

# The University of Chicago

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LIBRA (LIBrary Reports and Announcements) is a newsletter from the University of Chicago Library, written for the faculty and University community. If you have questions or comments about this issue of LIBRA, please contact Sandra Levy at 773-702-6463 or libra@lib.uchicago.edu



# Your Class Librarian

# Rebecca Starkey

Reference Librarian/Teaching and Learning Services Support

Imagine that you are a new College student, attending your first week of classes at the University, and you

need to find a reading for your class. You pull out your campus map and see that there are six different libraries on campus. Selecting the Regenstein Library, you walk over to find a huge building with seven floors filled with books. Once inside, you start at one of the computer terminals, only to find the Library's web page with hundreds of electronic resources to choose from. Which database do you use? What floor do you go to? Are you even in the right library?

We often forget how imposing research libraries can be for incoming undergraduates. Most first year students have only used high school or public libraries and are more comfortable searching Google than a library catalog. Navigating the complex world of information today is difficult, and it is especially challenging for new researchers who may be unable to determine the quality of sources. Using the library at a large research institution is further complicated by the size of the collections and variety of materials available. While graduate students and faculty thrill at the prospect of browsing through millions of volumes, undergraduates often find it overwhelming and frustrating to find the books and articles they need.

Understanding these different research needs, the University of Chicago Library has a special committee which focuses on the College. CIAO (College Instruction and Outreach) is a group of reference librarians and bibliographers dedicated to improving undergraduates' experience with the

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Library. CIAO creates programs and services to create a welcoming and approachable atmosphere within the Library in order to reduce students' library anxiety and facilitate learning.

One of CIAO's main efforts is to help students feel comfortable asking for assistance using the Library. Many students will only approach the reference desk after they have exhausted all other options. CIAO wanted to create a program to help students view librarians as a resource they could turn to from the beginning with their questions and concerns about the Library.

Graduates and faculty already have such a resource—their bibliographers. Bibliographers play an essential role in faculty and graduate research, not only through their collection development responsibilities, but also by providing reference and instruction services in their subject areas. New graduate students and faculty are introduced to their bibliographer shortly after arriving on campus. Library service is customized; with subject guides designed for their specific needs, along with personalized reference services.

The Class Librarian program provides a similar resource for undergraduates. Each undergraduate class is assigned a librarian, who acts as their contact for the University of Chicago Library. The Class Librarian serves their class for four years, so that students have a consistent person whom they can approach with their research questions. If their Librarian cannot answer a question, they will introduce the student to someone who can assist them. The students have a friendly person who acts as their personal guide to the Library's collections and services.

Students also benefit from a customized Library web page, which is created by the Class Librarian. Along with providing a photo and contact information for their Librarian, these "Class Pages" provide finding tips, help guides, and other resources to help students find the information they need at each stage of their College career. The Class of 2007 page, for example, provides information on finding ereserve articles, while the Class of 2004 page has tips and advice about researching BA papers. Students locate their Class Pages from their official class website (maintained by the College Programming Office), as well as the Library's "Ask a Librarian" page.

The Class Librarians are "introduced" to students in the summer before they enter the University through a welcome letter in one of their Orientation mailings. Last year, students contacted their Librarian before arriving on campus about work-study positions, library instruction, and

other concerns. Students also have the opportunity to meet their Librarian in person during Library orientation programs. Later in the year, students are reminded of this service through e-mails from their Librarian, as well as through various promotional materials such as bookmarks and newspaper ads. The Library has recently expanded its publicity to include social activities where the Class Librarians can meet with their students. In February, the Class Librarians hosted their first study break called "Love in the Stacks." The event showcased items all about love from the Special Collections Research Center and attracted over 130 students.

Overall, the response to the Class Librarian program has been very positive. The first and second year students are among the heaviest users of the program. Upper classmen, who did not have the program during their first years in the College, have been somewhat slower in embracing the concept. However, use of the program has increased steadily over the last two years. We look forward to the program growing with each incoming class as more students get to know their Librarian.

To learn more, visit the University of Chicago Class Librarians online at: http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/classpages/.



# Introducing ----



Reed Lowrie is the new biomedical reference librarian at the John Crerar Library. Originally from Washington State, Reed has since lived in mainline Philadelphia, Memphis, and northern New Hampshire.

In fact, this is a return to Hyde Park for Reed, as he spent several years here in the 1980's both getting a masters degree in English at the University and working in a local restaurant while his wife finished her Ph.D. More recently, he spent ten years working in various positions in the Biomedical Libraries at Dartmouth College. He then took a break to get a masters in library science from the University of Illinois in 2002. Reed began at Crerar last June in a temporary position and joined the staff permanently in January. His initial work has been to redesign some of the Crerar web pages, including a large rearrangement of the science databases (see http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/crerar/db/). He has also been putting together an exhibit in the Special

# Connections

# New Inter Library Loan Online Request System

# Sandra Applegate,

Head, Interlibrary Loan Services

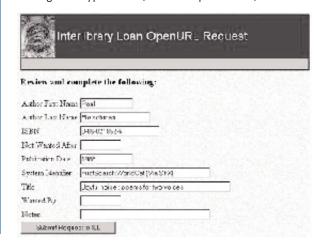
## David Larsen,

Head, Access Services and Acting Bibliographer, Religion

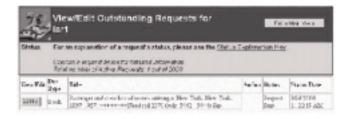
The Library launched a new electronic interlibrary loan request system in January. In the first three months, 1888 individuals registered to use the new system, including 237 faculty members. These individuals submitted more than 9500 interlibrary loan (ILL) requests, with one person submitting approximately 150 requests.

The new system allows users to request interlibrary loans more easily. Whereas in the past you needed to supply your name, your contact information, and your university affiliation with each request, now such information is permanently stored in the ILL system when you first register to use it. Afterwards, you only need to identify yourself to the system once in order to make multiple requests. You do this with the CNetID and password that you probably already use for email, so you will not need to learn new logons and passwords to authenticate.

Requests can be made in two ways. You can either enter requests on our web forms at http://www.lib.uchicago. edu/h/ill, or you can make use of the SFX buttons that appear within most library databases. Using the SFX buttons is often the most efficient way to request ILL materials, since citations are automatically transferred from the databases into the ILL system without users having to retype them (see example below).



One new feature that has been praised by ILL users is the ability to track the status of requests from the time they are submitted. By logging on to the system at http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/h/ill, users can for the first time see how their requests have progressed since they were submitted and determine whether they are available for pickup (see below).



Hopefully, this information will allow you to obtain a better sense of the progress made in filling outstanding requests. However, users do not need to check request statuses, as an email will automatically be sent to the requestor when materials become available.

The ILL system will also allow you to place requests for renewals, provide additional information about requests, or cancel requests that are no longer needed. Another possibly useful feature is that you can view a history of your completed interlibrary loan requests and reactivate any requests that you might need again.

In terms of behind the scenes processing, the new system allows streamlined processing that should allow you to obtain your materials more quickly.

If you would like additional information about the new ILL system, please contact interlibrary-loan@lib.uchicago.edu or stop by the Interlibrary Loan Office located in Regenstein Library, Room 120, for a demonstration.



# Introducing...

Collections Research Center on the work of Dr. Bernard Fantus, the father of U.S. blood banking which will open in November (see http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/ curex.html#u). Reed's next project is to redesign the medicine and biology subject guide web pages. Reed also provides instruction and outreach services to the campus biomedical community. Why might you want to contact Reed? Well, he can help you with MEDLINE searches, or searching other databases in biology or medicine; he can troubleshoot problems with accessing electronic resources; he can help you find print and digital resources for your students to use; he can help you with EndNote problems, or just show you how to use it; in fact, if there's anything to do with any aspect of the science library that you want to know about, please contact Reed. If he doesn't know the answer he'll know where to find it: that's something reference librarians are good at. Reed can be contacted at 702-8552; lowrie@uchicago.edu



Greg Fleming joined the library as a new Business Reference Librarian. Greg's previous position was the Reference Librarian as the Roy P. Crocker Business Library at the University of Southern California. Greg

received his MLIS from the University of Washington and a BA in History from the University of Utah. Greg will be staffing the reference desk at the Regenstein Library, coordinating the creation and updating of GSB and Department of Economics Bibliographies web pages, and creating addition web resource guides. Greg serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Business and Finance Librarianship. He is an active member of the American Library Association participating in the Reference and Users Services Association (RUSA) and the Business Reference and Service Section (BRASS). He may be reached at 834-8987 or gdf@uchicago.edu.



Nancy Spiegel began work as Bibliographer for Art and Cinema on March 8. She recently completed six years as Readers' Services Librarian at the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, where she provid-

ed reference and research assistance to staff and visiting research fellows at the Clark, as well as to faculty, graduate and undergraduate students of Williams College, and the general public. She carried primary selecting responsibility for electronic resources, oversaw the reference collection, and offered extensive library instruction. She has earned a B.A. in history (Brandeis), an M.A. in American studies (Yale), and an M.L.S. (Pittsburgh), has written and published in the area of vernacular architectural history; and bears special interest for art history, material culture, and women's and gender studies. She may be reached at 702-5193 or nspiegel@uchicago.edu.

# Library Shelving Facility Study

# James Vaughan

Assistant Director for Access & Facilities

In the fall of 2003, the architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott (SBRA) was hired by the University to develop conceptual plans for an on-site shelving addition to Regenstein and an off-site shelving facility and to evaluate and compare cost estimates for these plans. Additional shelving space is vital for the Library, as the total shelving in the libraries on campus, including Harper Storage, will be filled to capacity by the end of 2007. SBRA met during the Autumn and Winter Quarters with the Library Shelving Study Steering Committee, senior librarians, and the Provost appointed Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Space for the Collections (chaired by Richard Helmholz) to study various alternatives to house 3.5 million volumes (or its equivalent in linear feet), the amount of print material we estimate the Library will acquire over the next 25 years.

The Steering Committee, with SBRA, analyzed two options for an on-site addition to Regenstein. Both options assume that the addition houses 3.5 million volumes (or the equivalent in linear feet) in moveable compact shelving units. Option I, the Adjacent Bay Expansion Scheme, adds space to Regenstein Library by expanding the existing building while maintaining the same architectural style. The expansion assumes two additional north-south bays to the west of the existing building. Option II, the Ellis Bridge Expansion Scheme, places a rectangular addition along Ellis Avenue that is connected to Regenstein by wide bridges that could hold program space.

For the off-site shelving facility, a 4-acre site within 5 to 10 miles of the campus was assumed, and a generic scheme for a high-density facility with a capacity of 3.5 million volumes was developed. In a high-density facility, materials

# **Library Shelving Study**

are stored by size and cannot be browsed. Requested materials would be retrieved on demand and made available to patrons on campus or at the off-site facility's reading room within 24 hours of a request. Selection and identification of materials for off-site shelving will be a complex process and will require new operational structures. In addition, increased staffing will be needed to manage the facility and transport materials to and from the off-site location.

In considering the alternatives, SBRA identified and developed both first and operational costs over 25 years. In nominal dollars adjusted for inflation, over its 25-year life cycle, the project and the operating costs for an addition to Regenstein are 2.5 times as much as the off-site facility. If cost were the only factor, the off-site option would be the obvious choice.

From the perspective of University Library goals, if costs were not a major factor, the choice would also be obvious: an addition to Regenstein Library would best support the

# CRERAR EXHIBITS



# Honest Jim: James D. Watson the Writer

An Exhibit at the John Crerar Library

January 19th-May 28, 2004

Fifty years ago, James Watson and

Francis Crick made one of the major discoveries of the twentieth century when they deciphered the double helical structure of DNA. In addition to continuing his scientific career, Watson embarked on a new one, as a writer. Beginning with his early years as a South Sider and undergraduate at the University, this exhibit chronicles Watson's writing career as an author of textbooks, science and political advocacy, and autobiography. Original documents offer his reflections on the people and events that influenced and inspired him.

### **Ongoing Exhibits:**

Paleontological Display (dinosaur bones from Paul Sereno) & Crystara

research culture of the University. When a university moves library materials off campus, this necessarily leads to those materials being less accessible and available. For some materials, and for some disciplines, this will matter less than for others. But where it matters, it will always represent a loss. The Library is extraordinary in the degree to which its collections are mostly consolidated, classified under a single system, shelved in open bookstacks, and freely browsable. Consequently, many faculty and students do not consider open stacks a convenience, but essential to the quality of the research they do.

Unlike many of its peer institutions that have had to opt for remote shelving facilities, the University is in the unique position of having an adjacent site available that is ideal for library expansion. For other institutions without suitable vacant land for library construction, the issue has been how to implement remote storage and make it work as well as possible, and not whether it was the best option.

The SBRA report points out that an addition on the Regenstein site, one of the last open areas on the central campus, also has broad University planning implications. The report recommends that serious consideration be given to both the design of any addition on this site and to the possibility of adding compatible programs that would enliven the street-level face of the facility.

The SBRA report, along with the report of the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Library Expansion, were sent to the Provost at the beginning of Spring Quarter. These reports will be the focus of much discussion on the campus in the coming months.



# **Upcoming Library Society Programs**

# Looking Ahead to the 2004/2005 Academic Year

October 6, 2004

Martha Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law & Ethics, Law School, Department of Philosophy, Divinity School, and the College

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# REGENSTEIN EXHIBITS

# Life of the Spirit, Life of the Mind:

Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at 75

Through June 18, 2004

Drawing on photographs and documents from the University Archives, this exhibition explores how the planners of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, Chapel Deans, the student body, and the broader community have interpreted the mission of the Chapel to shape its architecture as well as the programs it supports. The exhibit is on display in the Special Collections Research Center Main Gallery.

### **Eureka!**

Discovering Sources in the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica

# Through June 25, 2004

This exhibition explores various access tools to the over 17,000 titles in the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica, from the topically arranged print catalog published when it was a private collection to records in the Library's online catalog. Each format offers different search approaches -- and results -- to researchers. "Eureka!" presents examples illustrating the continued value of the print catalog for some projects and the potential for discovering sources through online searching. This exhibit is on display in the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica Gallery.

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