What's New? Recent Acquisitions in the Special Collections Research Center

by Alice Schreyer,
Director, Special Collections Research Center

Many of the rare book, manuscript and archival materials in the Special Collections Research Center that are used in current research and teaching have been part of the Library's collections since the founding of the University. Perhaps less well known is that each year “new” primary sources are added, part of an ongoing program to develop the resources available in Special Collections through gifts and purchases.

This article describes a few recent rare books and manuscripts acquisitions. They illustrate approaches to building the collections and the importance of faculty members, alumni and other donors in these...
What's New?

efforts. Part 2 of this article, to appear in the next issue of *Libra*, will survey collections recently added to the University Archives.

Titles that support faculty research are among the highest priorities for acquisitions, and I am always interested in learning about gaps we need to fill. The study of Italian female authors is an area of strong research interest at the University, and a new project will compile a database of bio-bibliographical information with a growing selection of full-text titles from Italian women authors born before 1945. Two new books will contribute to this work: Vittoria Colonna, *Rime*… (Bergamo, 1760), the collected verse of a leading woman poet of the Italian Renaissance; and Ginevra Canonici Fachini, *Prospetto Biografico*… (Venezia: Alvisopoli, 1824), a biographical dictionary of Italian women writers.

We are always eager to add a “new” title in areas where the Library’s collections are very strong, for example the history of philology. Henri Estienne (Stephanus), one of the most important scholar printers of the Renaissance and developer of elegant Greek type fonts that continue to influence Greek printing, was deeply involved in textual criticism and the revival of Greek studies. We recently added *Dialogus…* [Geneva: Henri Estienne], 1587, a rare work, never reprinted, that is one of the few surviving sources reflecting on and promoting this revival. It is of interest to historians of the Renaissance, early printing, Classical literature and history, as well as New Testament and early Christian theological literature.

Many researchers in Special Collections use multiple editions of a text to study changes that reflect the development of an author’s ideas. Other types of investigation focus on physical features of the book, such as binding, illustrations or contemporary advertisements. We recently received first editions of Lewis Carroll’s *Sylvie and Bruno* (London: Macmillan, 1889), with the rare advertisements, and *Sylvie and Bruno Concluded* (London: Macmillan, 1890). Both provide new source materials for literary, cultural and book historians. These books were part of a gift from
The Library and Chalk

by Elisabeth Long,
Co-Director, Digital Library Development Center

This academic year the Library has a presence in Chalk, the University’s course management system. Library staff worked with NSIT’s Learning Technology Group to implement a tab which now appears in all Chalk course sites. The tab is labeled “Academic Web Resources” and it links to a web page which the Library maintains.

The goal of this page is to provide access to core Library resources for students while they are in the Chalk course environment. At this time, there is no ability to dynamically provide subject-specific pages for different courses. Instead the page is a single link which appears the same for every course. The page includes links to books and electronic resources (the Library Catalog, the Reserve Catalog, WorldCat and a listing of electronic databases and journals accessible through the Library); a list of subject specialists in the Library and links to subject based web pages; a guide to library facilities and services; and links and information about getting help when you need it.

In order to see the Library’s tab, go to http://chalk.uchicago.edu and click the login button. You may then either login or, if you do not have a password for Chalk, you can choose the “Preview” button which will allow you guest access.

If you are interested in learning more about Chalk, consult http://intech.uchicago.edu/ltg/chalk/index.html. NSIT also provides Chalk training (reservations required). Information is available on the University’s training page (http://training.uchicago.edu/training) under Teaching and Learning.
Looking to search a broad range of academic or business journals? Need to find a comprehensive company profile? Want to run a search at regular intervals and be emailed when new results are found? Two recent additions to the Library’s collection of online databases, EBSCOhost’s Academic Search Premier and Business Source Premier, will make these tasks easier. Both databases have thousands of titles and because of their extensive backfiles they will replace the recently discontinued ProQuest 5000 (Note: the library continues to subscribe to ProQuest’s Newspapers and Historical Newspapers.) If full text is not available from EBSCOhost, users can click on the SFX button to locate other online options or to search our catalog for print holdings.

The EBSCOhost interface provides a number of options to help make your search more efficient and productive. From the EBSCOhost search page you can:

- Set your PREFERENCES to control the format and number of results per page.
- Add search results to a FOLDER and print, email, or save the folder’s contents.
- Use the SEARCH HISTORY option to save or retrieve a search strategy.
- Set up an ALERT so that you will be notified of new content that meets your search criteria.
- Save your citations using the BIBLIOGRAPHIC MANAGER and import them into EndNote (an import filter is available on our EndNote page at http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/using/computing/endnote/entable.html).

The Library continues to evaluate and subscribe to new databases to meet the needs of our faculty and students. Other recent additions include Oxford Reference Online and xreferplus - digital reference library. We encourage you and your students to take advantage of these resources and welcome your comments and suggestions: reg-reference@lib.uchicago.edu.

Connections

EBSCOhost Research Databases

by Agnes Tatarka, Reference and Information Services Librarian

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Now there are more ways to connect in the Regenstein!

Need to do a quick email check or see how the Dow is doing? 18 new WebStations on the 1st, 2nd and 4th floors of the Regenstein Library, courtesy of NSIT, will help.

Want to go wireless? 5 new wireless access points in the Regenstein reading rooms now make this possible.

For more information consult: http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/reg/using/computing/wireless.html

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Where are the periodicals?

by Sem Sutter,
Assistant Director for Humanities & Social Sciences

The Library has recently undertaken several initiatives to make it easier to locate journals in both print and electronic formats.

Recognizing that many readers now prefer electronic access to a journal from their office or home desktop or a Library workstation whenever possible, we have developed an alphabetical online list of the majority of electronic journal titles available through the Library. Each entry includes the dates of online coverage and a link to the source via SFX. The Electronic Journals List can be located by clicking “electronic resources” on the Library’s homepage and then the “e-journals” link. Most electronic journals also have links as part of their records in the Library catalog. The number of journal links in the catalog recently jumped to 19,000 after adding titles accessible through a number of vendors, including EBSCO. The Library plans to reload these records every quarter in order to keep information current.

At present, Regenstein Library maintains eleven collections of unbound current periodicals in reading rooms on levels A and 2 through 5. Reference librarians and other staff report frequent questions from readers trying to negotiate this dispersed arrangement. After studying alternatives, surveying a sample of frequent faculty and student Library users, and consulting with the Board of the Library, we plan to centralize the majority of current periodicals (with the exception of area studies collections in RR5) into one collection in call number order in RR2 in the summer of 2003. Particularly for those searching for articles from known citations or doing interdisciplinary work, this will reduce traveling among floors and retrieving periodicals from multiple collections as is now required. We plan to add photocopying machines in the current periodicals area for readers’ convenience. We believe that centralization will also contribute to improved control and enhanced reliability of access.

Current issues of titles deemed at “high risk” of disappearing have long been housed behind service counters in several Regenstein reading rooms. Numerous respondents to the periodicals survey expressed frustration with having to remember where these titles were located and when staff would be available to retrieve them. By the end of the Autumn Quarter we will reduce the number of these sequestered titles and shelve all of them at the circulation counter so that they are available whenever Regenstein is open.

Regenstein Exhibits

Through the Lens: Stephen Lewellyn Photographs of the University of Chicago

Through January 10, 2003

Works by photographer Stephen Lewellyn document University events, personalities, and campus sciences from the mid-1940s to the late 1960s. A local Chicago photographer, Lewellyn was commissioned for hundreds of photographic assignments on the University of Chicago campus. The prints on display, ranging from student activities to campus events, were made from more than 10,000 negatives Lewellyn recently presented as a gift to the University of Chicago Archives.

Preserving the Photofiles: Digitizing Images at the University of Chicago

Through January 10, 2003

The visual history of the University of Chicago is preserved in more than 60,000 images in the University Archives Photographic Files. A project to preserve and digitize these files is currently under way. On view is a selection from this rich collection documenting individuals, buildings, activities, and events associated with the University, dating back to the pre-Civil War period founding of the Old University of Chicago. The exhibition displays a variety of photographic formats, including the cyanotype, carte-de-visite, and dry plate negative, and highlights recent publication of Photofiles images in works on civil rights activist Ida B. Wells, physicist Enrico Fermi, and ecological researchers of the University of Chicago Department of Botany.

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

Through June 20, 2003

This exhibition includes a selection of important recent additions to the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica presented by Mrs. Irmgard Rosenberger. Mrs. Rosenberger’s gifts include manuscripts, correspondence, broadsides, caricatures, prints, maps, and ephemeral materials. Items on view range from a 16th-century decree restricting Jewish actions to the visitor’s book used at the Palestine Government House in the 1920s and 1930s.
**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.

**Ongoing Exhibits:**
“*Jobaria Dinosaur Bones*” (from Paul Sereno) & “*Crystara*”

**“Tickling Your Funny Bone: Science & Humor”**

Through March 31, 2003

The nature of the scientific mind may be discovered in elegant mathematical expressions and beautifully designed experiments, and also perhaps by reading “Drool science” or Robert Bakers, “A stress analysis of a strapless evening gown”. Our exhibit has chosen this second discovery route by examining examples of scientist’s humor and humor with a science theme. Our exhibit’s contributors include Chicago faculty and students as well as our own collection of jokes, cartoons, and funny bone-tickling stories.