Happy New Year! I find it hard to believe that we’re already in 2010, and hope that your Winter Quarter is off to a good start. I’ll begin the year as usual with the mid-winter American Library Association conference in Boston – we do go for the inexpensive conference locales. I’ll hope for slightly better weather than the snow storm we had last time.

Please email me at sgwenzel@uchicago.edu with any questions you may have about the library’s collections and services, or with any comments and suggestions about the content and design of this newsletter.

New Collection

Erica Reiner Bequest Enables Purchase of Rare Collection

The rare book collection of the Rush University Medical Center is being acquired by the University of Chicago, in a decision that reflects the historic connections between the two institutions.

The acquisition is made possible by the bequest of Erica Reiner (1924-2005), the John A. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor Emerita in the University’s Oriental Institute, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Department of Linguistics, and Editor-in-Charge of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary. Reiner, who began working on the dictionary in 1952 when she came to the University as a research assistant, specialized in Babylonian history of science, including medicine.

Comprising over 3,500 volumes dating from 1500 through the mid-20th-century, the collection includes nearly 500 rare titles printed before 1800. The most represented author in the collection is Hippocrates, editions of whose works were very popular through the 18th century; many early editions of the works of Galen are also present, including 1531, 1549 and 1561-2 editions. The earliest book in the collection is a bound volume of two works by the Renaissance philosopher Marsilio Ficino: De Christiana religione ad Laurentiu[m] Medicem opus aureum (1500) and Opuscula (1503). The collection will be known
as the Stanton A. Friedberg M.D. Rare Book Collection of Rush University Medical Center at the University of Chicago.

See the Special Collections Research Center blog for more information.

**Exhibits**

**Special Collections Launches Web Exhibits**

The Special Collections Research Center has launched its first Web exhibits, including one “born digital” exhibit and several online versions of exhibits previously shown in Special Collections galleries.

**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 Exhibits**

[Book Use, Book Theory, 1500-1700](#)

[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](#)

[Printing for the Modern Age—Commerce, Craft and Culture in the RR Donnelley Archive](#)

**New Look for Research Guides**

**English Literature**

We’ve been using new software to create (or in my case re-create) the subject-based research guides. Some of you have seen the beta versions, but they’re now ‘public’ and await your comments or suggestions for additions or changes.

As an aside, I would be happy to make a guide tailored to a specific class or topic or to talk to students about effectively using library resources for research.
Upcoming Library Surveys

We rely on your feedback and comments, both formal and informal to help us make decisions and improve the Library. This Winter Quarter there will be at least two opportunities to contribute your thoughts and opinions.

'Tagging' library catalog records

In the third week of January, look on our website for a survey exploring readers 'tagging' library catalogue records.

Graduate Students & the Library

In early February, graduate students will be receiving an email invitation to participate in a survey. Our 2007 survey of students and faculty provided us with valuable feedback that led to specific improvements to our services and collections, among them:

- Changing our renewal policy to allow doctoral students to have unlimited renewals
- Expanded Sunday hours for Regenstein
- Purchasing additional copies of frequently recalled materials
- Expanded access to online collections
- Commitment to looking for better ways to search the library’s collections

Your participation will make a difference, so please give us your feedback and suggestions!

New Acquisitions

Books

Browse new acquisitions online at http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/newbooks/. (See PN for general theory, PR for English literature, PS for American literature, etc.) Selected new items this month include:

Worlds within : national narratives and global connections in postcolonial writing
Cooppan, Vilashini. PN56.N19 C66 2009

Women write back : strategies of response and the dynamics of European literary culture, 1790-1805
Hilger, Stephanie M. PN751 .H554 2009

The sound of poetry, the poetry of sound
Perloff, Marjorie & Craig Douglas Dworkin. PN1525 .S66 2009

Revolutions in taste, 1773-1818 : women writers and the aesthetics of Romanticism
Price, Fiona L. PR113 .P76 2009

Antipodal England : emigration and portable domesticity in the Victorian imagination
Myers, Janet C. PR468.E45 M94 2009
Mansueto and Regenstein Construction Updates

Pouring of the concrete floor of the Mansueto Library was completed in December and construction of the ground floor structure has begun. For information about the construction of the Mansueto Library, including anticipated work hours and noise levels, visit the Mansueto Web site’s This Month’s Work page. Photos of the construction are available through our Mansueto Library Web site and Flickr.

After a brief closure during winter break to allow for construction of a pathway to Mansueto, the Special Collections Research Center reopened January 4. Construction in Special Collections and adjacent section of Regenstein continue; please follow signage that directs visitors along the altered pathway to Special Collections, and consult the Special Collections construction information Web page for up-to-date information about any service disruptions.

Your Bibliographer: Sarah G. Wenzel

Questions about the library? Want to order a book?
I develop and maintain collections in English & Romance Literatures, as well as provide specialized reference service in those areas. I work with faculty & instructors to teach students about research and using the library.

Contact me at sgwenzel@uchicago.edu or 773.702.8448 – or stop by my office: Regenstein 363.