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The new website's look

A New Look for the Library and a New Interface for Accessing Electronic Resources

Elisabeth Long, Co-Director, Digital Library Development Center

Just in time for the start of Fall Quarter, the Library launched a new look for its Web site and a new interface for accessing the electronic materials licensed by the Library. These changes originated in the need to improve access to the increasing number of resources, services, and research tools offered by the Library. At the same time, it provided the opportunity to update the underlying infrastructure in order to take advantage of more modern technologies and to conform to current Web accessibility standards.

In response to feedback from faculty, students, and staff, the Web site now provides direct access to many more resources from the front page, and groups similar links together to help patrons better understand what is available to them and where to find what they need.

Frequently mentioned problems included:
- Lack of direct access (i.e., from the front page) to commonly-used resources (a search box, links to interlibrary loan, library hours, account information, campus libraries, etc.)
- Confusion over the meaning of the link titles on the home page, making it difficult to know which link to choose
- Inability to distinguish Electronic Resources and Electronic Journals
- Under-utilization of resources that patrons didn’t know existed
- Difficulty distinguishing the main Library home page from the home pages for the individual libraries.

Work began during the Spring Quarter when a Library-wide committee started to explore how patrons used the Web site and what changes they would like to see. The project team looked at Web use statistics; solicited feedback by interviewing faculty, students, and staff; and launched an online survey about the site. Several trends about the Web site quickly emerged, pointing to a manageable set of changes that would improve access to Library materials and services.

The old Library home page design, while graphically striking, was inflexible and could not accommodate much change which limited the Library’s ability to address these problems within its framework. The new Web site provides far more flexibility and will allow the Library to continue to make changes in response to our patrons needs. Already the Web site supports new features such as information targeted to the needs of specific user groups and increased communication about...
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Library operations and activities, which is especially timely as we undertake the Regenstein Library Addition project.

In conjunction with the redesign of the Library’s Web site, a new integrated interface for accessing and managing the complex world of electronic information was implemented. This suite of software replaced the old A–Z lists with the new DatabaseFinder and e-journal modules. More importantly, the software provides greater functionality such as the simultaneous searching of multiple databases (QuickSearch and CrossSearch) and the saving of personal lists of favorite databases, ejournals, and search results (Myspace). Another new tool, the Citation Finder, allows patrons with a specific citation to either link to an online copy, find it in the Catalog, or acquire it through interlibrary loan.

These changes were undertaken as a part of the Library’s strategic goal to improve access to Library materials and were informed by such work as the LibQual+ survey (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/about/nov17.pdf) and a committee report on how broadcast search software could meet needs within the University community. Broadcast search software provides users the ability to search across multiple databases at one time, rather than re-executing the search in each individual database. In our implementation, when a patron searches using QuickSearch or CrossSearch, the search results from different databases are automatically merged in order to eliminate duplicate records, can be conveniently saved for use in bibliographic management tools such as RefWorks or EndNote, and can be set to run on a regular schedule to alert the patron whenever new results are found.

Not all databases can technically be searched in this way, but the Library is continually working to ensure that more and more databases can support these exciting new features.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant for the Goodspeed Manuscript Collection Project

Alice Schreyer, Director, Special Collections Research Center

On September 20, the Library received a National Leadership Grants for Libraries award of $249,857 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services for the Goodspeed Manuscript Collection Project (http://goodspeed.lib.uchicago.edu/).

Over the next three years, the Library will create a digital collection of 65 Greek, Syriac, Ethiopian, Armenian, Arabic, and Latin manuscripts dating from the seventh to the nineteenth centuries. Created in many of the key production centers of Asia Minor, the Balkans, Armenia, and North Africa, these resources are seriously understudied because access is currently limited to individual, on-site consultation. The manuscripts are of great artistic and historical significance and include examples of the Byzantine and Eastern schools of manuscript illumination. The project will allow, free to the public, comparative and cross-cultural textual and iconographic research through open source interfaces for searching, browsing, page turning, and zooming in and out of high-resolution images. The digital codexes will also foster innovative teaching at Chicago and other institutions.

The project began with a course taught by Professor Margaret Mitchell, Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature; and a pilot project in 2001 supported by a grant from the Provost’s Academic Technology Initiative and the University’s Women’s Board. Other faculty members of the Project Advisory Group include Michael Allen, Hripsime Hartounian, David Martinez, and Robert Nelson.

As with all digital library activities, the Goodspeed Manuscript project involves staff from many parts of the Library. In this instance, the project is a partnership as well with faculty and the Digital Media Lab of Networking Services and Information Technology (NSIT).
Introducing…. 

Beth Bidlack - Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy

Beth Bidlack has joined the Library staff as the bibliographer responsible for developing and maintaining the Library’s collections in religion and philosophy as well as providing specialized reference service and bibliographic instruction for faculty, students, and other readers in these areas.

Beth received a B.A. in Philosophy and Religion from Urbana University and earned a Ph.D. in the History and Literature of Ancient Israel from Boston University, writing a dissertation on “Imagery in Ezekiel’s Oracles against Foreign Nations and Rulers.” She has worked in the libraries of Andover Newton Theological School, Episcopal Divinity School/Weston Jesuit School of Theology, and Bangor Theological Seminary where she spent the last four years directing the library and serving as Assistant Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature.

Beth can be reached at bbidlack@uchicago.edu and 773-702-8442 as well as in her office, Regenstein 461.

RefWorks

The library has purchased a license to RefWorks - an online bibliographic management tool that will help you manage citations, organize your research, and create bibliographies. RefWorks allows you to download records directly from the Library’s electronic resources into your RefWorks database. Then you can insert your downloaded citations into your research paper, or create a bibliography in the style of your choice. For more information or to learn how to use RefWorks please visit: http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/using/bibtools/refworks/

Upcoming Library Society Programs

February 8
Robert Haselkorn,
Fanny L. Pritzker Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology

Professor Haselkorn received his A.B. with high honors in Chemistry from Princeton University and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Harvard University. A 1974 recipient of the University of Chicago’s Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Robert Haselkorn will deliver the science program for the season.

March 8
Geoffrey Stone,
Harry Kalven, Jr. Distinguished Service Professor, D’Angelo Law School

Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from The Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism, the highly acclaimed book for which Geoffrey Stone received the Robert F. Kennedy Award, will be the topic of his talk.

May 10
Don M. Randel,
President of the University, and Professor, Department of Music and the College

President Randel will be the guest speaker for the 2006 Library Society’s Annual Meeting.

Temporary Closing of the Special Collections Research Center

The Special Collections Research Center is closed for a construction project to upgrade the Center’s environmental control system. The project is expected to run through March 2006. The Library apologizes for this inconvenience. For more information, please consult http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/rt.html.
The Library has played a leading role in documenting the publishing of modern poetry by collecting and preserving poetry journal archives. Drawing upon the archives of *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse, Chicago Review, Big Table, Verse, LVNG*, and the papers of The Poetry Center of Chicago, this exhibition examines the decisive role of so-called “little magazines” in discovering and providing a voice to new and emerging poets, as well as the impact of the publishing process on the creative process.

In 1955, Lawrence Ferlinghetti launched City Lights Books with the publication of his own first book of poetry, *Pictures of the Gone World*, Number 1 in the Pocket Poets series. This exhibition celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the series and includes all fifty-seven works published to date. Drawn from the collection of Donald A. Heneghan, who has served on the Library’s Visiting Committee and the Library Society’s Steering Committee, many of the volumes are association copies of great interest, inscribed by the poets to other writers or friends.

This exhibit, originally developed for the Nobel Prize Centennial Exhibition of the Nobel Foundation in Sweden, and displayed in the Museum of Science and Industry in the fall of 2003, has been adapted for display in the John Crerar Library, with a focus on Nobel Prize winning scientists such as Enrico Fermi, Subramanyan Chandrasekhar and James Watson.

This exhibit features early blues materials from the Chicago Jazz Archive (CJA), presented by CJA Curator Deborah Gillaspie. Cases one and two focus on the Paramount blues label, and include material from the John Steiner Collection. Mr. Steiner purchased the Paramount Blues label in 1949 and sold it in 1971. The exhibit includes a “metal” from which one of Steiner's Paramount reissues was pressed, advertising material, original record labels, a record cover and print block, and blues lyrics. Cases two and three explore the Chicago blues piano tradition with materials on Jimmy Yancey, Big Maceo, Otis Spann, and Albert Ammons.

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by doing so, will stimulate and enrich the research experience right here at the heart of campus. The Task Force is expected to report to the Provost by the end of Winter Quarter 2006.

An Architect Selection Group composed of members from the Board of Trustees, University Administration, faculty, and the Library is working towards a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for an architect entrusted to build the addition to Regenstein. The selected architect will benefit from the thinking of the Task Force in integrating the new architectural expression with existing library space.

To engage in a dialogue on the past, present, and future of the University Library, The Task Force is hosting a one-day Symposium “Space and Knowledge” (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/about/nov17.pdf) in Regenstein Library on November 17.

The Symposium brings together University faculty, Library staff, members from other divisions on campus, friends groups of the Library, and colleagues from partnering institutions to hear presentations by invited speakers and share in the visioning of the Library as a leader on campus.

As we think about the future of the Library, we build the Library of the future.

Please join us Thursday, November 17 [see calendar for more information]. We look forward to your participation.

The Library as Leader
Judith Nadler, Library Director

On May 11, the University Board of Trustees approved a $43 million dollar proposal for a new, onsite automated book delivery facility adjacent to Regenstein Library to open in 2009.

The decision to build an addition to Regenstein is a bold statement about the value of access to information for research and teaching at the University. It is the culmination of a careful process engaging the faculty and the library in the understanding of growth and use patterns of print and digital collections, and the ways in which digital and print interact. At the same time, the decision marks the starting point for a process to rethink library spaces and their use by this and future generations of scholars.

The Provost has named a Task Force on the Library to explore ways to increase the research functionality of library spaces and to understand and respond to the needs and use patterns of our different constituencies. Introducing the concept of “The Library as an opportunity”, Task Force Chair Professor Andrew Abbott challenges our traditional thinking about library constituencies, needs, and expectations. More than just a place where resources are selected, made accessible, and preserved over time for the needs of our users, the library can also become a place that opens its vast resources and spaces to scholars world wide and...
Planning for the Addition to the Regenstein:

The Architect Selection Committee began work May 18. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was sent to 28 prominent architectural firms. 21 firms submitted responses to the RFQ. 8 of these firms were invited to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP). In September, 6 responses to the RFP were received. Following interviews with a number of these firms in October, the Selection Committee will submit its recommendation for the Architect for the Addition to the Board of Trustees in November.

David Borycz began work on September 12 as the Project Manager responsible for overseeing and coordinating the preparation and processing of the materials to be moved to the Addition in Spring 2009. Work has begun on planning for the cleaning and processing of Harper Storage material, which will be moved to Regenstein when the new Addition is completed.

In D’Angelo Law Library, staff have identified approximately 250,000 volumes to be removed from the building by June 2006 to create space for the Law School tower renovation project. These materials, which will eventually be moved to the Addition, will be housed temporarily in interim storage. To obtain this interim storage space, the University’s Central Procurement Services will issue a Request for Proposal in November for Library Moving, Storage and Retrieval.

Work is also underway on planning for the selection and processing of non-Law Library materials for the high density shelving planned for the Addition to Regenstein.

Gifts & Grants Highlights

For the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Preservation Challenge Grant
1. Miriam Dahl Burno Endowment for Library Conservation
2. Francis H. Dowley Preservation Fund
3. Ralph and Carol Lerner Endowment for Library Conservation
4. Gail Pinc McClain Endowment for Library Conservation
5. Edwin J. Crockin Memorial Fund
6. The Library Society Endowed Fund for Conservation
7. Gifts from many friends to The Mellon Library Fund

Robert Evans, PhD’50, AM’55
1. Graduate Library School Alumnus
2. Gift for the Helen Lee Memorial Collection for the Humanities

Raymond E. Gadke, AM ‘66
1. Elden and Ruth Lauffenburger Gadke Endowment Fund

Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation
1. Italian Women Writers Project

Helen Harrison Foundation
1. Gifts to The Library Society and Special Collections Research Center

Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant for Libraries
1. Goodspeed Manuscript Collection Project For further explanation of our Goodspeed Manuscript Collection Project, see page 3.

Ruth Regenstein
1. Helen and Ruth Regenstein Collection of Rare Books Fund

Albert Somit, AB’41, PhD’47
1. Mary and Samuel Somit Preservation Internship

The University of Chicago Women’s Board
1. Chicago Jazz Archive Digital Preservation Project

Estate of Jehanne Williamson
1. George Williamson Endowment Fund, Special Collections Research Center

For further explanation of our Goodspeed Manuscript Collection Project, see page 3.

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