

To: Members of the Philosophy Department
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: January 5, 2010
Re: What's happening in the Library (news for Winter 2010)

Happy New Year! Have you made any resolutions for 2010? Well, here's a resolution you may not have considered: this year I will organize my citations—you know, the authors and titles of all those books and articles people have told me to read. Keeping this resolution is easier than you realize. The Library offers support for three citation management tools—[RefWorks](#), [Endnote](#), and [Zotero](#). Lately, I have been using Zotero almost exclusively. It's a free Firefox extension that is easy to install and use. I like that it can capture some data automatically from webpages, including the [library catalog](#) and certain journal article databases such as [Philosopher's Index](#). I also like being able to attach documents to the citation. This way, I don't have PDFs of articles and my notes on them in a variety of locations on my computer. I keep them organized and accessible within Zotero. You can use Zotero to cite within Microsoft Word and OpenOffice. The latest beta version has a “magic wand” that allows you to generate a record for a citation by simply entering a numerical value such as an ISBN. It also has a sync feature so that you can access your citations from different computers. This is very handy because I work from more than one computer (my laptop at home and my desktop at the office). To get started you can attend a library [workshop](#) on January 12th or just go to <http://www.zotero.org/> where you'll find helpful tutorials and everything you need to get started. An investment of just fifteen minutes will pay off immediately.

The [Special Collections Research Center](#) (SCRC) has launched its first [web exhibits](#), including one “born-digital” exhibit and several online versions of exhibits previously shown in SCRC galleries:

[The Darwin Centennial Celebration](#): Through archival documents, recordings, and film footage, this “born-digital” web exhibit explores the landmark conference held at the University of Chicago in 1959 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*.

[Book Use, Book Theory, 1500-1700](#)

[Integrating the Life of the Mind—African Americans at the University of Chicago, 1870-1940](#)

[“On Equal Terms”—Educating Women at the University of Chicago](#)

[Our Lincoln—Bicentennial Icons from the Barton Collection of Lincolniana](#)

[Printing for the Modern Age—Commerce, Craft and Culture in the RR Donnelley Archive](#)

The Library has been a very busy place over break. There has been much progress on the [Mansueto Library](#) construction site. Last week, I watched from the fourth-floor stacks of Regenstein as support beams were put in place. After a brief closure to allow for construction of a pathway to Mansueto, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) reopened January 4. Construction in SCRC and adjacent sections of Regenstein continue. Please follow signage that directs visitors along the altered pathway to SCRC, and consult the [SCRC construction webpage](#) for up-to-date information about any service disruptions. The Library has introduced a new visual identity and logo that you'll see on the top of our [website](#). We have also been working to improve [Lens](#), a new search engine to find library books and resources. We continue to welcome your feedback on Lens and have created a [Lens news webpage](#).

Speaking of feedback, throughout the academic year, the Library engages in assessment activities to help us improve our resources and services. These activities range from quick surveys to more lengthy usability testing. If you would be willing to help us, please contact [me](#) or [Agnes Tatarka](#), the Library's Assessment Director, for more information or to be added to the list of potential participants.

I can be reached by email bbidlack@uchicago.edu, by phone 773-702-8442, or in person in JRL (Joseph Regenstein Library) room 461. If you have any questions or concerns about the Library, please do not hesitate to contact me. Best wishes for winter quarter!