

## RESEARCH

**Alexandra O'Brien**

**Alexandra O'Brien** spent her second year working in the Oriental Institute Research Archives cataloging analytics, and retrospectively cataloging the journal *Enchoria*. In addition, she produced several publications for the Oriental Institute's World-Wide Web site (see Research Archives report).

In April 1997, at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Ann Arbor, she gave a talk, "Disjecta Membra in Araneo - Scattered Remains on the Web." The talk discussed the advantages of electronic over conventional paper publication of images of ancient texts.

Late in 1996 O'Brien had an article on pharaonic kingship published in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 33 and reviewed *Sex and Society in Graeco-Roman Egypt* for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, by Dominic Montserrat (forthcoming). She took over from Professor Janet Johnson the "Directory of Institutions and Scholars Involved in Demotic Studies" (see Demotic Dictionary report).

Since being admitted to candidacy in July 1997, O'Brien has been working on her Ph.D. dissertation, *Egyptian Women in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt: The Economic and Legal Activities of Women in Demotic Texts*, a study of women's lives as represented in Egyptian language documents from the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. In the course of her studies she has identified topics for further research including the occurrence of physical descriptions in Demotic contracts. She is preparing to give a talk on the progress of her research in December at the annual meeting of the American Society of Papyrologists here in Chicago. She will spend fall 1997 in Egypt as Epigrapher to the Oriental Institute Bir Umm Fawakhir project (directed by Research Associate Carol Meyer), a position O'Brien held in the previous season of work at Fawakhir in winter 1995/96.

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