As with any institution devoted to primary research, much of the value of the Oriental Institute’s efforts depends upon an effective publication program. This has been obtained in spite of two severe problems. The first arises from the technical character of so much of the Institute’s work, which tends to require extensive illustrations, exotic type faces, and devoted reference work in many languages. The relatively small scholarly reading public for whom primary research records are important poses a second problem. It is rare for the circulation of an Institute publication to exceed a few thousand copies, and most are numbered only in hundreds. Under these circumstances publishing costs could not be fully recovered without a prohibitive pricing policy which can only be avoided by annual appropriations from the Institute’s operating budget. In other words, while publication is a matter of basic scholarly responsibility, it always proceeds at a loss.

Publishing and distribution are handled for the Institute by The University of Chicago Press. A comprehensive catalogue of the Institute’s publications is available upon request. The publications appear in the following series:

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