



LIBRARY

A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

PERSPECTIVES

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New Science Library To Open August 2001

The Board of Trustees recently approved design plans for construction of a \$55 million science complex that will provide new and renovated facilities for biology, chemistry, neuroscience and physics. A 12,580 square foot science library, to be located on the ground floor of the center building of the new complex, will be a focal point of the project.

According to Alison Ricker, Science Librarian and chair of the library design team, "planning the new science library has been an exciting and thoroughly engaging process, full of perplexing puzzles and animated discussions on what the library should offer to science scholars and the wider community in the first quarter of the 21st century. Projecting the role of information technology in a library setting for the next twenty-five years has been an im-



Architectural Rendering of North View of the Chemistry and Science Library Building

portant aspect of the project."

The design for the new library ad-

dresses a preeminent concern for sup-

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Many New Databases Online

The Library has recently made available to the Oberlin College community a host of new databases along with a new, easy-to-use, standardized search interface in World Wide Web format. The search interface provides access to both the new databases and to others that have previously been accessible through FirstSearch and the Library's CD-ROM network. These changes are a result of the Library's membership in OhioLINK, which is implementing a restructured reference database environment.

The new Web search interface has many advantages. Its databases

are now accessible from any networked computer on campus that has a Web browser; access is also available to off-campus users of APKNet. The interface, which is powerful, flexible, and intuitive, is equally suited to both novice and advanced users. By clicking on the "Check Availability" link once a citation has been identified, a user can determine whether or not Oberlin owns the journal being cited. Several of the databases also provide direct electronic links to the full text of selected articles, including journals in the

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Full Text Expands

Hundreds of popular periodicals and core academic journals are now accessible in electronic form through new databases recently implemented by the Library.

Power Pages, a product of University Microforms International, provides on-line access to a substantial number of articles indexed in *Periodical Abstracts*, a general interest database covering over 1,800 popular magazines and academic journals in all fields, and in *ABI/Inform*, a database for business information. Articles are available when the "Retrieve Full Text" option appears on the citation screen.

Electronic Reserve Service Now Available

During the Fall '98 semester the Library tested a full-text electronic reserve system using materials from a select group of Oberlin College courses. This new system, called ERes, will be expanded to a larger number of courses during the spring '99 semester, and use is expected to increase in future years.

The primary advantage of ERes is improved access to reserve materials. ERes can be accessed 24 hours a day from any computer on campus that has World Wide Web capability. Students can download ERes materials, print out copies for themselves, or simply read them on-screen. These options greatly expand the standard reserve system which allows most materials to be checked out for only three hours at a time. The ERes sys-

tem is particularly useful for large classes where limited copies of materials are available. ERes is also appropriate for certain kinds of library materials, such as out-of-print publications, or materials from Special Collections which may be too valuable or fragile to make available in print form.

Although thus far ERes has been used primarily for journal articles and book chapters, the ERes software has the capability for expanding the reserve "concept" to include direct links to Web sites, loading of color images, and the use of chat rooms.

The ability to download and ma-

nipulate ERes materials presents an additional advantage for visually impaired users, who can increase on-screen print size, and print out materials using more easily readable text.

Making materials available on ERes is still a relatively labor-intensive process for library staff, so the system should be seen at this point as augmenting traditional reserve services, rather than replacing them.

Faculty interested in making materials available through ERes should contact Julie Ramos-Weir at 8285, x260.



Library Joins Scholarly Publishing Initiative

The Oberlin College Library has become a founding member of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), a newly formed alliance of libraries that is working to create increased competition in scholarly journal publishing.

An initiative of the Association of Research Libraries, SPARC partners with non-commercial publishers, particularly scholarly associations, to establish new high-quality journals that are economical alternatives to expensive commercial titles. It's hoped that the competition created by the new titles will slow rates of journal cost increases. Academic journal subscription prices have for many years gone up at annual rates in excess of 10 percent, with titles in scientific and technical fields experiencing the highest increases.

According to Ray English, Oberlin's Director of Libraries, "the continuing increase in scholarly journal prices represents an enormous threat to the quality of all academic

and research libraries. Statistics show that most libraries have not been able to increase their budgets at rates comparable to their increasing materials costs, and as a result they are steadily losing ground in the number of journals and monographs they acquire." In English's view, "SPARC represents the most positive initiative that has yet come out of the library community to try to address this issue."

One of the first titles that will be created as a result of SPARC is *Organic Chemistry Letters*, a new journal of the American Chemical Society. A print subscription will cost about \$2,300 a year, compared to \$8,000 for a subscription to *Tetrahedron Letters*, a comparable title that is published by Elsevier Science.

Libraries that join SPARC pay an annual membership fee, and they also commit to subscribing to a number of SPARC journals in order to insure the viability of the new publications.

Approval Plan Changes

The Library recently decided to switch its approval plan vendor from Blackwell North America to Yankee Book Peddler. This change follows a decision by OhioLINK to award its new statewide approval plan to Yankee.

In addition to the benefits that approval plans provide (see *Perspectives*, February 1996), this new arrangement will have a number of advantages, including the possibility for collaborative collection development with other OhioLINK institutions, increased discounts on books, and faster and more reliable delivery and service. The change should be largely transparent to faculty who review books received on approval.

Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is issued two times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin A. and Emiko Custer. Editors: Ray English and Jessica

Alumni Librarian Conference Scheduled for November

The first ever conference of Oberlin alumni librarians will be held on campus on November 13-14, 1999.

A committee headed by Molly Raphael '67, Director of the District of Columbia Public Library, has been developing the overall plan for the event. According to Raphael, "Oberlin has an exceptionally large number of alumni who work in libraries. I've been very impressed by the strong expressions of interest in the conference that we've received so far."

The primary purposes of the conference are to foster networking among librarians who have attended Oberlin, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas about selected issues and concerns in librarianship, and to share experiences of Oberlin alumni librarians in their chosen profession.

The conference is intended for all Oberlin alumni who work (or have worked) in libraries as well as current Oberlin students who may be considering librarianship as a profession.

Edward O. Wilson at the Friends of the Library Reception



Edward O. Wilson spoke to a capacity audience of over 500 at the Friends of the Library dinner on November 7. An audio tape of his talk on "The Diversity of Life" may be requested for \$5 from: Friends of the

Topics that will be explored at the conference include an opening session on how an Oberlin education shaped the careers of participants, a panel discussion on the importance of libraries to society, a presentation on the Oberlin College Library today, and a panel discussion on the library of the future that emphasizes the importance of preserving humanistic values while exploiting the power of technology.

The conference will be held on the same weekend as the Friends of the Library dinner, and the speaker for that occasion will address a topic that complements the themes of the conference.

Alumni who are interested in receiving further information about the conference should contact Sandy Kolek, to ensure that they receive mailings (e-mail: sandra.kolek@oberlin.edu; phone: 440-775-8285, Ext. 234).

Oberlin College Library, Main Library, Mudd Center, 148 W. College St., Oberlin, OH 44074. Cost includes shipping and handling. Please do not send payment with your request. You will be billed when the tape is shipped.

Five Colleges Receive Information Literacy Grant

The Five Colleges of Ohio consortium (Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and The College of Wooster) has received a \$50,000 AT&T Teaching and Technology Grant to develop a series of interactive, World Wide Web-based modules to improve the information literacy skills of students at the member colleges. The AT&T grant is being awarded through the Foundation for Independent Higher Education.

The modules will be designed to help students better understand the library and electronic information environment; master basic tools for accessing information, such as electronic catalogs and databases; develop basic research strategies; and learn how to evaluate and make effective use of the information they acquire.

Oberlin will serve as the lead institution for the grant, with Ray English, Director of Libraries, and Gary Kornblith, Director of the Oberlin Center for Technologically Enhanced Teaching, co-directing the project. The project team for the grant will also include Susan Scott, Reference and Instruction Librarian at Denison University, Michael Upfold, CONSORT Library Systems Manager, and Cynthia Comer, Head of Reference at Oberlin. The team will work in close cooperation with the Five Colleges of Ohio Information Literacy Committee, which will provide general oversight for the development of the modules.

The modules, which should be available beginning with the fall semester of 1999, will be designed to be used in a variety of contexts on the campuses of the participating institutions.

Friends Recognize Honorary and Life Members

The Friends of the Library awarded one life membership and one honorary membership at their annual dinner on November 7. Life membership is granted on a selective basis to individuals who have made generous contributions to the Library or the Friends; honorary membership is granted to those who have made outstanding contributions.

Samuel Goldberg, President of the Friends of the Library, announced the awards and expressed appreciation to the recipients for their support.

Dr. Eleanore Jantz was awarded honorary membership. Dr. Jantz is the widow of Harold Jantz, Oberlin class of 1929, who was one of the College's most distinguished alumni scholars. The Harold Jantz Memorial Lectureship, which is shared on a rotating basis by the Library, the Allen Memorial Art Museum, and the German Department, was established by



Dr. Eleanore Jantz with William Perlik, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and

family, colleagues, former students, classmates, and friends of Professor Jantz. Dr. Eleanore Jantz has been instrumental in the growth and development of the lectureship. With her exceptionally generous financial support and enthusiastic encouragement, the Jantz Lectureship has grown to be one of the most prominent lectureship series at Oberlin. The Jantz Lectureship enables the Library to

bring distinguished scholars to Oberlin at regular intervals to explore issues related to libraries and the history of printing.

Dr. Robert I. Rotberg, Oberlin Class of 1955, was awarded life membership. Dr. Rotberg, who has served as the chair of the Library Visiting Committee, donated to the library in 1994

his personal research collection on Southern Africa. The collection provides rich documentation of the recent history and politics of South-

ern Africa. In 1997 Dr. Rotberg made a multi-year pledge to create a major endowed fund for the acquisition of materials in African and Latin American studies. The fund will bear both his name and the name of his daughter Fiona, who graduated from Oberlin in 1990 and is a Latin American specialist.

Friends of the Library Purchases

The Friends of the Library Council, at its meeting on November 7, authorized the use of approximately \$15,000 in Friends funds to acquire a variety of materials for the Library's collections. These purchases will support the work of new faculty and strengthen areas of the collections that are in need of additional development. Funds will also be used to purchase major reference works and a facsimile for the Library's Special Collections.

The following is a summary by category of these most recent Friends purchases.

New Faculty Support (\$5,075)

Expository Writing. Important pedagogical and theoretical works in English rhetoric and com-

position will be acquired to support the work of two new faculty members in Expository Writing, Professors Anne Trubek and Laurie McMillin.

East Asian Art. *Nihon Bijutsu Zenshu* (Tokyo: Kodansha, 1990-98; 25 vols.), a spectacular collection of recently photographed works covering the entire range of Japanese art, will be purchased to support the teaching of Professor Sarah Thompson.

Illustrations from the collection will be used for Professor Thompson's scholarship and teaching, particularly the preparation of slides that will be incorporated into lectures.

Jewish Studies. Professor

Shulamit Magnus has begun offering courses in Jewish history and women's studies. Working from two basic bibliographies, *The State of Jewish Studies* (1990) and *Feminist Perspectives on Jewish Studies* (1994), important titles will be purchased to fill gaps in the library's holdings and improve support for Professor Magnus' teaching.

Videocassettes (\$500)

Classroom use of videocassettes by such departments as African-American Studies, the Conservatory of Music, English, History, Religion, Sociology, Theater, and Women's Studies continues to increase. These funds will be used to help keep pace with the demand for new, high-quality

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Friends Meeting Highlights

At its annual meeting on November 8 the Friends of the Library Council heard reports from its committees and acted on a number of recommendations. The organization also chose new officers and Council members for the 1998-99 year.

The program committee presented a number of ideas for future events. Molly Raphael led a discussion of the alumni librarian conference planned for the fall of 1999 (see related article, page 3). The Council endorsed the overall plan for the conference, which will be held in conjunction with the annual Friends dinner.

The membership committee reported strong membership contributions to the Friends in 1997-98 (with revenues exceeding \$28,500) and it suggested a number of ways to build

membership in the future. The importance of increasing student membership was discussed as a particular priority.

The Council approved the acquisitions committee's list of proposed purchases from Friends funds (see related article, page 4) and it discussed the relative role of the Friends and the Deans of the College and Conservatory in building library collections in new curricular areas.

The Council awarded honorary membership to Dr. Eleanore Jantz and life membership to Dr. Robert I. Rotberg.

Members of the Friends may request copies of the minutes of the meeting from: Friends of the Oberlin College Library, Main Library, Mudd Center, 148 West College St., Oberlin College, Oberlin OH 44074.

Friends Purchases . . . from page 4

ity videos to support classroom instruction.

Special Collections Facsimile (\$1,215)

The Illustrated Beatus: A Corpus of the Illustrations of the Commentary on the Apocalypse, edited by John Williams (London: Harvey Miller Publishers; Langhorne, Pa.: International Publishers Distributor, c1994-). Beatus, a monk of the monastery of Santo Toribio in Spain, compiled in approximately 775 AD a commentary on the Apocalypse from an extensive library of Patristic exegetical literature. This facsimile of the commentary and related works reproduces 26 manuscripts containing nearly 1,800 magnificent illustrations of Apocalyptic imagery. This facsimile will be used in Professor Erik Inglis' courses in medieval art history.

Major New Reference Works

(\$4,728)

Index Islamicus on CD-ROM: A Bibliography of Publications on Islam and the Muslim World Since 1906 (University Publications of America, 1998). The basic index providing access to the worldwide literature in English and European languages from 1906 to 1996 on Islam, the Middle East and the Muslim world. The CD-ROM version permits sophisticated searching, including the use of truncation, and keyword searching.

Villars, Pierre, ed., *Pearson's Handbook : Crystallographic Data for Intermetallic Phases*, (Desk Edition, 2 vols., Materials Park, OH: ASM International, c1997). This standard reference of chrystallographic data for compounds having a metallic phase will support the teaching of Professors Yumi Ijiri in Physics and Sara Stoll in Chemistry.

Primary Source Materials to Sup-

1998-99 Friends of the Library Council

Carl Peterson, President
Terry Carlton, Vice President
Nathan Haverstock,
Secretary
Paul Erler '32
Carol Ganzel
Samuel Goldberg
Norman Jung '56
Al McQueen '52
Gordon Neavill
Mary E. (Molly) Raphael '67
Barbara Richards '61
Dina Schoonmaker
Scott Smith
Daniel Wilder '99

Ex-Officio and Appointed Members:

Gary Kornblith, Chair,
Faculty Library Committee
Eric Carpenter, Collection
Development Librarian
Jessica Grim, Reference
Librarian
Ray English, Director of
Libraries

port Teaching and Research (\$3,363)

Music Manuscripts from the Great English Collections, Series Four: The Music Manuscript Collection of the British Library, London (A Microform Collection Produced by Primary Source Media, Parts 5, 6, and 8, 59 reels). This purchase will provide new opportunities for Conservatory students and faculty to work with the remarkable holdings of the British Library's music manuscript collections. It includes facsimile sets of George Frideric Handel's secular works, which build upon a microform collection of his church music that was acquired earlier. The purchase also includes facsimiles of the Chapel Royal Part Books, 1670-1850.

Gifts to the Library

Dr. Herbert Shore, Emeritus Professor at the School of Theater of the University of Southern California, is giving the Oberlin College Library and the Oberlin College Archives his entire professional library, which includes books, journals, and archival material related to his career as a poet, professor of theater, artistic consultant, and director of the UNESCO program on Technology, the Arts, and Cultural Transformation. This gift is in addition to Professor

Shore's earlier donation of over 1,000 books and journal volumes related to Africa (*Library Perspectives*, September, 1998). The remainder of his library includes books on poetry, fiction, and creative writing; materials on drama, film, television, and multimedia; published and unpublished materials on folklife and culture; and



Dr. Herbert Shore (Center) and His Wife, Yen Lu Wong, View Materials from his Collection Exhibited

archival materials related to his work with UNESCO and with the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe.

Dr. Shore announced the gift in October at an Oberlin conference honoring Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane, class of 1953, the father of Mozambique's movement for independence from Portugal. Dr. Shore

was a close personal friend of Mondlane. All materials donated by Professor Shore will become part of the "Herbert Shore Collection in Honor of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane."

Richard Verdery of New York City is donating to the library the collection of his late wife, Estelle Whelan, Class of 1957. Ms. Whelan was an Islamic art historian, who graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University and taught at Hunter College, UCLA, and

Trinity College of Dublin. Her scholarly collection includes over 700 volumes on a variety of topics related to Islamic art including materials in Turkish, Arabic, Persian, German, and French.

Dr. John J. Picken of Oberlin has donated to the library's Special Collections three fine rare books: a signed private edition of the first edition of Samuel Beckett's *Murphy* (New York, Grove Press, 1938), the first American edition of James Joyce's *Stephen Hero* (New York, New Directions, 1944), and the first edition of James Whitcomb Riley's *Goodbye, Jim*, illustrated by Howard Chandler Christie and signed by the illustrator (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1913).

Gene Woodling of Akron, Ohio has given the library a collection that includes 171 opera videos and 113 videos relating to various aspects of homosexuality. Mr. Woodling donated to the library in 1989 an outstanding collection of over 1,100 volumes of gay fiction.

Friends of the Library Spring 1999 Programs

Wednesday, March 3, 4:30 p.m.

Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050.
Faculty Talk, Marcia Colish, Professor of History,
"Library Ramblings" [Rescheduled from December]

Thursday, April 29, 4:30 p.m.

Moffett Auditorium, Mudd 050.
Faculty Talk, Nathan Greenberg, Emeritus Professor of Classics,
"Recalling Classics"

Saturday, May 29, 3:00 p.m.

King 106.
Commencement Weekend Program.
Talk by Henry Mayer, Author of National Book Award Finalist
All on Fire: William Lloyd Garrison and the Abolition of Slavery

New Databases . . . from page 1

OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center.

Particularly for those indexes which were previously available only on the CD-ROM network (such as *PAIS*, *Sociological Abstracts*, and the *MLA International Bibliography*), us-

ers should find there's a significant improvement in the stability of access; many of these databases were not available at all to users from outside the Library building. Another attractive component is the cost savings realized by the Library in

opting for the OhioLINK package.

The Library's "Databases & Indexes" page (http://www.oberlin.edu/library/db_i/) provides brief descriptions of the content of these databases as well as direct links to them.

Summary of Database Changes

*ABI/Inform Global	*CINAHL (nursing & related topics)	*Index to Legal Periodicals and Books
*AIDSLine	*Compendex	Library Literature
America History & Life	Contemporary Women's Issues	A Matter of Fact (statistical & factual information)
Applied Science & Technology Abstracts	*Cumulative Book Index	Medline
Art Abstracts	*Disclosure Global Access	MLA International Bibliography
*Biological Abstracts	Education Abstracts	Newspaper Abstracts
*BioethicsLine	ERIC	PAIS International
Biography Index	*Essay and General Literature Index	Periodical Abstracts
Biological & Agricultural Index	*HealthSTAR	PsycInfo
Book Review Digest	Historical Abstracts	Sociological Abstracts
Business & Industry		

Additional databases to be made available within the next six months:

*ABC Pol Sci	*CancerLIT	GeoRef
*Criminal Justice Abstracts	Humanities Abstracts	

Databases new to Oberlin are marked with an asterisk; all others have been previously available in other formats

New Science Library . . . from page 1

porting and enhancing the science curriculum. Its central location and the planned integration of library collections currently housed in the Kettering Science Library and Physics Reading Room will foster interdisciplinary collaboration in an attractive environment that effectively serves both researchers and students at all levels.

Features of the new library will include a variety of study areas for individuals and groups; centrally-located circulation and reference desks in close proximity to print reference materials; networked computer workstations that will provide public access to a steadily increasing number of electronic resources, including full-text scholarly journals; Internet connections at virtually all study spaces; an electronic class-

room that will serve a variety of teaching functions; and increased space for the consolidated collections, including moveable compact shelving for most bound journals.

A two-story-high reading area on the north side of the library, with a large bay window extending its full height, will be an especially attractive area of the new facility. The space will include comfortable window seats, lounge seating, and study tables.

The electronic classroom will allow librarians to teach the use of complex electronic tools, such as citation databases, in the context of helping students understand the continued importance of print resources in the literature research process. The classroom will have fifteen workstations, each de-

signed for teams of two students, as well as an instructor's workstation. It will be available for general use when not scheduled for library instruction or academic class sessions.

The building that houses the library and chemistry will be located in the center of the new science complex, connecting to facilities for physics on the east and neuroscience and biology on the west. The east end of the Kettering Building, including the current Kettering Library, will be razed and a wide expanse of landscaped lawn will extend from West Lorain Street to the library. Glass walls on both the south and north will provide a vista through the building and also create a light, airy atmosphere within the library itself.

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The **Friends of the Oberlin College Library** provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the Library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the College.

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

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 Library.

- Annual membership categories: \$1 Student \$5 Recent Graduate
 \$30 Friend \$40 Couple \$50 Associate
 \$100 Sponsor \$500 Patron \$1000 Benefactor

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074

Name: _____
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Please make checks payable to Oberlin College.
Friends contributions are tax deductible.

New Science Library . . .
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Payette Associates of Boston, Massachusetts, is designing the new and renovated science complex, which is scheduled for full completion in August, 2002. Construction of the science library will be finished in May, 2001 and the facility is scheduled to open in August of that year.

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