

# RESEARCH ARCHIVES

Foy Scalf

## Introduction

Libraries are facing some very challenging times. On the one hand, there has been a lot of media attention over the last decade about the changing of the role of libraries in our society, given the nature of technology and especially the internet. Librarians and teachers are facing similar struggles against simplistic attitudes, unfortunately rather pervasive, that these professions are old fashioned and no longer needed. Nothing could be further from the truth. If there is any time that could benefit from more nuance, from more thinking, from more careful consideration, from more exposure to the thought of other cultures, from more reading, it is now. Our current cultural climate is made that much worse by the accompanied budget crises affecting so many educational and cultural institutions throughout the nation. We must use this time as an opportunity to reflect, to realize that our positions are not self-justified, but require our active justification — just as any social and cultural construction. Ultimately, the teachable moments this provides us should demonstrate the error of simplistic notions that go little further than the bottom line. It should be easy to make apparent to any who will listen the value and necessity of repositories of history, culture, thought, and society.

The Research Archives has remained very lucky throughout the financial crises of 2008 and the current budget cuts facing departments across the university. Our director, Gil Stein, and executive director, Steve Camp, realize that the library is at the heart of the academic institution.

They have provided the Research Archives with great support and I hope to be guiding it with the appropriate leadership for a healthy future to serve many generations of scholars who study the ancient world, and with it, the impacts on today's society. We hope that some of the projects detailed in this year's report go some way to helping inform, not just scholars, but also the general public about the history of past civilizations. Under our watch — those who study the ancient Middle East — the body politic was born, money came into existence, and legal systems were created. How could it be possible that we do not have relevant things to say about current policies, foreign affairs, and cultural norms? The answer is that it is impossible. We have much to say. Making the fascinating material about these cultures and times more broadly known, as well as the implications for the current state of affairs, can only aid in creating a well-informed public in their quest to make rational decisions. Here in the



*Figure 1. Recent Acquisitions in the Research Archives*

Research Archives, we are adding to that potential education, one step, one PDF, one book, one resource at a time.

## Acquisitions

Due to a number of factors, including several donations, acquisitions were very strong for the Research Archives in the past academic year. We acquired 1,430 volumes, nearly 50% more than our historical average of roughly 1,000 volumes per year (see table 1). These numbers represent print volumes as the Research Archives remains dedicated to building and maintaining a primarily print based collection for the reasons outlined in past annual reports. Such growth is even more important in the current financial climate at the University where shrinking budgets have become the norm. Despite these conditions, we are absolutely committed to maintaining and growing these precious resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

*Table 1. Research Archives acquisitions July 2015–June 2016*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number of Accession Lots</i>	<i>Monographs, Series, Pamphlets</i>	<i>Journals</i>	<i>Total Volumes</i>
July 2015	29	44	56	100
August 2015	22	52	36	88
September 2015	51	147	46	193
October 2015	60	156	54	210
November 2015	26	96	42	138
December 2015	19	40	35	75
January 2016	41	70	82	152
February 2016	29	92	48	140
March 2016	41	58	37	95
April 2016	26	28	31	59
May 2016	19	55	17	72
June 2016	33	83	25	108
Totals	396	921	509	
		<b>Total Volumes</b>		<b>1,430</b>

### **Online Catalog**

Since fall 2007, the online catalog has grown by over 330,000 records, averaging over 30,000 records per year (see table 2). This average has declined since the apex in 2008–2009, which had been due primarily from the processing of backlogged data migrated from old databases. In 2015–2016, we added another 15,000 records; all processed and cataloged manually by the staff and volunteers of the Research Archives. That means 1,250 records per month, roughly 42 records per day, are being added to the catalog. A major and complex cataloging project awaits us once we tackle the massive pamphlet files.

*Table 2. Catalog Records*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Catalog Records Added</i>	<i>Total Number of Catalog Records</i>
2015–2016	15,000	525,000
2014–2015	20,000	510,000
2013–2014	30,000	490,000
2012–2013	40,000	460,000
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

Analytics from the Research Archives catalog show the breakdowns in the types of material in the collection (see table 3). Readers immediately see that journal articles represent well over half the total number of database records (301,113 of 525,000). Scholars will find especially useful our indexing of journals, conference proceedings, and festschriften, all the records of which are available for download through our online catalog ([oi-idb.uchicago.edu](http://oi-idb.uchicago.edu)) in formats compatible with major bibliographic software platforms (e.g., EndNote, Zotero).

*Table 3. Research Archives analytics*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Total Number of Catalog Records</i>
Total Volumes	61,941
Monographs	15,757
Monograph Sections	61,979
Series	1,286
Series Volumes	19,646
Series Volume Sections	81,129
Journals	927
Journal Volumes	27,169
Journal Volume Articles	301,113
Thesis	1,013
Pamphlets	2,469
Reviews	115,580
Festschriften	545
Authors	
Digital Invoice Records	908
Digital Cover Art Records	3,554
Adobe PDF	3,208

Among those items cataloged in the past academic year, a selection of interesting material completed by Oriental Institute scholars can be highlighted.

- Abbas Alizadeh. “Approaches to Social Complexity in Kura-Araxes Culture: A View from the Köhne Shahar (Ravaz) in Chaldran, Iranian Azerbaijan.” *Paléorient* 41:1 (2015): 37–54.
- Nadine Moeller. *The Archaeology of Urbanism in Ancient Egypt: From the Predynastic Period to the End of the Middle Kingdom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Brian P. Muhs. *The Ancient Egyptian Economy 3000–30 BCE*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- Gertrud Farber. “Das Lied von der Hacke.” In *Erzählungen aus dem Land Sumer*, edited by Konrad Volk and Karl-Heinz Bohny. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015, pp. 69–76.
- Janet H. Johnson. “Women, Property, and Legal Documents: A Case Study from the Persian Period.” In *Joyful in Thebes: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Betsy M. Bryan*, edited by Richard Jasnow and Kathlyn M. Cooney. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2015, pp. 283–92.
- Kiersten Neumann. “In the Eyes of the Other: The Mythological Wall Reliefs in the Southwest Palace at Nineveh.” *Archaeological Review from Cambridge* 30:1 (2015): 85–93.
- Susanne Paulus. “Ordal Statt Eid – Das Beweisverfahren in Mittelbabylonischer Zeit.” In *Prozessrecht und Eid: Recht und Rechtsfindung in antiken Kulturen*, edited by Heinz Barta, Martin Lang, and Robert Rollinger. Philippika 86. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015, pp. 207–25.
- Richard Payne. *A State of Mixture: Christians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Political Culture in Late Antiquity*. The Transformation of the Classical Heritage 56. Oakland: University of California Press, 2015.
- Hervé Reculeau. “Middle Assyrian Agrarian Management in the West in the Light of Its Forerunners.” In *Understanding Hegemonic Practices of the Early Assyrian Empire: Essays Dedicated to Frans Wiggermann*, edited Bleda S. Düring. PIHANS 125. Leiden: NINO, 2015, pp. 199–219.
- Robert K. Ritner. “Osiris-Canopus and Bes at Herculaneum.” In *Joyful in Thebes: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Betsy M. Bryan*, edited by Richard Jasnow and Kathlyn M. Cooney. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2015, pp. 401–06.
- Oğuz Soysal. “Einige Beispiele mit abweichender Position und Funktion des Zeichens L. 312 ‘VIR’ in den hieroglyphischen Siegelinschriften.” In *Saeculum: Gedenkschrift für Heinrich Otten anlässlich seines 100. Geburtstags*, edited by Andreas Müller-Karpe, Elisabeth Rieken, and Walter Sommerfeld. StBoT 58. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015, pp. 269–78.
- Gil J. Stein. “The War-Ravaged Cultural Heritage of Afghanistan: An Overview of Projects of Assessment, Mitigation, and Preservation.” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 78:3 (2015): 187–95.
- Matthew W. Stolper. “Three Personal Reflections on Elias Bickerman.” In *Writing History in Time of War: Michael Rostovtzeff, Elias Bickerman and the “Hellenization of Asia,”*

edited by Joseph G. Manning. *Oriens et Occidens* 24. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 2015, pp. 45–61.

- Theo van den Hout. “Zu einer Stratigraphie der hethitischen Totenrituale.” In *Saeculum: Gedenkschrift für Heinrich Otten anlässlich seines 100. Geburtstags*, edited by Andreas Müller-Karpe, Elisabeth Rieken, and Walter Sommerfeld. *StBoT* 58. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015, pp. 301–06.
- John Wee. “A Late Babylonian Astral Commentary on Marduk’s Address to the Demons.” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 75:1 (2016): 127–67.
- Donald Whitcomb, Michael Jennings, Andrew Creekmore, and Ignacio Arce. “Khirbet al-Mafjar: New Excavations and Hypotheses for an Umayyad Monument.” *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79:2 (2016): 78–87.
- Christopher Woods. “Contingency Tables and Economic Forecasting in the Earliest Texts from Mesopotamia.” In *Texts and Contexts: The Circulation and Transmission of Cuneiform Texts in Social Space*. SANER 9. Boston: De Gruyter, 2015, pp. 121–42.

We continue to add links to online material, both new and old (see table 4). Currently, there are over 118,000 links to online material in the Research Archives catalog (roughly 23% of all catalog records). Journal articles available online, either through subscription or open access, constitute the bulk of these links. However, we also link to items available elsewhere on the internet, including books, dissertations, series, and manuscripts.

Table 4. Links to journal articles

Journal	Links	Access
<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	15,477	JSTOR
<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	12,471	Ebsco
<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	11,628	JSTOR/AJA
<i>Antiquity</i>	11,324	Antiquity
<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>	7,841	JSTOR
<i>Syria</i>	5,990	JSTOR
<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	5,385	JSTOR/JNES
<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	4,409	JSTOR
<i>Biblica</i>	3,910	Open
<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,797	JSTOR
<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>	3,516	Ebsco
<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	3,292	Open
<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>	3,056	DigiZeitschriften
<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft</i>	2,903	Open
<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,545	JSTOR
<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	2,346	Open

Table 4. Links to journal articles

Journal	Links	Access
<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	2,003	Open
<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,496	JSTOR
<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,346	JSTOR
<i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i>	1,143	Peeters
<i>Aula Orientalis</i>	1,132	Open
<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	1,126	JSTOR
<i>Iraq</i>	1,126	JSTOR
<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	1,092	Open
<i>Studien zur Altägyptische Kultur</i>	907	JSTOR
<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	847	JSTOR
<i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i>	805	Open
<i>Iran</i>	729	JSTOR
<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	698	JSTOR
<i>Oriental Institute News &amp; Notes</i>	546	Open
<i>Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan</i>	469	Open
<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>	378	Open
<i>Sudan and Nubia</i>	355	Open
<i>Bulletin: Societe d'Egyptologie Geneve</i>	315	Open
<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	240	JSTOR
<i>Journal of Hebrew Scriptures</i>	236	Open
<i>Aeragram</i>	223	Open
<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>	189	Open
<i>British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan</i>	134	Open
<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	104	Open
<i>Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology</i>	102	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	88	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Journal</i>	57	Open
<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>	47	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	42	Open
<i>ASDIWAL: Revue Genevoise d'Anthropologie et d'Histoire des Religions</i>	41	Open
<i>Studia Orontica</i>	37	Open
<i>Mitteilungen der Sudanarchäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin</i>	29	Open
<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>	25	De Gruyter
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,997</b>	

## Resources on the Web

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

### ***Introduction & Guide***

[https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/research\\_archives\\_introduction%26guide.pdf](https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/research_archives_introduction%26guide.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.

### ***Online Resources***

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/online-resources>

Links to important online resources within the fields of ancient Near East studies are provided on this page with a focus on major tools and large databases.

### ***Acquisitions Lists***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/acquisitions-lists-research-archives>

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

### ***Annual Reports***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/research-archives-annual-reports>

Annual Reports for the Research Archives are available from 1969–2014.

### ***Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/oriental-institute-staff-newsletter>

From February 1998 until March 2005 an Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter was circulated among faculty, staff, students, and the wider academic community. In the interest of preservation, remaining copies of the newsletter have been scanned and archived online.

### ***Dissertations***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations>

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. Recent additions to this page include the following:

- Solange Ashby. Colling Out to Isis: The Enduring Nubian Presence at Philae

- Rozenn F. Bailleul-LeSuer. *The Exploitation of Live Avian Resources in Pharaonic Egypt: A Socio-Economic Study*
- Cameron Lindley Cross. *The Poetics of Romantic Love in Vis & Rāmin*
- Michael Dean Jennings. *Beyond the Walls of Jericho: Khirbet al-Mafjar and the Signature Landscapes of the Jericho Plain*
- Stephanie Lesan Selover. *Excavating War: The Archaeology of Conflict in Early Chalcolithic to Early Bronze III Central and Southeastern Anatolia*

### ***Dissertation Proposals***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations/dissertation-proposals>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertation proposals completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

### ***Adopt-a-Book Campaign***

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/adopt-book-campaign>

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.

### ***Social Media Sites***

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-Archives-of-the-Oriental-Institute/153645450792>

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. 3,374 individuals currently follow the Research Archives through this presence on Facebook.

## **Donations**

Donations continue to play an important role in the acquisition efforts of the Research Archives. A number of books are received through the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and through the Oriental Institute Museum as the Research Archives receives copies of publications that contain images of objects in our collections. Several journal subscriptions are maintained solely through donations of individual library patrons. In the realm of preservation, tattered and aging volumes can often be replaced or supplemented through book gifts and donations to help fill in past gaps in the collection. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals and institutions for their generous gifts and exchange agreements this year: British Institute at Ankara, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Israel Antiquities Authority Library, Marc Coenen, Joan Fortune, Gene Gragg, Elise MacArthur, Catherine Mardikes, Kiersten Neumann, Patrizia Piacentini, Seth Richardson, Robert Ritner, Seth Sanders, Martha Roth, Andreas Schachner, David Schloen, Emily Teeter, Tom Urban, Donald Whitcomb, Terry Wilfong, Bruce Williams.



## Internship and Practicum Program

The Research Archives was proud to Scott Shoger this year as a practicum student from the Library and Information Sciences program at Dominican University. Among the various tasks Scott accomplished during the semester was the complete cataloging and digitization of the archives related to Seton Lloyd, a famous Near East archaeologist and scholar. Thanks to Scott, the papers of Seton Lloyd, including correspondence, archival photos, and manuscripts, have been cataloged and digitized. All this material is available through the Search Our Collections / Integrated Database website.

## Volunteer Program

Research Archives volunteers continue to be a staple labor force for helping us progress on so many different fronts, from cataloging the Museum Archives to scanning accession files for Registration, from digitizing books in the Research Archives to writing descriptions for our Google Arts & Culture site. Much of the success we have had over the last nine years since I became Head of the Research Archives is due to their hard work, sweat, and hopefully few tears. The measly pizza parties and thanks in the annual report are nowhere near sufficient for their deeds. Nevertheless, I would like to thank them all, not only for their diligence, but also for their collegiality: Eric Aupperle, Rebecca Binkley, Ray Broms, Betty Bush, Gaby Cohen, Sequoia Chun, Kim Crawford, Irene Glasner, Kate Hodge, Kat Jarboe, Peter Johnson, So Hyeon Kang, Elisa Landaverde, Kristin Leasia, Marge Nichols, Brian Porrett, Roberta Schaffner, Gabriele Correa da Silva, Ian Williams, Amy Zillman.

## 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) and I apologize for anyone who may have been missed: Chris Fincham, Julia Gruhot, David Mackin, Mitchell Miranda, William Osborne, Patrizia Piacentini, Amanda Roy, Paul Sereno, David Thomas, Jennifer Westerfeld, Avi Winitzer, Yoshifumi Yasuoka, Martina Ullmann and Egyptology students from Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich, and the Great Chicago Libraries class of Elmhurst College.

## Acknowledgments

The Research Archives runs on the collaborative effort of our office team. I couldn't do it without the help of my staff. Laura Krenz, Rebecca Segall, Yishu, Deng, Lindsey Lindsey Pettitt, and Kierra Foley have all been there throughout the year, helping our patrons and generally running things in my absence. I offer my sincere thanks for all that they do to make the Research Archives such a wonderful place to work.

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