

Libora

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Selected books
from the Barbara
and Bill Yoffee
Collection



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KENNY

A Gift of African American and Children's Literature Provides New Resources for Research

By Alice Schreyer, Director, Special Collections Research Center

Barbara and Bill Yoffee, AB '52, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, recently donated nearly 1,000 titles in African American and children's literature to the University of Chicago Library. Their collection can serve as a remarkable resource for research into representations of African Americans in books for children and into the development of African American literature during the 20th century.

At an early stage of collecting, Bill Yoffee decided to acquire as many editions as possible of Helen Bannerman's *The Story of Little Black Sambo*. His goal was to understand why this story, first published in 1899 and written and illustrated by a Scottish woman married to a physician in the Indian Medical Service, became synonymous with racist literature and remains highly controversial,

despite its popularity and recent attempts to revise it for a contemporary audience. Over time, the Yoffees broadened and deepened their collection. Their interest in book illustration and the enduring appeal of certain series is reflected in extensive sub-collections of children's authors Kate Greenaway, Beatrix Potter, and the Rev. W. Awdry, whose *Thomas the Tank Engine* books continue to be favorites with children.

As with most private collectors, the Yoffees focused on areas that reflect personal interests and passions. Social issues, in particular race relations, and graphic design and illustration are the themes that shape the collection. Like *Little Black Sambo*, the Golliwogg stories by Florence and Bertha Upton, which are included in the collection, were

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www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/libra/

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Library

Mansueto Library Excavation Complete

A hole descending 60 feet under ground was excavated this summer within the Mansueto Library foundation wall. This space will house an automated storage and retrieval system with a 3.5-million-volume capacity. A nearby area for a mechanical room was also excavated.

Approximately 60 to 120 truckloads of material were removed and taken to area dumps daily between June 9 and the end of September. Overall, 53,000 cubic yards of earth was removed from the site.

In late June, a large concrete slab that had once been part of the floor of the Stagg

Field locker rooms was discovered eight feet below ground and removed.

Four levels of tiebacks were installed within the excavated site.

After the excavation was complete, waterproofing and a mud mat were installed at the bottom of the hole in preparation for the pouring of the floor slab, scheduled for mid-to-late fall. Other activities scheduled for prior to the pouring of the floor slab include placement of rebar for the basement floor; installation of drains, sump pits, and other plumbing; and placement of electrical and data conduit.

Updates on construction are available on the Mansueto Library Web site at mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/thismonth.html. Photos of the construction process are being posted to the University of Chicago Library's photostream on Flickr.



PHOTO BY JOHN PITCHER

Mansueto Library excavation was reaching the fourth of five levels when this photo was taken on August 31.

Special Collections to Close During Winter Break

The Special Collections Research Center will close for three weeks over winter break, from December 14–January 3, to allow for Mansueto-related construction in both public and collections storage spaces.

During these three weeks, workers will begin to create a new entrance route to Mansueto across the first floor of Regenstein. Although Special Collections reopens after winter break, construction in this area and adjacent sections of Regenstein's first floor will continue through November 2010.

Beginning on November 16, a number of archival collections will need to be moved to accommodate the construction.

They will become temporarily unavailable for research until mid-January. For a complete list of affected collections, as well as updates on construction in Special Collections, including short-term changes to regular hours, visit our construction Web page at www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/screconstruction.html. We do not anticipate any restrictions on access to rare book materials during this time period.

We encourage you to contact Special Collections with questions about the construction online at www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/ask/SCRC.html.

For more information about the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library project, please visit mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu.

NewsBriefs

Copiers Also Print & Scan

A unified printing system was recently deployed at libraries, residence halls, and other locations around campus by the Library, Housing & Dining Services, and NSIT. The system from Canon Business Solutions makes it easier to photocopy, print, and scan in black-and-white or color using multifunction devices. For more information, visit printing.uchicago.edu or contact the Canon Care Associate at the west end of the main circulation desk in Regenstein (M-F, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Sa-Su, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.) in person, at 834-0038, or at canon@lists.uchicago.edu.

Julie and Parker Hall Entry Garden

A new garden of conifers, perennial flowers, and grasses, designed by the Chicago landscape architecture firm Kettlekamp and Kettlekamp, now lines the formal walkway leading from 57th Street to the main entrance of Regenstein. The project was made possible with the support of the Julie and Parker Hall Botanic Garden Endowment Fund.

Literature Gift

Continued from page 1

transformed into offensive stereotypes, and the character was used as a mascot by the English jam company Robertson's, despite severe criticism in the 1960's and 1970's. The Yoffees also collected games and sheet music featuring children's books and African American stereotypes.

Dramatic changes in society are evident in the changing authorship and audience of children's books in the Yoffee collection. Books published in the last few decades include contemporary retellings of African tales and folk legends, biographies of African Americans, and books written and illustrated by African Americans for all children.

Among the African American poets and writers included in the Yoffee collection are Countee Cullen (including his first book), Paul Laurence Dunbar, DuBose Heyward, James Weldon Johnson, Maya Angelou, June Jordan, LeRoi Jones, James Baldwin, Gloria Naylor, Alice Walker, and Nikki Giovanni.

After careers at the Social Security Administration and in teaching, Bill and Barbara Yoffee turned their longtime collecting interests into a bookselling business by establishing the Children's BookAdoption Agency in 1987. When they decided it was time to find a home where their collection would be preserved and used in education and scholarship, they recognized that the University of Chicago Library was the ideal location.

The Yoffees also collected works by and for African Americans in the areas of health, education, and social issues. The dust jacket on a 1945 first edition of Richard Wright's autobiography *Black Boy* features an appeal by Wright urging African Americans, "Don't Wear Your 'Sunday Best' Every Day," and to buy War Bonds instead of spending war dollars. A mass market, 1976 first Pocket Book edition of *Black Child Care*, by African American psychiatrists James P. Comer and Alvin F. Poussaint, applies the 1960s ethos of "beautiful and black" to child-rearing advice.

At the University of Chicago Library, students and faculty in literature, history, African American studies, gender studies, sociology, and other disciplines will be able to draw on the extraordinary primary sources in the Barbara and Bill Yoffee Collection for research and teaching. The Yoffee collection will be cataloged over the coming year; for more information about the collection, contact Special Collections via www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/ask/SCRC.html.

"College Librarians at the Commons" Opens at Harper

By Rebecca Starkey, Reference Librarian/Instruction Services Specialist

A new chapter in the history of Harper Memorial Library began in September when its grand reading rooms were partially renovated and reopened as the Harper Memorial Library Commons under the auspices of the College. The Library is delighted that the College's new vision for Harper gives us the opportunity to inaugurate a new service: College Librarians at the Commons.

In June, the Library transferred its collections from Harper to the A-Level of Regenstein Library, allowing the College to transform the space into a new student center. The Harper Memorial Library Commons will provide 24-hour study space, a small computing cluster, and a new café in the heart of campus.

College Librarians at the Commons is designed by the Library to help undergraduates make the connection between their courses and the Library's collections and services. Six librarians who have extensive experience working with undergraduate researchers will staff a desk at Harper, providing students with one-on-one research consultations on topics such as finding primary source materials and citing information in footnotes and bibliographies.

In addition, the College Librarians at the Commons will provide "mini-workshops" and other training for a wide variety of research tools from Web of Science to

RefWorks. They will be available to offer programs customized for specific courses and to assist small groups collaborating on research assignments. The Library is also working with the Writing Program and

College Librarians at the Commons is designed by the Library to help undergraduates make the connection between their courses and the Library's collections and services.



College Core Tutors, also based in the Commons, to find new ways to collaborate in developing educational programs for students.

College Librarians at the Commons are located west of the main reading room, directly accessible off the West Tower Entrance to Harper Memorial Library Commons, on Mondays through Fridays from 2-5 p.m. or by appointment.

Faculty members are invited to refer students to this service. For more information, visit our Web site at harperlibrarycommons.uchicago.edu/college-librarians.



PHOTO BY BARBARA PALMER-BOSTICK

College Librarians (from left) Jennifer Hart, Rebecca Starkey, Deb Werner, Sarah Wenzel, John Kimbrough, and Nancy Spiegel help students connect with system-wide Library resources and services from the Harper Memorial Library Commons, 2-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Library Workshops Review Tools and Resources from ARTstor to RefWorks

By Sarah G. Wenzel, Bibliographer for English & Romance Literatures

Library workshops offer faculty, students and staff the opportunity to learn more about Library resources and tools, from ARTstor to RefWorks. In addition to workshops planned and scheduled by the Library, faculty may request tailored instruction sessions for their courses or one-on-one consultations.

Frequently requested Library workshops include RefWorks and EndNote® sessions, which teach efficient and effective use of these reference- and citation-management tools. In addition to general introductory sessions, more specific workshops are offered, such as those for students preparing theses.

Subject-specific workshops demonstrate newly acquired tools or provide an overview of resources in a given discipline. For example, the Music Resources workshop

reviews the best print and online indices and shows participants how to find music literature and recordings.

Some workshops focus on the needs of a particular segment of the student body. The Library's Dissertation Office offers workshops several times a quarter on preparing dissertations. A session on writing B.A. theses trains students to use archives, special collections, and libraries outside of the University system.

Other workshops teach advanced techniques for using a specific tool, such as Scopus™, a large, multidisciplinary abstract and citation database of research literature. The Scopus™ workshop teaches methods of searching, setting up e-mail alerts, and using the Citation Tracker, which generates an overview of how often articles by a particular author have been cited.

Faculty members sometimes use workshops as inspiration for tailored class-related instruction. For example, one faculty member noticed that we offered a workshop on finding book reviews in general and requested that we design a version tailored to a particular class assignment for her students.

Visit the Library calendar via the Library home page to see a schedule of workshops offered this quarter. If you or your students are unable to attend one that is of interest, please contact us via Ask a Librarian, and we will reprise it at a more convenient time. If you would like a workshop—whether on a topic we regularly offer, or on something entirely different—for a specific class, group of students or assignment, contact your subject specialist or reference librarian to make arrangements.

At Your Fingertips: Selected Online Resources

Special Collections Research Center Online Request System

The Special Collections Research Center has a new online request system that allows researchers to access materials and manage personal information with greater efficiency, flexibility, and accuracy.

The new system, implemented on July 1, replaces the old paper paging system. Requests, which can now be made and managed remotely, are normally available in Special Collections within approximately 30 minutes.

First-time users create an account online. They can then request materials online using the links in the Library's online catalogs and finding-aids database. The system allows each researcher to:

- Prepare and submit or save requests for collection materials online before a visit.
- Track the status of requests online (e.g., paged, on hold, or reshelved).
- Automatically populate request forms by clicking the new "Request from SCRC" link in the library catalog

or Lens record, or the "Request!" button in online finding aids.

- View a detailed history of the researcher's prior requests.

Faculty teaching in the Special Collections Research Center can work with a staff member to set up class visits as "Events" within a user account. Requests for events will be kept separate from personal research projects, allowing an individual to manage multiple projects with ease.

In a future stage of implementation, users will be able to submit and track all photoduplication orders in their online user accounts.

To create an account and use the system, visit forms.lib.uchicago.edu/lib/aon/aeon.php.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Special Collections at www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/ask/SCRC.html.

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A Chicago Approach to Scholarly Communication? *An Invitation to a Dialogue*

By *Judith Nadler, Director and University Librarian*



FROM THE
DIRECTOR

Many now argue that the process scholars use to share the results of their research is at a crossroads between traditional and new modes of publishing. The Internet makes digital publication possible in new and exciting ways. It is rapidly changing how information is produced, distributed, peer reviewed, and critiqued. The changes affect how faculty conduct literature reviews or share scholarly findings, how students do research, and how information is used in classroom teaching.

Many groups, including library consortia, academics and universities have been calling for changes to the ways communication takes place, particularly in light of the Internet's role in creating new methods of disseminating research.

In the February 2009 report *The University's Role in the Dissemination of Research and Scholarship*, the Association for American Universities, the Association for Research Libraries, the Coalition for Networked Information, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges recommends that each campus's faculty and administration consider modifying current practices and intellectual property policies to allow the university to retain "a set of rights sufficient to ensure [the] broad dissemination of the research and scholarly work produced by its faculty."

Last year, the faculties of Harvard's College of Arts and Sciences, Law School, and Kennedy School of Government, along with all units of MIT, voted to require that all faculty grant their institutions nonexclusive rights to their scholarly articles so that they could be made available publicly. And increasingly, libraries promote a scholarly communication model that relies on harnessing the power of the Internet coupled with open access distribution of scholarly work.

The activities and attitudes toward scholarly communication may be different at the University of Chicago than they are among peer institutions, but a discussion of the subject is timely. Toward that end, I am planning to form a small ad-hoc group including representatives of Chicago's faculty, Library, and Press to work with me on initiating the dialogue.

I welcome your thoughts and look forward to your interest in joining this group.

EXHIBITIONS

Chicago Celebrates Darwin

The John Crerar Library, ATRIUM
October 19, 2009–March 26, 2010

The John Crerar Library revisits the Darwin Centennial Celebration, hosted by the University of Chicago in 1959. We look back at the original letters, pictures, and documents from that conference to get a sense of the atmosphere and importance of the events, including the effect of Darwin's theories on the research and popular opinion of the day. This exhibit is hosted in conjunction with Darwin/Chicago, the University's conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* and the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth.

Haydn on Tour

The Joseph Regenstein Library
FIRST FLOOR LOBBY
October 25, 2009–December 11, 2009

Traveling from the *Haydn Festspiele* in Eisenstadt, Austria, this exhibition marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) by providing an illustrated account of Haydn's life and the places where he lived and worked. It includes 42 reproductions of 18th-century portraits, maps, letters, manuscripts, and scores, as well as paintings and sketches of places important in Haydn's career. The exhibit is jointly sponsored by the Haydn Festspiele Eisenstadt, the Austrian Consulate General of Chicago, the University of Chicago Music Department, and the University of Chicago Library.

Special Collections Launches Web Exhibits

The Special Collections Research Center is launching its first Web exhibits this fall, including one new, “born digital” exhibit, and several online versions of exhibits previously shown in Special Collections galleries. To view these exhibits, visit www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/webexhibits.

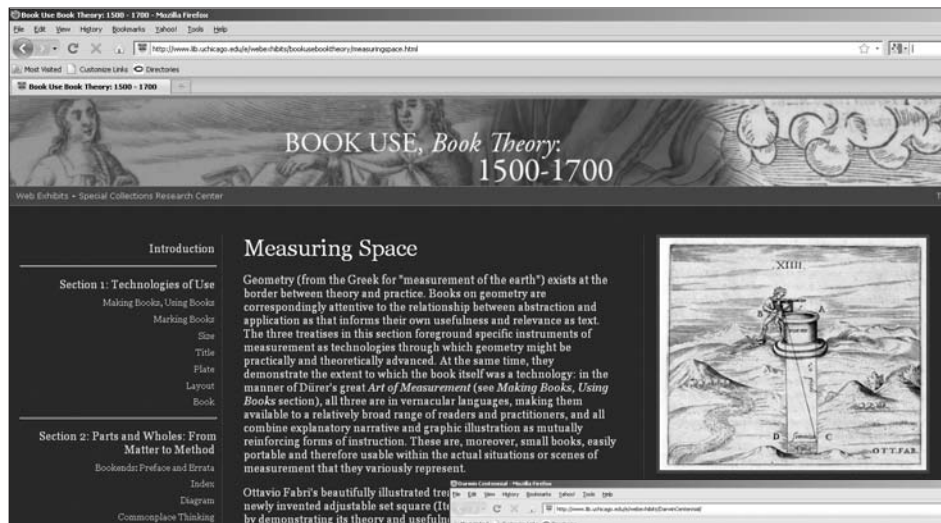
Born Digital

The Darwin Centennial Celebration

Through archival documents, recordings, and film footage, this Web exhibit explores the landmark conference held at the University of Chicago in 1959 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*.

Based on Past Physical Exhibits

- B. Heller & Co. Collection
- Book Use, Book Theory, 1500-1700
- East European Jews in the German-Jewish Imagination—From the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica
- Images of Prayer, Politics, and Everyday Life—From the Harry and Branka Sondheim Jewish Heritage Collection
- Integrating the Life of the Mind—African Americans at the University of Chicago, 1870-1940



- “On Equal Terms”—Educating Women at the University of Chicago
- Our Lincoln—Bicentennial Icons from the Barton Collection of Lincolniana
- Printing for the Modern Age—Commerce, Craft and Culture in the RR Donnelley Archive



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