

LIBRA

Library Reports
and Announcements

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LIBRARY

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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



The John Crerar Foundation Science Writing Prize for College Students

By Kathleen Zar,
Science Librarian

The ability to communicate clearly about science and technology is a great skill. While our society depends on scientific and technological breakthroughs, many individuals are mystified or even suspicious about them. This may be simply because information has not been communicated in an effective manner. In his 1994 book, *The Astonishing Hypothesis*, Francis Crick wrote that “there is no form of prose more difficult to understand and more tedious to read than the average scientific paper.”

The John Crerar Foundation, formed in 1981 as one of the conditions of the merger of the independent John Crerar Library with the University, acts to perpetuate the name of John Crerar and to provide targeted support to the John Crerar Library. Recognizing that society needs to be better informed about science, the Foundation has established a new prize at the University of Chicago.

An annual award will be given to the best paper written by a University of Chicago undergraduate on a scientific theme. The paper must be understandable to those who study either a biomedical or a physical science. In addition, its arguments must be clear to the non-specialist. The hope is to encourage students to connect their own studies and research to the larger effort of public education and understanding.

Each year, the prize committee will select a topic for submission. The topic will be broad enough to cover both the biomedical and physical sciences. This year's topic requires the student writer to “select one 20th century discovery, invention,

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proof or experiment in the biological or physical sciences that has had a significant influence on your studies” and submit a 2,500-3,000-word essay that describes your selection, explains its relevance to your studies and discusses its impact on society today and into the future.

Students can write this paper from any perspective (i.e. physical science, biomedical science, ethics, history, religion, politics). The competition is not restricted by year of study or area of concentration.

An important component of the paper will be the bibliography, which must include citations from a variety of sources. Students are encouraged to contact their Class Librarian for research assistance: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/classpages>.

First prize is \$1500 and second prize is \$500.

Please consult the new web page for more details about the prize and program: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/crerar/crerar-prize/home.html>

We hope that you will encourage your students to submit an entry.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kathleen Zar at 702-7469, kzar@uchicago.edu.



Photograph by Beverly Sperring

Regenstein Current Periodicals Reading Room Update

By Ray Gadke,

Manager, Periodicals and Microforms Reading Room

The consolidation of most of the current periodicals and newspapers held in the Joseph Regenstein Library into a single location, on the east side of Regenstein's second floor, was completed this past July. Current business and economics journals from A-level, the social sciences and humanities collection from the second floor, the music periodicals from the third floor, the art, education, philosophy and religion collections from the fourth floor,

and the linguistics journals from the fifth floor of Regenstein were all moved to their new location on the east side of the second floor during the week of July 14-18. The relocation of more than 6,000 journal and periodical titles went smoothly and efficiently due to the careful and efficient planning of the staff of the Regenstein Acquisitions Department and the hard work of the Library's Building Services staff who installed the shelving and other members of the Library staff who did the actual moving.

The current newspapers were moved to their new location in the built-in shelving in the new Current Periodicals Reading Room during the following week. While the newspapers are shelved in alphabetical order by title, the periodicals, shelved on free-standing units in the reading room, are arranged in call number order. Having the periodicals in call number order has the advantage of grouping the titles by subject area.

To assist library users in locating periodical titles, four catalog-only computer terminals have been placed at the entrance to the Current Periodicals Reading Room and attractive posters with summaries of the call number ranges are affixed to each range of shelving, with the general subject areas represented by the call numbers in that particular range. Two photocopying machines are available in Room 206, just off the reading room, for library users who wish to make copies of materials from the periodicals collection. Room 207, at the south end of the Current Periodicals Reading Room, serves as the work room and information office for the periodicals collection. Staff is available in Room 207 during morning and afternoon weekday hours to assist library users.

Periodicals not affected by the consolidation include those of the East Asia, South Asia, and Middle East Collections on the fifth floor of Regenstein Library. As a result of the relocation of the linguistics titles formerly shelved with the Middle East periodicals, the Middle Eastern journal collection has been consolidated and re-arranged in call number order. Shelving that formerly housed periodicals on the fourth and third floors of Regenstein has been utilized for the expansion of the reference collections in those areas. The shelving that held the business and economics periodicals on A-level of Regenstein has been dismantled and the space occupied by lockers, carrels, and tables for the Regenstein All-Night Study space.

The new Current Periodicals Reading Room is furnished with a variety of seating. There are traditional long library tables along the windows on the east side of the room and clusters of comfortable lounge chairs at the south end of the area. The daily *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Chicago Sun Times* are on sticks in newspaper racks in the southeast corner of the room. Several business newspapers, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Investor's Business Daily*, are also available in this location. The Current Periodicals Reading Room is a very comfortable reading and study space and has already become very popular with library users. If you have not already visited the new Current Periodicals Reading Room, please stop by the next time you are in Regenstein Library.



Connections

Finding Census Data – a Case Study

By Agnes Tatarka,

Reference & Business Information Center

Having recently attended a workshop on using Census 2000 data, I was called out to the reference desk in Regenstein to help a patron with his search for some very specific numbers: Illinois income at the Block level. The approach we took tracking this down will, I hope, provide some useful tips that will make your next Census search easier.

I have found that a good starting point for most searches is the “Subjects AtoZ” available through the Census Bureau homepage

(<http://www.census.gov>).

It may be that the statistic you are looking for has been incorporated into a brief or can be found in a specialized survey conducted by the Bureau or other agency. In this case, the “Income Data” link provides a number of sources but without a lot of clicking, it’s not enough information to be very useful. We pick the Census Gateway.

Our next stop is the American Fact Finder (AFF), the primary tool for accessing a variety of data

sets. We click on the DATA SETS link. The Decennial Census is the default and we note that income is part of the Summary File 3 (SF 3), also known as the “long form” data.

Before proceeding further, a note about geography. The Census Bureau employs a detailed geographical hierarchy comprised of both specialized and standard designations. On the small end are

Census Blocks, Block Groups, and Census Tracts.

Back at the AFF, we select CUSTOM TABLE and note that the smallest geographic unit in the drop down menu is the Block Group. Unfortunately, it appears the only way to get all the Block Groups in Cook County is to select all 1,334 Census Tracts and slowly, painfully add the Block Groups. Here my workshop experience pays off and I know that we need to select the tab GEO WITHIN GEO.

Now the challenge is choosing the right table. The easiest approach is to select the BY KEYWORD tab. There are hundreds of tables that contain “income” and so the more keywords the better – we put in “per capita income.” We work our way through and find that we can filter for per capita income >50,000. We download the data into Excel.

We also visited the Maps Collection on the 3rd floor of the Regenstein and, using one of several third-party applications the Library has purchased, the “CensusCD 2000 long form SF3,” we proceed to download the same data in a matter of minutes.

Our experience highlights some common challenges when looking for Census statistics. It may be that the data you need is not tabulated to the geographic level you want. In this case, because we were using sample data, the smallest geography available was Block Groups. Also, had I not had some experience with the AFF, we may have overlooked the “geo within geo” option that made it possible to extract the data we wanted. The third-party software did not depend on our making such an informed choice – which may make a critical difference for the first-time user.



Other Sources

American Community Survey

(<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>)
This continuous measurement program is slated to replace the SF 3 (long form) data set in 2010. While it will take until then to accumulate a large enough sample for smaller populations, 2002 ACS data was recently released for areas with populations 250,000 and greater. The ACS will be updated annually - making it a great resource for current demographic, social, and economic data.

Map Collection

(<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/maps/>)
Several third-party applications are available to access decennial data sets, make comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data, and map data.

Northern Illinois Planning Commission

(<http://www.nipc.cog.il.us>)
Data sets for Chicago and Chicago Community Areas can be found at this site.

Research and Teaching at the Center

By Alice Schreyer,

Director, Special Collections Research Center

When Professor Margaret Mitchell teaches her course on the Gospel of Mark in Spring Quarter, she will be using the new Seminar Room in Special Collections. This classroom, available for classes working with Special Collections materials, was renovated last summer with support from the family of lifelong Library friend Marie Louise Rosenthal, in whose memory the room has been named. A comfortable teaching environment equipped with document cameras, plasma screens, and a permanent Internet connection allows faculty to use primary sources in conjunction with electronic resources and technology to enhance the learning experience. For example, Professor Mitchell will be able to display pertinent Web sources alongside high-resolution images of the mysterious manuscript known as “Archaic Mark,” together with transcriptions, annotations, and interpretations she and her students will create.

Producing the digital edition of “Archaic Mark” is part of the Goodspeed New Testament Manuscript project, which is digitizing manuscripts from the University’s world-renowned collection of New Testament manuscripts, with support from the University’s Women’s Board and the Provost’s Academic Technology Initiative program.

Hold the Date:

On January 8, 2004, from 1 to 6 p.m., the Library and NSIT will co-host an open house for faculty. Invitations will be sent in early December. There will be opportunities to visit the Marie Louise Rosenthal Seminar Room and the new Digital Media Lab, and also to view the anniversary exhibition. The event highlights exciting collaborations between faculty, Library staff, and academic technology experts. Facilitating these activities is a chief goal of Special Collections in its second half-century. We look forward to seeing and speaking with you about how you can use the collections and facilities of the Special Collections Research Center.

always been at the center of Special Collections, which was primarily considered a working collection for faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars. While advanced researchers will be our most intensive users, the recent emphasis on teaching at the Center demonstrates that contact with primary sources enriches the College experience and enables undergraduates to put texts into historical context.

Last year, a record 156 class sessions were held in the Special Collections Research Center. Special Collections welcomes – indeed, actively encourages – use of its resources for individual sessions and quarter-long courses and hopes to break this record very soon. We are keenly interested in supporting the potential of the Marie Louise Rosenthal Seminar Room to stimulate new approaches to teaching.

A 50th anniversary publication and exhibition, *Research at the Center*, emphasizes the role of rare books, manuscripts, and archives in teaching and research at the University; and the work currently being done by staff to improve access to them and increase their use. A copy of *Research at the Center*, published with support from the University of Chicago Library Society, will be sent to faculty.



Library Group Assesses the Present, Considers the Future

By Sheri Lewis,

Associate Law Librarian for Public Services and Chair, Strategic Planning Group

As autumn quarter swiftly progresses and campus walkways are transformed from construction avoidance paths to depositories for wet leaves, ten individuals are busy collecting data, doing research, holding meetings, assessing trends and thoughtfully examining future strategies for the University of Chicago Library. The ten form a Strategic Planning Group of librarians and staff representing various library departments. Director Martin Runkle and the associate and assistant directors of the Library have appointed this group to engage in a Strategic Planning Process over the next seven months. The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) is charged with drafting a strategic plan for the University of Chicago Library for the next 5 years.

The SPG began its work in October and will be guided throughout this process by a library consultant. The consultant, Shelley Phipps, is an assistant dean at the University of Arizona, and a highly regarded expert in organizational development by the Association of Research Libraries. During the initial stages, the SPG will conduct a “Current Situation Analysis”—an environmental scan of the library and its external environment –and formulate mission, vision and values statements consistent with their findings. The environmental scan involves gathering and analyzing information from the Library staff, faculty, students, and other interested parties, such as the Board of the Library and the Visiting Committee to the Library. At the conclusion of the process on May 1, the SPG will submit strategic goals and proposed directives to Mr. Runkle and the associate and assistant directors.

The members of the Strategic Planning Group are Issa Boulos (Music Collections), June Farris (Slavic and Eastern European Studies), Ray Gadke (Regenstein Periodicals and Microforms), Eileen Ielmini (Special Collections Research Center), Barbara Kern (John Crerar Library), Sheri Lewis (D'Angelo Law Library), Jane McKeever (Education, Psychology, and Library Science Studies), Stacey Metralexis (Regenstein Course Reserves), Stuart Miller (Integrated Library Systems), and Dale Walker (Library Development). The Strategic Planning Group may be contacted via email at spg@lib.uchicago.edu.



The Chemistry Collections Move to Crerar

By Andrea Twiss-Brooks,
Bibliographer for Chemistry, Physics,
Geophysical Sciences and Technology

The Chemistry Library located in George Herbert Jones Laboratory at the University of Chicago was closed on September 2. Staff from the Library and from the moving company, Hallett and Sons, packed books, journals, furniture, and equipment, and moved this material into the John Crerar Library during the waning days of summer. This move was made in anticipation of, and supports the consolidation of research programs in the Interdivisional Research Building, currently under construction and adjacent to the John Crerar Library. Books and journals from the Chemistry Library have, for the most part, been moved to their new, permanent locations in the John Crerar Library. Users of the library should contact the John Crerar Library Circulation Desk or the Reference Desk with any questions about access to chemistry materials. For assistance with more in-depth reference questions in chemistry, assistance with SciFinder Scholar or CrossFire Beilstein/Gmelin, or to arrange for chemical information instruction or orientation, contact Andrea Twiss-Brooks, Bibliographer for Chemistry, Physics, Geophysical Sciences, and Technology at 702-8777, atbrooks@uchicago.edu.



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: they deciphered the double helical structure of DNA. The discovery began a revolution in molecular biology that led to major advances in science and medicine.

Watson and Crick both continued their scientific careers but Watson also embarked on a new one, as a writer.

Beginning with Watson's early years as a South Sider and an undergraduate at the University, the exhibit chronicles his life as an author of remarkable writings, both literary and scientific. Original documents offer his reflections on the people and events that influenced and inspired him.

The exhibit will open on Monday, January 19 and feature a lecture by Dr. Watson at 4:00 p.m. in the Biological Sciences Learning Center. A reception will follow at 5:30 p.m. in the John Crerar Library Atrium.

For details please visit:
www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/crerar/exhibits/watson.html
or contact Barbara Kern at 702-8717, bkern@uchicago.edu

Ongoing Exhibits:

Paleontological Display (dinosaur bones from Paul Sereno) & Crystara

Upcoming Library Society Programs

February 4, 2004

Bruce Cumings, Norman and Edna Freehling Professor, Department of History and the College, will present a talk on "Decoupled from History: North Korea in the Axis of Evil." He will discuss the background to American involvement in Korea, beginning in 1945 when the U.S.

occupied Korea; the attempt to "liberate" North Korea in 1950-51; to the nuclear crisis in the past three years.

March 3, 2004

Bill J. Darden, Professor, Departments of Slavic Languages & Literatures and Linguistics, and Humanities Division, will be the featured speaker.

May 5, 2004

Ann Dudley Goldblatt, Lecturer, Social Sciences Collegiate Division, Department of Medicine, and the Law School, and Assistant Director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, will talk about her work in medical ethics.

REGENSTEIN EXHIBITS

Research at the Center:
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Special Collections

Through January 12, 2004

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1953 founding of Special Collections, "Research at the Center" presents a portrait of the way the Center now works to preserve and provide broadened access to primary sources across a range of disciplines and formats in support of teaching and scholarship at the University.

Celebrating Our Friends:
Recent Gifts to the Special Collections Research Center

Through February 13, 2004

Recent gifts to the Center are featured in this exhibit in the alcoves gallery on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding. Faculty, alumni, staff, and Chicagoans are among the Center's many friends who have added new sources for students and scholars in the past few years, continuing a legacy of generous donors from the earliest years of Special Collections.

Eureka!
Discovering Sources in the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica

Through June 25, 2004

This exhibit, on display in the Center's Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica Gallery, 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.

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