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 Laurentium [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.
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

French; Italian; Spanish, Portuguese & Catalan

We’ve been using new software to create (or in my case re-create) the subject-based research guides. They’ve become 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, PC for Romance languages, PQ for Romance literatures, etc.) Selected new items this month include:

French

Lors est ce jour grant joie née : essais de langue et de littérature françaises du Moyen Âge
Goyens, Michèle. PQ151 .L67 2009

La satire dans tous ses états : le "meslange satyrique" à la renaissance française
Renner, Bernd. PQ239.S385 2009

Redefining the real : the fantastic in contemporary French and Francophone women's writing
Hutton, Margaret-Anne. PQ637.F3 H87 2009

Balzac ou comment ne pas raconter une histoire
Solomon, Nathalie. PQ2178.S65 2007

Giraudoux européen de l'entre-deux-guerres
Coyault, Sylviane. PQ2613.I74 Z6335 2008

Mémoire de la mémoire : Jacques Roubaud et la lyrique médiévale
Puff, Jean-François. PQ2678.O77Z76 2005
Italian

La letteratura italiana e il cinema : cento anni (1907-2008) di racconti, romanzi e poesie di ambientazione e/o argomento cinematografico
Marchesi, Giovanni. PQ4053.M68M37 2009

Imago mulieris : figure femminili del Trecento letterario italiano
Tufano, Ilaria. PQ4055.W6 T84 2009

L'io dell'Ottantanove e altre scritture
Guglielminetti, Marziano, et. al. PQ4084 .G85 2009

Corpo e poesia nel Novecento italiano
Lorenzini, Niva. PQ4113 .L59 2009

Guarire dalla cura : Italo Svevo e i medici
Cepach, Riccardo. PQ4841.C482 Z6665 2008

Italo-marocchina : storie di immigrati marocchini in Europa
Mahjar-Barducci, Anna. PQ4913.A4I83 2009

Spanish

Classical Spanish drama in Restoration English (1660-1700)
Braga Riera, Jorge. PQ6044 .B63 2009

La materia de Francia en la literatura medieval española : la "crónica carolingia" : Flores y Blancaflor, Berta y Carlomagno

Espíritus contemporáneos : relaciones literarias luso-españolas : entre el modernismo y la vanguardia

La representación de la Conquista en el teatro español desde la ilustración hasta finales del franquismo
Floeck, Wilfried & Sabine Fritz. PQ6121.H5R477 2009

Querencia americana : Juan Ramón Jiménez y José Lezama Lima : relaciones literarias y epistolario
Fornieles Ten, Javier. PQ6619.I4 Z48 2009

El viaje en la literatura hispanoamericana : el espíritu colombino
Mattalía, Sonia, et. al. PQ7081.A1 V53 2008

Acts of narrative resistance : women's autobiographical writings in the Americas
Beard, Laura J. PQ7081.5 .B43 2009

Revolución poética y modernidad periférica : ensayos de poesía hispanoamericana
Pérez, Alberto Julián. PQ7082.P7P474 2009

Fiesta, espectáculo y teatralidad en el México de los conquistadores
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 sqwenzel@uchicago.edu or 773.702.8448 – or stop by my office: Regenstein 363.