



Library *Perspectives*

MAJOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RESOURCE PURCHASED

With the recent acquisition of *Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)*, students and faculty now have desktop access to one of the most ambitious digitization projects ever undertaken. Comprising over 180,000 titles (200,000 volumes), the collection includes every significant English and foreign-language title printed in the United Kingdom between 1701 and 1800; it also includes thousands of important works printed in North America during the same era. With the click of a mouse, users are taken directly to a facsimile of the original primary source material, bringing extraordinary access to a wealth of unparalleled primary documents from the 18th century, and opening up new avenues of independent research. The full text of all works in the collection can also be searched by keywords in a variety of ways.

The collection is based on titles listed in the well-known *English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC)*, a comprehensive, international union catalog based at the British Library that lists early books, serials, newspapers, and selected ephemera printed before 1801 from more than 2,000 libraries worldwide. *ECCO* includes books, pamphlets, broadsides, and other ephemeral material from the 18th century. Because of its comprehensiveness, the collection will be a boon to researchers in a wide range of disciplines. Subject categories include history and geography; fine arts and social sciences; medicine, science, and technology; literature and language; religion and philosophy; law; and general reference. Also included are significant collections of women writers, publications on the French Revolution, and numerous editions of the works of Shakespeare.

The library's access also includes *Eigh-*
teenth Century Collections Online: Part 2:

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JAMES MCBRIDE TO SPEAK AT FRIENDS DINNER

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR, musician, and screenwriter James McBride '79 will be the featured speaker following the Friends of the Library dinner on Saturday, October 31.

McBride achieved national prominence with the publication of *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* (Riverhead Books, 1996). A national best-seller, the book tells the remarkable story of his mother's life and his own upbringing as the eighth of 12 siblings in a housing project in Brooklyn. A rabbi's daughter who was born in Poland and reared in Virginia, his mother went to New York on her own as a teenager and married a black Baptist minister. A woman of great strength, she sent each of her 12 children through college to careers as doctors, chemists, teachers, and artists. Her children while growing up were unaware of her family background.

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ANTI-SLAVERY COLLECTION GOES DIGITAL

It is proposed to make in the college library an anti-slavery collection, complete as possible, for the future historian, in which shall be gathered every book, every pamphlet, every report, every tract, every newspaper, and every private letter on the subject. For such a collection nothing is unimportant. Scattered here and there these documents are all but worthless, but gathered in one collection they would be priceless.

—Oberlin Weekly News, Feb. 29, 1884

So wrote the Rev. Henry Matson, librarian at Oberlin College, of the fledgling collection of anti-slavery materials the college began building within just a few years of its founding in 1833. Over time, the collection has grown to an impressive resource of

nearly 3,000 items. Now, thanks to a unique partnership, many of the publications from the library's renowned anti-slavery collection are available online as part of *Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive*, a new digital resource from Gale Cengage Learning, a publisher of online databases and reference works.

In 2006 Gale contacted Oberlin about the possibility of contributing its collection of anti-slavery pamphlets to a proposed new digital archive that would be devoted to the study and understanding of the history of slavery. It wasn't the first time an academic publisher realized the value of making this outstanding collection available more broadly to scholars. As early as the 1960s, the library

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FRIENDS UPDATE

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY received a total of \$42,869 in membership contributions and matching gifts during 2008-09. Membership in the Friends totaled 608 for the year, including 426 regular members who contributed directly to the Friends, 81 members who donated to other library funds or made gifts-in-kind, 53 members who were students or recent graduates, 38 life members, and 8 honorary members.

The Friends designated \$40,046 for the purchase of materials for the library during the year. Acquisitions included several items for the library's special collections; a new JSTOR electronic journal collection; a major digital resource related to the U.S. Congress; a variety of resources for music, science, and art; and major reference works. An additional \$10,000 was designated for the purchase of special collections materials.

Highlights of Friends programs included a well-attended event entitled "Remembering Carnegie: A 100th Anniversary Celebration" held as part of the college's 175th anniversary; an entertaining lecture and reading by novelist Gary Shteyngart '95 at the annual dinner on October 31; a highly successful one-day symposium on the future of the book; and talks by Pamela Brooks (associate professor of African American studies), Julia Christensen (Luce Visiting Assistant Professor of Emerging Arts); local author Mary Haverstock; Sebastiaan Faber (professor of Hispanic studies); Thomas Van Nortwick (professor of classics), and Benjamin Schiff (professor of politics). •

Library Perspectives

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FALL 2009 PROGRAMS

Exhibition

Wooden Synagogues: Recovering History through Art and Architecture

Wednesday, September 2—Friday, November 20, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Lectures and Other Events

"Re-Making History: A Dynamic Learning Experience," a talk by Rick and Laura Brown, Handhouse Studio, Massachusetts College of Art. Followed by the opening reception for "Wooden Synagogues" exhibition in Azariah's Café.

Wednesday, September 2, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 113, Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Dan Chaon, Delaney Associate Professor of Creative Writing, reads from his new novel, *Await Your Reply*.

Thursday, September 17, 4:45 p.m., Craig Lecture Hall, Science Center

"Medieval Portraits: An Oxymoron?" Talk by Erik Inglis, associate professor of art history

Friday, October 10, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium

Friends of the Library Annual Events

Saturday, October 31

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|------------|--|
| 10:00 a.m. | Friends Council and Membership Meeting, Goodrich Room, Mudd Center |
| 2:00 p.m. | James McBride and Jonathan Demme at the Apollo, Apollo Theater |
| 5:45 p.m. | Friends Annual Reception and Dinner, Root Room, Carnegie |
| 8:00 p.m. | Featured Speaker, James McBride, Root Room, Carnegie |

"Living in the Vermilion River Watershed," Talk by Mary Garvin, Donald Longman Professor of Natural Sciences

Tuesday, November 17, 4:30 p.m., Mudd 050, Moffett Auditorium

McBride, continued from page 1

McBride is also the author of two critically-acclaimed novels. *Miracle at St. Anna* (Riverhead Books, 2002) tells the story of four African-American Buffalo soldiers who were trapped behind enemy lines in an Italian village during World War II. *Song Yet Sung* (Riverhead Books, 2008) is also a work of historical fiction that chronicles the escape of a black female slave from Maryland's eastern shore. *Miracle at St. Anna* was made into a major motion picture directed by Spike Lee and released by Disney/Touchstone in 2008. *Song Yet Sung* is also being filmed under Lee's direction. McBride wrote the screenplays for both films.

A successful jazz musician and composer, McBride has written both music and lyrics for several jazz greats, and he also received the Stephen Sondheim Award and the Richard Rogers Foundation Horizon Award for

his musical *Bobos*, which was co-written with playwright Ed Shockley.

McBride was a journalist earlier in his career. His writings on many topics have appeared in such publications as *The Boston Globe*, *People Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Essence*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, and *National Geographic*.

Currently a distinguished writer in residence at New York University, McBride received his bachelor's degree in composition at the Conservatory of Music in 1979 and also earned a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. He received an honorary degree from Oberlin in 2008.

During his visit to Oberlin McBride will also make a joint appearance with filmmaker Jonathan Demme at the Apollo Theater, and he will participate in a jam session with the Jazz Studies faculty and students. •

“FUTURE OF THE BOOK” SYMPOSIUM SPARKS LIVELY DISCUSSION

THE SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK, held April 4, 2009, in Craig Lecture Hall, attracted over 120 participants for a daylong consideration of the complex implications of the transition of books from print to digital formats. Speaker presentations and animated audience discussion predicted a long and enduring future for *the book*, albeit one characterized by tremendous variation in format, editing, publication process, marketing, usage, and ultimate preservation or retention.

Under the auspices of the Harold Jantz Memorial Lectureship, the event featured James Neal, university librarian at Columbia University; Robert Stein, executive director of the Institute for the Future of the Book; and Niko Pfund, vice president and academic publisher for Oxford University Press USA. Director of Libraries Ray English acted as moderator, introducing the speakers and faculty panel members Julia Christensen, Luce Visiting Assistant Professor of the Emerging Arts; Gary Kornblith, professor of history; and Anne Trubek, associate professor of rhetoric and composition.

As the first speaker of the day, James Neal set the tone by speaking of revolution and radical restructuring for authors, libraries, publishers, and booksellers. He posed a multitude of questions, each of which could have various neither right nor wrong answers: “How do we deal with that broad authorship and writer revolution which the web and Internet represent? What do we do with all that *stuff*? And how do we evaluate what is of value and what is relevant to our work?” Neal relayed how the ebook revolution may change the role of the scholarly monograph in faculty tenure and promotion decisions. He asserted that libraries are challenged in this environment to collect and preserve scholarly materials that are born digital. “I think we feel a little bit anxious,” Neal said, as libraries struggle to redefine the “where, who, and how” of the intellectual infrastructure of the library, and learn where and how innovation takes place in the institution.

Niko Pfund noted that the book is a “500 year technology” that has been unbelievably resilient in the face of distractions. He argued that a whole host of alternate delivery methods will not adversely impact reading as a future enterprise; at the receiving end of every email, blog, wiki, Facebook, or Twitter message, there is a reader. In

his view the notion that every one of those readers would be “holed up with *Anna Karenina*” if not for these competing technologies is highly debatable. Pfund described printing on demand as a successful delivery method, asserting, “It is not excusable for a publisher such as Oxford to be sitting on thousands of copyrights, essentially imprisoned because we can’t figure out a way to get them to you.”

Robert Stein presented an introspective and wide-ranging review

of his definition of the book as it has evolved over the decades, beginning with a prologue on the concept of the book as *conversation* between author and reader as old as Copernicus’ *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*, in which marginalia are present in over 200 copies of the first and second editions. His presentation included many examples of early electronic recordings and digital representations of different media, some first produced by Voyager, the company he co-founded in 1984. One of the enduring truths about a book, Stein said, is that it “affords reflection, and that affordance comes from the fact that I am in control of it.” Interaction with the author, the book, the knowledge databases, and the web are all part of his present definition of the book. Connecting people to each other in the “context of content” has become an essential value for producing and disseminating

information. Since print culture arose with the rise of capitalism and individualism, Stein offered the suggestion that human behavior needs to evolve toward more collaboration if we are to survive as a species. Our “definitions of successful attention and scholarship are going to have to change” to reflect communities accessing and interacting with content. This comment elicited lively audience responses regarding the values of different forms of reading and varying desires for different experiences of reflection and discussion of a book.

The faculty panel responded to the issues raised by the speakers, offering their own interpretations and leading discussion into new areas. Christensen noted that most of the symposium participants were at least 40 years old, and the experiences of the students she works with often lead to entirely different perspectives about books and other forms of print. The conversation was far-reaching and thought provoking, ranging from the neuroscience of learning with electronic



Bottom photo: Panelists Robert Stein, James Neal, Niko Pfund, Julia Christensen, Anne Trubek, and Gary Kornblith.

WOODEN SYNAGOGUE EXHIBITION NOW ON DISPLAY

Wooden Synagogues: Recovering History through Art and Architecture, an exhibition coordinated by Rick and Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio in Norwell, Massachusetts, will be displayed on the Main Level of Mudd Center from Wednesday, September 2 to Friday, November 20, 2009. The exhibition, which features artwork completed by Oberlin students, illustrates an exceptional flowering of synagogue architecture that took place in Jewish market towns in Poland from the 16th century until the Holocaust.

The exhibition focuses on two synagogues built in Zabludow (1637) and Gwozdziec (1731). Both are outstanding examples of the hundreds of wooden synagogues constructed and remodeled in Poland from the 17th century until their destruction by the Nazis following Germany's invasion of Poland in World War II. According to the Browns, "the synagogues, with elaborately painted interiors, are among the finest and most complete creations of Jewish art and architecture."

The objects in the exhibition, which were created by students participating in workshops at the Massachusetts College of Art and at Oberlin, include two large-scale construction models of both synagogues and a full-scale model of the Zabludow synagogue log wall and entry door. The centerpiece of the exhibition is a full-scale replica of the Gwozdziec synagogue's wooden bimah (platform for reading the Torah) and eight half-scale replicas of painted ceiling panels from the same synagogue. The replicas of both the entry door and the bimah were hand-made using traditional materials and techniques of carving, turning, joinery, and steam bending. The exhibition



Above: A full-scale replica of the Gwozdziec synagogue's wooden bimah. Below left: Replicas of ceiling panels, 2009 winter term. Below right: Section drawing of the Gwozdziec synagogue.

also includes architectural drawings, historical photographs, diagrams, maps, and text descriptions.

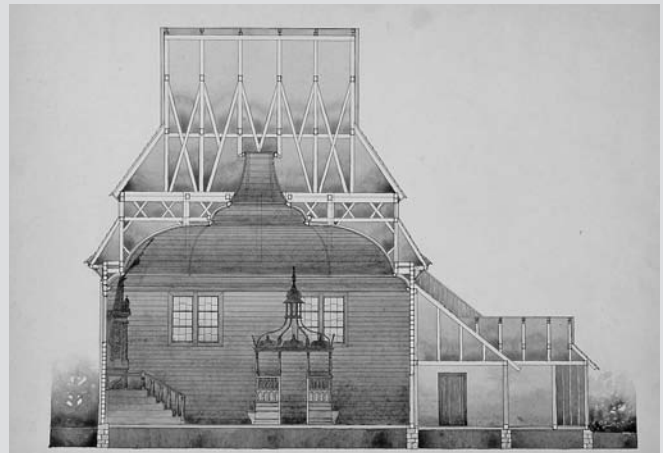
Two of the colorful, elaborately painted ceiling panels were created by Oberlin students during winter-term projects in 2005 and 2009. The panels, which include zodiac symbols, arabesques, animal images, and floral designs divided by white strips inscribed with Hebrew text, were painted by the students using 18th-century processes under the Browns' direction.

Rick and Laura Brown are professors of sculpture at the Massachusetts College of Art and founding directors of Handshouse Studio, a nonprofit organization that educates students in history, science, and the arts through innovative, hands-on reconstruction projects of lost historical objects. The Browns' work has been featured on the Discovery Channel, television stations in England and France, on the PBS program *Nova*, and in *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian* magazines. Their replica of the Zabludow synagogue was displayed in Mudd Center in 2005 along with photographs and drawings of

the Gwozdziec synagogue (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2005).

The Friends of the Library will sponsor an opening reception and lecture by the Browns on September 2. The exhibition is being coordinated in conjunction with Associate Professor of History Shulamit Magnus' course on East European Jewry.

The *Wooden Synagogues: Recovering History through Art and Architecture* exhibition is made possible by a generous gift from the Ring family. •



RECENT GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

The library gratefully acknowledges the following recent monetary gifts and gifts-in-kind:

- **Ellen '58 and Thomas O'Flaherty** have made a generous contribution to the endowed fund they established to support digitization of library collections.
- **Lucy Marks '73** has made a generous gift to the endowed fund she created for classics and English literature.
- **Emily Nord McClintock '76** has made a generous contribution to the Library Endowment Fund.
- **Scott Smith '79 and Wayne Steinmetz '67** have made major gifts to the endowed fund for chemistry they established in honor of Norman Craig '53, emeritus professor of chemistry.
- **Conrad Bahlke '80** has donated to the college archives a manuscript letter written by abolitionist and Oberlin benefactor Lewis Tappan. It is on letterhead that memorializes Elijah Lovejoy, an abolitionist Presbyterian minister and newspaper editor who was murdered by a mob in 1837. The letter is in an envelope bearing the first U.S. postage stamp.
- The estate of **Mary Ann Danenberg** has given the conservatory library a large collection

of musical scores. The gift was facilitated by **Charles Timbrell '64**.

- **Alicia Eler '06** has sent the art library the catalog of an exhibition of art videos entitled "Video as Video: Rewind to Form," along with an accompanying DVD. Eler was a co-curator of the exhibition.
- **George Haley '48** has donated to special collections several fine press books printed by Charles Clinch Bubb, as well as Spanish language manuscripts and books from the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries.
- **Allen Huszti '61** has given the conservatory library a collection of musical scores, opera videos, and recordings.
- **Christine Kermaire** of Charleroi, Belgium, has given a copy of her artist's book, *De Zwijgende Menigte: La Multitude Silencieuse (The Silent Host)*, documenting the Ardennes American Cemetery at Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium.
- **Sharon Patten**, former director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, has donated a collection of art books to the art library.
- **Ann Wallace '71** has given a collection of books related to fashion and costume design.

JUDY FANNIN RETIRES



JUDY FANNIN RETIRED at the end of May, following more than 35 years of service to Oberlin College. Over the years she worked as an administrative

assistant for the Allen Memorial Art Museum, the Counseling Center, and the Department of Art. In 1993 she began working in the main library as secretary to the director, a position she held for four years. She then moved to the conservatory library, where she worked as secretary and acquisitions assistant until her retirement. Through the years, she also assisted her husband Marvin with his art packaging and transportation business, MidWest Fine Art Service and Transportation Company.

One of Fannin's main responsibilities in the conservatory library was placing orders and handling receipts for scores and recordings. This work can be extraordinarily complex, given the size of the collection, the number of international publishers and vendors involved, and the often incomplete information available about

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KEN GROSSI LEADS COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Ken Grossi was recently appointed college archivist following an extensive national search. Grossi came to Oberlin in 1996 as assistant archivist after serving in a similar position at Ohio State University; he was promoted to associate archivist in 2001 and served as acting college archivist during 2008-09.

Grossi characterized the past year as one of transition, with staff members functioning in new roles while the archives became a department of the library. In his new capacity as college archivist, Grossi looks forward to working on a number of diverse initiatives, such as instruction programs for Oberlin classes, research services for visiting scholars, digitizing more materials from the archives collections, and increasing the archives' visibility and community outreach through collaborations with the Oberlin Heritage Center

and Kendal at Oberlin.

Highest priorities for the coming year include developing new online finding guides, updating the archives web site, and beginning to work in partnership with faculty and staff across campus to develop a plan to capture and preserve the vast quantity of electronic records generated by offices, committees, and other groups.

The use of the archives by both local and outside researchers has grown dramatically as more materials have been digitized and described online. The collections draw many scholars every year, especially researchers interested in co-education, James H. Fairchild and related anti-slavery materials, Charles G. Finney, the Anti-Saloon League, and social activism generally. Materials relating to Moses Fleetwood Walker and Carl T. Rowan have been of particular interest recently. The

archives digital image database has recently been expanded to include the entire objects collection (see "New Digital Resources" on page 7 of this issue).

Last spring Grossi was actively involved with a number of Oberlin classes, including one on architectural history for which 26 students documented the history of selected buildings on campus. In addition to a general class session, he met with each student for an entrance interview during which he provided an intensive introduction to appropriate collections and methods for using the college archives. Anticipating more class use of archival materials, the archives staff plans to create web-based instructional guides that will include basic information about using the archives as well as links to resources tailored to course content and requirements. •

ICA TREATS IMPORTANT PORTRAITS

Two significant portraits in the Oberlin College Archives were treated by the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA) of Cleveland this year.

The first is a rare, bas-relief platinotype of Oberlin graduate Amzi Lorenzo Barber (*upper right*), made by the Taber Bas-Relief Photographic Syndicate in San Francisco around 1900. Particles of glass had scratched the photograph's surface and conservation treatment involved removing glass particles and dust from the surface of the photograph, retouching a small loss in the image and reframing. This was the first time the ICA had treated a photo of this type.

Amzi L. Barber (1843-1909) received the A.B. degree from Oberlin in 1867. He was the founder and president of the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, which paved the streets of Washington, D.C. He served Oberlin as the principal of the preparatory division prior to his successful business career, and served as a trustee from 1889 until his death.

The other portrait is an 1862 likeness of Charles Grandison Finney (1792-1875), painted on porcelain (*lower right*). When the archives acquired the oval portrait it had already been broken and re-glued. Treatment consisted of separating the two pieces and replacing old adhesive with conservation grade epoxy. Areas at the edges of the break were retouched, and the plate was fitted into a walnut frame with a felt-padded mat. Finney, the foremost evangelist preacher in pre-Civil War America, was invited to Oberlin in 1835 to establish the theological department. He later served as the second president of Oberlin College, from 1851 to 1866.

Conservation of these portraits, which were on display in the Goodrich Room this summer, was funded by the Hunt Fund for Preservation and Digital Access, established in 2007 by Roland M. Baumann, emeritus college archivist. •



*Archives images:
Top, Amzi L. Barber.
Bottom, Charles G. Finney*

GASTON AWARDED FRIENDS OF LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP



TABIA GASTON '08 has received a \$2,500 scholarship from the Friends of the Library to attend graduate school in library science. Gaston recently finished the 2008-09 year as the

library's Mellon fellow (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2008) and was previously an undergraduate intern in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2008).

As the Mellon fellow, Gaston spent the past year gaining in-depth professional-level experience in academic librarianship. She underwent extensive training in reference services and regularly staffed the research desk in the main library during the school year. She also helped plan the library's biennial book sale. She designed and distributed publicity, coordinated staffing, and worked at the sale, which netted over \$4,000, making

it the library's most lucrative book sale in over a decade. Another of Gaston's projects was assisting conservatory public services librarian Kathy Abromeit in updating the online *Folk Song Index* and working with art librarian Barbara Prior on the library's mail art collection. Gaston also supervised several of the library's Mellon undergraduate interns in a project to rebuild, organize, and catalog the 1,200-volume collection of materials in the Afrikan Heritage House Library, resulting in a more accessible and user-friendly resource for residents. Gaston reports that she is very excited about her future prospects in librarianship. The Mellon fellowship gave her a clear picture of the many avenues she might follow as she pursues her new career. She found it a wonderful and eye-opening experience to work in so many departments in the library over the past year.

Gaston's interest in librarianship stems from her desire to give people "the tools and resources to develop new ideas, opening both their minds and eyes to the vast knowledge

and data that is available." She is particularly intrigued by the potential of new digital media, especially in the arts, and in archiving primary sources in digital formats to make them accessible across the globe. Gaston will attend the library and information science program at the University of Pittsburgh.

Since its inception in 2002, the Friends of the Library scholarship program has awarded over \$20,000 in scholarship funds to 11 deserving recent Oberlin College graduates. •

Book, continued from page 3

devices to the evolution of social norms through rapid communication. The entire day's proceedings, faithfully captured on five CDs, make for fascinating listening. The CDs are available for check out from the Main Library Circulation Desk in Mudd Center; ask for "Oberlin Symposium on the Future of the Book." •

NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES, FEATURES, AND SERVICES

In recent months the library has developed new digital services and features and also purchased significant new digital resources. These include the following:

• **Digital Collections Web Page.** In an effort to improve visibility and encourage use, the library has created a web page that describes and provides access to its various digital collections. These include the Roderic C. Knight Musical Instrument Collection, Mail Art at Oberlin, the Oberlin Missionary Ethnographic Collection, a selection of more than 3,000 Oberlin images in classical archaeology supplied to the *ARTstor* database, and the Oberlin College Archives Digital Collections (Campus Views, Historic Portraits, Oberlin College and Military Service in World War I, the Near East Relief Collection, and Popular Images). For more information visit www.oberlin.edu/library/digital.

• **Institutional Repository.** The library has begun creating an institutional repository called the Oberlin College Digital Commons. The repository is part of the OhioLINK Digital Resource Commons, which is being developed by OhioLINK as a cooperative repository structure for colleges and universities in the state. Institutional repositories are online centers for collecting, preserving, and disseminating in digital form the intellectual output of colleges, universities, and other research institutions. Content may include visual and audio files, research papers, dissertations, masters' theses, scholarly works, data, and manuscripts. One of the common goals among repositories is making research material freely and openly available to the public.

The General Faculty Committee on the Library has recommended that Oberlin adopt an open access policy for faculty research articles similar to those in place at Harvard, MIT, and other universities. If such a policy is passed by the General Faculty, the institutional repository will be used to showcase and preserve a wide variety of faculty research output.

While Oberlin's repository is still in the early stages of development, two collections from Oberlin faculty have already been added—Bruce Simonson's digital geology photographs and Linda Grimm's digital Mayan archeology images. The collections are online at: drcobe.ohiolink.edu/.

• **Electronic Honors Theses.** The library recently invited all academic departments to deposit their honors student papers in the OhioLINK Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center (ETD). For students, the advantages of having their work in the ETD include permanent archiving, wide accessibility, and a permanent URL link that they can use in their resumes or portfolios. Academic departments participating in the program to date include physics, economics, English, Hispanic studies, history, sociology, and politics. Oberlin theses in the ETD will also be linked from the new institutional repository. Visit the ETD Center to see samples of students' work: www.ohiolink.edu/etd/.

• **RSS Feeds For New Materials.** The library now provides RSS feeds for the monthly list of recently received materials. This makes it possible for researchers to "subscribe" to the sections of the list that interest them most (e.g. books on prints and printmaking or Spanish literature, or videos or sound recordings). Previously researchers had to follow the "New In Our Collections" links on the library web site to find out about new materials. With RSS feeds this information can be automatically sent those who sign-up. More information about taking advantage of RSS feeds is available at www.oberlin.edu/library/aboutRSSfeeds.html.

• **OBIS Improvements.** The OBIS online catalog now has a more streamlined display and a new color palette. In many instances users can now see locations, call numbers, and item availability on the initial list of search results. Options for sorting search results by title, author, year of publication, material type, or call number are also available. Another new feature is the ability to "bookmark" a record or share it with others through a variety of social networking sites such as del.icio.us, Facebook, and Twitter.

• **A to Z Maps Online** is a growing collection of more than 4,000 maps of various types: political, physical, outline, population, precipitation, and climate. The site brings together maps from a variety of sources, including agencies of the U.S. government such as NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey. The collection of antique maps includes views of the world starting in the early 16th

century, maps of foreign countries, U.S. states, and thematic maps from the Library of Congress on topics such as conservation and the environment, military campaigns, and cultural landscapes. All maps are royalty-free and may be used without permission for non-commercial purposes. Search the collection at www.atozmapsonline.com/.

• **CQ Press Electronic Library.** The Library has purchased the following electronic books from Congressional Quarterly (CQ): *Guide to Congress*, *Guide to Political Campaigns in America*, *Guide to the Presidency*, *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court*, and *Guide to U.S. Elections*. CQ Press has long been a trusted source of information on American government and politics. See <http://library.cqpress.com/index.php>.

• **International Financial Statistics (IFS)**, produced by the International Monetary Fund, is one of the standard sources on all aspects of international and domestic finance, including data on exchange rates, interest rates, international liquidity, prices, and government and national accounts. The IFS database covers more than 200 countries and contains time series data back to 1948. Researchers can browse, select, and display data as well as export for use in spreadsheets and other statistical analysis packages. See <http://www.imfstatistics.org/imf/>.

Fannin, continued from page 5

these types of works. In addition, she served as the library's secretary and kept things running smoothly as office manager, ordering supplies, sorting mail, answering the telephone, handling correspondence, and reporting and tracking building problems.

Fannin's keen interest in music was one of the reasons she decided to take the position at the conservatory library. She found it to be an enriching environment for expanding her knowledge of music, composers, and instruments. Although she and her husband are both lifelong residents of the Firelands area, they will soon move to Tennessee where they have family. Future plans include joining a hand bell choir directed by her sister and spending time with her two grandsons. She will be particularly missed by her colleagues for her efficiency, attention to detail, cheerful demeanor, and sense of humor. •

CLIMATEQUAL™ SURVEY OF LIBRARY STAFF PERCEPTIONS

LIBRARY STAFF WERE INVITED during a three-week period last spring to complete the ClimateQUAL survey, designed to measure attitudes about organizational climate and diversity. The survey instrument helps libraries better understand staff perceptions, identify best practices, and make improvements in managing organizational climate. Survey questions address library staff views of their library's commitment to the principles that characterize healthy organizations, including fairness, innovation, good communication practices, service orientation, and diversity.

ClimateQUAL was developed by the Industrial and Organizational Psychology Department at the University of Maryland in partnership with the Association of Research Libraries. Staff at the University of Maryland analyze results and provide reports to participating institutions. Oberlin is the first small liberal arts college library to administer the ClimateQUAL survey, and the first to include student staff in the survey population. All libraries that have previously participated are at large universities. Because the survey instrument is still being refined, Oberlin's participation will help the developers improve it for future use in more varied library settings.

Oberlin's participation rate was extraordinarily high, with over 75 percent of regular and student staff completing the survey. By early fall, Oberlin will receive a full report with comparative data from other libraries that also administered the survey during the spring. At that time, results will be shared with all staff, and the library will focus on how best to address any areas of concern that may be identified in the report. This initiative builds on the library's long-standing commitment to diversity. The survey results will provide ideas for how to improve the work climate in the library, and ultimately, to improve the perception of service quality among library users. •

EBONI FRANCIS '97 JOINS REFERENCE AND INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT



EBONI FRANCIS is a new reference and instruction librarian in the main library. She fills the position previously held by Haipeng Li, who left Oberlin in April 2009

to become associate library director at the Newark campus of Rutgers University.

A graduate of Oberlin with a double major in English and African American studies, Francis is excited to be returning to her alma mater: "I'm so happy and proud to join Oberlin's excellent library staff. It seems like my career has gone full circle since I started working in Mudd as a student. I'm excited to

come back home!"

Francis earned her MLS at Kent State University. She comes to Oberlin from Ohio State University, where she worked for four years as the librarian for the Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Studies Library and also as an outreach specialist. At the FAES library she specialized in reference and instruction for the eight departments and schools served by the library and also provided reference service for students in all disciplines at the university. In her most recent role as an outreach specialist she created and implemented a variety of public programs for the OSU libraries as a whole.

Francis was previously an information specialist for the *Columbus Dispatch*. As a student at Oberlin she worked in both the reference and preservations departments. •

BUDGET CHALLENGES IMPACT SUBSCRIPTIONS

The recent decline in the college's endowment has necessitated a modest reduction in the library's information resources budget. In order to keep within the budget projected for the coming three years, library staff worked diligently during the spring semester with faculty in all academic departments to identify journal subscriptions to cancel. Corresponding reductions in other budget categories, including monographs, scores, recordings, electronic databases, and reference works will be made after the journal cancellation project has been completed.

The journal review project began in mid-April and continued through summer, with a focus on lesser-used titles and print versions of journals that are accessible electronically. Complicating the process was uncertainty over which journals and databases purchased by OhioLINK may be cancelled due to reductions in the consortium's budget. The review process identified for cancellation 241 titles in all disciplines, though some of these subscriptions will be maintained until more is known about OhioLINK cuts.

A list of titles recommended for cancellation by each academic department was made available in May for review by all faculty. Journals on the library's general fund as well as some bibliographic and reference

databases are also being discontinued, based on usage data and consultation among reference and instruction librarians and faculty. In most instances there are alternate sources of information that will continue to be available to users.

The full effect of OhioLINK budget reductions, which have been necessitated by a badly declining state economy, will not be known until early in the fall semester. In the final version of the state budget bill, OhioLINK's annual operating budget was reduced by approximately \$1 million, which represents a significant portion of the consortium's budget for electronic resources. While the library will not lose access to most research databases provided by OhioLINK, it is expected that there will be significant cuts in lesser-used electronic journals and books that OhioLINK provides to its member libraries. The library will initiate independent subscriptions to electronic journals in instances where OhioLINK eliminates titles that are needed at Oberlin.

The library continues to provide over 56,000 unique serial titles that are readily accessible from the Journal Finder (see the Quick Links pull-down menu on any library web page). •

Eighteenth Century, continued from page 1

New Editions, just released in 2009. Since *ECCO*'s original release, the *ESTC* project has uncovered a wealth of valuable new material and new holdings of previously unavailable titles. Additionally, rapid developments in scanning technology have enabled *ECCO*'s publisher to digitize works deemed too fragile to be handled at the time of *ECCO*'s original production. Together, these two collections now include over 33 million images of original pages that can be viewed and searched via a web-based platform.

Other useful features include a new Research Tools section with illuminating essays covering key concepts (e.g., reason, religion, democracy, enlightenment, romanticism, revolutions, slavery), finding guides to seminal documents in the collection, an image gallery, and a chronology. The possibilities for cross-disciplinary study and for tracing the earliest uses of words and phrases are particularly exciting for historians and literary scholars. *ECCO* even offers a "Fuzzy Search" option, which searches for results that do not match search terms exactly—an important feature given variant spellings and different typefaces in use in the 18th century. The majority of works in *ECCO* are in English, but because the collection includes materials published in countries under British colonial rule, there are also works printed in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish, and Welsh.

ECCO complements another resource recently acquired by the library, *Early English Books Online (EEBO)* (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2009), which includes 125,000 digitized volumes published in English or in England between 1473 and 1700. As a result of cooperation between the two publishers, it is possible to search titles from both *ECCO* and *EEBO* collections simultaneously. (Users should note that while *ECCO* offers full-text searching functionality for all titles in its collection, currently only about 18 percent of *EEBO* titles are available for full-text searching.) Other significant digital collections that dovetail nicely with *ECCO* are *Early American Imprints, Series I* and *Series II*. These collections, known familiarly as Evans (37,000 items printed 1639-1800) and Shaw-Shoemaker (36,000 items printed 1801-1819), include facsimiles of American

books, pamphlets, and broadsides. Look for all of these resources in the library's list of databases, or search for the collection titles in OBIS.

The library's own special collections include some outstanding examples of 18th-century publications, some of which are highlighted on the library's website: www.oberlin.edu/library/special/historical/18century.html.

Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue works actively with faculty across numerous disciplines to enable students to examine firsthand books, newspapers, prints, and other artifacts from the Age of Enlightenment that are part of the library's rich collections.

The purchase of *ECCO* was made possible through the Jelliffe Fund, an English Department endowed fund, which also supported the purchase last spring of *EEBO*. •

Anti-Slavery, continued from page 1

partnered with Lost Cause Press of Louisville, Ky., to publish approximately 2,500 pamphlets from the collection on opaque microcards (an industry standard at the time, but a format that was later overtaken in popularity by microfilm).

Over the following two years, the library administration negotiated a contract with Gale, whereby the company would use the microform digital masters from the Lost Cause Press edition to create new digital versions of these rare and often fragile documents. In addition to the material contributed by Oberlin, *Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive* also contains substantial content from a number of other important collections, including the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library, and Oxford University. Brought together, these collections form the world's largest archive on the history of slavery, including not only materials published in America, but also items from England, Europe, and other parts of the world.

As part of the college's agreement with Gale, Oberlin will have free access to the complete collection until 2012. At the end of the three-year period, Oberlin will retain

rights to the portion of the digital collection that it contributed to the database. Under the terms of the contract, Oberlin may at that time make these materials openly accessible to scholars via the web. The library plans either to add these works to the OhioLINK Electronic Book Center or combine them with pamphlets from the Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Collection at Cornell University, recently digitized with grant support from the U. S. Department of the Interior.

It has long been a goal of the library to find a way to enhance access to this important collection. Our collaboration with Gale Cengage Learning provided the means to get these materials digitized quickly and eventually make them freely available to scholars through open access archiving, at no cost to the college.

Part I of the collection, *Debates Over Slavery and Abolition*, was released this summer. Consisting of approximately 1.5 million pages of primary source documents, these materials shed light on the abolitionist movement and the conflicts within it, the anti- and pro-slavery arguments of the period, and debates on the subject of colonization, with particular focus on economic, gender, legal, religious, and government issues. A wide range of publications comprises the collection, including books, pamphlets, manuscripts, periodicals, legal documents, court records, private correspondence, and other documents. To assist researchers in making effective use of the archive, a number of useful features have been added, such as essays, research guides, and subject outlines. Three additional modules are planned for future release, covering the slave trade in the Atlantic world, slavery in the U.S., and emancipation. The possibility of having Gale digitize an additional 500 titles acquired by the library since the filming of the Lost Cause Press titles in the 1960s is under discussion.

The online availability of these historic documents, now enhanced with full-text searching capability, will be of enormous benefit to Oberlin students in history, African American studies, religion, politics, and comparative American studies. And due to a carefully crafted contract that preserves Oberlin's long-term rights to the digital content, scholars in the future will benefit as well. •

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.

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