
Research Archives

Richard Zettler

The fourth year of operations (1976/77) for the Research Archives was a year of growth and change. Use of the Archives by faculty, visiting scholars, and students in the department continued heavy, while docents and other members made increased use of the Archives' facilities.

In the period from May 15, 1976 to May 15, 1977, the Research Archives added approximately 1070 volumes. Current holdings can be broken down as follows:

Monographs	4032
Series	2530
Journals	3273
Microfiche editions	154
Total books	9989
pamphlets	5715 (approximate)

Gaps certainly exist in the Archives' collection. Back runs of journals and out-of-print archeological field reports are particularly difficult to acquire. On the whole, however, the collection is growing at a fast pace. Exchanges with other institutions for Oriental Institute publications (and the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*) have come to play an important role in sustaining the growth of the Archives.

Over the last four years expansion has been so rapid that the Research Archives is faced with immediate and serious space problems. The shelves in the reading room are crowded, and before long will not be able to hold day-to-day acquisitions. Steps will be taken this summer to alleviate the problem, including temporary storage of little-used volumes in locking wooden cabinets in the reading room, but these measures will be at best stopgap. By the summer of 1978 we hope to have converted the present office entirely to shelf space. The Archives' offices will then be moved down the hall. With the current rate of growth of the Research Archives this arrangement will probably hold for five years, but eventually it may be necessary to expand the Archives to take in the upstairs as in the old Oriental Institute library.

If this year has been one of continued growth, it has also been one of change, particularly as regards personnel. Charles C. Van Siclen III resigned as Research Archivist in the fall of 1976 in order to direct the work of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House (Luxor, Egypt). Chuck's knowledge of library procedure, his organizational skill, and most importantly the enthusiasm that he brought to the job are major reasons for the extraordinary growth of the Research Archives over the last four years. He will certainly be missed. John Larsen, who had worked in the Research Archives since its formal opening in the fall of 1973, resigned in June, 1976 in order to take another job. Margaret Root, after completing the organization of the archival material (unpublished papers of Edgerton, Spiegelberg, and Steindorff) stored in the Research Archives, also resigned. The routine work of the Research Archives during the year was ably carried out by an entirely new staff made up of Lorelei Corcoran, Terry Hofeld-Church, and Robert Ritner.

Thanks must go to members of the faculty, staff, and friends of the Oriental Institute who have contributed in so many ways to the Research Archives. Special mention must again this year be made of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and its editor Robert Biggs for generous contributions in books and time. Many faculty members are regular contributors to the Archives, among them Klaus Baer, McGuire Gibson, and Charles Nims. This year several friends of the Oriental Institute also made contributions to the Research Archives. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Skold made a donation in memory of their son, formerly a student here. Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Llewellyn Lewis contributed a number of out of print volumes, some of which, being duplicates of books already in the collection, will be used as a reserve in arranging future exchanges.

The Research Archives is open to faculty, staff, members of the Oriental Institute, and students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Hours are as follows:

Fall, Winter, Spring	Monday-Friday: 8:30-5:00
Quarters	Saturday: 10:00-4:00
	Sunday: 12:00-4:00
Summer Quarter	Monday-Friday: 9:00-2:00