

# LIBRA

Library Reports  
and Announcements

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LIBRARY

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LIBRA (LIBrary Reports and Announcements) is a newsletter from the University of Chicago Library, written for the faculty and University community. If you have questions or comments about this issue of LIBRA, please contact Sandra Levy at 773-702-6463 or [libra@lib.uchicago.edu](mailto:libra@lib.uchicago.edu)

## Finding Aids Move Online

By Daniel Meyer

Associate Director and University Archivist  
Special Collections Research Center

Researchers using archival and manuscript collections have an important new electronic resource. The Library has just launched the Archives and Manuscripts Finding Aids site, a searchable database providing full-text digital guides to the content of historic records and papers in the Special Collections Research Center.

Accessible at <http://ead.lib.uchicago.edu>, the new database offers the Library's first system for delivering finding aids via the web to faculty, students, and other researchers. The initial version of the site presents finding aids for a representative group of 126 archival and manuscript collections. Guides for many more additional collections will be added as they are converted to digital form according to the internationally adopted standard known as Encoded Archival Description (EAD).

Finding aids in the EAD format already now available represent some of the Library's most frequently consulted archival and manuscript collections. The papers of Edith and Grace Abbott support studies of social welfare, social work, and public programs supporting women and children. The Ernest Burgess papers preserve documentation on urban communities, ethnicity, family roles, and sexuality and gender. Fred Eggan's papers record anthropological research in the Philippines and among Native Americans of the Southwest. Amos Alonzo Stagg's papers document one of the most dominant figures in the creation and development of intercollegiate athletics.

The sciences are represented by finding aids to the Enrico Fermi papers, with extensive correspondence and sets of laboratory notebooks, and the records of post-World War II atomic scientists' organizations, including the Association of Los Alamos Scientists, the Association of Oak Ridge Engineers and Scientists, and the Association of Scientists for Atomic Education.

Other finding aids document key episodes in American political and social history. The Lincoln Collection Miscellaneous Manuscripts include letters and documents of Abraham Lincoln, his family, and the leading figures of the Civil War era. The Ida B. Wells papers record a courageous life devoted to the fight against lynching and promoting legal justice and equal rights. The Julius Rosenwald papers document an

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influential philanthropic career in support of African American education, civil rights, and judicial reform. The Walter Paepcke papers preserve important materials on adult education, Great Books, Great Ideas, and the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies.

All these digital guides and others in the initial group will be joined by more finding aids in the next stages of conversion to digital form. When the database reaches complete coverage, it will contain more than 4,000 finding aids and guides to collections documenting the University's history and preserving resources from the distinctive disciplines, fields, and interests that have characterized faculty research and teaching for more than a century.

The Archives and Manuscripts Finding Aid database makes information about these resources accessible in a variety of new ways. Researchers can perform simple or advanced keyword searches against the content of all finding aids in the database. They can also browse a list of all finding aids titles, or an alphabetical list of subject headings.

In the new site, navigation within individual finding aids is simple. The text of each finding aid scrolls as a continuous document in the right-hand frame of the screen display. The left-hand frame of the display is reserved for a Table of Contents to the finding aid, with components of the text arranged in sequential order. Clicking on one of these divisions in the left-hand frame brings up the equivalent portion of the finding aid text in the right-hand frame.

As the Library moves forward with the enlargement of the new database, it is also sharing its finding aids with inter-institutional union databases. University of Chicago finding aids are being added to the Archival Resources database of the Research Libraries Group, which provides 32,000 finding aids and 700,000 archival records contributed by 50 research institutions. The Library's physics and astrophysics finding aids are also being added to a subject-based resource, the Physics History Finding Aids database of the American Institute of Physics.

With digital finding aids accessible on the Library's web site, and cross-collection searching available at collaborative sites like RLG and the AIP, more researchers than ever before will be able to discover the Library's archival and manuscript riches and the broad range of teaching and research projects they can support.

Development of the site will continue with further enhancements. Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be directed to Daniel Meyer ([arch@uchicago.edu](mailto:arch@uchicago.edu)) or Eileen Ielmini, Head Processing Archivist ([ielmini@uchicago.edu](mailto:ielmini@uchicago.edu)). Further information on using Special Collections archives and manuscripts is available from Jay Satterfield, Head of Reader Services, Special Collections Research Center ([jsatterf@uchicago.edu](mailto:jsatterf@uchicago.edu)).



## What's new? The Reference and Business Information Center

**Jeffrey Archer,**

Head, Reference and Business Information Center  
Bibliographer, Business and Economics

The new Reference and Business Information Center (RBIC) is the result of the merger of the Reference & Information Services with the Business & Economics Resource Center. The combined Center and staff offers many benefits: centralized reference service on the first floor of Regenstein, expanded hours for business and economics reference, and consolidation of library staff with government documents and demographic data expertise.

When fully staffed, RBIC will include eight full-time librarians, two full-time clerical staff, plus part-time student help. In addition to providing reference service in-person, over the phone, via email and through live chat, staff of the RBIC have a variety of collection development responsibilities. Jeffrey Archer, Head of the RBIC, continues to serve as the bibliographer for business and economics. Beverly Sperring is the bibliographer for reference and government documents. Paul Belloni has selection responsibilities for business and economic government documents. Ellen Bryan is the selector for African studies. Sandy Roscoe is the bibliographer for contemporary English & American fiction. Agnes Tatarka has selection responsibilities for computing and business and economics for Latin America. Rebecca Starkey leads the department's teaching and learning services.

Twelve computers and a select group of business reference sources were moved in early March from the A-level. The full business and economics reference collection will be moved to the first floor during the summer. Shelving will be added to the northeast corner of the reading room to accommodate the additional materials. The business and economics current periodical collection will remain on the A-Level until the creation of a centralized Periodicals Reading Room on the 2nd floor of Regenstein later this summer.



## Finite Space, Many Books

**James Vaughan,**

Assistant Director for Access and Facilities

The Library presently holds approximately 6.8 million printed volumes and owns or licenses a large amount of digital information. Although digital information is extremely valuable and rapidly growing, the publication of print and other non-digital formats has not decreased. In the last 5 years, the Library has added a net average of approximately 146,000 bound volumes a year. The count does not include non-print media. An estimated 115,000 of the annual net addition bound volumes, along with most of the non-codex material, are shelved in Regenstein.

# Connections

## The Library purchases access to two major new resources for American Studies

Sebastian Hierl,

Bibliographer for English and Romance languages

The Library now provides online access to two essential collections of early American publications, previously only available in micro-form: Evans' Early American Imprints Series (1639-1800) and the American Periodicals Series (1740-1900). These resources cover virtually all subjects, from history and literature, through law, philosophy, religion, diplomacy, medicine, and the sciences.

Based on the renowned American Bibliography by Charles Evans and enhanced by Roger Bristol's supplement, the Early American Imprint Series (1639-1800) is now available on the campus network under the name of Evans Digital Editions. Containing copies of every title published in book format in North America from 1639 to 1800, Evans is a key resource for information on practically every aspect of American life in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

While the project to digitize the entire Evans collection is still under way, the database will, upon completion, provide access to over 36,000 works, which will be searchable by author, title, publisher, and year of publication, as well as any word within the 2.4 million pages contained in the database. By associating ASCII text to the page-images and providing bibliographic descriptions produced by the American Antiquarian Society, the database allows for a varied and flexible access that includes full text and keyword searching. In addition, one may browse the database by genre, subject, author, year, place of publication, or language. The project is estimated to be complete in June 2004.

The counterpart to Evans (or vice versa), American Periodicals Series Online (1740-1900) currently features 750 of the over 1,100 periodicals that will be included in the database. Upon completion, APS will span nearly 200 years from colonial times to 1941.

APS Online contains digitized images of the pages of American magazines and journals that originated between 1741 and 1900. Coverage starts with Andrew Bradford's American Magazine and

Benjamin Franklin's General Magazine and goes up to the early years of WWII, with Forum (1886-1930) and Forum and Century (1930-1940) and Living Age (1897-1941). Included are special and general interest publications, literary and professional journals, children's and women's magazines, as well as many other titles of historical significance.

As with Evans, every page of all 1,127 journals is available as a digital page-image of the original. Scholars can, thus, search APS and Evans taking advantage of the flexibility and powerful search capabilities of electronic resources, while retaining access to the typography and graphic elements, advertisements, and article layouts of the original.

With Evans and APS, the Library is making available to the University community a set of resources that is unique in its depth and breadth of coverage. Scholars in American History, Literature, Women and Gender Studies, African-American Studies, Law, the History of Science and Medicine, Economics, and all other disciplines relying on access to original early American publications, will tremendously benefit from these major acquisitions.

Both databases are available from any networked station both on and off campus. Connect to Evans or APS through the Library's alphabetic list of electronic resources ([www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/db/](http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/db/)), the catalog, or any of the subject pages featuring a link, such as History and American Literature, among others.

For any questions regarding Evans and APS, including coverage, access, and search strategies, please contact Sebastian Hierl, Bibliographer for English and Romance Literatures ([hierl@uchicago.edu](mailto:hierl@uchicago.edu) | 702-8448) or Frank Conaway, Social Sciences Bibliographer ([febc@uchicago.edu](mailto:febc@uchicago.edu) | 702-8454).



### Awards

Pat Williams, Head, Monographic Original Cataloging

David Bade, a cataloger in the Joseph Regenstein Library, has received the Conover-Porter Award from the African Studies Association for his book entitled *Books in African languages in the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, Northwestern University: a catalog*. The two volume work was published by Northwestern University in 2000. The Conover-Porter Award is presented in even-numbered years to the author of the most outstanding achievement in African bibliography and reference works published during the previous two years. Previously, access to the Africana collection at Northwestern has been limited to a card catalog, available only on site. Now, researchers in African studies around the world can access this rich collection through David's book catalog.

## Finite Space

At these present rate of growth, the total shelving in the libraries on campus, including Harper Storage, will be filled to capacity by the end of 2007, less than 5 years from now. Indeed the Special Collections Research Center will run out of space for archives and manuscripts by the end of this year. The process of making a decision about providing additional long-term storage space is complex. Substantial lead-time will be required to implement whatever decision is chosen.

To assist the University in these decisions, the Provost has appointed, at Martin Runkle's request, an Ad Hoc Committee on Space for Library Collections. Chaired by Richard Helmhotz, the Ruth Wyatt Rosenson Distinguished Service Professor in the Law School, the committee will identify and evaluate long term storage options to accommodate the growth of the collections. The Committee has been asked to evaluate the various options, weighing the costs and benefits. The Committee's recommendations will be critical in the continuing process of deliberation and decision-making.

Other members of the committee include Lauren Metz, Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology; Robert Morrissey, Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literature; Sam Peltzman, Ralph & Dorothy Keller Distinguished Services Professor in Economics and the Graduate School of Business; Steven Pincus, Associate Professor, Department of History and Chair of the Board of the Library; and Steve Stigler, the Ernest DeWitt Burton Distinguished Services Professor, Department of Statistics. Martin Runkle will be working with the Ad Hoc Committee. Jim Vaughan will serve as staff to the group.

For additional information about library – wide space needs for the print collections, please contact Jim Vaughan at [j-vaughan@uchicago.edu](mailto:j-vaughan@uchicago.edu) (702-8351).



## The View from the Science Libraries

Kathleen Zar,

Assistant Director of the Science Libraries

My professional library career began at the University of Chicago in the late 1960's, about a year prior to the opening of the Joseph Regenstein Library, and at the end of an era that seems now to have been the golden age for science libraries. There were six departmental science libraries then, plus the Research Institutes Library and a scattering of laboratory collections. Science library collections expanded rapidly in the 1960's in response to new teaching and research programs and to fulfill collection mandates to acquire much of the North American and Western European

research publication output. As is still the case, the focus was on establishing and maintaining subscriptions to the journal and other serial publications considered important and relevant. 4

The Sixties and Seventies were also growth decades for science and medical publishers. The science publishing structure had difficulty responding to the increasing influx of research papers fueled by increases in the size of the research community. The time from an article's submission to its publication stretched alarmingly, close to two years for some major journals. To cope, publishers expanded the number of pages per issue, created rapid results journals, and streamlined peer review processes. The most common response, particularly among for-profit publishers, was to create more specialized journals offering alternative publishing outlets.

The academic library market became the principle target for most of this publishing activity. For-profit company business models were formed around institutional subscription pricing, inflationary annual price increases, and the knowledge that science libraries would be reluctant to reshape collecting profiles. Thus began at Chicago, as at all other libraries, the journal subscription contraction and recovery cycles of the past twenty years. With a strong economy and favorable exchange rates for the dollar, modest collection growth could continue, but in the "bad years" cancellations carved away at duplicate subscriptions, peripheral titles, non-English language publications, and dormant research areas. Speedy delivery of articles via Interlibrary Loan was more essential now and cooperative collection work with other academic libraries was attempted. By the mid 1980's the best solution for this serials crisis seemed to lie with information technology developments that would permit the easy and low-cost transmission of information across the Internet. Electronic mail services expedited scholarly communication. The stability and rapid growth of telecommunications networks gave birth to publishing models that would reduce the scientific community's dependency on the for-profit publishing sector. Those first years of electronic scholarship and publishing were heady ones as librarians saw the digital information revolution as a way to preserve science journals through adjustments in their method of publication and distribution.

Now with more than ten years of digital library experience, it is clear that major shifts in scientific publishing will be evolutionary not revolutionary. The work of inspired individuals as well as that of libraries, educational institutions and public and private organizations have spawned new entities such as the Los Alamos e-print archive (now the [arXiv.org](http://arXiv.org) e-Print Archive); SPARC, The Scholarly Publishing and Resources Coalition; and JSTOR, The Scholarly Journal Archive. Nonetheless, the science librarian is faced with the fact that a large portion of the science publishing market remains concentrated in the for-profit sector. Print and digital versions of established journals co-exist with additional charges for the second format adding to the total cost. Our readership has leaped to accept the convenience and ready availability of digital, full-text versions, but is understandably reluctant to forgo the relative permanence of printed editions archived by scholarly institutions.

There is no magical silver bullet for dealing with serial costs. At Chicago, we are evolving our own plan to deal with the pressures of steadily increasing book and serial prices, the emergence of new

sources of digital information, and the constant expansion of scientific and medical knowledge. Science librarians have begun to select electronic editions in lieu of their print equivalents. This has been done with the belief that national and international efforts to establish trusted digital journal archives will succeed and that high quality representations for textual and visual images will be readily available to all members of the science community. We are balancing the characteristics of journal importance and use within each discipline with the state of electronic publishing, retrospective journal digitization, and digital archiving for that discipline. Our plan, for the optimum use of our budget, is to collect journals in either electronic or print format, but not both. For 2003, we initiated the cancellation or suspension of print subscriptions for 212 science and medical journals and recommended subscriptions to only the electronic editions for new journal titles. We have advocated the purchase of historical digital journal collections in order to foster a rich research environment with immediate access to scientific literature from the office, classroom, and laboratory. We step into the promise of the electronic future with one foot still firmly planted in our legacy library environment and with both ears tuned to the proponents and the critics of change.



## CRERAR EXHIBITS

*The Science Libraries present short-term & ongoing exhibits in the atrium of the John Crerar Library. Exhibits focus on some aspect of the sciences & highlight the collections of the Crerar, Eckhart, Chemistry and Yerkes Libraries.*

### Tickling your Funny Bone: Science and Humor, Part II

**Through August 31, 2003**

*Science and Humor, Part II promises to be as humorous and entertaining as the original! Scientific books, journals, research and cartoons will be featured. Once again, the exhibit's contributors include Chicago faculty and students as well as Crerar staff's own collection of jokes, cartoons, and funny bone-tickling stories. Do you have a contribution to make? Please email Barbara Kern at [bkern@uchicago.edu](mailto:bkern@uchicago.edu)*

Ongoing Exhibits: Paleontological Display (dinosaur bones from Paul Sereno) & Crystara

## Upcoming Library Society Programs

### May 7, 2003

*Jean Bethke Elshtain, a political philosopher whose task has been to show the connections between our political and our ethical convictions, will address the Library Society's Annual Meeting, reflecting on the crucial intersection between theoretical reflection and engagement with world leaders and events. Ms. Elshtain is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at The University of Chicago and a frequent public lecturer.*

### Looking Ahead to the 2003/2004 Academic Year

#### October 8, 2003

*Janel Mueller, William Rainey Harper Distinguished Service Professor and Dean of the Humanities Division, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Special Collections Research Center with a presentation reflecting her use of the Library's special collections in her research and teaching. Alice Schreyer, the Research Center's Director, will add to the celebration with retrospective remarks.*

#### November 5, 2003

*Wendy Doniger, Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor in the Divinity School, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Committees on the Ancient Mediterranean World and Social Thought, and the College, will present a talk on the monumental Indian epic, Mahabharata.*

# REGENSTEIN EXHIBITS

Between the Boards: Collections, Compilations, and Curiosities from the John Crerar Collection of Rare Books in the History of Science and Medicine

**Through June 20, 2003**

*This exhibition looks “Between the Boards” of unique and unusual books in the John Crerar Library Collection of Rare Books in the History of Science and Medicine. With support from University Trustee Harvey Plotnick, the University of Chicago Library recently completed a project to catalog the collection. Between the Boards focuses on lesser-known works, in particular examples of previously unrecorded titles discovered during the cataloging project, to highlight the exciting opportunities awaiting researchers.*

Writing for the Eyes from Antiquity to the Renaissance

**April 7 - October 6, 2003**

*Writing for the Eyes focuses on the age-old “sibling rivalry” between poetry, or literature, and painting. Featured are illustrated editions of ekphrases, which are extended verbal descriptions of visual objects. A related exhibition, *The Painted Text: Picturing Narrative Art in European Art*, on view at the Smart Museum of Art, examines the complicated relationships between words and images during and following the Renaissance.*

Enhancing the Legacy: Gifts from Irmgard Rosenberger to the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica

**continuing through June 20, 2003**

The Board of the Library

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