Library Awarded Mellon Challenge Grant for Conservation

by Sherry Byrne

Fortune has smiled upon the 6.7 million printed volumes and other materials in the University of Chicago Library's collection. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has issued a $1,000,000 challenge to help meet the growing conservation needs of these materials. Over the next four years the Mellon Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar all gifts to the new Library Conservation Endowment.

This support comes at a vital time for the Library's preservation program. A survey conducted in 1990 documented the size and scope of the Library's preservation needs and identified areas where attention was most urgent. Examples include items that are damaged and in need of repair, brittle and in need of protective enclosures or other support, or printed on acidic paper and therefore at risk.

In the past decade, collection growth and usage have magnified the challenge. Each year's acquisitions add about 150,000 more printed volumes that will require future care. The collection is also growing in other formats. The global scope of the Library's collection exacerbates the need because of the inconsistent quality of paper used around the world. Handling of the Library's collections adds further conservation needs, as books are pressed against photocopiers and bounced around in backpacks. Problems develop even as books sit unused on their shelves: brittle paper grows more fragile, leather and cloth bindings deteriorate, and the weight of large volumes stresses their spines. Thousands upon thousands of items require stabilization, which include repair, rebinding, rehousing, or other treatments. The new Endowment is necessary to ensure that the Library's efforts will be sustained and accelerated to preserve these important collections.

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CIAO (College Instruction and Outreach): More than an Italian Greeting
by Barbara Kern and Katherine Haskins

At the University of Chicago Library, CIAO is equally a way to say "hello" to library learning. CIAO is the acronym for "College Outreach and Instruction," and an eponymous committee composed of librarians from across the Library system dedicated to developing library-learning programs for College students. CIAO also works to foster the partnerships with College faculty so important to the success of library learning.

CIAO is considering new and innovative ways of ensuring that College students have all of the knowledge necessary to use the Library effectively and, in turn, to conduct research effectively. While the Library has traditionally offered a variety of library instruction it is becoming more evident that the greatest successes stem from a collaborative relationship between the Library and the College faculty. Research shows that students are willing to learn how to use the Library if it is in conjunction with an assignment. Students are also willing to take a library-sponsored class upon the recommendation of their instructor.

CIAO members are willing to work with you to integrate library learning into your courses. For example, if you have an assignment that requires the use of library resources (database, the catalog, web or the collections) we would be happy to provide a tutorial to your students, during or outside of class time. Or we could provide "how-to" documentation that can be distributed to students. CIAO members are also willing to offer guidance or to point you to other Library staff that can guide you in incorporating library learning and resources into a Chalk Web site.

CIAO represents a long-overdue need for library learning specialists to assist faculty and to develop the necessary library components to teaching and learning at the University. The opportunities are enormous and varied. For instance, the Library itself can become an extraordinary classroom. Jay Satterfield, CIAO member and Head of Reader Services for Special Collections, works with Faculty to enhance classroom learning through illustration. Recently a Humanities class in Greek Thought and Literature spent an hour and a half working with papyrus fragments of the Iliad from the second

In the Fall of 2001, CIAO developed a bookmark for College students to provide contact information as well as address some of the opinions College students have about the library. Here is a sampling from that bookmark which has been appropriately titled "We know what you’re thinking…"

“I’m a First Year...and I’m not yet taking classes in my concentration. I won’t even need the library.”

You might be surprised. It’s third week and you’re in your Humanities class studying Greek drama. The class discussion shifts to a dialogue on how modern stage directors might interpret the play Antigone. Your instructor, building on his discussion, wants everyone to bring in a review of a performance of the play by the next class. Do you know where to start?

“I’m Pre-Med, so I’ll only use the library for studying.”

The sciences rely on journals to distribute new findings and report new discoveries. How can you locate these journals? Through the library! In addition, many science journals are published in electronic format and are located only through online journal databases. Using these online databases can be tricky. The Library can help you use them effectively.

“Libraries are old-fashioned. I do my research on the Internet.”

Just imagine…everything you need at the touch of your fingers without leaving home. What a wonderful world that would be! But regrettably, not everything is online yet. The Internet can be a great source of information (our library web page, for example), but you could miss out on many fabulous resources by only surfing the web.
Electronic Resources Update

Electronic Resources Update (ERU) is a Physical Sciences Newsletter produced by the Science Libraries Division. The newsletter was created to ensure that the Physical Sciences community at the University of Chicago is fully aware of their electronic research options. The newsletter also provides another mode of communication for the library to our patrons.

Web sites and new titles of significance in the Physical Sciences are regular features in the newsletter. Each issue also includes an article on a topic relevant to the Physical Sciences community as well as a review of a resource available at the library, such as the Catalog. Notices and announcements appear as necessary.

The newsletter is produced quarterly and distributed via email and on the web at: http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/eru/crerar/newsletter/. Print copies are available upon request. If you would like to be added to the mailing list (either email or print) please contact:

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Providing the Missing Links - SFX and Enhanced Catalog Records Improve Access to Full-Text Journals

by Agnes Tatarka.

How do we help bridge the gap between a journal citation and the actual article? Can we maximize the use of the thousands of online journal titles we have access to in a way that is both easy to implement and easy to use? These were some of the challenges that a Library working group was asked to address last spring. After reviewing the available solutions and conducting vendor demonstrations, the Library contracted with ExLibris to provide their SFX software beginning May 2001.

The SFX software uses a source/target model to provide what is known as “context-sensitive linking.” Searching from any one of the 11 SFX-defined sources (among them, FirstSearch, ProQuest, Web of Science, and Ovid), users are linked directly to copies of articles found in any of the more than 60 targets. SFX determines what copies are available by querying a University-hosted server housing detailed information about our agreements with vendors (titles, coverage, etc.) Jim Mouw, head of Acquisitions, notes that “ExLibris is continually working to profile additional targets and, as early implementers, we have been able to help identify who those critical vendors are.” Dow Jones and Lexis-Nexis are just two targets that will soon be added to the list that already includes JSTOR, the University of Chicago Press, and Project Muse.

For users this means when you and your students search a database that offers SFX and discover articles you would like to read, you can click on the SFX button and see the options for accessing the article. For example, from a citation to the Journal of the History of Ideas in ArticleFirst, you will get links to the article on the Project Muse site or a catalog search for this title. In the future, you will also be able to make an interlibrary loan request when the SFX server cannot identify a source for full-text.

In addition to adopting SFX, the Library is making it easier for users searching the catalog to get to full-text in only a few clicks. Cataloging staff routinely adds Web access information to existing journal records as well as creates new records for electronic-only versions of the title. The number of journal links in the catalog recently jumped to 18,000 after loading titles and URLs from a number of vendors including ProQuest and EbscoHost. The Library plans to reload these records every quarter in order to keep this information current.

So, whether through software solutions like SFX or enhancing catalog records to include access to online copies, the Library continues to look for better ways of providing you with that missing link.

Agnes Tatarka is a Reference Librarian in the Reference and Information Services Department of Regenstein Library.
Though numerous grants have helped fund the step-by-step physical treatment, reformatting, and digitization of specific portions of the Library’s collections, the Mellon Foundation’s challenge grant underscores the giant leap that the Library must take to preserve its collections for generations of future scholars. By matching the Library’s fundraising efforts over the next four years to create a $2,000,000 preservation endowment, the Mellon Foundation will help create steady annual income that will expand the Library’s regular program of conservation. The Library will have the capacity not only to treat more volumes and other materials each year, but also to address more comprehensively and effectively the long-term conservation needs of its collection as a whole.

Last year, the University of Chicago Library devoted more than $1,000,000 to preservation activities Library-wide. This figure includes expenditures on library binding, conservation treatment, and a variety of other preservation services performed both in-house and by external vendors. In that time, the commercial binder treated 70,000 volumes, and over 10,000 items received a variety of more specialized treatments. These latter included mending and paper repair, custom made boxes and other enclosures, encapsulation of flat sheets such as maps and manuscripts, and the conservation binding of many items in both general and special collections. The Library Conservation Endowment will expand these more specialized activities for material throughout the entire collection.

By raising $1,000,000 from friends of the Library to be matched by the Mellon Foundation, we hope to double the number of items treated. Over the long-term, having funds to conserve many more items per year will prove crucial to research at the University and to the survival of the intellectual artifacts housed at the Library.

Sherry Byrne is the Preservation Librarian for the University Library.

A Space Odyssey

If the University’s Dissertation Office has traveled some distance across campus, at least one Chicago dissertation (or part of it) has traveled about as far as you can go these days. As reported in the Chronicle (February 21), the cover of alumnus Edwin Hubble’s Ph.D. dissertation (Chicago, 1917) went into orbit, as part of the retrofit mission to the Space Telescope named in honor of the pioneer astronomer. The Hubble cover’s journey is courtesy of John Grunsfeld, also a Chicago alumnus (S.M. ’84, Ph.D. ’88) and NASA astronaut. Copies of both the Hubble dissertation (published in 1920) and Grunsfeld’s thesis are available (with their covers intact) in the John Crerar Library.

Katherine Haskins is the Head of Reference and Information Services at the Joseph Regenstein Library.

Mellon Grant

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Sherry Byrne is the Preservation Librarian for the University Library.

To help us meet this challenge grant, please contact Judy Lindsey, the Library’s Director of Development at 773-834-3744.
Preparing for Dust and Displacement: D’Angelo Law Library Plans a Summer Book Move

by Sheri Lewis

The past few months have been busy ones for the staff of the D’Angelo Law Library as they plan a major moving project for summer 2002. The project will have two major phases. The first is a move of approximately 80,000 volumes from the library’s location in the central building of the Laird Bell Quadrangle (1111 E. 60th Street) to stacks in Harper Storage. In the second phase, remaining law collections will be shifted to create growth space for current materials and open shelving for future acquisitions. While the majority of the project will occur during the summer months, some initial moving and shifting of collections will commence in the late spring.

The D’Angelo Law Library has a print collection of over 650,000 volumes and acquires 10,000 to 12,000 volumes each year. The ability to shelve new acquisitions and to maintain current collections is increasingly difficult once a library’s capacity is 80% or more filled, or functionally full. Shelving space at the DLL is well over 90% capacity. Upon completion of this project, the staff of the D’Angelo Law Library anticipates having adequate growth space for the next 6 to 7 years worth of print acquisitions.

A large percentage of the D’Angelo Law Library’s collections are primary law materials that grow each year. As the law changes and evolves, new volumes are published for series of judicial decisions, bound volumes of legislative codes are kept current with pamphlets or pocket part inserts, and legal material in loose leaf notebooks are updated by individual pages or sections. Secondary source references, or commentary on the law, also grow with new editions, updates and volumes.

The growth patterns and high maintenance characteristics of legal materials make the decision as to which collections are most appropriate for an off-site location a difficult one. Another complicating factor is the need for researchers to have access, in print, to a large collection of core legal research materials. Although primary law resources and a growing number of current secondary materials are available electronically, legal citation requirements dictate consultation of print versions in many instances. Accordingly, a large percentage of the D’Angelo Law Library’s print collection includes non-circulating, high use items that will not be considered for this move.

The law librarians are involved in a systematic review of potential move candidates and, in collaboration with the law school faculty, are identifying the options. Materials that are more likely to be permanently shelved in Harper include superseded laws, additional copies of journals and case reporters, and portions of the library’s United States Supreme Court Records and Briefs collection. The law materials relocated to Harper Storage will be in closed stacks and not directly available to library users for browsing. As part of the planning process, therefore, the law librarians will develop procedures for accessing D’Angelo Law Library materials at Harper.

Sheri Lewis is the Associate Law Librarian at the D’Angelo Law Library.

For more information on the DAngelo Law Library’s summer 2002 move, please contact the author, Sheri Lewis, at shl@uchicago.edu

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CIAO

century. Another class used field notes from the archival collections to critique ethnographic methods used in the 1930s and 1940s.

Barbara Kern is a Science Reference Librarian at the John Crerar Library; Katherine Haskins is the Head of Reference and Information Services at the Joseph Regenstein Library.

SCIENCE 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.

Through June 2002

“Flights Before the Wrights: Octave Chanute, Chicago, aeronautical pioneer, engineer, teacher”

In the decade before the Wright brothers’ historic 1903 flight, French-born American Civil Engineer Octave Chanute developed and flew the world’s most advanced aircraft. Chanute’s novel biplane glider, an engineering masterpiece in the world of 1896 flying machines, was the foundation for 20th-century aircraft.

An important benefactor to The John Crerar Library, Octave Chanute arranged for the Western Society of Engineers to donate their books to the Crerar Library in the 1890s. In addition, much of his own private library was donated to the Crerar at the beginning of the 20th century. It is available for today’s students and scholars pursuing their passion for the history of flight.
A regular series of exhibitions drawn from the collections is on view in the Special Collections Research Center Exhibition Gallery and in the exhibition cases of the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica.

May 1, 2002 - September 6, 2002
Great Ideas: The University of Chicago and the Ideal of Liberal Education

In the 1930s, Mortimer Adler and Robert Hutchins set out to infuse the University of Chicago curriculum with the spirit of the “Great Books” program developed by Adler’s mentor, John Erskine. Their project helped to shape the College’s celebrated core and eventually led to the University’s collaborative efforts with William Benton and the Encyclopaedia Britannica and with Walter Paepcke, founder of the Aspen Institute, to spread the gospel of the “Great Ideas”. The discussion surrounding this experiment in liberal education reflects the aims and goals of the University of Chicago during the Hutchins era while illuminating broader intellectual battles waged over the role of “culture” in American life.

Drawing on the papers of Robert Hutchins, Mortimer Adler, William Benton, and Walter Paepcke, this exhibition will explore the cultural milieu that made the “Great Ideas” central to the University’s educational mission both on and off campus.

Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker: Wayne Booth, the George M. Pullman Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of English Language and Literature, the Committee on Analysis of Ideas and Study of Methods, and the College, will give a talk May 1st at 5:45 p.m. in the Special Collections Research Center in connection with this exhibition. For additional information, please contact Dale Walker, Associate Director for Development at 702-8742.