



# Library Perspectives

## New Electronic Resources

The Library has filled an important gap in its online access to historical newspapers with the addition of **Times of London Digital Archive** (1785-1985). One of the most prominent international papers, the *Times of London* provides a rich source of historical data not only for Britain but for the entire world. As with the *Historical New York Times* (1851-2001) and the *Historical Los Angeles Times* (1881-1984), it is possible to browse issues by date (note that the Sunday issues of the *Times* are not available) or to conduct advanced searches that focus results on advertisements, feature articles, news stories, and editorials. Researchers can view the image of an individual article as well as the entire page on which it appears; search terms are highlighted for quick scanning. There are a variety of options for printing the full page on letter-sized paper and it is possible to email citations.

The **American State Papers** (1789-1838) and the **U.S. Congressional Serial Set** (1817-1980) are searchable full text databases of U.S. government publications that round out the Library's holdings of early American primary source materials. The Library already subscribes to *Evans Digital Edition*, *Early American Newspapers*, and *American Periodicals Series Online*.

The *American State Papers* constitute a retrospective republication of more than 6,000 of the earliest government publications, most from Congress, but also some from executive branch departments. When these documents were republished between 1832 and 1861 they were organized into the following categories: Foreign Relations, Indian Affairs, Finance,

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## Robert Kuttner to Speak at Friends of the Library Dinner

Robert Kuttner '65, co-founder and co-editor of *The American Prospect* magazine, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner on Saturday, November 5.

*The American Prospect*, a liberal quarterly on politics and public policy that advocates the renewal of American democratic traditions, was founded by Kuttner along with Princeton sociologist Paul Starr and former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich. He writes regularly for the magazine on a wide variety of public policy issues, particularly domestic and international economic policy.

Kuttner is the author of six books: *Everything for Sale: The Virtues and Limits of Markets* (1997); *The End of Laissez-Faire* (1991); *The Life of the Party* (1987); *The Economic Illusion: False Choices between Prosperity and Social Justice* (1984); *Revolt of the Haves: Tax Rebellions and Hard Times* (1980); and *Family Reunion* (2002), which he co-authored with his late wife Sharland Trotter. He is currently working on a book on deregulation and the stock market collapse.

He is a contributing columnist for *Business Week's* "Economic Viewpoint." His articles have appeared in numerous prominent American magazines and his weekly editorial column, originating with the *Boston Globe*, is syndicated to 20 major newspapers nationwide. He is also

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Robert Kuttner '65

## Seal Press Archives Now Available

In the spring of 2003 the Oberlin College Library, with major support from the Friends of the Library, purchased the archives of the Seal Press, a seminal publisher of books relating to women and feminism, which spanned the years 1976-2001 [see *Perspectives* #28].

The Seal Press Archives were acquired because of the Press' outstanding record of publishing significant titles in the areas of women's fiction, violence against women, women's health, lesbianism, women and the law, ethnic feminism, and women in nontraditional roles. The archives will provide primary source materials for students doing research in the areas of Gender and Women's Studies, Comparative American Studies, and English.

After over two years' work that involved inventorying and processing over 230 boxes of materials, virtually all of the Seal Press Archives is now available for use in Special Collections.

The Archives are organized in eleven sections, or series, including:

- Manuscripts, containing multiple drafts of creative works,
- Publicity, which includes materials such as press clippings and photos,
- Editorial, containing correspondence with important authors, such as Barbara Kingsolver, Evelyn C. White, and Ginny NiCarthy,

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## Recent Gifts

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following gifts-in-kind which were received in recent months.

Artist **Reid Wood** of Oberlin has made a major addition to his earlier gift of his mail art collection to the Art Library.

**William Loerke '42** has donated over 100 art books to the Art Library in memory of former faculty members Clarence Ward, George Karo, and Wolfgang Stechow.

Retiring faculty members **Sylvan Suskin, Norm Henderson, David Young,** and **Grover Zinn** have all donated books from their collections.

Oberlin alumna and author **Tracy Chevalier '84** has donated a complete set of four folios of the Poem of the Month Club, consisting of 48 leaves individually signed by prominent poets.

**Dr. Hannah K. Case '66** has given approximately 100 volumes from her personal library.

## OhioLINK Books Available Longer

OhioLINK is changing its circulation policy to allow users to renew books borrowed through OhioLINK up to four times, so long as the items are not placed on hold by other OhioLINK patrons. This means that it may be possible to keep OhioLINK books for as long as 15 weeks. Media materials (CDs and videos) will continue to have a one-week loan period with no renewals. In a departure from the previous policy, books with holds on them will not be renewable.

The new policy will be a boon to borrowers using books that are either  
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## Library

### Perspectives

Ray English  
Jessica Grim  
Megan Mitchell  
Editors

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

## Friends of the Oberlin College Library Fall 2005 Programs

### Lectures and Other Events:

#### Thursday, September 22, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center

Talk by Oberlin free-lance writer Jeff Rubin, "Writing 'The Ice': the Joys and Frustrations of Authoring the Lonely Planet Travel Guide to Antarctica"

#### Wednesday, October 19, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center

Talk by Andrew Venable, Director of the Cleveland Public Library, "Challenges Facing Urban Public Libraries"  
Co-sponsored with Oberlin Public Library

#### Saturday, November 5, Friends of the Library Annual Events

1:30 p.m. Friends Council and Membership Meeting  
Goodrich Room, Mudd

5:45 p.m. Friends Annual Reception and Dinner  
Root Room, Carnegie

8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker, Robert Kuttner '65  
"Learning and Laboring to Remain a Whole Society: The Internet, the Library, and the Enterprise of Oberlin and America"  
Root Room, Carnegie

#### Wednesday, November 16, 4:30 p.m., Moffett Auditorium, Mudd Center

Faculty talk by James Dobbins, Professor of Religion, about his new book, "Envisioning the Life of a Medieval Japanese Buddhist Nun: On Writing *Letters of the Nun Eshinni*"

## Friends Update

The Friends of the Library continued to provide vital support for the Library during 2004-05.

The Friends organization had a total of 733 members as of the end of the year, including 537 regular members, 89 members who donated to other library funds or made gifts-in-kind, 72 student and recent graduate members, 34 life members, and 5 honorary members. A total of \$48,824 was donated in Friends membership contributions and matching gifts during the year, the largest annual amount in the history of the organization.

The Friends again devoted more than \$25,000 toward the purchase of special materials for the library. Acquisitions included major electronic resources (*Early American Newspapers*, *Ethnic NewsWatch*, and a new segment of the JSTOR electronic journal collection); major reference sets such as the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, and special collections materials.

Friends programs, virtually all of which were very well attended, included the talk by Michael Duffy of *Time* magazine at the annual dinner in November; a presentation by book artist Johnny Carrera '91 in conjunction with an exhibition of his works; faculty talks by Pat Day (Professor of English), Roger Copeland (Professor of Theater), Gina Perez (Assistant Professor of Comparative American Studies), Pablo Mitchell (Associate Professor of History), and Dan Chaon (Houck Associate Professor of Humanities); and a variety of lectures and events related to a special exhibition of a scale model of a seventeenth-century Jewish synagogue.

The Friends continued to provide a scholarship to library school to a recent Oberlin graduate, and they made awards to two Oberlin students for excellence in research.

The Friends of the Library Council will hold its regular meeting on Saturday, November 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the Goodrich Room in Mudd Center. All Friends members are welcome to attend.

## New Books List Available

Beginning in September the Library is making available at the beginning of each month an online list of new books and other acquisitions. Organized by broad Library of Congress subject areas, the new books list includes titles cataloged by the Library during the previous month. The entry for each item links directly to its OBIS record, which provides location and availability information. There are separate lists for scores, recordings, and videos.

The new books list is available at: <http://www.oberlin.edu/library/newbooks.html> It is also linked from the Libraries & Collections page on the Library Web site. The Library expresses special thanks to student assistants Noah Horn and Ray Schamp for developing a computer program to generate these lists of new materials.

## Irving Klotz in Memoriam

Irving M. Klotz, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Northwestern University and one of the Library's most generous donors, died April 27 in Evanston, Illinois at the age of 89.

Professor Klotz was a nationally prominent scientist in the field of physical biochemistry. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

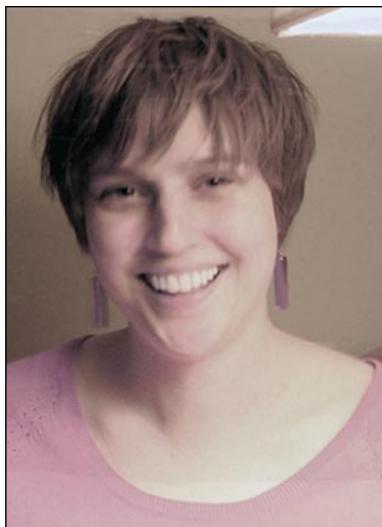
In 1995 Professor Klotz established the Klotz Family Endowed Book Fund in order to "help maintain the Library as a leading scholarly resource." Income from the fund is used to purchase scholarly materials in the natural sciences and humanities. He contributed generously to the fund over the years, and it is now one of the Library's largest endowments.

Professor Klotz's daughter Audie J. Klotz and his son Edward S. Klotz both graduated from Oberlin.

## OhioLINK *continued from page 2*

widely available within OhioLINK or in little demand. Borrowers will have to renew books by the end of each three-week loan period; renewals may be made online through the "view your library record" function in OBIS.

## Friends of the Library Scholarship



*Katie Shilton '05*

The winner of this year's Friends of the Oberlin College Library Graduate Library School Scholarship is Katherine Shilton, who graduated from Oberlin in May '05 with a degree in history and German studies.

While a student at Oberlin, Ms. Shilton worked in the Oberlin College Archives, where she organized and cataloged the papers of Congressman Donald Pease and co-authored the published finding guide. Ms. Shilton also served as treasurer for OSCA (Oberlin Student Cooperative Association) and worked as a tour guide for the Admissions Office.

In her statement of purpose accompanying the scholarship application Ms. Shilton says "I have a theory about the secret power of archivists. Archivists collect and organize history, shaping our access to, and understanding of, our past. Through culturally relevant organization, archivists create appreciation of community history."

Ms. Shilton intends to pursue a career in archives and will be attending the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

## Teresa Collins is New Mellon Library Associate

Teresa Collins, '05, has been named Mellon Library Associate at Oberlin for the 2005-06 academic year. One of five Associates chosen from a large pool of candidates from the six schools participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (see *Perspectives* #29, 32), Collins will gain in-depth experience in several aspects of academic librarianship during the year.

While a student at Oberlin, where she majored in anthropology with an art history minor, Collins worked as an Art Library assistant, as an undergraduate intern in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program, and as a docent at the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Collins intends to pursue a career in librarianship following her year as an Associate. She notes that her "ultimate goal is to become a special librarian who works to assist museums with exhibits and research requests or to assist television stations with film clips."



*Teresa Collins '05*

## Friends Dinner *continued from page 1*

a regular guest on Firing Line, Nightline, PBS's News Hour, and other television programs, and he provides occasional commentaries for National Public Radio.

Kuttner has taught at Brandeis University, Boston University, the University of Massachusetts, and Harvard University's Institute of Politics. He previously served as economics editor of the *New Republic* and was a founder of the Economic Policy Institute. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including an honorary doctorate from Swarthmore College, the Sidney Hellman Award for social justice advocacy in the public policy arena, the Jack London award for labor journalism, and the John Hancock Award for financial journalism.

## Hammond Wins Mellon Scholarship



Grace Hammond

Grace Hammond '04 has won one of four graduate library school scholarships awarded to graduates of the six schools participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program.

Hammond, who has recently finished a one-year position as Mellon Library Associate at Oberlin (see *Perspectives* #31), has long been interested in pursuing a career in librarianship. In her last semester at Oberlin she was a Mellon Undergraduate Library Intern. She previously served as a library aide and volunteer intern at an elementary school on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota and also worked as circulation assistant for the Oberlin Public Library.

Hammond's passion is working within small communities, developing and providing library services for populations that have historically not had good library services available to them. She notes in her application that she "...would ultimately like to return to the Dakotas to work with Native Americans as a full-time librarian. There are relatively few professional librarians there since there aren't any library schools nearby. I want to work 'on purpose' at a place that some librarians might think was 'a last resort.' I also would like to help connect these libraries to the American Library Association. They are very isolated, geographically and psychologically, from the organization."

Ms. Hammond plans to begin her graduate education next year at either the University of Kentucky or Victoria University in New Zealand.

## LibQUAL+: Staying in Touch with Library Users

Libraries exist to serve specific user communities, so it is essential that they find ways to determine how well they are meeting the needs of their users. The LibQUAL+ survey, developed by the Association of Research Libraries as part of its "new measures" initiative, is a sophisticated survey instrument that allows academic libraries to gather both quantitative and qualitative data from users about their perceptions of library services and resources. The survey, which is specifically designed to identify service quality "gaps," enables libraries to respond in those areas that need improvement.

Last spring the Library administered the LibQUAL+ survey to the Oberlin community. Survey participants provided ratings in response to 40 questions in three broad categories: effective service, information access, and library as a place. Nearly 900 students and more than 50 faculty and staff completed the survey. Students who participated were invited to enter a drawing for an iPod Mini or iPod Shuffle as an incentive.

The results of the survey indicate strong performance by the Library in all of the survey categories. Composite data as well as specific data from undergraduates and faculty show that the Library is rated very favorably.

The Library gets particularly high marks for the service orientation of the staff, who are regarded as knowledgeable, courteous, and responsive:

*I cannot say enough about the wonderful research librarians. At some point I have worked with just about all of them and everyone provided me with invaluable information and knowledge about my resources. They have often taken the time to follow up with me, demonstrated concern and interest in my work, and were always warm and engaging.*

—Undergraduate

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### Electronic Resources *continued from page 1*

Commerce and Navigation, Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, Post Office Department, Public Lands, Claims, and Miscellaneous. It's possible to browse the documents in these categories or to search for specific terms. Publications from this era include inaugural addresses by our first presidents, pension claims from veterans of the American Revolution, and reports from the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific coast.

The *U.S. Congressional Serial Set* includes all of the reports, documents, and journals of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, starting with 1817. Coverage is currently available up to 1872, but will eventually extend to 1980.

While of obvious interest to historians, these databases will serve students and faculty across the curriculum, as the U.S. government has published on nearly every topic. Students of African American studies, anthropology and archaeology, economics, politics, geology, and environmental studies will have rich primary sources at their disposal wherever they are conducting their research. Both of these databases include maps, tables, and illustrations, and provide scanned images of the printed pages.

**LearningExpress Library** offers unlimited access to hundreds of interactive online practice tests that prepare students for exams, including the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, TOEFL, U.S. Citizenship, and civil service positions, as well as courses in math, reading, and writing. All practice tests include instant diagnostic score reports that help students target the skill areas that need the most attention. This resource will be available during a two-year pilot project and is funded by The State Library of Ohio and OPLIN with an additional Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to Libraries Connect Ohio. Off-campus access is available; users must first set up a personal account while on campus (or at an Ohio public library or school).

**Xreferplus** is a fully searchable collection of more than 170 reference books. A unique feature of *Xreferplus* is the concept map, which provides a visual map of how search terms and topics in the *Xreferplus* database are interconnected; the map displays entries that include your search terms, and shows how they relate to each other and to other entries, offering new approaches to the topic. In addition to general reference sources, such as encyclopedias,

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## Electronic Resources

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dictionaries, thesauri and books of quotations, *Xreferplus* covers topic areas such as art, business, geography, history, law, literature, religion, and science. Publishers represented include Blackwell, Macmillan, Collins, Penguin, Routledge, Sage, Thames & Hudson, and Elsevier Science. All titles in the *Xreferplus* database are listed in OBIS.

**American National Biography Online** is a biographical resource on more than 18,000 people from all eras who have influenced and shaped American history and culture. It's possible to search the full text of the entries, as well as by name, gender, occupation, birth or death date, or birthplace of the subject, or by the name of the contributor. A number of Oberlin faculty members, including Professors of History Carol Lasser and the late Geoffrey Blodgett, were contributors. The *ANB Online*, which is updated several times per year, features thousands of illustrations, links to selected Web sites, and a biography of the day. Oberlin's access to the *ANB Online* is funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to Libraries Connect Ohio. Note: Off-campus access is not available.

**Oxford Dictionary of National Biography** includes more than 55,000 biographies of people who shaped the history of the British Isles from the fourth century BC to the year 2001. In addition to searching the database, which includes more than 10,000 portraits, it's possible to browse by themes, such as poets laureate, medicine, eighteenth century India, political refugees in Britain, and cardinals. The library has free online access for one year as a result of our purchase of the print edition.

**AnthroSource** is an electronic archive of the journals of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). In partnership with the University of California Press, the AAA is providing online access to the current issues of 11 of their peer-reviewed publications, including *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, and *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. Access to the back files of these journals and many others is provided via JSTOR.

## LibQUAL+ *continued from page 4*

*The Oberlin College Library is superior in every respect. It has a superb collection, a highly qualified and professional staff and superior services which are well maintained and readily accessible.* —Faculty

*I am thoroughly pleased with the Conservatory Library. I love it!!!* —Undergraduate  
*When I graduate, the library will be near the top of the list of things I will miss the most.* —Undergraduate

The Library is clearly successful in making electronic resources accessible, in providing strong print collections, and in providing tools that allow users to find things on their own.

*In general I am very pleased with the library at Oberlin. Its collections are very strong to begin with, it adds books in my field quickly, and responds well to my requests for purchases.* —Faculty

*I love being able to access databases from off-site. This is extremely useful. I also like how available research librarians are - it's great! I love Oberlin's library and library personnel.* —Undergraduate

*Desktop delivery of a broad array of journal content is essential for scientists. OhioLink has been a godsend. I hope the library will continue to invest heavily in the "virtual library."* —Faculty

*I like being able to listen to reserve recordings from my computer.* —Undergraduate

As a place the Library is viewed in generally positive terms, although there were complaints about temperature and humidity problems in Mudd, comments about noise levels in both Mudd and the Conservatory Library, and criticism of the aging décor and uncomfortable furniture in Mudd. The Science Library in the new Science Center, however, earned rave reviews.

*The science center is wonderful. The library is so inviting that even though I'm a humanities major, I spend most of my library time there.* —Undergraduate

*The Science Library atmosphere is quiet, comfortable, and easy to study in. Mudd, however, gets really hot and can be brutal in these spring months.* —Undergraduate

*The premises [in Mudd] are dingy; there should be a brighter 1st floor with a small coffee shop and a place to congregate. The library should be more of a hub for faculty interaction. I love the library and wish it could be physically upgraded.* —Faculty

*I love the library except that the chairs in the common study areas are extremely uncomfortable and ugly. It seems like Mudd is stuck in some early-70's fashion mistake and really detracts from the amount of time I'm able to sit and study.* —Undergraduate

Students also expressed a desire for more group study space and extended hours of service at all of the libraries as well as improved signage and increased access to audiovisual equipment and collections.

*There needs to be more group study areas, better temperature control, better lighting still, more outlets for laptops and the library really should stay open later! At least 1 for the entire building and 3 for A Level if not all night.* —Undergraduate

In the coming months Library staff will be working to address the concerns expressed by students and faculty.

## Seal Press Archives *continued from page 1*

- Production, which includes correspondence with printers and book cover artists
- Ephemera and Scrapbooks, containing various records of the very early months of the Press, as it was just being conceptualized, and
- Posters and Mechanicals.

A finding guide, which provides a detailed list of the materials in each series, is available in Special Collections and also at: <http://www.oberlin.edu/library/special/women/sealpress.html>.

Lizzie Ehrenhalt, who graduated from Oberlin in May 2005 with a major in Gender and Women's Studies, worked intensively on the inventory of materials for much of the past two years, along with Oberlin graduates Wallis Adams and Elinor Anderson. Ehrenhalt and Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue believe that the Seal Press Archives will hold great interest for Oberlin College students and faculty--and for researchers generally--on a

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# 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, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding Library.

## Annual Membership Categories

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## Library

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## Perspectives

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Mudd Center  
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## Seal Press *continued from page 5*

number of topics. For example, materials in the archives highlight the transition from second- to third-wave feminism (Ehrenhalt notes that Seal Press was publishing titles specifically for and about women of color and lesbians in the very early 80s); the women's press movement; and the survival struggle of a small, independent press in the late twentieth century. The archives will also furnish important information on specific Seal Press authors, such as poet and novelist Barbara Kingsolver, mystery writer Ellen Hart, and author and Seal co-publisher Barbara Wilson.

The Seal Press collection also contains the entire library of Seal Press publications, including foreign and mass market editions; anthologies where Seal works appeared; as well as the smaller archive and book collection of the *Women in Translation* series which Seal Press founded.

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