Exhibition on Japanese American Internment

In February and March Oberlin hosted a traveling exhibition and sponsored multiple events related to the internment of Japanese Americans in the United States during World War II. An Oberlin steering committee led by Renee Romano, Robert S. Danforth Professor of History and Professor of Comparative American Studies and Africana Studies, and Oberlin resident Julie Min, worked with the Go For Broke Foundation of Los Angeles to plan the events. Communities that host the exhibition create accompanying displays to tell their own stories of welcoming Japanese Americans. Oberlin welcomed nearly forty Japanese American students to the town and campus during this period.

“This project truly brought together people from across the campus and the community,” remarked Professor Romano. “It has generated an enthusiastic response from students, alumni, Oberlin

Major Jazz Photography Collection Donated to Oberlin

In December the Conservatory Library received a monumental collection of original jazz photographs that adds significantly to its jazz special collections. The Ed Berger Photographic Collection comprises over 100,000 photographs taken by Berger from the 1960s to 2016. Berger documented the entire spectrum of jazz, capturing candid moments and formal portraits of hundreds of jazz greats. A particular strength is Berger’s representation of his close friend Benny Carter, a saxophonist and arranger. Berger was also Carter’s biographer and road manager.

Berger photographed events including jazz rehearsals and concerts, memorials and tributes, festivals, museum openings and gallery exhibitions, and a variety of lectures and educational events. The photographs were taken on stage, in offices and classrooms, and in homes.

Documenting Student Activism

Story on page 6
Recent Gifts
The Libraries gratefully acknowledge the following significant monetary gifts and gifts-in-kind.

Major monetary gifts:
- The Berger Family Foundation Inc., for the Librarian's Discretionary Fund.
- Linda Grimm, Emerita Professor of Anthropology, for the Friends of the Libraries.

Generous monetary gifts:
- Scott Bennett '60, for the Friends of the Libraries and The Wallace A. '38 & Mary Louise Sprague '38 Fund for the Oberlin College Libraries.
- Colgate-Palmolive Company, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Dean S. Edmonds Foundation, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
- Edwin Dugger '62, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
- Timothy Elgren, Dean of the College, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Joseph Hickerson '57, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Jewish Communal Fund of New York, for the Beatrice S. and Lloyd Frank '47 Library Fund.
- Norman Jung '56, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Sarah Lawall '56, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Lucy Marks '73, for the Lucy K. Marks '73 English & Classics Book Fund.
- Cynthia Marvell '88, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Catherine Sullivan '91, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Jock Reynolds, for the Librarian's Discretionary Fund.
- Dorothy Seebohm '39, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
- Michael Shinagel '57, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Andrew Stone '80, for the George A. & Susan P. Lanyi Fund for Library Acquisitions.
- Avonelle Walker '53, for the Friends of the Libraries and the Conservatory Special Book Fund.

Gifts-in-kind:
- Phyllis Gorfain, Emerita Professor of English, donated books and materials in literature and drama.
- Bruce Simonson, Emeritus Professor of Geology, continues to donate books of general interest and earth science to the Science Library.
- Susan and John Harvith donated a variety of materials to the Conservatory Library and Special Collections.
- Robert Rotberg '55 continues to donate materials about Africa to main and Special Collections.
- Sharon Miranda donated a large number of scores to the Conservatory Library.
- Howard Barnet '76 donated material for the Art Library.
- Allen Huszti '61 donated a large number of books, scores, and recordings for the Conservatory Library.
- Robert Biggert '62 donated materials for the Art Library poster stamp collection.
- Bernth Lindfors '59 donated a variety of materials on Africa and race relations.
- Ken and Larry Berger donated The Ed Berger Photographic Collection (see article on page 1).

Friends Research Award
Brooke Ortel '17 was selected as the winner of the Friends of the Libraries Research Award for papers written during the 2016-17 academic year. Ortel was nominated by Professor of English T. S. McMillin for research completed in English 255, The Concept of Nature in Early American Literature. Entitled “Cats, Dogs, and Idle Fools: Education in Early America,” Ortel’s paper studied the process of learning the alphabet, and how the representation of letters used in that process was integral to the earliest strivings of a literate society. Her research included careful study of The New-England Primer, published in 1727, and an “Indian Primer” developed for indigenous children, both digitally archived in the database Early American Imprints, Series I, Evans, 1639-1800 (a resource funded in part by the Friends of the Libraries). The committee was impressed with Ortel’s use of library resources in her research process and in the thoughtful development of her thesis.
Friends Council Highlights

President Robert Taylor convened the 27th annual meeting of the Council on November 11, 2017. The financial report included news of a $125,266 bequest and an end-of-year balance of $185,874. The Council approved recommendations from the Acquisitions Committee to spend $40,355 on new resources to support teaching and learning (see article on pages 12-13). The Membership Committee reported a recent decline in memberships; efforts to recruit new members will emphasize appealing to a younger demographic.

The Council approved Life Memberships for David Berger and Holly Maxson and an Honorary Membership with voting privileges for Thelma Morris ’54 (see article on page 4). The Council also approved graduate library school scholarships in the amount of $3,500 each for Sarah Blenko ’15 and Amelea Kim ’12 (see Perspectives, Fall 2017) and a $500 library research award to Brooke Ortel ’17 (see article on page 2).

Upon recommendations from the Nominating Committee, the Council appointed the 2016-17 officers to a third term, elected four new members, and appointed ex-officio members (see sidebar for roster). Council also acted to change the name of the organization to Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries, and authorized the Executive Committee to consider subsidizing some costs related to preservation of the 15th-century Mamluk Qur’an housed in Special Collections (see Perspectives, Fall 2017). The Executive Committee will also formulate a plan to establish a staff enrichment fund to support professional development among the libraries staff. These proposals will be sent to the Council for later consideration.

Council heard a report from Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward, including news that the Board of Trustees approved naming the Main Library in Mudd Center as the Mary Church Terrell Library. A major celebration of this event will be organized during the weekend of Oberlin College President Carmen Ambar’s inauguration, which is also Homecoming Weekend (October 4-6, 2018). Vice President Wendy Wasman ’85 reported increased visibility of the Friends on Facebook, and on her work with Outreach and Programming Librarian Eboni Johnson ’97 to coordinate social media outreach for Friends events. Detailed minutes of the meeting are posted at oberlin.edu/library/friends/minutes.

SAVE the DATE!

A Celebration to name the Main Library in Mudd Center for Oberlin alumna \textbf{Mary Church Terrell} Class of 1884, MA 1888, hon. 1948

\textbf{Saturday, October 6, 2018}

Stay tuned for details!

2017-2018 Friends Council

Officers
Robert Taylor
President
Wendy Wasman ’85
Vice President
Eric Carpenter
Secretary

Members
Stephanie Davis-Kahl ’94
Sebastiaan Faber
Robert Follet ’64
Jennifer Graham
Rod Knight
Gary Kornblith
Tom Lopez ’89
Pablo Mitchell
Ann Sherif
Steve Volk

Ex-Officio and Appointed Members
Gillian Johns
General Faculty Library Committee Chair
Scott Smith ’79
Acquisitions Committee Chair
Robert Longsworth
Program Committee Chair
Alexia Hudson-Ward
Director of Libraries
Jessica Grim
Collection Development Librarian
Eboni Johnson ’97
Outreach and Programming Librarian
New Friends Honorary and Life Members

The Friends of the Libraries awarded an honorary membership to Thelma Morris ’54 and life memberships to David Berger and Holly Maxson at its annual dinner on November 11, 2017.

Morris has been a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of the libraries for many decades. She served on the Friends Council and has been an essential member of the Council’s Membership Committee. Morris is known for offering personalized guided tours of the Oberlin College Libraries to new residents of Kendal at Oberlin. Prior to her retirement in 1993, she enjoyed a long career as a librarian at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Library, among others.

Berger and Maxson are deeply committed supporters and philanthropists of the Conservatory Library. They donated the Milton J. and Mona C. Hinton Collection in 2014, and have consistently provided significant financial support for the collection’s preservation and integration into the curriculum. The collection currently supports courses in the college and conservatory as well as the biennial Milton J. Hinton Summer Institute for Studio Bass. Most recently Berger and Maxson have been key supporters in the development of the national traveling exhibition Playing the Changes: The Life and Legacy of Milt Hinton (see article on page 10). Through these and other projects, their continued generosity is helping to enrich the educational experiences of students at Oberlin and beyond. College President Carmen Twillie Ambar was an honored guest at the Friends Annual dinner.

New Look for Library Perspectives

Readers may notice that this issue of Library Perspectives sports a brand new look. The libraries decided to refresh the newsletter’s design in order to achieve several goals. First and foremost, we wanted the Friends of the Libraries to have a newsletter that was both visually pleasing and a bit easier on the eyes. We also sought a new design that would translate well to an online environment, with greater use of visual elements to complement and enhance the text.

To that end, Cleveland Heights-based graphic designer Wendy Donkin was commissioned to create a refreshed layout that features several improvements that we hope readers will appreciate. For the first time, the printed version of Library Perspectives is now published in full color. It also features more and larger images that are better integrated with the text. Donkin also created a new masthead, selected more readable fonts, and chose a new color palette for accents.

We are pleased with the results, and hope you are, too! Your feedback is welcome; send comments to Library.Director@oberlin.edu. A complete archive of the newsletter, beginning in 1991, is available at www2.oberlin.edu/library/friends.

Director Hudson-Ward Launches Blog

Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward launched a new blog this year, titled Observations from the Field. Hudson-Ward already has an active social media presence on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. She views the new blog as an “opportunity to highlight Oberlin College Libraries and issues related to libraries and the library profession more broadly.” Find Hudson-Ward’s blog at observationsfromthefield.blog.
Denise Gigante to Deliver Jantz Lecture

Denise Gigante, Professor of English at Stanford University and 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, will deliver the 2018 Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture on Friday, May 4 at 4:30 p.m. in the Nancy Schrom Dye Lecture Hall, Science Center. A reception will immediately follow the lecture.

Gigante teaches 18th- and 19th-century British literature, with a focus on Romanticism. Her interests include the longer historical tradition of poetry and poetics, the English periodical essay, the Romantic novel, taste, gastronomy, aesthetic theory, antiquarianism, and the history of the book. She is currently working on *The Book Madness: A Story of Book Collectors in America* (Harvard, forthcoming); is author of *The Keats Brothers: The Life of John and George* (Harvard, 2011), *Life: Organic Form and Romanticism* (Yale, 2009), and *Taste: A Literary History* (Yale, 2005); and has edited two anthologies — *The Great Age of the English Essay* (Yale, 2008) and *Gusto: Essential Writings in Nineteenth-Century Gastronomy* (Routledge, 2005).

The Harold Jantz Memorial Lectureship honors the memory of one of the most distinguished literary scholars among Oberlin graduates. Established in 1988 through the generosity of family, friends, colleagues, former students, and classmates of Harold Jantz ’29, the endowed fund supports public lectures and symposia in areas of his professional interests: German literature and literary history, German and American literary relations, art and art history, and bibliophilism. The lecturership rotates annually among the German department, the libraries, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum and is a lasting tribute to Jantz, an Elyria, Ohio, native. He earned a PhD in comparative literature with a focus on German literature at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and went on to become a Goethe scholar and authority on early American literature. He taught at Princeton, Johns Hopkins, and Duke universities, and the universities of Hamburg and Vienna.

Meredith Evans Visits Campus

Meredith Evans, Director of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in Atlanta, recently spoke on campus about her work archiving presidential and community legacies. Evans was actively involved in several important projects including *Documenting Ferguson*, a community-curated digital repository documenting the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri after the 2014 shooting death of Michael Brown, and the digitizing of the papers of Martin Luther King Jr.

She is the first African American woman to direct a Presidential Library. As director she focuses on civic engagement, the role of the presidency and public policy, and making accessible the records of President Carter, his cabinet, and the White House administration. Evans has expertise in management, fundraising, community engagement, and the selection, acquisition, and preservation of print, audio, visual, and digital collections.

Evans earned a master’s degree in library science from Clark Atlanta University and a doctorate in library and information science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her dissertation focused on the records management and retention practices of African American churches in the southern United States. Evans has also taught classes in library, archives, and information sciences at Clark Atlanta University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Prior to her current position, Evans was Director of Special Collections at George Washington University, Associate University Librarian for Special Collections and Digital Programs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Associate University Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis. Her talk was sponsored in part by the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries.
The College Archives is a participant in a new initiative to heighten awareness of archival holdings and historical collections documenting student activism across the United States. Project STAND (STudent Activism Now Documented): Archiving Student Activism at Universities and Colleges was established in 2016 by Lae’l Hughes-Watkins, University Archivist at Kent State University and Tamar Chute, University Archivist at The Ohio State University. Nearly 20 colleges and universities around the country have joined Project STAND.

The project focuses on digital and analog primary sources that document the activities of student groups and represent the concerns of historically marginalized communities, including African American, Chicano/a, LGBTQ, and religious minorities. Project STAND also plans to highlight the work of faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and others who advocate for or support the interests of those communities. The collections document a wide variety of issues that inspired student activism throughout history, including anti-slavery, the Vietnam War, LGBTQ rights, anti-apartheid, civil rights and racial equality, and women’s rights.

The website standarchives.wordpress.com is being developed to serve as a hub for collection information with links to online finding guides, digital collections, and other information about the member institutions. College Archivist Ken Grossi welcomed the opportunity to serve on Project STAND’s Advisory Board and to contribute information about Oberlin’s collections to the project’s website. The Mary Church Terrell Papers, the online digital collection Oberlin and Activism, and the Oberlin Sanctuary Project are some of the collections and online sources included in the project.

Project STAND is an opportunity for reflection on and discussion of the stories and events documented in the collections, both in history and their impact on the present day. It also provides a framework for the College Archives to expand its online resources by incorporating more activism-related materials from students and alumni.

Above: Mary Church Terrell, Class of 1884, MA 1888, hon. 1948 (second from left) and members of the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of Anti-Discrimination Laws, Washington, D.C., c. 1950

Below: Protest on campus concerning the lack of a black theater and dance group in the black studies curriculum, early 1970s
Visitors to the Main Library last spring were treated to a visually stunning array of posters on the subject of peace created by students at Iran’s Shiraz University of Arts. Now those posters, along with others created in response by Oberlin faculty, students, and community members, can be viewed in a new online digital exhibition developed and hosted by the libraries.

According to Jafar Mahallati, Presidential Scholar of Islam and Nancy Schrom Dye Chair in Middle East and North African Studies, the project was initiated to create an avenue for artists to contribute to the dialogue on peacemaking in international relations. During a sabbatical leave in Shiraz, Mahallati designed a series of events on scholarship in peace and interfaith studies. The result was more than ten conferences and workshops sponsored by the Shiraz, Shiraz Art, Shiraz Medical, and Shiraz Azad universities between 2015 and 2017. Those events prompted students from the art university to create posters illustrating various ideas and representations of peace.

Upon his return from Shiraz in fall 2016, Mahallati shared the inspirational images with Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward, and they agreed that the posters should be displayed for the community. An exhibition of 37 printed posters was held in the Main Library the following spring, and development of an online site began.

The Peace Poster Dialogue Project facilitates dialogue through the arts among nations, religions, and ethnicities as an avenue to advance global peace. Professor of Studio Art Nanette Yannuzzi-Macias contributed one of the Oberlin posters and later created the image that appears in the header of the online site. The project invites additional peace poster contributions from universities and colleges around the world that address forgiveness, friendship, and the elimination of war.

The posters will be displayed again this spring at Kendal at Oberlin. Meanwhile, the digital exhibition, which includes many additional works created after the original set of 37 posters, can be viewed at peaceposters.oberlincollegelibrary.org.
As of January the college’s institutional repository is running on a new platform and has a new name: Digital Commons at Oberlin. Materials hosted on the former Oberlin SHARES platform have been moved to Digital Commons, a product from bepress. Like its predecessor, Digital Commons at Oberlin collects, preserves, organizes, and makes publicly accessible the scholarly and creative work of Oberlin’s faculty and staff. The new platform also offers several attractive features that weren’t previously available, including the ability to publish journals, showcase student work, and create image galleries and exhibitions. Digital Commons also offers conference and event support, as well as an open educational resources infrastructure.

Digital Commons at Oberlin is part of the Digital Commons Network, a multi-institution repository with free access to a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work from 530 universities and colleges worldwide. Though academic institutions are vast troves of knowledge, their valuable resources are often hard to discover. Research placed in Digital Commons is highly discoverable by major search engines like Google, Bing, and Google Scholar, providing another incentive to migrate to the new platform. Digital Commons at Oberlin will help users find these great treasures. All faculty and staff are welcome to submit their work for inclusion in Digital Commons; direct questions to Megan Mitchell, Digital Initiatives Librarian. Browse Oberlin’s scholarship and learn more at digitalcommons.oberlin.edu.

New Staff

Elizabeth Sullivan joined the libraries in January as Assessment and User Experience Librarian. She is responsible for assessing services, collections, and user experience at the libraries while also contributing to a range of reference and instruction work. Sullivan earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Smith College and a master’s in library and information science with a certificate in special collections from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining Oberlin, Sullivan was a graduate assistant at the University of Illinois Archives and the Computer Systems/Public Services Librarian at Wilkes University. Sullivan loves problem solving and looks forward to helping library staff use data to respond to questions about services and collections. Outside of work she enjoys cooking, baking, playing board games, bookbinding, and reading, especially mystery, science fiction, and fantasy.

Gena Reynolds ’15 began work last September as the Special Collections and Preservation Assistant. She previously worked in the office of the college dean and at the Oberlin Public Library. Her job involves assisting patrons in the Goodrich Reading Room, stacks management, assisting with instruction and reference requests, and supervising the conservation work that takes place in the preservation lab. Reynolds has enjoyed learning more about the collections and getting to know others on the staff. She spends her free time swimming, enjoying the outdoors, baking, and getting lost clicking on endless links in Wikipedia.

New Platform for Institutional Repository

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Digital Commons at Oberlin

Digital Commons at Oberlin, a service of the Oberlin College Libraries, is a multi-institution repository that provides free access to a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work from 530 universities and colleges worldwide. Though academic institutions are vast troves of knowledge, their valuable resources are often hard to discover. Research placed in Digital Commons is highly discoverable by major search engines like Google, Bing, and Google Scholar, providing another incentive to migrate to the new platform. Digital Commons at Oberlin will help users find these great treasures. All faculty and staff are welcome to submit their work for inclusion in Digital Commons; direct questions to Megan Mitchell, Digital Initiatives Librarian. Browse Oberlin’s scholarship and learn more at digitalcommons.oberlin.edu.
Faber to Give Book Talk

Sebastiaan Faber, Professor and Chair of Hispanic Studies, will give a book talk on Tuesday, April 17 at 4:30 p.m. in Moffett Auditorium of Mudd Center, on his new book Memory Battles of the Spanish Civil War: History, Fiction, Photography (Vanderbilt, 2018). In the book, Faber outlines the trajectories of iconic Spanish Civil War photographs by Robert Capa, Gerda Taro, and David Seymour; critically reviews a dozen recent Spanish novels and essays; interviews scholars, activists, and documentarians who in the past decade have helped redefine Spain’s relationship to its past; and interrogates basic scholarly assumptions about history, memory, and literature. Faber postulates that recent political developments in Spain — from the grassroots call for the recovery of historical memory to the Indignados movement and the foundation of the Spanish political party Podemos — provide an opportunity for scholars in the humanities to engage in a more activist, public, and democratic practice.

Faber is also the author of Exile and Cultural Hegemony: Spanish Intellectuals in Mexico, 1939-1975 (Vanderbilt, 2002) and Anglo-American Hispanists and the Spanish Civil War: Hispanophilia, Commitment, and Discipline (Palgrave, 2008), among other works. Faber has been at Oberlin since 1999. He currently serves as a member of the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries Council and is a past chair of the Oberlin College General Faculty Library Committee.

Librarian as Field Archivist

Eboni Johnson ’97, Outreach and Programming Librarian, is working in partnership with Janet Fiskio, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Comparative American Studies, and a group of Oberlin students on a National Science Foundation funded project in the Africatown area of Mobile, Alabama. Africatown has historical significance as the landing site for the Clotilda, the last ship known to illegally transport enslaved Africans to the United States. Today’s residents face serious environmental challenges, including air pollution and illegal dumping of toxic chemicals. For several years, Oberlin students and staff have participated in a series of faculty-led projects focused on environmental justice and preservation of the history of this nationally significant location.

The current project entails creation of a sustainable framework for digitizing, storing, and preserving documents, photographs, and oral histories for presentation on a website. Last fall, and again this past January, Johnson traveled to Africatown with Fiskio and her students to provide expertise in archival methods, including organizing records and developing descriptive metadata. The long-term goal of the project is to empower Africatown community members to co-produce and maintain the site independently. Johnson presented a talk on her experience at the Oberlin Public Library in February, and will discuss her involvement in the project in the opening keynote address at the Ohio Library Council’s Technical Services retreat in March.
representing an extensive range of venues associated with a life in jazz. Berger’s unassuming approach allowed him to create insightful candid photographs of his many subjects.

In addition to his work as a photographer, Edward “Ed” Berger (1949-2017) was an author, historian, educator, librarian, jazz producer, and record label owner. He wrote acclaimed biographies of George Duvivier, Joe Wilder, and Teddy Reig, in addition to Carter, and he produced multiple Grammy Award-winning albums. While working for nearly four decades at Rutgers University’s Institute of Jazz Studies, he co-hosted a radio series on Newark’s local NPR station and published and exhibited a number of his photographs. Berger was also an editor, contributing for decades to *Journal of Jazz Studies* and overseeing the publication of more than 70 jazz monographs.

The Berger Collection complements Oberlin’s current jazz photography holdings, including materials in the James R. and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection, the Milton J. and Mona C. Hinton Collection, and the Frank Kuchirchuk Collection of Jazz Photography. In addition to its immediate value for on-campus and online exhibitions, the collection will also be of use to faculty teaching in both the college and conservatory as well as researchers across the nation.

Conservatory Special Collections Librarian Jeremy Smith is responsible for processing and inventorying the collection. “Ed Berger was a giant in the field of jazz research,” Smith notes. “He worked tirelessly for decades to help ensure that jazz history is documented and preserved for future generations. He also demonstrated great generosity throughout his life in helping others succeed at their own jazz-related projects. It’s a great privilege for Oberlin to be able to share this remarkable collection with the world and to play a part in preserving Ed’s legacy.”

**Upcoming Schedule for Hinton Traveling Exhibition**

After a successful launch in 2017 at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, Ohio (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2017), the Conservatory Library’s traveling exhibition *Playing the Changes: The Life and Legacy of Milt Hinton* will continue its robust touring schedule in 2018. The exhibit began the year in Mona Hinton’s home city of Sandusky, Ohio, where it was on display at the Sandusky Cultural Center from January 7–February 11. On March 26 the exhibit opens at the Langston Hughes Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (managed by longtime Friends of the Libraries member William Bradford ’76), where it will remain on display through April 30 for Jazz Appreciation Month. After a brief stop at Oberlin in July for the biennial Milton J. Hinton Summer Institute for Studio Bass, the exhibit will travel to Tuskegee University in Alabama, where it will be on display at the University’s Legacy Museum for the second half of 2018.
Library Joins Wikipedia’s #1Lib1Ref Campaign

“Imagine a world where every librarian added one more reference to Wikipedia.” That lofty goal is the stated premise behind Wikipedia’s annual #1Lib1Ref campaign, which recently completed its third year of encouraging librarians—and anyone who cares about reliable, free knowledge—to add just one citation to a reliable source in a Wikipedia article. This past January, a dozen library staff members did just that. The campaign aims to increase the rigor of Wikipedia articles and provide readers with more entry points to explore the research behind an article. In this way, library staff can share their expertise and extend their impact to the half billion readers who often start with Wikipedia as their first stop for finding information.

Cynthia Comer, Academic Commons Coordinator and a member of the Main Library’s reference and instruction team, learned about the campaign in December and proposed to colleagues that the libraries join this year’s effort. She saw the event as a way not only to improve the quality of Wikipedia articles and promote the role of scholarly information, but also as a professional development opportunity.

Participants gained practical experience in editing pages, a deeper understanding of the inner workings of a tool used widely by students, faculty, and the public, and new insights for incorporating Wikipedia into their professional practice, especially in the area of digital literacy.

While participants were free to explore any subject, a primary focus of the libraries’ involvement was to improve articles with a connection to Oberlin, such as those about alumni, faculty, and administrators. Information Literacy and Special Projects Librarian Rosalinda Linares, who recently collaborated with faculty members to spearhead similar projects with Oberlin students for course assignments, led training sessions. These were followed by two edit-a-thons for those who wanted camaraderie and guidance while adding their own citations.

Most participants had never edited a Wikipedia page before. Conservatory Public Services Librarian Kathy Abromeit so enjoyed the experience that she decided to incorporate similar training into the sessions she leads for her reference student assistants each spring. “I feel so empowered,” she observed. “I added some references to a couple of articles for lesser-known women composers. It was great to contribute, even in this narrow respect, to the scholarly discourse.” Comer hopes the libraries will participate in the #1Lib1Ref campaign in the future and sees an opportunity to broaden participation beyond library staff. The annual event occurs during winter term, good timing for students who remain in Oberlin for on-campus projects. Applying their knowledge and expertise to benefit Wikipedia readers worldwide perfectly fits, in a small but powerful way, Oberlin’s time-honored slogan “Think One Person Can Change the World? So Do We.”

Library staff search for missing citations at Wikipedia edit-a-thon

Recent Staff Publications


At its annual meeting on November 11, 2017, the Friends of the Libraries Council approved spending $40,355 of Friends funds to purchase the following materials in support of teaching, research, and learning.

**Special Collections**

*Quipu* [textile reproduction]. Textile and book artist Macy Chadwick, a faculty member at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, has been commissioned to create a historically accurate *quipu*, a recording device once used in many ancient cultures, particularly in Andean South America. Funding will cover materials and Chadwick’s research and production time. Typically consisting of colored fiber threads or strings with numeric and other values encoded by knots, *quipus* aided in collecting data and keeping records such as tax obligations, census counts, calendrical information, and military organization.

Instructional Illumination [original work for use in teaching]. Valerie Weilmuenster, an artist who teaches medieval illumination and calligraphy, has been commissioned to create an illustrated, step-by-step teaching aid describing the thought and decisions that go into creating a successful illumination. The project will consist of a series of eight in-process modules with overlay explanations of all the steps, including initial sketches, calligraphy of a text, a drawn initial letter, application of gold leaf, addition of color and highlights, and a completed design, plus photographs of the workspace and tools used to make the illumination.

*Bob Dylan, 15 Lyrics* [artist’s book]. Ulrich Brauchle’s hand-printed and hand-bound artist’s book is possibly the first with authorized lyrics by musician Bob Dylan. The 15 etchings respond to Dylan’s lyrics in a series of portraits inspired by well-known photographs. This technically accomplished artist’s book with high design value and popular culture references will appeal to students.

**Multidisciplinary Resources**

*African Newspapers, Series 1, 1800-1922*. This database offers full text for 70+ newspapers published in sub-Saharan Africa. Content features English- and foreign-language titles from countries including Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, among others. It offers unparalleled coverage of issues and events that shaped the continent and its peoples, including the Atlantic slave trade, colonial rule, the Berlin Conference, and the emergence of black journalism. This resource fills a gap in Oberlin’s holdings for primary resource materials from the African continent and supports courses across multiple fields.

*Homer Encyclopedia* [e-book]. This is the first comprehensive reference to assemble definitive scholarship on the world and artistry of Homer, including the historical and cultural background of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, and Homer’s reception from antiquity to the present. It features contributions from 130 scholars, including Emeritus Professor of Classics Thomas Van Nortwick, and is a valuable resource for any serious student of Homer.

*Literary Print Culture: The Stationer’s Company Archive, London*. This unique archive relates to the history of printing, publishing, copyright, and bookselling from 1554 to the 20th century. The Stationers’ Company in London has existed for over 600 years as a livery company for booksellers, scriveners, printers, and publishers, and was a key agent through which the book trade was regulated and monitored. Showcasing a diverse range of records covering membership, finance, trade, administration, and court proceedings, the database is supplemented by photographs, ephemera, and original architectural plans for Stationers’ Hall. The company’s records are key sources for the study of publishing in early modern England and also support the college’s new book studies concentration.

Two new segments have been added to *Archives Unbound*, a digital collection of historical documents on specialized topics. The American Indian studies package includes five segments and provides political, religious, legal, medical, commercial, and military perspectives of Native American history from 1800 through the late 20th century. It includes missionary correspondence, War Department and Bureau of Indian Affairs publications, FBI files from the 1960s to 1980s that track the American Indian Movement and Native American...
radicalism, and other historical documents. The India/Pakistan history package includes four segments and covers British colonization and the post-colonial period (1908 to 1966). It provides insight into colonial warfare, the Indian independence movement, and U.S. State Department perspectives on Indian internal affairs. It draws on British and U.S. government records, including the State Department, Justice Department, and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Art

The following two books were purchased for the Clarence Ward Art Library’s Jefferson Architectural Books Collection. With these newest additions, Oberlin now lacks just six of the 62 architectural works owned by Thomas Jefferson.


The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker’s Director, 2nd ed., 1755. Thomas Chippendale established his cabinet-making firm in London in the mid-18th century. The first edition of his celebrated pattern book was published in 1754 and helped the firm attract many fashionable clients. The term “Chippendale” is now regularly used to describe English Rococo furniture inspired by its illustrated designs. This virtually identical second edition was issued the following year and contains 161 engraved plates for a wide range of domestic furniture in the Gothic, Chinese, and Rococo styles.

Science

Learning and Memory: A Comprehensive Reference, 2nd ed. [e-book]. Supporting student and faculty interests in both neuroscience and psychology, this comprehensive resource provides a compendium of research and scholarly perspectives on all aspects of learning and memory in invertebrates and vertebrates, including humans. Chapters cover topics such as protein chemistry, molecular biology, and the properties and functions of neural networks.

Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Biology [e-book]. This authoritative work covers the entire field of evolutionary biology, providing a comprehensive review. Under the leadership of 15 distinguished section editors, it is comprised of articles written by leading experts in the field, with full reviews of the current status of each topic.

Encyclopedia of Spectroscopy and Spectrometry, 3rd ed. [e-book]. This expanded and updated major reference work focuses on the fundamental principles, techniques, and applications of spectroscopy and spectrometry, providing comprehensive coverage of all aspects of spectroscopy and closely related subjects. It includes history, theoretical background, details of instrumentation and technology, and current applications in key areas of the field.

Music

Gezangen, of het Vrolyk Gezelschap der Negen Zanggodinnen, 3rd ed., 1730. This popular Dutch songbook by Jan van Elsland, with accompanying musical scores, includes many different types of songs, such as marriage poems, eulogies, political poems, and an ode to tobacco, but mostly farcical love songs. Vocalists and scholars of historical performance, as well as those with an interest in exploring the poetry and lifestyle of 18th-century Netherlands, will find this volume appealing.

Korte en Eenvoudige Handleyding tot het Leeren van ‘t Clavecinbel of Orgel-Spel. 2nd ed., 1768. Author Joachim Hess (1732–1819) was a famous organist and writer of treatises on organs and organ playing. This is a rare edition of an introduction to playing keyboard instruments, including the basics of musical staff notation and playing basso continuo. It provides students of historical performance documentation on Dutch traditions dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries.

De Tintinnabulis and De Equuleo, 2nd ed., 1689. This is an edition of two works written by the Italian scholar Girolamo Maggi during his incarceration in Constantinople in 1571–1572. The author had smuggled in some books, and from those started writing De Tintinnabulis, the earliest known treatise on bells, focusing on their use in classical antiquity and the Islamic world. While he was writing, Maggi’s books were taken from him, and he was inspired to write a study of the equuleus, a wooden horse contraption used as an instrument of torture during Roman antiquity. Maggi was strangled after an attempted escape; his treatises were published posthumously in 1608–1609. The sad but inescapable fact of Maggi’s imprisonment and subsequent interest in the brutality imposed by another “instrument” makes this a fascinating volume beyond its musical content.
New digital resources

The libraries recently acquired the following new resources to support curricular programs and research.

The American Antiquarian Society

Historical Periodicals Thematic Subset Collection provides digital access to the most comprehensive collection of American periodicals published between 1684 and 1912. The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) is the premier library documenting the life of America’s people from the colonial era through the Civil War, Reconstruction, and beyond. The 50 thematic subsets from AAS’s historical periodicals provide rich content detailing American history and culture, covering the arts, advertising, health, women’s issues, science, slavery, industry and professions, religious issues, and more. Each sub-collection varies in title count from 87 to approximately 300 in the broadest collection.


Several major new reference e-books were recently acquired. Encyclopedia of Cross-Cultural Psychology, with contributions by scholars from nearly 40 countries, covers cross-cultural and indigenous psychology. The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies focuses on the colonial, postcolonial, and neo-colonial condition from 1492 to the present. Encyclopedia of Global Industries provides an overview of current trends, past developments, and profiles of leading international companies. A Companion to Islamic Art and Architecture covers canonical topics as well as original approaches and scholarship on neglected aspects of the field.

Left of Liberalism: Marxist-Socialist Newspapers, 1900-2015 provides unprecedented full-text access to seminal newspapers focused on socialism, communism, and Marxism spanning the 20th century and beyond. It is an invaluable tool for addressing issues such as labor conditions, the working class, unionism, the post-WW II rise of McCarthyism, the civil rights movement, and labor strikes.

Taking India, How the Military Established Company Rule, 1752-1774 / The Indian Papers of Colonel Clive and Brigadier-General Carnac compiles the papers of two key actors in the East India Company in mid-18th-century Bengal. The collection allows researchers to understand the complex political web in the subcontinent as the power of the Mughal Empire began to wane, revealing how these two military commanders practiced the East India Company’s approach to running India by combining commercial clout with growing political authority.

The New York Review of Books

The New York Review of Books, the premier source for essays and reviews of books and the arts, including music, theater, dance, and film, is now available online.
In Memoriam: Shirley Williams

Long time library staff member Shirley C. Williams, 87, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Friday, Jan. 12, 2018. Williams worked in several different positions over a 34-year career at the Oberlin College Libraries. She began as Circulation Assistant in 1971, when the library was still located in the Carnegie Building, and continued working in circulation after the move to Mudd Center in 1974. From 1985 to 1993, she was the receptionist at the entrance to the Main Library’s administrative suite. In that role, she greeted visitors and handled incoming calls. From 1993 until her retirement in 2005, she served as the Preparations Assistant in the Main Library’s technical services department, in charge of applying call numbers to book spines, adding ownership stamps, and other tasks associated with getting library materials ready for use. Ray English, Emeritus Director of Libraries, noted that Williams served the library very ably in all three positions, and “she was also one of the world’s nicest people — always positive, upbeat, and considerate of others.” She was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and AARP, and thoroughly enjoyed having time in retirement for travel, reading, quilting, cooking, and gardening.

Japanese Internment, continued from page 1

residents, local teachers, faculty, and staff. We are so excited to be able to bring this rich local and national story to Oberlin.”

College Archivist Ken Grossi, a member of the steering committee, notes that Ernest Hatch Wilkins, Oberlin College President during the war, was instrumental in bringing the Japanese American students to Oberlin. Kenji Okuda ’45, one of the relocated students, was elected president of the student council. Alice Imamoto Takemoto ’47 lived with an Oberlin family during her student days. She provided materials for the display and participated in some of the events related to the exhibition.

Materials held by the College Archives, including the Ernest Hatch Wilkins Presidential Papers, alumni files, and yearbooks provide documentation on Japanese American students at Oberlin. Documents and photographs from these holdings were featured in the exhibition Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World displayed in the Richard D. Baron ’64 Art Gallery on East College Street through March 18. Learn more at go.oberlin.edu/courage-and-compassion.

Ernest H. Wilkins, President of Oberlin College, 1927-1946

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The Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the libraries fulfill their fundamental role in the academic life of the college. Members receive the Library Perspectives newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin’s outstanding libraries.
Friends of the Libraries — Spring Programs

Exhibitions

The Clarence Ward Art Library continues its centennial celebration with exhibits highlighting unique collections:

Artists' Books @ Oberlin: The Early Years and Vases Chinois and 18th Century Cross-Cultural Exchange
Monday, March 26–Thursday, May 31

Technologies and Formats of East Asian Books
Monday, April 16–Friday, May 4, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Honoring the Legacy of Civil Rights Pioneer Mary Church Terrell
Friday, May 25–Sunday, May 27, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Celebrating the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1968 and the 25th Reunion of the Class of 1993
Friday, May 25–Sunday, May 27, Goodrich Room, 4th Floor, Mudd Center

Lectures and Other Events

“Radicals, Rights, and the Fall of Integrated Higher Education,” Talk by Christi Smith, Assistant Dean and Senior Scholar, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Washington University, St. Louis.
Monday, April 9, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center

“Vases and Virtue, Porcelain and Diplomacy: The Enlightenment Journey of Henri-Léonard Bertin (1720–92) and Joseph Amiot (1718–93),” Talk by Kee Il Choi, Jr., independent curator, PhD candidate at Leiden University, The Netherlands, on Vases Chinois
Tuesday, April 10, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Allen Memorial Art Museum

“Memory Battles of the Spanish Civil War: History, Fiction, Photography,” Talk by Sebastiaan Faber, Professor and Chair of Hispanic Studies (see article on p. 9)
Tuesday, April 17, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center

The Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture by Denise Gigante, Professor of English, Stanford University
Friday, May 4, 4:30 p.m., Nancy Schrom Dye Lecture Hall, Science Center; reception immediately follows

Friday, April 20, 11:00 a.m., location to be announced

Commencement/Reunion reception for Friends of the Libraries, alumni authors, former library student assistants, alumni librarians, and anyone else who loves books and libraries
Saturday, May 26, 4:00–5:30 p.m., Azariah's Café, Mudd Center