

To: Members of the Divinity School Community
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: October 5, 2009
Re: What's happening in the Library (news for Autumn 2009)

Greetings from the Library! A special welcome to you if you are new to the Divinity School; welcome back to those of you who have been away for a while; and to those who never left, you're always welcome at the Library. Each quarter I write a short newsletter to the Divinity School community to keep you updated on library news, events, resources, and services. You can view the "[back issues](#)" on the [religion subject page](#).

This quarter, I will be leading three sessions of a workshop entitled "Finding and Using Resources in Religious Studies":

Tuesday, October 20 from 9:00-10:30 AM
Monday, November 2 from 3:30-5:00 PM
Friday, November 6 from 9:00-10:30 AM

All workshops are scheduled to meet in room 153 in Regenstein Library, but this may change due to the ongoing construction of Mansueto Library. Each session will cover essentially the same content, including how to find primary source materials, how to find the right journal indexes for your project, how to use ATLA Religion Database, and how to manage the citations to all those articles and books you need to read. To register for any of these sessions, please contact me (bbidlack@uchicago.edu). Include your paper topic(s) or research interest(s) so that I can tailor the session to your work. For a list of other library workshops, see the Library's events [calendar](#).

Of course the biggest news from the Library is the ongoing construction of the [Mansueto Library](#), which is being built because the Library has run out of space to house our collections. If you haven't tried [MansuetoCam](#), take a look at the latest in the construction of the "egg at the Reg." In December, work will begin to connect the Mansueto Library to Regenstein Library. One area that will be impacted (literally) by this connector is the [Special Collections Research Center](#) (SCRC), which will close during winter break from December 14 to January 3. If, like me, you are a "regular" at the SCRC, please check for [updates](#) on the construction before your visits between autumn and winter quarter. SCRC staff members are happy to assist you in any way they can. While the physical work of construction continues, the library staff is doing a great deal intellectual work, selecting and preparing materials for transfer from Regenstein to Mansueto. We are also planning how to arrange collections in Regenstein once we have staging space created from the initial load of Mansueto Library. The overall goals are to maintain our strong research collections and to create a hospitable space in which to use them. While the Regenstein bookstacks will house most of our browsable collections (e.g., monographs), the lower part of Mansueto will house materials that are not so dependent upon browsing (e.g., bound journals, especially those that are available in electronic format). The ground level of Mansueto will house a conservation lab (essential to the stewardship of our strong collections) and a reading room. As Judith Nadler, the Director and University Librarian has noted, "The University of Chicago Library's collection of immense scholarly value will be housed, preserved

and delivered in a state-of-the-art environment at the heart of campus”
(<http://mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/director.html>).

In terms of resources, the Library now has access to the new [Oxford Biblical Studies Online](#). We also have several [free trials](#) underway. Two may be of particular interest—the American Antiquarian Society Historical Periodicals Collection (from EBSCO) and the Holocaust Collection (from the National Archives and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum). Your feedback on these free trials will help to inform the Library’s decision on whether we should purchase these resources so please let us know what you think.

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 in this way, 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 autumn quarter!