

Libra

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Messier 51, The Whirlpool Galaxy. The Sloan Digital Sky Survey image of this famous spiral galaxy (interacting with a smaller neighbor at the lower left) occupies about three one-millionths of the total sky area imaged by the SDSS.

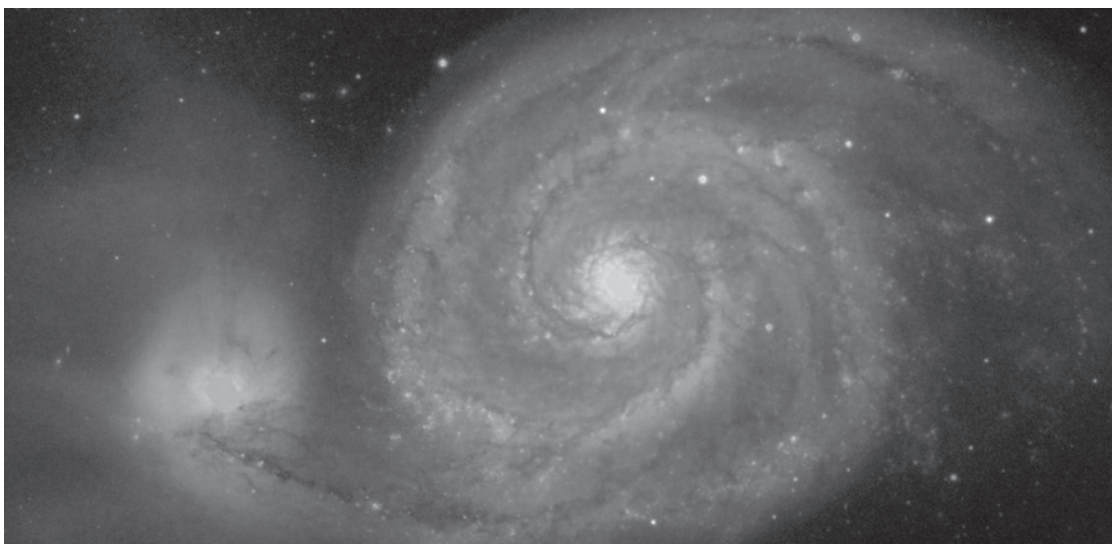


IMAGE BY THE SLOAN DIGITAL SKY SURVEY

Preserving 930,000 Galaxies— and Beyond

By Barbara Kern, Co-Director, Science Libraries

The University of Chicago Library is excited to be involved in a substantial data curation project for one of the most ambitious and influential astronomical surveys ever conducted—the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). Over the course of eight years, the Survey has mapped one-quarter of the sky—including 930,000 galaxies—and has amassed over 100 terabytes (TB) of data, including spectra, images, and object catalogs.

A co-operative scientific project involving more than 25 worldwide institutions, SDSS is managed by the Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC). Our Library is proud to be archiving and providing access to SDSS data and to be preserving the project's print and electronic administrative records.

The Library began a discussion about archiving SDSS in 2006—two years before the survey was scheduled to come to an end—after Professor Richard Kron, the SDSS project director and a University of Chicago faculty member, asked us to consider whether the Library could take a role

in providing long-term storage of project data and ongoing data access for scientists and educators through an SDSS interface. Discussions like this are becoming familiar for the Library. With various research projects at the University accumulating vast amounts of data that remain valuable even after a project's close, questions of how to preserve and provide access to data are becoming paramount.

How can the Library act as a caretaker of the data—both archiving it and providing access to interested users? For us, SDSS was an excellent opportunity to put this question to the test. As we began, we considered the investments in staff time, expertise, computer hardware, and software needed to provide this service. Additionally, questions of sustainability were raised related to storage capacity, and data migration. In 2007/08 a pilot project to store and provide access to a subset of the SDSS data was successful. In late 2008, the Library entered into a formal agreement with ARC to complete the full

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Library

Special Collections Renovations to Enhance Spaces for Exhibitions, Reader Services, and Group Study

By Alice Schreyer, Director, Special Collections Research Center and Assistant Director for Special Collections & Preservation

When the Mansueto Library opens in 2011, users walking through Regenstein toward its sister library will encounter a striking new exhibition gallery and entrance to the Special Collections Research Center that will be worthy of its new neighbor on the other side of the glass bridge.

On March 4, 2010, the University of Chicago's Board of Trustees approved a project to renovate the Special Collections Research Center in conjunction with construction of the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library. Work is expected to begin after the close of spring quarter and to be completed when the Mansueto Library opens in 2011.

Construction of the pathway from within Regenstein to Mansueto has eliminated one-half of the Special Collections exhibition gallery, three offices, and the space where materials are held on reserve for researchers. The approved renovation project will address the impact of this construction, improve research and instructional spaces, and enhance Special Collections' visibility and accessibility.

The Chicago architectural firm of Booth Hansen has produced a conceptual

design study and detailed design drawings for an attractive, welcoming space that can accommodate the physical and programmatic needs of Special Collections. The conceptual plan originally proposed a broader renovation that was later scaled back due to budget constraints. The current project focuses on the highest priority needs, and careful attention is being paid to ensure that the work done now will neither disrupt nor preclude future space enhancements.

The project, now in the construction drawing phase, consists of three elements:

Exhibition Gallery

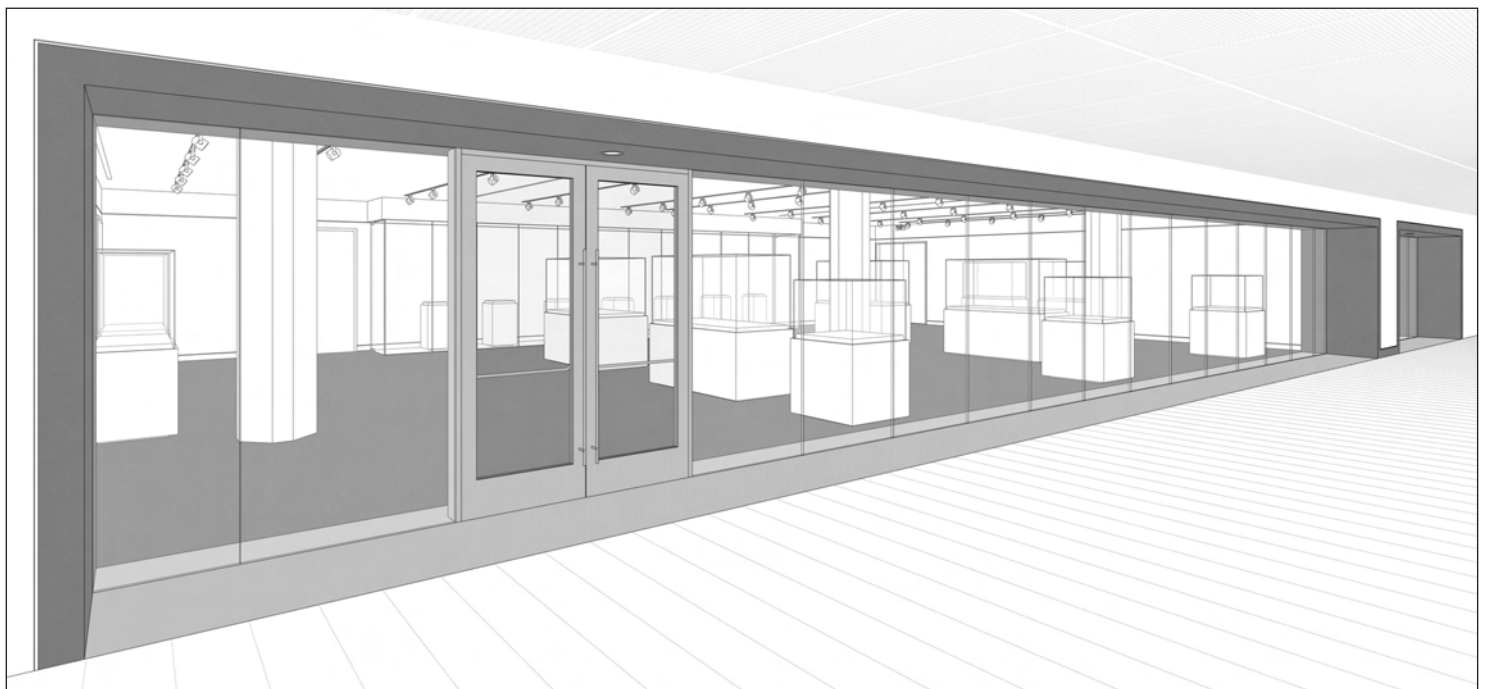
The Special Collections exhibition program presents and interprets collections to University students, faculty, and staff; members of the scholarly community; and the general public. Engaging faculty and students in the research and writing of exhibitions provides a unique scholarly and educational experience. The new exhibition gallery, featuring a flexible mix of state-of-the-art display cases in a preservation environment, will attract viewers through its prominent position on the pathway to Mansueto.

Reader Services Suite

Special Collections works to promote, increase, and facilitate use of primary sources by students at all levels, researchers affiliated with the University of Chicago, visiting researchers, and members of the community. The renovation will make reader services spaces more welcoming and functional by locating offices for two reference/instruction librarians on the first floor, where researchers can easily reach them, by restoring the director's and associate director's offices, and by allowing space for individual consultations with users.

Group Study Room

The additional group study room will be used by the growing number of students and researchers working together on projects, by scholars examining very large items that cannot be used safely in the reading room, by faculty members consulting with students about assignments that draw on Special Collections materials, and for listening to and viewing of digitized audio and video resources.



Architect's rendering of the entrance to the new Special Collections Research Center exhibition gallery.

Preserving Galaxies

Continued from page 1

project, which is being underwritten by ARC, the John Crerar Foundation, and the Library.

Today the Library archives and provides access to SDSS survey data, including the Data Archive Server (DAS) and the Catalog Archive Server (CAS). The DAS includes almost 80 TB of processed data in flat file format, and the CAS includes 20 TB of imaging and spectro catalogs. The Library maintains server hardware and systems for the DAS, including the DAS interface, CGI scripts and Web pages, managed by Charles Blair, Elisabeth Long and Peggy Wilkins of the Library's Digital Library Development Center (DLDC). Dean Armstrong and David Farley from the Library's Administrative & Desktop Systems administer the Windows servers running CAS, providing security patching and hardware maintenance. Other institutions also play an important role in this project: in addition to the University of Chicago, both Fermilab and Johns Hopkins University are storing and providing access to this data. This redundancy ensures that both data and access are protected if one institution experiences a catastrophic event.

Working with Professor Kron and Bill Boroski from Fermilab, Daniel Meyer, Eileen Ielmini, and Kathleen Feeney of the Library's Special Collections Research Center have identified and secured a portion of the project administrative records, including files from Fermilab and Apache Point Observatory, where the SDSS 2.5-meter telescope is located, including engineering materials, meeting minutes, photograph albums, construction documents, scrapbooks, posters, ephemera and proposals. In addition, the Library has preserved the contents of the SDSS listserv that was once stored at Princeton University. Several issues associated with the preservation of the collection, including privacy, must be resolved before the entire collection is accessible.

Our John Crerar Library Reference Department also manages the SDSS email help desk. The help desk is designed to assist users with the SDSS interfaces as well as the interpretation of downloaded results. Library staff distribute questions to SDSS experts (identified by ARC), and these experts in turn respond to email queries. To contact the SDSS help desk, visit lib.uchicago.edu/e/ask/SDSSask.html.

The Library is looking forward to continuing our work with SDSS and will benefit from what we learn as we pursue other data curation projects in the future.



PHOTO BY JOHN PITCHER

Mansueto Library Dome Rises

With construction of its steel and concrete ground floor completed in April, the primary focus of Mansueto Library construction in May becomes assembly of the glass dome. The dome is being built in six phases:

1. **Dome components**, including steel, aluminum, and glass pieces, were manufactured by the German company Seele. The structural steel frame was assembled into sections in Germany for testing purposes and then disassembled before shipment to Chicago.
2. **Scaffolding** was built over the ground floor in April to facilitate construction. It is elliptical in shape and rises in tiers, like a wedding cake.
3. **The structural steel frame** will be installed. First, the central beams of the structure will be built, forming an arc that reveals the shape of the dome, and then the infill framing will be assembled from the ground up.
4. **The aluminum frame** that will support the glass will be installed.
5. **Glass** will be installed in quadrants, beginning from the top down.
6. **Sealant** will be applied and the dome will be completed.

Construction of the structural steel frame is scheduled for spring and summer quarters, with the dome rising to its full height of 35 feet. Glass components will be installed in the autumn.

As the structural steel frame for the dome is being built, components of the automated storage and retrieval system will be lowered into the basement, where they will be constructed into a functional system throughout autumn 2010 and winter 2011.

During winter 2010, a number of construction milestones were achieved: structural steel beams were set throughout the basement, decking was installed over the steel beams to create the ground floor, bolting and structural stud welding on the metal deck were completed, in-slab conduit was installed on the ground floor, and installation of electrical switch gear, piping, air handlers, and associated duct work began in the mezzanine mechanical space. In addition, construction began in Regenstein to create the pathway to Mansueto, along with the new restrooms immediately adjacent to the bridge. Existing Regenstein first floor restrooms are being moved south of their former location.

The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library is scheduled to open in spring 2011.

“Hidden Collections” Uncovered: *Ramanujan Papers, Soviet Posters, and Chicago History*

Amid record-setting collection growth and a rapidly changing research environment, the Special Collections Research Center has undertaken an innovative program to arrange and describe previously unprocessed archives and manuscripts within its 40,000 linear feet of collections. Making under-described materials discoverable to researchers is vital for cutting-edge work in the humanities and social sciences.

Archivist Maija Anderson works with history graduate students Kristy Ironside and Heather Welland to apply streamlined processing techniques that make these collections available for timely access while preserving them for future scholars.

Since 2006, Special Collections archivists have achieved a 500% increase in annual processing productivity, ensuring that the Library’s most in-demand archives and manuscripts will be accessible to researchers. Archivists in Special Collections also contribute to the Library’s online finding aids database at ead.lib.uchicago.edu. It contains user-friendly guides to over 1,000 archives and manuscripts collections.

A sample of the collections recently processed by Maija and her staff hint at the

depth and variety of primary materials that are now accessible:

A.K. Ramanujan Papers 1944-1995; 36.25 linear feet (71 boxes)

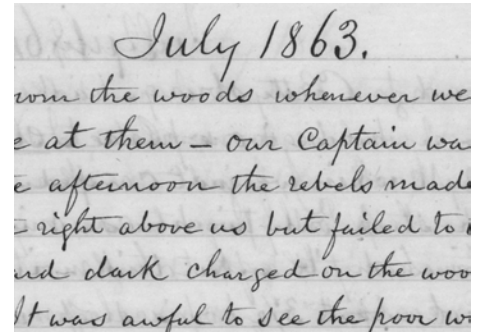
Attipat Krishnaswami Ramanujan (1929-1993) was a poet, folklorist, linguist, and translator based at the University of Chicago. Ramanujan translated classical and modern literature of South Asia, as well as folk tales and songs. As a poet, Ramanujan wrote primarily in English, often on transcultural themes. The A.K. Ramanujan Papers span 1944-1995 and contain correspondence, teaching materials, manuscripts, publications, diaries, photographs, audio and video recordings, and digital media.

Dr. Harry Bakwin and Dr. Ruth Morris Bakwin Collection of Soviet Posters 1930-1932; 4 linear feet (19 items)

American physicians Dr. Harry Bakwin and Dr. Ruth Morris Bakwin collected these posters during two trips to the Soviet Union. The majority promote the First Five Year Plan (1928-1932), a series of industrial targets designed by the Stalinist regime to build up heavy industry in the Soviet Union. They depict various aspects of the industrialization and militarization drive of this period, as well as general themes in the communist worldview and important moments in Marxist history.

B. Heller & Co. Collection 1896-2003; 7.75 linear feet (8 boxes)

Chicago-based B. Heller & Co. began in 1893 as a wholesale manufacturer of dry powders used in the preparation of meat products. Over the years, the company expanded into the manufacture of a variety of food ingredients, sanitary supplies, and kitchen and office products. The B. Heller & Co. Collection documents advances in food technology, marketing, and product design during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The collection includes samples of products and packaging, ephemera, publications, business records and photographs. It is featured in a Special Collections Web Exhibit.



Transcription of a Civil War soldier’s diary entry describing the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863. Virginia Eckels Malone Family Collection.

Virginia Eckels Malone Family Papers

1854-1974; 50 linear feet (53 boxes)

Virginia Eckels Malone (1898-1978) was a writer and amateur historian who grew up in Hyde Park. The Eckels family lived at 5537 Woodlawn, which was later the home of Enrico Fermi. The Library’s George Morris Eckels Collection of Cromwelliana was built by Virginia’s father and given by her mother. Her extended family included distinguished politicians, attorneys, and philanthropists. In addition to being a valuable genealogical resource, the collection includes a variety of family papers and memorabilia, including a libretto for an early production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *HMS Pinafore*; records of a Washington D.C. orphanage; a Civil War diary kept by a man who died fighting with “Duryee’s Zouaves”; and many photographs and scrapbooks showing upper-middle class life in Hyde Park circa 1890s-1910s.

Hyde Park Historical Society. Hyde Park Co-op. Records

1915-2008; 56.5 linear feet (113 boxes)

Founded in 1932, the Hyde Park Cooperative Society operated grocery stores in the Hyde Park-Kenwood neighborhood until 2008. The collection includes administrative records, correspondence, pamphlets, books, photographs, audiovisual and digital material, and artifacts. The bulk of material is devoted to the period between 1934 and 2008. The Hyde Park Co-op Records form part of the manuscript collections of the Hyde Park Historical Society (HPS), which are housed in Special Collections. Processing of the Co-op Records, along with the rest of HPS’s collections, is part of a year-long project supported by HPS.



“Proletariat Youth,” poster, circa 1930-1932. Dr. Harry Bakwin and Dr. Ruth Morris Bakwin Collection of Soviet Posters.

Dissertation Write-In at Regenstein

By Meghan Hammond, Assistant Director, Office of Graduate Affairs

Graduate Student Affairs (GSA) hosted its first Dissertation Write-In at Regenstein over spring break. Based on the successful models of “dissertation boot camps” at several peer institutions, the Write-In required participating students to commit to writing for four hours each day from March 22 to 26.

For a \$50 “motivational deposit” (returned if students fulfilled their commitment), 20 students from the Biological and Social Sciences, Humanities, and Divinity School were provided with top-quality rooms in Regenstein and participated in discussions on procrastination and motivation and the technical aspects of electronic dissertation submission procedures.

GSA received very positive feedback throughout the week—from appreciation for being surrounded by others struggling with the same writing issues to compliments on the comfortable chairs and dedicated quiet space the Library offered. Many students found the week so productive, in fact, that they are continuing to write in Regenstein’s Room 207 three days per week throughout spring quarter. GSA hopes that this is but the first of a series of Write-In sessions and looks forward to partnering with the Library in the future.

More information on the Dissertation Write-In can be found on the GSA Web site: grad-affairs.uchicago.edu/services/disscamp.shtml.

Meghan Hammond previously served as a project analyst in the Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students and was the Office’s representative to the Library Student Resource Group.

A Matter of Respect

By Judith Nadler, Director and University Librarian



FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the heart of a great University is a great Library: a place where ideas are born and developed, knowledge is created and shared, and the future is enriched. It is a sacred place for all who build it, use it, and benefit from it—and one that our entire community strives to keep sacred through our shared commitment to knowledge, service, integrity, communication, and respect.

A recent incident in our Library involving police intervention has raised questions about our execution of those values. It is this matter that prompts me to reflect on respect in this column.

This is a time of great change in the creation, dissemination, and use of information. Technology is enabling interactive modes of research, teaching, and learning, alongside more traditional, solitary approaches to scholarship. Physical libraries and virtual libraries coexist and join forces in support of varying user needs and expectations.

We build and preserve collections with respect for the past they document, and we deliver those collections with respect for the future they inform. We strive to build environments that are conducive to both preservation and delivery, that are respectful of those who service the collections and those who use them. We are engaged in a learning process, seeking to understand and enable diverse research and learning styles within a common environment. In this regard, more needs to be done.

The recent incident in our Library heightens the urgency of our need to clarify the Library’s roles in serving its constituencies and to engage our users in developing and supporting realistic expectations for a productive environment. As we agree on these expectations, we will disseminate them broadly.

A painful experience can have as its outcome a greater understanding of vital issues, and greater understanding is a prerequisite for respect.

I regret the pain this experience has caused to all parties involved, and I expect that an open dialogue will restore the feeling of trust and hospitality in the Library and will heighten the respect for the environment and for all those with whom it is being shared.

At Your Fingertips: Featured Databases

Each of these databases can be accessed via Database Finder at lib.uchicago.edu/dbfinder.

D’Angelo Law Library Picks

Corporate Governance Report: Developments in corporate law and governance affecting corporate directors and officers and institutional investors.

Health Care Policy Report: Government policy involving health care and health insurance.

Pike & Fischer Internet Law & Regulation: Legal and regulatory developments affecting e-business.

The United States Law Week: Latest actions of the Supreme Court and major decisions from federal and state courts.

Visit lib.uchicago.edu/e/law/db/ for more databases on United States law, foreign and international law, Congress and legislative history, computer-based legal education resources and legal materials on CD-ROM.

EXHIBITIONS

Tadanori Yokoo

Recent Poster Works 1997-2005

Regenstein Library, 1st floor
March 29–June 19, 2010



Japanese artist and designer Tadanori Yokoo's posters reject the elegant economy of means found in 20th-century modernist design. While those on exhibition were produced as

advertisements, they challenge viewers to take an active, questioning, or ironic stance toward what is being purveyed. Rays, waves, waterfalls, and other references to 1960s and '70s psychedelic imagery humorously evoke the embattled subconscious of a viewer overwhelmed by images. This exhibition is co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation Toronto, the Center for East Asian Studies, the University of Chicago Library, and the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago.

Gentle Touch

Practical Ways to Support Scholarship

Regenstein Library, 1st floor
May 8–16, 2010



Pick up tips on the gentle art of caring for collections at an exhibition celebrating the first

National Preservation Week, May 9-15, 2010. See the Special Collections Research Center blog "Preservation Tips" at lib.typepad.com/scrc/ for additional resources on caring for books, photographs, and other materials. National Preservation Week is co-sponsored by the American Library Association and other cultural heritage organizations to highlight the importance of preservation in sustaining personal and shared book collections.

The Science of Sustainability

The John Crerar Library, Atrium
April 5–October 1, 2010



How do advances in science and new technologies affect approaches to sustainability in building design? This exhibition explores building practices such as green roofs, recycled building materials, and new energy technologies that can reduce a structure's environmental impact.

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Libra can be found online at www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/libra.

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