



LIBRARY

A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

PERSPECTIVES

NUMBER EIGHTEEN

FEBRUARY 1998

Information Literacy Workshops

The Library held two information literacy workshops for faculty during the month of January — one for the faculty as a whole and another designed specifically for the Politics Department. The workshops represent a continuation of efforts begun last year, following the General Faculty Library Committee's report on information literacy, which documented the need to improve the library research skills of Oberlin students. The workshops were developed with the twin goals of acquainting faculty more fully with new information technologies and discussing with them possible ways of increasing the integration of information literacy skills into the curriculum.

Over forty faculty members from a variety of departments par-

ticipated in a five-session workshop on "Using Educational Technology to Teach Information Literacy." Taught jointly by staff of the Library and the Oberlin Center for Technologically Enhanced Teaching (OCTET), the workshop followed up on many of the topics of the Library's first faculty information literacy workshop in January 1997 (*Library Perspectives*, February 1997). Sessions taught



Scenes from the
Library/OCTET Workshop

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Lexis-Nexis Now Available on the Web

The Oberlin College Library recently became a subscriber to Lexis®-Nexis® UNIVERse, a user-friendly Web-based version of Lexis-Nexis, a comprehensive online source of news, legal, and business information.

The information sources included in Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse were compiled specifically for the needs of academic institutions. Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse couples the convenience of the Internet with the power of Lexis-Nexis services to quickly and easily retrieve docu-

ments that meet specific research needs. To search Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse the user simply selects from a list of research categories and completes an electronic search form.

Lexis-Nexis offers news from more than 7,000 English-language newspapers, newsletters, magazines, trade journals, wire services, and broadcast transcripts, including the Associated Press, *The New York Times*, and CNN.

Additionally, Lexis-Nexis offers premier news sources in the

French, Italian and German languages as well as comprehensive, current legal information, including federal and state case law, statutes, and secondary sources such as law reviews, state legal materials, and directories. Such commonly used reference tools as *Books in Print*, *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory* are included as well.

Professor of Sociology James Walsh notes that "Keeping up with

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Friends Meeting Highlights

The Friends of the Library held its annual meeting on Saturday, November 1. The group heard a report from the membership committee and discussed ways to increase membership; voted to increase the basic and couples membership to \$30 and \$40 respectively; discussed ways in which the Friends might raise additional funds for the Library; heard a report from the program committee as well as a report on a potential symposium for alumni librarians; and discussed the progress of the Student Friends of the Library.

The Friends Council authorized purchases for the Library

collections totaling \$15,334, as recommended by the Acquisitions Committee (see related article this page). The membership also elected new council members and officers for the 1998-99 year.

Minutes of the meeting are available on the Friends website (<http://www.oberlin.edu/~library/friends/friends.html>) and by request from:

Friends of the
Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center
Oberlin College
Oberlin OH 44074-1532

Purchases with Friend Funds

The Friends of the Library Council authorized the use of over \$15,000 of funds contributed to the Friends to acquire a variety of materials for the Library. The funds will assist the Library in building general collections that support selected new curricular areas as well as areas that require further development. They will also be used to purchase three major reference works, four microfilm research collections, and a facsimile manuscript for special collections.

The following is a summary by category of these most recent Friends purchases:

Materials for New Curricular Areas (\$4,000)

1. Asian American Studies. The emerging curriculum in Asian American Studies continues to expand. New courses are being offered in Asian American Labor History, Asian American Religious History, and in the Asia Pacific American Experience. These funds will provide basic collection support for these courses.

2. Native American Studies. Funds will provide collection support for new courses in Native American Studies that have recently been added to the curriculum.

Italian Language and Literature (\$1,000)

These funds will be used to continue filling gaps in holdings of twentieth-century Italian language and literature in support of the work of Professor Davida Gavioli.

Major New Reference Works (\$3,990)

1. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (10 vols., Routledge, 1998). This new, standard reference work in philosophy has been requested as a top priority by the Philosophy Department. The Library will acquire both the CD-ROM and printed versions of the encyclopedia, which are available as a package.

2. *Index Kewensis* (CD-ROM for Windows, Oxford University Press, 1997). This index is "the

1997-98 Friends of the Library Council

Samuel Goldberg, President
Ruth I. Hughes '85, Vice President
Nathan Haverstock, Secretary
Marian H. Baum
Terry Carlton
Paul Erler '32
George and Jane Jannauer '58/'57
Norman Jung '56
Al McQueen '52
Marlene D. Merrill
Carl Peterson
Kristen Pohlman '98
Mary E. (Molly) Raphael '67
Barbara Richards '61

Ex-Officio and Appointed Members:

Gary Kornblith, Chair,
Faculty Library Committee
Eric Carpenter, Collection Development Librarian
Jessica Grim, Reference Librarian
Ray English, Director of Libraries

world's most comprehensive registry of plant names," containing information on species, family, genus, and references to the literature where the plant was first described. It began publication in 1893, with 19 supplements to 1996.

3. *Microscopic Anatomy of Invertebrates*, ed. by Frederick W. Harrison (vols. 6, 13, 15, Wiley-Liss, 1991-). These volumes will complete the Library's holdings for this essential work in anatomy.

Primary Source Materials to Support Teaching and Research (\$4,038)

1. *History of Women Collection*. (Microfilm of Unit 20: Pam-

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In Appreciation of the Friends

Remarks by Oberlin College President Nancy Dye at the Friends Dinner, November 1, 1997

I am pleased to have the chance to make a few remarks tonight to the Friends of the Oberlin Library. This is my fourth year at the College, and I count our Friends of the Library dinners among our most interesting and enjoyable occasions. Johnetta Cole's speech in 1994 and Margaret Atwood's appearance last year were especially memorable. Judging from Tony Grafton's fascinating lecture this afternoon, tonight's talk will continue in the same tradition.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the generous support provided to our library by the Friends. With the assistance of Friends' funds, our library has been able to acquire special materials which in all likelihood could not have been purchased otherwise. Over just a few years, the Friends have contributed more than \$100,000 to special library acquisitions. I know that faculty are especially grateful for the support



Nancy Dye

of new courses and programs which this funding has made possible.

Oberlin has a great library. It is outstanding in the depth of its collections. It is outstanding in the ways in which library materials of all sorts are increasingly available to the College community. It is outstanding for the remarkable friendliness and accessibility of our library to all of our students. And it is outstanding in the ways in

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Grafton Talk Available

Anthony Grafton, Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University, delivered an entertaining and informative slide talk at the Friends of the Library annual dinner on November 1 about ways in



Anthony Grafton

which historians study the history of reading. The talk is now available in video format (see below).

Professor Grafton started his talk by saying "I'd like to take you tonight into a lost world of the study as you lived in it as a Renaissance reader — it's a magnificent world." He went on to discuss ways in which historians today are able to piece together a history of reading in the Renaissance using evidence such as commentaries and annotations in books from the time, and the reconstruction of the libraries of various individuals from the 15th and 16th centuries.

Professor Grafton pointed out some of the more remarkable dif-

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Friends Honor Life Members

The Friends of the Library awarded life memberships to three couples at the annual Friends dinner on November 1.

William Perlik, chairman of the Oberlin College Board of Trustees, announced the awards and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Friends and the College for the generous support given the Library by each of the recipients:

Geraldine and Richard Meyer of River Forest, Illinois. Mrs. Meyer, a member of the Oberlin class of 1942, has served on the Library Visiting Committee since its inception in 1990 and also as a member of the Library mini-campaign steering committee. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer have been exceptionally generous in making gifts to both the Friends of the Library and to the Library mini-campaign.

Bruce Regal and Theresa Brown of New York City. Mr. Regal and Ms. Brown are both members of the Oberlin class of 1978. Ms. Brown served on the Library mini-campaign steering committee. She and Mr. Regal have been generous contributors to the library acquisitions endowment, the library special book fund, and especially to the library mini-campaign. Their contributions to the latter will be applied to the construction of a new science library, which is being planned as part of a major college project to upgrade the science facilities at Oberlin.

Lloyd and Beatrice Frank of New York City. Mr. Frank, Oberlin Class of 1947, has served on the Library Visiting Committee. He and Mrs. Frank have made generous contributions to the library special book fund, to the Friends of the Library, and to the Library mini-campaign.

Alumni Librarian Symposium

The Friends of the Library Council gave tentative approval at its meeting on November 1, 1997 to the idea of a symposium for Oberlin alumni who work in libraries. Current plans call for holding the symposium during the fall of 1999, on the same weekend as the Friends of the Library dinner.

The idea of the symposium was first discussed at the 1996 Friends Council meeting when Friends Secretary Mike Haverstock noted how frequently he was in correspondence with alumni who are librarians. Haverstock suggested that it might be worthwhile to investigate the feasibility of a symposium or conference of Oberlin alumni librarians, focusing perhaps on the library of the future.

Molly Horst Raphael '67, Acting Director of the District of Columbia Public Library, and Ray English, Director of Libraries at Oberlin, subsequently sent a survey to alumni to ascertain interest in the idea. The survey was mailed to over 600 alumni drawn from the alumni records database, including those who have received a library science degree, who have a title or work address containing the word "library," or who indicated librarianship as their career code in alumni surveys.

Over 130 responses to the survey were received. They came from alumni who work in a wide variety of types of libraries and library positions. A large number of those responding voiced strong enthusiasm for the idea of the symposium. Respondents suggested numerous topics that they hoped would be included in the symposium, including the way in which Oberlin values have affected career choice and library work, the effects of digital technologies on

Two New Full-Text Databases in English Literature

The following new full-text databases from Chadwyck-Healey are now available to the Oberlin College community via the World Wide Web:

The English Poetry Database contains the texts of over 160,000 poems written in English by approximately 1,350 poets between the years 600 and 1900. It also includes the full text of over 4,400 poetry collections, many of them quite rare, listed in *The New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*.

English Verse Drama contains the full text of over 2,200 plays by more than 500 named authors and 300 anonymous works, from the Shrewsbury Fragments of the late thirteenth century through the end of the nineteenth century. EVD is

based on materials listed in *The New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*, selecting materials that are written or intended for the stage and wholly or primarily in verse.

These databases join the six other Chadwyck-Healey databases made accessible by the Library earlier this year: *Editions and Adaptations of Shakespeare*, *English Prose Drama*, *Eighteenth Century Fiction*, *American Poetry Database*, *African-American Poetry Database*, and *The Bible in English* (see *Library Perspectives*, September 1997).

These databases are available to Oberlin Campus Network users through the Web version of OBIS at: <http://obis.oberlin.edu> (just search the database title).

Dissertations on the Web

The Oberlin College Library is now a subscriber to ProQuest Digital Dissertations, which provides online access to citations and abstracts for every title in the Dissertation Abstracts database.

With more than 1.4 million entries, UMI's Dissertation Abstracts database is the one central, authoritative source for information about doctoral dissertations and master's theses.

The database includes citations for materials ranging from the first U.S. dissertation, accepted in 1861, to those accepted as recently as last semester; those published from 1980 forward also include 350-word abstracts, written

by the author. Citations for master's theses from 1988 forward include 150-word abstracts.

Of the 1.4 million titles listed, UMI offers over a million in full text.

The database represents the work of authors from over 1,000 North American graduate schools and European universities. Some 47,000 new dissertations and 12,000 new theses are added to the database each year.

To access ProQuest Digital Dissertations go the Library's Research Resources on the Internet Web page (http://www.oberlin.edu/~library/Schol_Res/), and click on "Databases & Indexes".

libraries, and the importance of keeping reading habits alive.

Raphael will coordinate the planning process by establishing a committee of those who expressed interest in helping to plan the symposium. An e-mail listserv is being set up at Oberlin to facilitate dis-

cussion among all those who volunteered.

An informal discussion will also be held in conjunction with a reception for Oberlin alumni librarians at the American Library Association annual conference in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Culpeper Foundation Preservation Grant Concludes

The Library has recently completed a multi-year project, funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation, to preserve collections endangered by acid paper deterioration (see *Library Perspectives*, February 1994).

The problem of paper deterioration is particularly challenging at Oberlin, since such a large portion of the Library's collections date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when virtually all books and journals were produced on acidic paper. Acid weakens the cellulose fibers in paper, and over time leads to embrittled — and eventually unusable — materials. The useful life of acidic books, journals, and other print materials can be substantially extended through a process of deacidification, if the paper retains sufficient strength. Materials that have deteriorated to too great an extent remain useful only if they are “reformatted” — either

by photocopying them to acid free paper and rebinding them or by converting them to microfilm, microfiche, or some other medium.

Under the Culpeper grant, the Library provided preservation treatment for over 7,200 endangered volumes that were considered most important for long-term

retention. Over 6,400 volumes were selected for deacidification, including many monographs of more recent origin published in third world countries. Over 450 volumes were chosen for microformatting, including numerous titles related to Oberlin and Oberlin history. Over 300 volumes
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Selected Materials Preserved under the Culpeper Grant

Special Collections materials:

- titles from the Violin Society of America/Goodkind Collection
- World War I pamphlets
- women's suffrage pamphlets
- rare maps of Yellowstone National Park
- Oberliniana:
 - brief biographies of prominent alumni, faculty, and staff
 - periodicals on Oberlin and the temperance movement
 - the *Oberlin News*
 - Oberlin College catalogs and official reports

Materials from the circulating collections:

- selections from art, classics, literature, science, poetry, and music
- titles published in East Asia, South Asia and Russia
- German language and music reference work
- monographs relating to travel and exploration in the New World
- books on Latin American history, politics, religion, and literature
- the complete musical scores of Brahms and Schubert

Purchases with Friends Funds...from page 3

plets, Photographs, and Manuscripts, Primary Source Media). Contains primary materials from one of the most comprehensive research collections on Women's History, including diaries and other manuscripts, pamphlets, and photographs reproduced from the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe, the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, and other depositories. The collection will support work by Professors Wendy Kozol and Carol Lasser.

2. *FBI Files*. Professor Albert Miller in the Religion Department teaches a course in the African American Religious Experience. Three microfilm collections documenting FBI investigations of the civil rights movement and of African American religious leaders will

provide a rich selection of primary materials to support his courses. The three files are:

FBI File on Communist Infiltration of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Compiled 1958-1980 to “ascertain the degree of Communist party influence on the SCLC,” the documents contained in the file highlight the attitude held by the FBI toward the SCLC and entire civil rights movement.

FBI File on Malcolm X. Documents Malcolm X's involvement with the Nation of Islam and on its behalf with the Socialist Workers Party and the Organization of African Unity.

FBI File on Elijah Muhammad. Documents Elijah Muhammed's leadership of the

Nation of Islam and FBI view of him.

Facsimile for Special Collections (\$2,316).

Der Musik-Codex Las Huelgas (Verlag Bibliotheca Rara). A facsimile autograph manuscript of a celebrated thirteenth-century musical work in the cloister of Santa Maria la Real de Las Huelgas in Madrid.

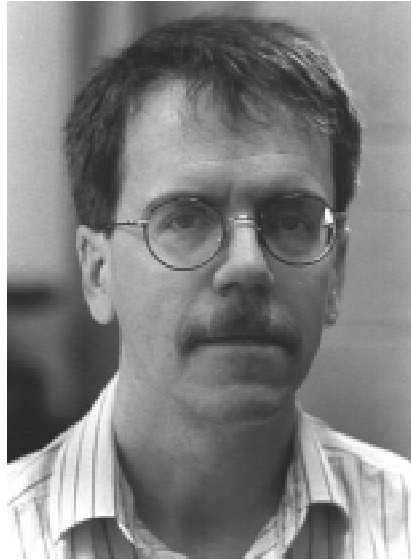
Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is issued two times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin A. and Emiko Custer. Editors: Ray English and Jessica Grim.

Cataloging Distinctions

The Oberlin College Library continues to be one of the nation's leading participants in cooperative cataloging endeavors. In the fall of 1995, the library earned "national-level Enhance status" as one of the earliest members of the Bibliographic Cooperative Program (BIBCO), the newest venture from the Library of Congress' Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC).

BIBCO libraries contribute bibliographic records, both full and core level, to national bibliographic utilities, such as OCLC. All headings in the BIBCO records follow standardized "authority control." These records are of the same high quality and equivalent authority as records from the Library of Congress. Approximately twenty libraries are currently participating in the program. The BIBCO project evolved from the National Coordinated Cataloging Program (NCCP), which became operational in 1988. In fiscal year 1997, program participants created nearly 30,000 program records.

While the Library of Congress will continue to administer this decentralized training program, most future training will be provided by regional trainers. John Sluk, Head of the Monographs



John Sluk

Department at Oberlin, was one of two trainers to travel to Vanderbilt University in December 1997. He and Joan Schuitema (Northwestern University) trained catalogers there in BIBCO record creation, and in the program's values of timely access and cost-effectiveness in cataloging.

Once again, a dedicated and knowledgeable staff enables us to participate in a nationally-recognized project which enriches not only the library catalog here at Oberlin, but the catalogs of thousands of other libraries throughout the world.

Lexis Nexis Now Available...from page 1

the legal literature is a full-time job these days. While Oberlin has a good collection of legal periodicals, we are not a law library and much is not available. Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse through the web is a godsend to both faculty teaching law-related subjects and students researching them."

Professor Walsh notes further that "Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse is also a terrific pedagogical tool. A student comes to my office with an idea and, instead of sending the

student off to the indices of legal periodicals, we can sit down at the terminal and explore. Nine times out of ten we hit the jackpot and an excited kid with a focus leaves the office. It is wonderful."

With Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse, Oberlin College students, faculty, and staff can access the full power of the Lexis-Nexis services in the now familiar environment of the World Wide Web. Lexis-Nexis UNIVERse can be accessed from within the Oberlin College com-

Dye Remarks

...from page 3

which the library increasingly employs new information technologies to extend access to library resources beyond our campus.

Oberlin's membership in OhioLINK is one of the developments that has greatly expanded access to library holdings outside of Oberlin. OhioLINK's more recent growth in full-text electronic resources appears equally promising. Then, too, we look toward the building of a new library: a critical part of the new science center that we envision is a new, expanded, and enhanced space for a comprehensive science library.

We are also working as librarians and faculty to continue to build on recent initiatives in information literacy. As I said to the Friends two years ago, the world of modern academic libraries is increasing our access to information at an incredible rate, but that world is also becoming more and more complicated. It is critically important that our students be well-grounded in the skills needed to use modern libraries if they are to take full advantage of the new and infinitely expanding world of instantly available information. Information literacy is essential not only for students' academic success here at Oberlin but also for life-long learning, a goal that remains fundamental to liberal education.

Again, I congratulate the Friends of the Library for the strong support you provide in Oberlin. And I look forward to hearing Professor Grafton's talk.

munity using direct URL (<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>), or from the "Databases & Indexes" section of the Library's "Research Resources on the Internet" page (http://www.oberlin.edu/~library/Schol_Res/).

Information Literacy Workshops...*from page 1*

by the library staff provided an overview of information literacy concerns, demonstrated ways of accessing a variety of electronic information resources, and explored the development of effective assignments for increasing library research skills. Sessions taught by the OCTET staff covered a variety of topics related to classroom use of educational technologies, such as online syllabi, electronic conferencing, class listservs, and online papers and tests.

"I've been crowing all over the place about how wonderful the five faculty workshop sessions were!" said Katherine Jarjisian, Professor of Music Education. "I left each overwhelming and intense session completely energized and brimming about ways I could change this course or that. Of course, that's unrealistic, and I will have to change in painstakingly slow increments, but my students definitely will be doing more work (searching and discovering...) on-



Faculty at the Library/OCTET Workshop

line and developing skills to evaluate their electronic 'findings.' (So will I!!!)."

The second workshop offered by the Library was a half-day session designed specifically for faculty in the Politics Department. The workshop was taught primarily by the Main Library Reference Department staff and focused to a large extent on electronic resources useful for study and research in

Politics. It was followed by a wide-ranging discussion of how the Library and the Politics Department might work more productively to develop information literacy skills in students who major in Politics.

The Library hopes to conduct additional workshops for individual departments in order to further explore information literacy issues with faculty at the disciplinary level.

Culpeper Foundation...*from page 5*

were reformatted through preservation photocopying, including reference works and individual monographs.

The Culpeper grant enabled the Library to develop new preservation processing workflows and to define preservation selection criteria based on subject matter, condition, and use. The process of selecting items for preservation also provided an opportunity to

purchase numerous replacement volumes that were still available from commercial publishers.

The Library is especially pleased that the Culpeper Foundation grant served as a catalyst for creating a new preservation endowment, income from which will be used to fund similar collection preservation activities on an ongoing basis. The endowment, which now stands at approximately

\$160,000, was built through alumni contributions, including a major gift from William G. Roe of the Class of 1964. The Library hopes to continue building the endowment in the future.

The Library wishes to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Culpeper Foundation for supporting this significant expansion of its collection preservation efforts.

Grafton Talk Available...*from page 3*

ferences between reading then, and now—the need to learn Latin, the difficulty of obtaining books at all, and the use of “professional readers” who were employed to help prepare young men to go off into the world. Referring to the slides of magnificent examples of Renais-

sance books, he noted that “What you have here is reading taken seriously in a way that I don’t think we take the use of texts very often anymore.”

Copies of the video tape of Professor Grafton’s talk are available for \$6 (includes shipping and han-

dling) from: Friends of the Library, Mudd Center, Oberlin College, Oberlin OH 44074.

Please do not send payment with your request. You will be billed when the videotape is shipped. Allow four weeks for delivery.

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

The **Friends of the Oberlin College Library** provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the college.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter (published two times a year), invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding library.

Annual membership categories: \$1 Student

\$25 Friend

\$100 Sponsor

\$30 Couple

\$500 Patron

\$50 Associate

\$1000 Benefactor

Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

Friends of the Oberlin College Library
Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074



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Library Perspectives

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