

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

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Introduction

In addition to our role in preserving the historical and institutional knowledge of ancient Near Eastern studies, our mission in the Research Archives is one of facilitation. On one side you have the faculty, staff, students, members, and visitors of the Oriental Institute. On the other side you have the book, journal, digital file, or reference they seek. It is our primary responsibility to be able to make the connections between information seekers and information. While the digital revolution in the humanities is rapidly changing how these constituents come together, physical volumes remain at the center of our collection. The Research Archives has been reluctant to go purely digital as conservation and preservation procedures for digital items have not yet caught up with the advance of digital technology. For these reasons, our growing collection needs continual maintenance and room for growth.

Important changes have taken place over the last year in the Research Archives that will have significant repercussions for the foreseeable future. These developments are both quantitative and qualitative, marking major milestones for our resources. The growth of our collection has rapidly filled the additional space made available to the Research Archives by the installation of the new wing and renovation of the museum in 1998. At the beginning of the academic year 2011–2012, planning began on the compact storage installation project in the Research Archives in order to accommodate current and future growth.

At the end of the academic year, the roughly 20,000 volumes from our monograph stacks were temporarily stored in the LaSalle Banks room and work began on removing the old shelving system and installing new compact storage. The project was completed after five weeks and the books were returned to the shelves in early July 2012. We have more than doubled the space in our monograph stacks and can accommodate current acquisition rates for the next twenty years.

In addition to the compact storage installation project, a focus of which is our physical holdings, a vast amount of time was dedicated to working on the Integrated Database project, our digital index of ancient Near Eastern studies and the Research Archives collection. For the first half of the year, we continued to work closely with KE Software engineers during the development of the library component inside their EMu museum management software. During the second half of the year, a considerable amount of effort has been devoted to migrating the data from our current library software. The process has been labor intensive and time consuming, but the improvements in data management and functionality will be worth the effort invested. We are currently scheduled to be up and running with the first version of the new website and database in October 2012. Users will find a completely new multifunctional web interface allowing for complex searching, sorting, saving, downloading, and manipulating of library records and associated files. In addition to adding a vast array of information to the database, including PDFs, images, and historical data on scholars, we will spend a portion of next academic year increasing the number of research tools with which users can mine our bibliographic data.

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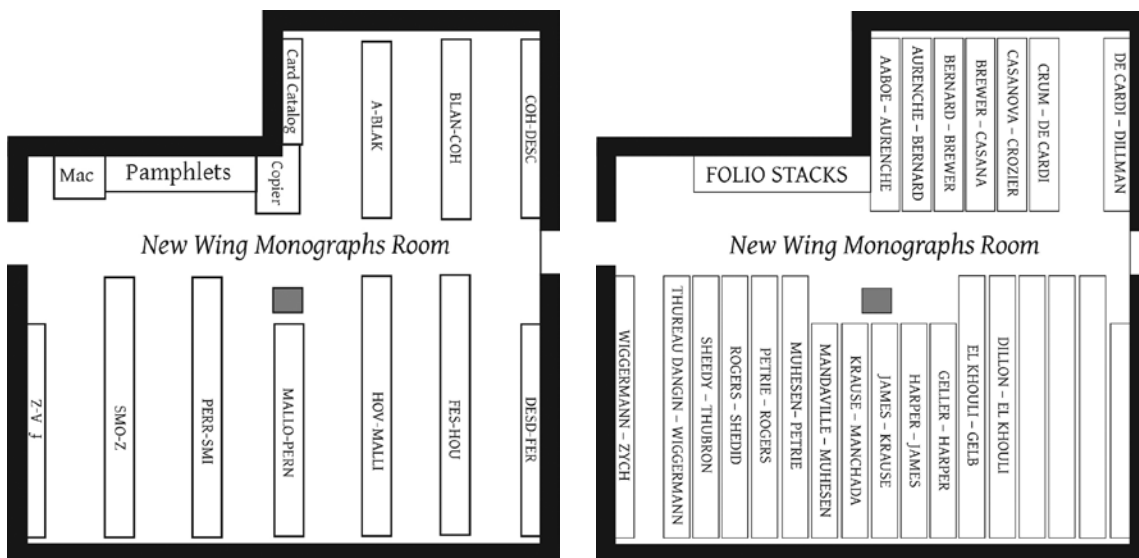


Figure 1. Plan of the Monograph Stacks in the new wing before (left) and after (right) compact storage installation

Acquisitions

Acquisitioning efforts remained at the forefront of our priorities for 2011–2012. We acquired over 1,000 volumes in an effort to maintain the required scholarly resources to meet the research needs of the Oriental Institute at a time when volumes are appearing faster and are more costly than ever. Despite the increasing pressure to transition to digital formats, we have made a conscious effort to maintain both our print and digital holdings up to the highest standards in order to ensure access to materials in whatever format they appear.

Table 1. Research Archives acquisitions, July 2011–June 2012

Month	Monographs, Series, Pamphlets	Journals	Total
July 2011	47	59	106
August 2011	47	64	111
September 2011	77	23	100
October 2011	46	30	76
November 2011	45	28	73
December 2011	35	20	55
January 2012	45	63	108
February 2012	32	43	75
March 2012	51	25	76
April 2012	26	21	47
May 2012	73	34	107
June 2012	88	34	122
Totals	612	444	1,056
	Total Volumes		1,056

Online Catalog

From July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, the Research Archives online catalog has grown by 30,000 records, from 390,000 to 420,000 analytic records (see table 2). These records include complete analytical entries for *Revue Biblique*, *Hebrew Union College Annual*, *Archaeology Magazine*, *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean*, and we currently have 20 volumes out of 107 volumes left to catalog of *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*, records for which already number 12,306.

Table 2. Catalog records

Year	Number of Catalog Records Added	Total Number of Catalog Records
2011–2012	30,000	420,000
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

Table 3. Links to online journal articles

Call Number	Journal	Links	Access
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	14,818	JSTOR
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	11,610	Ebsco
ANT	<i>Antiquity</i>	11,094	Antiquity
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	11,019	JSTOR/AJA
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>	7,205	JSTOR
Syria	<i>Syria</i>	5,689	JSTOR
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	4,873	JSTOR/JNES
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	4,143	JSTOR
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>	3,574	Open
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,336	JSTOR
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>	3,360	Open
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>	3,286	Ebsco
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	3,061	Open
CRAIBL	<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	2,255	Open
BIAR	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,072	JSTOR
JESHO	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,446	JSTOR

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

<i>Call Number</i>	<i>Journal</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Access</i>
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	1,688	Open
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,180	JSTOR
RBL	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	1,084	Open
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	1,004	JSTOR
IRQ	<i>Iraq</i>	993	JSTOR
BiOr	<i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i>	845	Peeters
ANS	<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	732	JSTOR
FUB	<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	673	JSTOR
IRN	<i>Iran</i>	685	JSTOR
PAM	<i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i>	495	Open
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>	380	Open
ARO	<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	317	JSTOR
BSEG	<i>Bulletin: Société d'Égyptologie Genève</i>	270	Open
KAR	<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>	89	
BMSEAS	<i>British 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>	32	Open
ENiM	<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	28	Open
CDLB	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	20	Open
CDLN	<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	19	Open
Total		103,987	

We continue to add links to online material, both new and old. Currently, there are over 105,000 links to online material in the Research Archives catalog (roughly 25% of all catalog records). As we transition to the new EMu database, this number should increase dramatically as we add PDFs directly to the database.

Resources on the Web

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

Introduction & Guide

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 PDF copies of dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

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 Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

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 2011.

Networking Sites

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. Currently, 1,265 individuals 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 225 volumes.

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.

Visitors

The Research Archives continues to be a place of international collaboration among the community of scholars studying the ancient Near East. Over the past year, we had research visits from the following individuals (in alphabetical order): Flora Anthony, Richard Averbeck,

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Laurence Bianchini, Peter Dorman, Jackie Jay, Cindy Jurisson and her class for the University of Chicago Lab Schools, Jacob Lauinger, Adam Miglio, Pavel Onderka, Jennifer Paliatka and the Great Chicago Libraries class of Elmhurst College, Amanda Podany, Joachim Friedrich Quack, Stephanie Rost, Teodozja Rzeuska, Seth Sanders, JoAnn Scurlock, Julie Stauder, Andrés Stauder, Alexandros Tsakos, Philip Venticinque, and Jennifer Westerfeld.

Acknowledgments

Many individuals have been involved with the success of the Research Archives over the past year. Without their time and help, we would not be able to provide the excellent service to our Oriental Institute and University community for which we are known. Tom Urban, Leslie Schramer, Chris Woods, Seth Richardson, Monica Crews, Erik Lindahl, Brian Zimerle, Jason Barcus, Laura D'Alessandro, Denise Davis, Adam Lubin, John Sanders, and Angela Spinazze have been instrumental in providing us with resources and facilitating our many projects. I would also like to acknowledge the additional help, donations, and support of Abbas Alizadeh, Steve Camp, Andrea Dudek, Catherine Mardikes, Gil Stein, Emily Teeter, and Bruce Williams.

In June, we were sad to say farewell to Jill Waller, our veteran Library Assistant, as she moves on to graduate studies in Egyptology at Johns Hopkins University. Our trusty Islamic Archaeology graduate student Laura Holzweg helped pick up the slack, taking over the cataloging of new acquisitions. Ahmet Tunc Sen, Taylor Coplen, and Melissa Bellah have joined our staff and have been busy with retrospective cataloging and preparing for the move to our new database software.

I have had the absolute pleasure of working with some of the finest volunteers for which anyone could ask. Not only are they amazingly helpful, but they are some of the best human beings I know and have come to consider them personal friends. Andrea Dudek and Roberta Schaffner completed the inventory of our journal collection, providing us with the first ever comprehensive database of every volume in the journal stacks. Such information has only been inconsistently maintained since the birth of the digital catalog and I cannot thank them enough for their diligent work on this project. They have now started an inventory of our series stacks! Ray Broms has continued his project of scanning volumes for the Research Archives and his work recently received an unexpected surprise when the Research Archives acquired a new color Xerox scanner. In addition to the black and white, Ray will begin scanning some of the out-of-copyright color volumes for delivery to the public through the Research Archives online catalog.
