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Research Archives
Charles E. Jones

One of the primary goals of the Research Archives' staff during the past year has been to identify and correct gaps and areas of particular difficulty in the access to our collections through the card catalogue. As a part of our ongoing (and undoubtedly endless) project to clarify and simplify our catalogue, we have achieved a great degree of success. Difficult citations have been clarified, spurious series have been dissolved and recatalogued more appropriately, and individual volumes have been gathered and restored to their rightful places on the serials shelves. ▼ We have, in addition, identified areas of inadequacy in the Research Archives in terms of both bibliographical and physical resources. These include certain text series, encyclopedic and biblio-graphic references and items of hardware. I hope that we can begin to whittle away on this list in the near future. ▼ In the late summer of 1987, we installed a Macintosh computer in the office of the Research Archive. At that time, I expected a personal computer to fulfill some but not all of the functions desirable in a computerized library. After a year of intensive interaction, I have come to the following conclusions: 1 - Use of a computer radically simplifies the administration of the Research Archives; and for this purpose even a personal computer, such as the Apple Macintosh now in use, is entirely adequate. 2 - The development of a full scale on-line bibliographical database is a real possibility, but a personal computer is not adequate to perform the requisite tasks. ▼ Consequently, I have begun the second phase of investiga-tion: To determine the availability of hardware-software packages which would permit us to produce and manage a database of essentially unlimited size and with sufficient power to enable scholars using the Research Archives to have 'immediate' access to detailed bibliographical information. ▼ The Research Archives is an extraordinary resource. In breadth and scope it is unequalled outside of a dwindling number of large university libraries with bibliographers dedicated to the ancient Near East. Because of our breadth, and because of our relatively large resident constituency of scholars who advise and contribute as well as use the Research Archives, we are uniquely suited for the development of an on-line bibliographic tool without equal. As a long term project, the construction of the database has several phases. Primary is the cataloguing of the collections of the Research Archives in a standard form. Secondary phases include the analysis of all periodicals and other serials; detailed cross-referencing by language, area,

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culture, historical period, etc.; keying to published objects and text identifications, type of object and genre of text, museum collection, archaeological site.

As an auxiliary to this large scale project, we have begun a users-group of individuals and offices in the Oriental Institute who are interested in sharing bibliographical data collected for various projects. Using a personal computer program package called ProCite, scholars can collect in a standard form small scale bibliographies which, when shared through the group, can give access to otherwise uncollected and disorganized bibliographical resources. Among the resources now available in this form is the catalogue of the library of the late Professor Klaus Baer, compiled and prepared by my very able assistant Terry Wilfong.

A cquisitions in the Research Archives continue to concentrate almost exclusively on current publications. Sensitive to the needs of our constituency, we do attempt to acquire older publications if requested. However the high prices of the antiquarian book market and the generally poor state of preservation of older material on the ancient Near East makes most

purchases unjustifiable. We continue to be indebted to the Publications Coordinator and the Editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* for their willingness to support our exchange efforts.

ACQUISITIONS STATISTICS 1987-1988

	April 1987 - March 1988	Total
Monographs	592	10,032
Series	150	4,113
Journals	236	7,295
Total Books	978	21,440
Maps	43	
pamphlets	153	