her husband because of her sex. Without Dr. Tanaka’s assistance, my argument would have been less convincing.

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Another invaluable resource was the Inter-Library Loan Department. Books such as John Bossy’s *English Catholic Community* were available through this department; Bossy’s groundbreaking research is widely referenced, and was necessary for my research. When the book was eventually recalled to the library that owns it, I was able to make scans of the relevant sections, ensuring that I could be specific in my quotations from this valuable resource. These scans were made possible through the KIC Station on the Library’s first floor.

The Medieval Institute was also helpful. I used the source *Recusancy and conformity in early modern England* for the primary sources it contained, and the analysis provided by the compilers. While this book was only available on three-day loan, I checked it out repeatedly, because it was a wonderful source. For example, it provided me with information about how Catholics were treated at the time of the Spanish Armada, which was a point important to my discussion on the martyrdom of Margaret Ward, who was killed in 1588, mere weeks after the Armada. I heard about this book through Rachel Bohlmann, who provided me with a list of books which were useful to my thesis.

The majority of the sources I used for my thesis were suggested to me by my advisor, Rory Rapple, and the Notre Dame Subject Librarians, or were found in the footnotes of other books I read. Without the Hesburgh Library’s resources, I would not have been able to write this thesis. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities provided to me by this wonderful library.

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