

## RESEARCH ARCHIVES

### Foy Scalf

I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library.  
— Jorge Luis Borges

### Introduction

The recent passing of former Oriental Institute director William Sumner should give us pause, reminding us about the life and legacy of the Institute and its community.<sup>1</sup> With our centennial anniversary quickly approaching, the loss of another distinguished scholar and fundamental personality is certainly more tragic. Much of the history that occurred within our walls will be taken into the beyond by those who experienced it — unless we take steps to preserve and record it, just like the records of the ancient civilizations we study. Current generations would do well to listen closely to the former directors who remain among us as they pass down the intimate history of our fields through stories that rarely find their way into print.

A narrative history of the Oriental Institute has never been written. In 1933, James Henry Breasted published *The Oriental Institute* as volume 12 of the University of Chicago Survey at the request of the survey director.<sup>2</sup> The publication came fortuitously only two years after the opening of the new building on the corner of East 58th Street and South University Avenue. During the opening ceremony Ramond B. Fosdick, a long-time Rockefeller associate, lauded Breasted through an invocation of Emerson, referring to the Institute as “... the lengthened shadow of a man.”<sup>3</sup> In *The Oriental Institute*, Breasted magisterially detailed what he called “... the scope, character, and purpose of the Oriental Institute ...,” but with only fourteen years since the 1919 foundation, not enough time had elapsed to inspire the sweeping narratives for which Breasted’s historical works became renowned.<sup>4</sup>

Since 1933 there have been few attempts to synthesize the history of the Oriental Institute and students have been forced to comb through years of Oriental Institute annual reports and miscellaneous publications in order to pull together the dynamics of interpersonal relationships as well as the impact of the Institute within



William M. Sumner, 1928–2011. Oriental Institute Director, 1989–1997



*Groundbreaking ceremony for the Oriental Institute, archival photographic files apf2-05471, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library*

the larger intellectual world.<sup>5</sup> The illuminating exception is Erica Reiner's *An Adventure of Great Dimension*, which has taken on renewed importance as the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary Project has come to a close.<sup>6</sup> No publication before or since has so opened the doors of the Institute in order to provide glimpses of the personalities inside, their ingeniousness as well as personal shortcomings. It is a rarity to learn so much about the individuals fueling our discipline, those who are generally known only through their printed words and projects.

Although these publications have provided splendid insights into various corners of the world of the Oriental Institute, the passing of a former director and the approaching centennial compel us to reconsider the many important contributions and intellectual impact made over the last 100 years. The significance of such an institution cannot be over emphasized and even today we remain in many ways at the forefront of the field, both in terms of scholarship as evidenced by our many philology and archaeology projects and publications, but also in terms of stewardship as we lead a new generation toward open access by making all Oriental Institute publications available in free digital formats. Over the next eight years, those of us in the Research Archives will not only rigorously work to develop new methods and research tools to better serve our academic and public community, we will also be reflecting about the incredible contributions of past generations that laid the foundation on which we stand. It is that foundation which has made the following goals for 2011–2012 possible.

## Goals for 2011-2012

### 1. *Implementation of the Integrated Database*

A significant amount of time and energy in 2010–2011 went into the Integrated Database Project. In consultation with John Sanders, Scott Branting, Helen McDonald, and Angela Spinazze, the Research Archives produced a series of documents detailing our current database configuration and the provisional design of the new database relevant to the Research Archives. We are in the process of producing a full data migration map and associated narrative for KE Software engineers to migrate our data into the new system. In addition, we have produced a basic web design template for Alan Takaoka and the University's Information Technology Services (ITS) department for front-end implementation allowing public access to the new Research Archives catalog module with the EMu software client.

While this task has taken an incredible number of hours to complete, there remains an enormous amount of work, the exact size of which is indeterminate and will only be clear once data migration has taken place. There are two major factors that will complicate data migration for the Research Archives: 1) the current database is “flat,” that is, it does not have a hierarchy of records indicating that one record belongs to another (e.g., that a journal article belongs to a journal) and 2) the legacy issue of how data has been entered into our database and how it is processed.

The lack of hierarchy in our current system has important implications for database development. In the new system, a hierarchy will govern all our records so that navigation between a journal article and the journal or between a book chapter and the book to which it belongs will be quick and easy. All the records will be “linked” together in parental relationships so users will easily be able to toggle between a record and its “parents” and/or “children.” For example, a journal will be the parent of a journal volume which itself will be the parent of a journal article.

Before that hierarchy can be created, however, the data will have to be “cleaned” after migration because of legacy issues. Data currently kept in certain fields in the Research Archives catalog will need to be cut and placed in separate fields within the new client software. This process will be partially automated, but the complex and inconsistent nature of the data means that only a portion of that automation will end successfully. At this point, it is difficult to predict how successful that step will be. Whatever data is not migrated into the appropriate fields will need to be manually copied and pasted into the appropriate fields. For the journals (250,000 records) and serials (32,000 records), we are hopeful that the migration process will result in accurate data mapping. However, that leaves over 100,000 records that will be in need of manual data cleaning, nearly equivalent to re-cataloging all 100,000 records. To complete such a monumental undertaking in a reasonable amount of time, we will need to devote as many people as possible to the task. The major goal for 2011–2012 is the transition, data migration, data clean-up, and website development for implementation of the integrated database software.

### 2. *Installation of Compact Storage in Monograph Suite*

The Research Archives has been awarded a budget request for the installation of compact storage in the monograph suite. Initial evaluations will take place throughout the academic year of 2011–2012 with proposed installation in the summer of 2012. Compact storage will allow us to double the amount of shelving space available in the monograph suite, thereby

ensuring our continued growth for the next fifteen to twenty years, or 15,000–20,000 additional volumes. Space is ever a premium in the Oriental Institute and the staff of the Research Archives would like to thank Steve Camp and Gil Stein for all their help in making this project a success.

## Acquisitions

As predicted in last year's annual report, there was a slight decrease in the number of volumes acquired during 2010–2011. However, acquisition efforts have remained strong in the past fiscal year (see table 1). Historically, our acquisition rate can be estimated at 1,000 volumes per year. Our acquisition of 1,012 volumes is a decline by approximately 100–200 volumes from the last two years, during which we acquired nearly 1,200 volumes each year. The decline can be attributed to several factors: an increase in the appearance of costly volumes, an attempt to catch up on two expensive series, and a minor increase in infrastructure costs for the year (increase in labor, repairs to equipment). Despite these declines, the Research Archives continues its commitment to acquire the references crucial to Oriental Institute staff, faculty, students, and Members.

**Table 1. Research Archives acquisitions, July 2010–June 2011**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Monographs, Series, Pamphlets</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Total</i>
July 2010	62	26	88
August 2010	43	36	79
September 2010	58	39	97
October 2010	128	28	156
November 2010	130	18	148
December 2010	71	33	104
January 2011	46	20	66
February 2011	35	24	59
March 2011	43	25	68
April 2011	45	34	79
May 2011	21	17	38
June 2011	15	15	30
Totals	697	315	1,012
	Total Volumes		1,012

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## Online Catalog

From July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, the Research Archives online catalog has grown by 30,000 records, from 360,000 to 390,000 analytic records (see table 2). Although this number has declined (for reasons detailed above) from levels reached during 2007–2009 at the height of our importation of metadata from online database sources, we are still tripling the average number of records added from 2004 levels. With the series and monographs completed, we have turned our attention to cataloging the journals. We currently have several projects ongoing, only some of which are reflected in the table below. Over the past year, we have had two volunteers (Roberta Schaffner and Andrea Dudek) working on a comprehensive inventory of our journal collection. This does not add many records to the database because they are not cataloging the individual articles from the journals, but until this project a complete inventory of our collection has not existed. The project is approximately 50 percent completed and once finished it will provide a complete and searchable index of the journal volumes (not articles) in our collection within the library catalog.

**Table 2. Catalog records**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Catalog Records Added</i>	<i>Total Number of Catalog Records</i>
2010–2011	30,000	390,000
2009–2010	40,000	360,000
2008–2009	63,000	320,000
2007–2008	62,000	257,000
2006–2007	28,000	195,000
—	—	—
2003–2004	10,000	130,000

In addition, we have furthered our project of adding links to individual catalog entries and continue to add links to all online material for newly acquired volumes. As more volumes become available online, our backlist of links to be added grows steadily. Currently, there are over 100,000 links to online material in the catalog, with over 98,000 links to journal articles alone (see table 3). Twenty-five percent of all the records in the database now link to versions available online or copies available for download from our library server.

Table 3. Links to online journal articles

<i>Call Number</i>	<i>Journal</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Access</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	14,690	JSTOR
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	11,425	Ebsco
ANT	<i>Antiquity</i>	11,079	Antiquity
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	10,996	JSTOR/AJA
Syria	<i>Syria</i>	5,657	JSTOR
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	4,748	JSTOR/JNES
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>	4,619	JSTOR
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	4,105	JSTOR
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>	3,510	Open
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,280	JSTOR
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>	3,254	Ebsco
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>	3,219	Open
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	2,443	Open
CRAIBL	<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	2,254	Open
BIAR	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,017	JSTOR
JESHO	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,444	JSTOR
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	1,666	Open
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,158	JSTOR
RBL	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	1,084	Open
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	992	JSTOR
IRQ	<i>Iraq</i>	980	JSTOR
ANS	<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	724	JSTOR
FUB	<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	673	JSTOR
IRN	<i>Iran</i>	670	JSTOR
JANES	<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>	435	Open
Orj	<i>Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan</i>	369	Open
ARO	<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	315	JSTOR
BSEG	<i>Bulletin: Société d'Égyptologie Geneve</i>	259	Open
KAR	<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>	89	Open

**Table 3. Links to online journal articles (cont.)**

<i>Call Number</i>	<i>Journal</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Access</i>
BMSEAS	<i>Bristish Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan</i>	64	Open
LingAeg	<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>	47	Open
ARTA	<i>Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology</i>	34	Open
StOr	<i>Studia Orontica</i>	32	Open
CDLJ	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Journal</i>	29	Open
ENiM	<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	21	Open
CDLB	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	20	Open
CDLN	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	13	Open
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98,325</b>	

## Resources on the Web

In addition to the online catalog, the Research Archives maintains a series of open access online resources.

### *Introduction and Guide*

[http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/research\\_archives\\_introduction&guide.pdf](http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/research_archives_introduction&guide.pdf)

An updated introduction and guide to the Research Archives contains a brief history, a guide to the Research Archives collection, and instructions for using the online catalog.

### *Dissertations*

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago. The following were added during the 2009–2010 academic year:

John S. Nolan. “Mud Sealings and Fourth Dynasty Administration at Giza.” PhD dissertation. Chicago, 2010.

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/nolan.html>

### *Dissertation Proposals*

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/dissertation/proposals/>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to PDF copies of dissertation proposals completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civiliza-

tions of the University of Chicago. The following were added during the 2009–2010 academic year:

Solange Bumbaugh. “Meroitic Worship of Isis as Seen through the Graffiti of the Dodecaschoenus.” PhD proposal. 2009.

Tate Paulette. “Magazines, Models, and Artificial Societies: The Archaeology of Grain Storage in Third-Millennium Northern Mesopotamia.” PhD proposal. 2007.

Robert Tate. “The Seljuk Caravanserais of Anatolia: A GIScience and Landscape Archaeology Study.” PhD proposal. 2009.

### **Acquisitions Lists**

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/acquisitions.html>

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed as PDFs on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

### **Annual Reports**

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/annualreports.html>

Annual reports for the Research Archives are available from 1991 to 2010.

### **Networking Sites**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-Archives-of-the-Oriental-Institute/153645450792?ref=ts>

The Research Archives now maintains an official page on Facebook. Information about recent publications of Oriental Institute scholars or reviews of recent Oriental Institute publications is distributed through this page. Eight hundred fifty-seven fans currently follow the Research Archives through this presence on Facebook.

### **Monographs**

<http://oilib.uchicago.edu>

Copies of out-of-copyright monographs have been scanned and are made available as PDFs through links in the online catalog of the Research Archives. As of June 2011, the Research Archives provides access to over 200 volumes. A selection of recent additions follows:

E. Douglas van Buren. *The Fauna of Ancient Mesopotamia as Represented in Art*. *Analecta Orientalia* 18. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1939.

Georges Dossin. *Correspondance de Šamši-Addu et de ses fils*. *Archives Royales de Mari* 1. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1950.

Charles-F. Jean. *Lettres Diverses*. *Archives Royales de Mari* 2. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1950.

J. R. Kupper. *Correspondance de Kibri-Dagan, Gouverneur de Terqa*. *Archives Royales de Mari* 3. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1950.

N. Schneider. *Die Götternamen von Ur III*. *Analecta Orientalia* 19. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1939.



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***Adopt-a-Journal***

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/library/adopt-a-journal.html>

The Research Archives has launched an “Adopt-a-Journal” campaign in order to increase support for the Research Archives. Donors are recognized through personalized book plates made in their honor and placed in volumes of their choosing. The following volumes were adopted on behalf of the Research Archives during the past year:

*Between the Cataracts* (Proceedings of the 11th Conference for Nubian Studies. Warsaw University, 27 August–2 September 2006), Part 2, Fascicle 1: *Session Papers*. Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2010.

Adopter: Andrea Dudek

*Between the Cataracts* (Proceedings of the 11th Conference for Nubian Studies. Warsaw University, 27 August–2 September 2006), Part 2, Fascicle 2: *Session Papers*. Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2010.

Adopter: Andrea Dudek

Francesca Rochberg. *In the Path of the Moon: Babylonian Celestial Divination and Its Legacy*. Studies in Ancient Magic and Divination 6. Leiden: Brill, 2010.

Adopter: Joan Fortune

Hermann Knuf, Christian Leitz, and Daniel von Recklinghausen (eds.). *Honi soit qui mal y pense. Studien zum pharaonischen, griechisch-römischen und spätantiken Ägypten zu Ehren von Heinz-Josef Thissen*. Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 194. Leuven: Peeters, 2010.

Adopter: Joan Fortune

**Visitors**

The Research Archives is a popular place for visiting scholars and we have had the pleasure to accommodate the research trips of many individuals, including (in alphabetical order): Amar Annus, Richard Averbeck, Nicole Brisch, A. J. Cave, Günter Dreyer, Stephen Durchslag, Jack Green, Wouter Henkelman, Isaac Kalimi, Sandra Knudsen, Jacob Lauinger, Natalie May, Adam Miglio, Cynthia Miller-Naude, Nora al Naim, John Nielsen, Stephanie Rost, Tsubasa Sakamoto, Seth Sanders, JoAnn Scurlock, Julie Stauder, Andréas Stauder, Susan Steffen and students from Elmhurst College, Jessica deVega, Joan Westenholz, and Magnus Widell.

**Acknowledgments**

The heart of the Research Archives beats through collaboration and relationships with many individuals and institutions. I remain thankful for the support continually received from my predecessors Chuck Jones and Magnus Widell. The Oriental Institute community also plays a very important part in our successes. Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer in the Oriental Institute Publications Office have been most gracious in aiding our exchange relationships. Likewise, Chris Woods, Kathleen Mineck, and Drew Baumann of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* continue to make it possible for us to acquire volumes we would otherwise lack. I would like to further acknowledge here the generous donations and help from the follow-

ing (in alphabetical order): Abbas Alizadeh, Steve Camp, Fred Donner, Andrea Dudek, Geoff Emberling, Joan Fortune, Mary Louise Jackowicz, Martha Roth, Gil Stein, Emily Teeter, Donald Whitcomb, and Bruce Williams.

As always, it would be impossible to accomplish what we have without the blood, sweat, and (hopefully few) tears shed by the Research Archives staff. NELC graduate student Laura Holzweg continued what has become a lengthy service to the Research Archives, performing a variety of duties including cataloging journals and new acquisitions, data clean-up, and she helps dearly with the messy problem of Arabic language publications. With her lightning speed cataloging skills, Jill Waller, an undergraduate at the University moving into her senior year, may have produced the most new records while cataloging new acquisitions and retrospective journals. Monique Vincent, another NELC graduate student, made tremendous strides in the retrospective cataloging of journals before moving on to focus on her PhD studies. I would like to thank them for all their help, hard work, dependability, and collegiality.

Although we don't pay them, volunteers for the Research Archives have become increasingly important over the last year. During 2010–2011, Volunteer Ray Broms scanned fifty-nine volumes from the Research Archives collection. These PDF copies are now hosted on the Research Archives server and can be accessed through links in the online catalog, bringing the total number of volumes accessible in this fashion to 200. Stephanie Duran spent many hours cataloging articles from *Archaeology Magazine*. Roberta Schaffner and Andrea Dudek are working on a comprehensive inventory of our journal collection. Without them, the Research Archives would suffer, and we appreciate them greatly.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> An obituary by William Harms appeared in the University of Chicago news on July 12, 2011, and was accessed here: <http://news.uchicago.edu/article/2011/07/12/william-sumner-director-emeritus-oriental-institute-1928-2011>.

<sup>2</sup> James Henry Breasted. *The Oriental Institute*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1933. This followed his publication of "The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago: A Beginning and a Program," *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures* 38/4 (1922): 233–328, reprinted as volume 1 of the series Oriental Institute Communications.

<sup>3</sup> *Addresses Delivered at the Dedication and Opening of the New Oriental Institute Building, December 5, 1931*, reprinted from the University Record for January 6, 1932. The quote references Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Self-Reliance," published in 1841.

<sup>4</sup> For example, Ralph A. Habas reviewed Breasted's *The Dawn of Conscience* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933) for the *Jewish Quarterly Review* 25/2 (1934): 153–54, stating: "Dr. Breasted uses his remarkable literary gifts to the hilt and livens up his materials with illustrations and allusions closely related to our own life and thinking. It is refreshing indeed to find a distinguished and scholarly work studded with brisk references to current phenomena like Tammany Hall, the Eighteenth Amendment, Technocracy, H. L. Mencken, Al Capone, Spengler, the Radio and the Depression of 1933. This reviewer can think of few first-rank historians in the Oriental field who can handle words as neatly and effortlessly as Dr. Breasted. Few of our popularizers, moreover, can boast of a more serviceable style. Only two or three times does the author slip up in the present work and let his rhetoric get the best of him, as when he uses old-maidish expressions like 'Father Man' and 'the Delectable Mountains'; but the lapses in question are not serious." In *Art World* 3/4 (1918): 337, *Breasted's Ancient Times: A History of the Early World* (Boston: Ginn & Company, 1916) is described as "... a model text-book of the sort, in which the curious student can never complain of dryness of style or that impression of lack of proportion which is often made by able and excellent works that deal with kindred subjects."

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<sup>5</sup> There are many publications devoted to specific episodes in the history of the Oriental Institute, for example, Geoff Emberling (ed.), *Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919–1920*, Oriental Institute Museum Publications 30 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010), but few of them attempt to place the people and contributions of the Oriental Institute within a discussion of the impact in the broader intellectual world.

<sup>6</sup> Erica Reiner, *An Adventure of Great Dimension: The Launching of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2002). The final volume of the dictionary appeared in 2010 as *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*, Volume 20, Letters U and W (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010). The completion of the dictionary was memorialized by Martha T. Roth, “How We Wrote the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 69/1 (April 2010): 1–21, who relied partially on the “oral legacy” of long-time editor Erica Reiner.

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