

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

FOY SCALF

Building upon the changes described in the Annual Report for 2018–19, the Research Archives library continued to undergo major improvements this academic year (2019–20). Most visible to visitors will be the new sliding glass window allowing library staff to greet visitors upon entering the library (figs. 1–2). The window enhances our ability to welcome patrons and provides an intuitive place for newcomers to find library staff for help with their research needs. Construction began in October 2019 and was completed in January 2020 with the installation of a custom bookshelf installed below the window (fig. 3). This shelf acts as a display case for recent acquisitions to the library where patrons can easily and quickly browse the latest scholarship in ancient Near East studies. We would like to thank Chris Woods and Jimmy Gurche for approving and supporting the project through to completion; Mark Meyers and Roxand King for helping plan, draft, and oversee the project; and the University of Chicago facilities crews who built, installed, and stained these new features. They represent another great improvement to our library facilities.

The construction work on the window and shelf installation was originally scheduled for August–September 2019, but it had to be postponed so that the library could accommodate several events for the OI’s centennial celebration. A cocktail hour was hosted on September 14 in the Research Archives for the centennial gala celebration, and on September 27 the library hosted a meeting of the university advisory councils. In preparation for these events, the reading room had to be cleared of its tables, the first time these tables have been completely moved out of the reading room in the last fifteen to twenty years, and perhaps since the Elizabeth Morse Genius trust renovations of the late 1990s. Figures 4–5 show the room as it was being prepared for the centennial cocktail hour, while figure 6 shows the library set up for the advisory council’s meeting. The success of these undertakings is owed to the professional work of Hogan Movers and the meticulous planning of Wally Verdooren, Matt Welton, Polina Kasian, and Ali Mallett.

Throughout the reading room are extensive woodwork and paneling. Over the years, this woodwork has suffered from the elements, particularly from fluctuations in humidity. We would like to thank Rob Bain for taking the time and effort to restore this woodwork by polishing and oiling the entire reading room of the Research Archives.

The Research Archives was a recipient of a generous grant from the University of Chicago Arts to fund the hosting of two workshops on early historic bookbinding and structure. Julia Miller, conservator emeritus from the University of Michigan, was invited to give a half-day workshop on “Early Codex Binding Structures: Interpreting the Evidence through Modeling” that included a hands-on examination of models. Catarina Figueirinhas was scheduled to follow with a workshop on Nag Hammadi Codex VIII, during which participants would construct their own models of this early papyrus codex with leather cover. This event was originally scheduled to take place in April 2020, but had to be postponed indefinitely due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. We still hope to be able to host this workshop in the future, perhaps in the spring of 2021.





OPPOSITE TOP (left to right):
Figure 1. New window installed in the Research Archives staff office across from the hieroglyphic printing font discussed in last year's report.

Figure 2. Library staff are now able to greet visitors to the Research Archives from the office window.

OPPOSITE CENTER (left to right):

Figure 3. New acquisitions shelf during installation and staining below the new office window.

Figure 4. The reading room set up for the OI centennial gala cocktail hour.

BOTTOM:
Figure 5. The reading room without tables for the first time in recent memory.

LEFT: Figure 6. The reading room set up for the advisory council meeting.



Acquisitions

Despite the disruption of the pandemic and the closing of the Research Archives in March 2020, the Research Archives acquired 1,058 volumes in 293 accession lots of printed materials during the 2019–20 academic year (see Table 1). These accessions conform to our historical average of 900–1,000 volumes per year, although a suspension of cataloging in March, April, and May artificially deflated these numbers. We continue to work to get caught up on new accessions processing. Of these accessions, 215 came in via purchase, 74 through gifts, and 4 through exchanges. Of these volumes, 439 were series volumes, 450 were monographs, and 178 were journals. Prior to the shutdown of March 2020, over \$37,000 has been spent on book purchasing and over \$2,200 in shipping charges.

Table 1. Research Archives Acquisitions July 2019–June 2020

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number of Accession Lots</i>	<i>Monographs, Series, Pamphlets</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Total Volumes</i>
July 2019	19	143	4	147
August 2019	49	101	32	133
September 2019	29	110	16	126
October 2019	28	110	26	136
November 2019	49	105	24	129
December 2019	31	76	15	91
January 2020	32	130	20	150
February 2020	40	90	29	119
March 2020	10	15	6	21
April 2020	--	--	--	--
May 2020	--	--	--	--
June 2020	6	4	2	6
Totals	293	884	174	
			Total Volumes	1,058

Online Catalog

In 2019–20, the library staff and volunteers added approximately 10,000 new records in the library’s catalog within the EMu database platform that powers the Oriental Institute’s Integrated Database. Over the last four years, we have averaged 10,000 new records each year covering every volume and individually authored chapter, article, or review. Records are available online for searching, sorting, and download in a variety of formats (oi-idb.uchicago.edu).

The library collection is nearing 70,000 total volumes, with 565,000 total catalog records covering the individually analyzed contents. With remote work becoming the norm in March 2020, we shifted our focus to adding and updating links in our catalog to material available online. Such work makes research far more convenient for remote users, who can then access research materials through the links provided. Nearly one-third of all database records has a link to online content (over 120,000

records). Of those links, roughly 26,000 are to open-access materials, while the remainder require some form of subscription. Nearly 70,000 of those subscription links point to resources available on JSTOR. The online catalog remains the primary resource for the distribution of information about content related to the study of the ancient Near East, whether in print or online. Further information and limited resources related directly to the Research Archives can be found on our webpage (oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library).

Table 2. Catalog Records

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Catalog Records Added</i>	<i>Total No. of Catalog Records</i>
2019–20	10,000	565,000
2018–19	10,000	555,000
2017–18	10,000	545,000
2016–17	10,000	535,000
2015–16	15,000	525,000
2014–15	20,000	510,000
2013–14	30,000	490,000
2012–13	40,000	460,000
2011–12	30,000	420,000
2010–11	30,000	390,000
2009–10	40,000	360,000
2008–09	63,000	320,000
2007–08	62,000	257,000
2006–07	28,000	195,000

DONATIONS

Donation remained an important part of accessions in 2019–20 for the Research Archives, with gifts from Sohair Ahmed, Steven Cole, Andy Dolan, Karl Eckner, Marcella Frangipane, Lisa Heidorn, Janet Johnson, Heidi Poser, Martha Roth, Joseph Rulli, Margaret Schmid, Emily Teeter, Susan Waugh, Don Whitcomb, and Dobrochna Zielińska. Several of these donations must be singled out as exceptional. Janet Johnson and Don Whitcomb donated several thousand volumes from their personal libraries to the Research Archives. We have only just begun sorting and cataloging this generous donation. Likewise, Martha Roth has donated her entire scientific library—over 2,000 volumes covering every aspect of Assyriology—to the Research Archives. This remarkable donation will help to ensure our coverage of cuneiform studies for many generations to come. For the time being, these books will remain in the office of Martha Roth for her continued scholarly work. At a point in time in the future, these materials will be transferred to the Research Archives for sorting, cataloging, and preservation. We would like to thank all of our generous donors, without whom it would not be possible to fulfill our mission.

Table 3. Research Archives Analytics

<i>Type</i>	<i>Total # of Records</i>
Total Volumes	68,803
Monographs	17,216
Monograph Sections	71,015
Series	1,705
Series Volumes	21,667
Series Volume Sections	96,691
Journals	1,026
Journal Volumes	28,860
Journal Volume Articles	321,248
Thesis	1,060
Pamphlets	2600
Reviews	122,074
Festschriften (Volumes)	669
Digital Invoice Records	1967
Digital Cover Art Records	10,886
Adobe PDF	41,226

VISITORS

With the closing of the university and OI due to the global pandemic in March 2020, our community has not been able to gather in the Research Archives. Since that time, we have been fulfilling research requests remotely, relying heavily on digital scholarship. Prior to the pandemic, a report of the visitors to the library from July 1, 2019, to March 17, 2020, ran to over 800 pages, with over 29,500 scans of ID cards representing 2,169 individual patrons who came through our doors. This is nearly the same total in three quarters as the entirety of last year. Many visiting researchers, members, and friends of the Research Archives visited over the course of academic year. These include (in alphabetical order): Ashley Arico, Ashely Demma, Sara Grose, Joe Smolik, and Michael Watson. We had group visits from the Admiral, which included an extensive discussion of the hieroglyphic printing font; a group from the Lithuanian Research Center; prospective students for the University of Chicago; and students from Elmhurst College's Great Libraries class led by Jacob Hill and Jennifer Paliatka. In addition to these visits, a number of filming and photography requests took place in the Research Archives throughout the year, including ABC News, Voyage Pictures, the office of the provost, the office of the dean of students, and UChicago Arts.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The volunteer program has been absolutely crucial to the success of the Research Archives as well as the integrated database project (see separate report). Sue Geshwender has continued to help us

recruit and retain our volunteers by building a vibrant and tight-knit community. We would like to thank the following for all their hard work, dedication, and friendliness in the Research Archives: Betty Bush, Chloe Brettman, Gabriella Cigarroa, Gaby Cohen, Kim Crawford, Irene Glasner, Dannica Hannah, Kat Jarboe, Aiko Johnston, Jane Clinkert-White, Jacqueline Mendoza, Cliff Peterson, Lu Reed, Stephanie Reitzig, Roberta Schaffner, Gabriele Correa da Silva, George T. Thomson, Julian Thibeau, Theresa Tiliakos, Jeremy Walker, Kayleigh Watson, and Annie Zhu. Gaby Cohen's presence will be greatly missed by her many friends in the Research Archives.

I cannot run the Research Archives alone. In addition to our large team of volunteers, I rely on the staff of library assistants and interns to keep the library functioning and help our many patrons. For all their hard work, collegiality, and support, my gratitude goes to Clay Catlin, Sunwoo Lee, Fatou Ndoye, Tanya Olson, Rosemary Ott, Emilie Sarrazin, Rebecca Wang, and Amy Zillman. It has been a pleasure to have such a reliable and dedicated team.
