

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

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Introduction


To a scholar visiting the Research Archives after a long absence, the library can feel like a second home, seemingly unchanged since last sight. The series volumes still ring the Elizabeth Morse Genius reading room and the journals remain on the minstrel's gallery. This familiarity allows for easy and efficient use of research time in our stacks, but it also disguises the fundamental changes that have taken place in the Research Archives over the last five years. The collections space in the new wing monograph stacks has been doubled through the installation of compact storage; journal space has increased 30 percent through the reorganization of shelves in the map room and storage room in the minstrel's gallery; the Gregory Areshian collection was accommodated by moving our staff into a single office; our library catalog data was migrated to the EMu software system; and an entirely new online web front end was designed and launched for public access to our catalog data; and just this spring the Research Archives received a new homepage through the Oriental Institute website redesign project. These developments will continue to have a positive effect on our collection management for decades to come.

Preparing the *Annual Report* every July provides an opportunity to reflect on not just the past year's successes, but also on our mission, what we are doing to accomplish that mission, and how to target for improvement. The mission of the Research Archives is to acquire, care for, and provide to patrons a collection of library resources serving the research needs of scholars in ancient Near East studies at the Oriental Institute and around the world. Such an endeavor is long-term, designed for generations to come. Many of the books in our collection contain the *scholia* of past scholars and students today regularly conduct research with volumes that once belonged to James Henry Breasted, Wilhelm Spiegelberg, Erica Reiner, and others. In caring for the collection, space has always been a premium and we have been quite successful at expanding our stacks both through large-scale infrastructure projects such as compact storage installation, but also through simple reorganization with very little budgetary impact. Patron services remains excellent, from in-house reference work to providing digital copies of material to patrons electronically. Two areas in which the Research Archives could improve from investment are information technology and preservation.

Technology within the Research Archives is an expensive necessity. As every dollar spent toward new computers or digital imaging equipment directly affects the number of books we purchase, we have remained frugal with such expenditures, replacing aging computers and Xerox scanners once every five to seven years. Preservation is an ever pressing issue. As a result of massive budget cuts in 1994, no material in the collection was sent for binding until the fall of 2007. Since then, we have dedicated a modest portion of the yearly budget to binding paperback volumes, rebinding where appropriate, and providing archival storage boxes for aging material. Research Archives staff and intern students have also begun to collaborate with the Special Collections department of Regenstein Library for help and training in order to provide the appropriate care for our books. The overwhelming majority of the collection consists of works published in the twentieth century. However, we have material as old as a 1548 edition of *Titi Livii Patavini Latinae Historiae Principis* (fig. 2), just a century

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Publications

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Research Archives (2009)

The Research Archives of the Oriental Institute is a non-circulating collection of books and other publications relating to the ancient Near East for the reference and research of Oriental Institute faculty, staff, students and members. Its materials span the history of the ancient Near East from prehistoric times through the Late Antique period and reflect the interests and work of its users and benefactors.


The Research Archives is housed in the former quarters of the old Oriental Institute Library. The Reading Room, which was described by James Henry Breasted as "the most beautiful room in the building," retains most of the original decorative elements and furnishings from when the Oriental Institute was completed in 1931. Of particular note are the "Lotus" Window in the south wall, with its Egyptian-style design, the wood carvings on the north wall, and the elaborately painted ceiling. Overlooking the Reading Room is the Minstrel's Gallery, which now houses the periodicals collection. In recognition of generous support for the Oriental Institute Legacy Campaign, the Research Archives Reading Room is named the Elizabeth Morse Genius Reading Room.

The Oriental Institute has made a substantial commitment to complete the holdings of the Research Archives in the fields represented by the scholarship of its faculty and staff. To this end, individual volumes and complete runs have been (and continue to be) purchased to complete our holdings in serial and periodical publications. With holdings of over 60,000 volumes, the Research Archives is a unique resource for the study of the Ancient Near East.

Further information can be found in the [Brief History of the Research Archives](#) as well as in the [Introduction & Guide](#).


Articles

- 2013 Provisioning the Temple of the Muses: Expanding Capacity in the Research Archives through Compact Storage Installation
- 2009 A Feast of Knowledge: Libraries and Archives, Past and Present
- 2008 Recovering the Lost Story of the Rise of Man: The Research Archives of the Oriental Institute




Introduction & Guide to the Research Archives

View a brief history of the Research Archives and its policies. Download the Introduction and Guide >



Search Our Collections

Browse over four hundred and fifty thousand entries that represent complete analyses for all cataloged Research Archives materials. Search Our Collections >



Featured Of Research

Professor Walter Farber has published a new, comprehensive edition of the Lamaštu incantation, Lamašur An Išbon of the Canonical Series of Lamaštu Incantations >

Figure 1. The new homepage of the Research Archives



Figure 2. 1548 edition of *Titi Livii Patavini Latinae Historiae Principis*

after the invention of the printing press. Such rare books require special attention. In the coming years we will dedicate more resources to improving archival storage, preservation, and binding to ensure a sustainable home for the life of the collection.

Acquisitions

The library resources provided by the Research Archives are necessary for the successful operation of the Oriental Institute. Therefore, ongoing acquisitioning will be a primary concern of the head of the Research Archives. Nearly 1,100 volumes were acquired during the last academic year, a slight increase over our annual average of 1,000 volumes (see table 1). We were able to fill a number of holes in our back issues, such as volumes of the journals *Baal* and *Levant*. Significant volumes in ancient Near East studies appear daily and we strive to obtain as many of the primary and secondary resources as possible within our budget. In some ways, accession policy has expanded over the last five years. Most important are the publications of primary source material, such as excavation reports and text editions, and linguistic resources, such as dictionaries and grammars. However, the Research Archives strives to acquire additional resources such as important conference proceedings, collected works, monographic studies, and even basic overviews. The printed material in our fields continues to increase, despite and in addition to the rapid expansion of digital resources. Although difficult budgetary choices must be made, our collection continues to grow in very positive directions, remaining a choice destination for scholarly research into the languages and cultures of the ancient Near East.

Table 1. Research Archives Acquisitions July 2012–June 2013

Month	Number of Accession Lots	Monographs, Series, Pamphlets	Journals	Total Volumes
July 2013	61	37	40	77
August 2013	52	49	27	76
September 2013	40	57	22	79
October 2013	35	62	12	74
November 2013	51	62	21	83
December 2013	29	36	19	55
January 2014	34	184	22	206
February 2014	43	41	22	63
March 2014	64	55	37	92
April 2014	51	49	27	76
May 2014	44	45	20	65
June 2014	36	118	27	145
Totals	540	795	296	1,091
	Total Volumes			1,091

Online Catalog

Since the fall of 2007, the online catalog has grown by more than 300,000 records, averaging at least 30,000 records per year (see table 2). In 2013–2014, we added another 30,000 records. We are approaching the 500,000 mark, a significant achievement that Chuck Jones and Terry Wilfong estimated in 1992 would represent a complete index of our collection (see the *1991–1992 Annual Report*, p. 133). In the twenty years since, the field and the library have undergone exponential growth as a complete index would today consist of several million records, if not many more. Retrospective cataloging of the collection continues, with the massive collection of pamphlets and journals underway.

Table 2. Catalog records

Year	Number of Catalog Records Added	Total Number of Catalog Records
2013–2014	30,000	490,000
2012–2013	40,000	460,000
2011–2012	30,000	420,000
2010–2011	30,000	390,000
2009–2010	40,000	360,000
2008–2009	63,000	320,000
2007–2008	62,000	257,000
2006–2007	28,000	195,000
—	—	—
2003–2004	10,000	130,000

The screenshot displays a search results page for the Research Archives. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Research Archives', 'Museum Collection', 'Photo Archives', and 'Search All'. Below the tabs, a search bar shows 'Call Number' and '1 - 5 of 9' results. A 'Filter by:' section has 'Images' selected. A 'Refine Results' sidebar on the right includes facets for Format (Series Volume (4), Monograph (3)), Authors (Armstrong, Jeremy (1), Batto, Bernard F. (1), Beal, Richard H. (1), Ebeling, Jennie R. (1), Fellu, Lutz (1), More), Publication Year (Last 10 years (3), Past 50 years (7)), Journals (No facets), Series (No facets), Publisher (Eisenbraun (5), Brill (3), The American University in Cairo Press (1)), and Multimedia (Images (9), Documents (1)).

#	Result	Media
1	<u>Literature as Politics, Politics as Literature: Essays on the Ancient Near East in Honor of Peter Machinist</u> by Vanderhoof, David S. (Editor); Weitzer, Abraham (Co-Editor) Wesna Liles Eisenbraun, 2013 Monograph Stacks AON; Machinist	1 Image
2	<u>The Akhetaten Colossus of Karnak</u> by Manolche, Lisa (Author) Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2010 Monograph Stacks AON; Manolche	1 Image, 1 PDF
3	<u>Creation and Chaos: A Reconsideration of Hermann Gunkel's Chaoskampf Hypothesis</u> by Scurlock, Johann (Editor); Beal, Richard H. (Co-Editor) Wesna Liles Eisenbraun, 2013 Monograph Stacks AON; Scurlock	1 Image
4	<u>Household Archaeology in Ancient Israel and Beyond</u> by Yazar-Landau, Assaf (Editor); Ebeling, Jennie R. (Co-Editor); Mazou, Laura B. (Co-Editor) Culture and History of the Ancient Near East: - 50- Lekden Brill, 2011 Series Stacks S/GHNE/50	1 Image
5	<u>Rituals of Triumph in the Mediterranean World</u> by Spalinger, Anthony J. (Editor); Armstrong, Jeremy (Co-Editor) Culture and History of the Ancient Near East: - 63- Lekden Brill, 2013 Series Stacks S/GHNE/63	1 Image

Figure 3. The online collections search showing records under the Research Archives tab with images of book covers, downloadable PDFs, and user facets on the right

Every record in our catalog is open and available to the public through the Oriental Institute collections search page (oi-idb.uchicago.edu). Records can be downloaded by users for use in their databases or bibliographic software systems such as Zotero and EndNote. This year the ability to view and download Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) and images of book covers was added to the online catalog (fig. 3). A search criterion and facet were added so that users interested only in records with associated multimedia could quickly and easily filter results. Next year, we hope to add the functionality to further integrate the Museum Collection and Research Archives records, allowing users to efficiently navigate to bibliographic entries for a museum object or to all the museum objects treated by a particular publication. The vision for this digital resource is grand, but we are excited by the quantitative and qualitative improvements made in our digital tools over the past year.

We continue to add links to online material, both new and old. Currently, there are more than 115,000 links to online material in the Research Archives catalog (roughly 25% of all catalog records). Journal articles available online, either through subscription or open access, constitute the bulk of these links. However, we also link to items available elsewhere on the Internet, including books, dissertations, series, and manuscripts.

Table 3. Links to journal articles

Journal	Links	Access
<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	15,326	JSTOR
<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	12,180	Ebsco
<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>	11,518	JSTOR/AJA
<i>Antiquity</i>	11,324	Antiquity
<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>	7,366	JSTOR
<i>Syria</i>	5,890	JSTOR
<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>	5,284	JSTOR/JNES
<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>	4,307	JSTOR
<i>Biblica</i>	3,805	Open
<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>	3,714	JSTOR
<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft</i>	2,785	Open
<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>	3,439	Ebsco
<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>	3,239	Open
<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>	2,953	DigiZeitschriften
<i>Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus</i>	2,346	Open
<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)</i>	2,420	JSTOR
<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>	1,496	JSTOR
<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>	1,842	Open
<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>	1,273	JSTOR
<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	1,092	Open
<i>Iraq</i>	1,097	JSTOR
<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>	1,090	JSTOR
<i>Aula Orientalis</i>	1,086	Open
<i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i>	845	Peeters
<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	815	JSTOR
<i>Iran</i>	729	JSTOR
<i>Forschungen und Berichte</i>	698	JSTOR
<i>Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean</i>	750	Open
<i>Oriental Institute News & Notes</i>	458	Open
<i>Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan</i>	447	Open
<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society</i>	378	Open
<i>Bulletin: Societe d'Egyptologie Geneve</i>	258	Open
<i>Sudan and Nubia</i>	227	Open
<i>Ars Orientalis</i>	220	JSTOR
<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>	189	Open
<i>Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology</i>	75	Open
<i>British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan</i>	66	Open

Table 3. Links to journal articles (cont.)

Journal	Links	Access
<i>Studien zur Altägyptische Kultur</i>	65	JSTOR
<i>Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne</i>	56	Open
<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>	47	Open
<i>ASDIWAL: Revue Genevoise d'Anthropologie et d'Histoire des Religions</i>	41	Open
<i>Studia Orontica</i>	37	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Journal</i>	37	Open
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin</i>	31	Open
<i>Mitteilungen der Sudanarchäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin</i>	29	Open
<i>Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum</i>	25	De Gruyter
<i>Cuneiform Digital Library Notes</i>	19	Open
Total	113,414	

Resources on the Web

In addition to the online catalog, the Research Archives maintains a series of open access online resources.

Introduction & Guide

http://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/research_archives_introduction%26guide.pdf

An updated introduction and guide to the Research Archives contains a brief history, a guide to the Research Archives collection, and instructions for using the online catalog.

Online Resources

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/online-resources>

Links to important online resources within the fields of ancient Near East studies are provided on this page with a focus on major tools and large databases.

Acquisitions Lists

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/acquisitions-lists-research-archives>

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

Annual Reports

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/research-archives-annual-reports>

Annual Reports for the Research Archives are available from 1969 to 2013.

Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/oriental-institute-staff-newsletter>

From February 1998 until March 2005 an Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter was circulated among faculty, staff, students, and the wider academic community. In the interest of preservation, remaining copies of the newsletter have been scanned and archived online.

Dissertations

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago. The following were added during the 2013–2014 academic year:

- Aaron Michael Butts. *Language Change in the Wake of Empire: Syriac in Its Greco-Roman Context*. 2013.
- David Michael Calabro. *Ritual Gestures of Lifting, Extending, and Clasping the Hand(s) in Northwest Semitic Literature and Iconography*. 2014.
- Humphrey Hill Hardy II. *Diachronic Development in Biblical Hebrew Prepositions: A Case Study in Grammaticalization*. 2014.
- Foy D. Scaif. *Passports to Eternity: Formulaic Demotic Funerary Texts and the Final Phase of Egyptian Funerary Literature in Roman Egypt*. 2014.
- Randy L. Shonkwiler. *The Behdetite: A Study of Horus the Behdetite from the Old Kingdom to the Conquest of Alexander*. 2014.

Dissertation Proposals

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations/dissertation-proposals>

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertation proposals completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

Adopt-a-Book Campaign

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/adopt-book-campaign>

The Research Archives has launched an “Adopt-a-Journal” campaign in order to increase support for the Research Archives. Donors are recognized through personalized book plates made in their honor and placed in volumes of their choosing.

Social Media Sites

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-Archives-of-the-Oriental-Institute/153645450792>

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

The Research Archives now maintains an official page on Facebook. Information about recent publications of Oriental Institute scholars or reviews of recent Oriental Institute publications is distributed through this page. 1,961 individuals currently follow the Research Archives through this presence on Facebook.

Donations

The Research Archives has been the lucky recipient of several substantial book and library donations over the past few years, some of which we were only able to fully process this year. Such donations fill in gaps in the collection, allow us to replace aging volumes, and add to our funding through the sale of duplicates. We would like to sincerely thank the following people, their families, and/or estates for generous donations of books, pamphlets, and other material to the Research Archives (in alphabetical order): Debbie Aliber, Michael Flom, Judith Franke, Ernest A. Gunsfeld, Hollis A. De Henseler, Anne Mininberg, and Bruce Williams.

Internship and Practicum Program

During the past year, the Research Archives has become a popular destination for student interns studying library science at nearby colleges and universities. As an academic library serving the needs of a research institute, an internship or practicum in our library offers librarians and archivists in training a unique range of experience and training. Unlike larger university or state libraries, the Research Archives is managed by a single librarian, the head of the Research Archives, who oversees budgets, staffing, acquisitions, information technology, database administration, online content management, digitization, preservation, and patron services. Participating students gain valuable insight into running a research library as well as an introduction to the bibliographic side of ancient Near East studies. During the past year we have had the pleasure of hosting the following students: Su Hyeon Kang on an internship through the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (September 2013–December 2014), Michael Bencur participating in a practicum for Dominican University (January–May 2014), and Rebecca Segall from the University of Chicago, who received a summer Metcalf Internship (June–August 2014).

Volunteer Program

Over the past five years, the Research Archives has developed an incredibly robust volunteer program. We supervise a staff of volunteers working on a variety of tasks and projects, including cataloging and digitization for the Research Archives as well as digital asset management of the multimedia files for Museum Archives and the Photography departments. Much of their work can be seen by visiting the online collections search of the Oriental Institute (oi-idb.uchicago.edu). These volunteers are amazing people who dedicate many hours to helping us improve aspects of our data curatorship and produce useful informational tools for a public audience. We cannot thank them enough and the following list of names does little to reflect just how much they are appreciated here (in alphabetical order): Stephen Adamcik, Laura Alagna, Rebecca Binkley, Ray Broms, Betty Bush, Andrea Dudek, Irene Glasner, David Henson, Su Hyeon Kang, Malvika Jolly, Amanda el-Khoury, Paula Pergament, Roberta Schaffner, Gabriele Correa da Silva, Art Thorson, Sierra Wilson, David Zhao.

Visitors

The Research Archives continues to be a place of international collaboration among the community of scholars studying the ancient Near East. Over the past year, we had research visits from the following individuals (in alphabetical order), and I apologize for anyone who may have been missed: Jan Bremmer, Ed Castle, Eva von Dassow, Peter Dorman, Grant Frame, James Hoffmeier, Alexis Jankowski, Jackie Jay, Chuck Jones, Cindy Jurisson and her class at the University of Chicago Lab Schools, Isaac Kalimi, Michael Kozuh, Jacob Lauinger, Massimo Maiocchi, Lina Meerchyad, Adam Miglio, Miriam Müller, John Nielsen, Maggie Paddock, Elaine Fetyko Page with Jacob Hill and the Great Chicago Libraries class of Elmhurst College, Stephanie Rost, Seth Sanders, JoAnn Scurlock, Jon Tenney, Philip Venticinque, Matteo Vigo, John Wee, Jennifer Westerfeld, Terry Wilfong, Avi Winitzer, Irene Winter.

Acknowledgments

The Research Archives is by necessity a collaborative effort. It could not exist without the support from the Oriental Institute and University of Chicago. Oriental Institute faculty and staff continue to be excellent resources for book recommendations, ideas for improvement, and donations. Our volunteer staff has provided the means for us to make incredible progress on large-scale projects that would be impossible without their help and pooled labor. Each and every day, members of the Research Archives staff help run the library, catalog our books, and answer patron requests. Despite their busy student schedules, they bring an invigorating spirit and professional attitude that makes our small office a pleasant place to work. To Laura Krenz, Taylor Coplen, Min Won Song, Young Bok Kim, and Andrea Brown, I extend much thanks and appreciation.
