

To: Members of the Divinity School Community
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: April 20, 2009
Re: What's happening in the Library (news for Spring 2009)

This quarter, I'd like to update you on the Library's response to the current economic situation and highlight an upcoming workshop and a current exhibit. As Judi Nadler explains in her [budget reduction initiative statement](#), "In response to the economic downturn and in compliance with new University budget guidelines, the Library is taking a systematic approach to reducing its expenditures for both the short- and long-term. We are taking this approach with care, and with a strong commitment to maintaining the quality of our resources and services and to continuing as a vital component of the University's academic programs." One of changes I would like to bring to your attention is the cancellation of print journal subscriptions when there is a *reliable* electronic alternative. Not only will this initiative reduce subscription costs, but it will also save the costs of processing print subscriptions, including checking in new issues, binding, and shelving. Electronic access is often more timely and efficient than print access. I am happy to work with you to make the most of our online subscriptions (e.g., setting up notifications when new issues are released, creating lists that can be posted on Chalk pages or websites). In fact, "Making the Most of the Library's Electronic Journals" is the topic of a workshop I will lead on Wednesday, May 13 from 9:00-10:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, but this time doesn't work for you, please let me know, and I'll schedule an additional session. To register for this workshop, please contact me (bbidlack@uchicago.edu). For a list of other library workshops, see the Library's events [calendar](#).

If you've checked out any library books lately, you've probably noticed that you didn't get a paper due date slip. As of March 30, the Library stopped printing paper due date slips for quarterly or indefinite loans in order to promote environmental sustainability and reduce expenses. In addition to conserving resources by reducing the use of paper, ink, and equipment, this change will save users and staff time by simplifying the checkout process. You will continue to receive due date slips for reserve items and other short term loans, making such items easier to identify. As in the past, you can check the due dates and times for all items you have checked out and renew quarterly loan items by logging in to [your library account](#).

Be sure to check out the current exhibit in the Special Collections Research Center. The large, main gallery features "'On Equal Terms': Educating Women at the University of Chicago," which will be on display until July 14, 2009. Here's a description from the [SCRC website](#): "Since the University welcomed its first students in the fall of 1892, women have had very different stories to tell about the experiments in co-education and faculty diversification; the experience of the classroom, the laboratory, the dorm, and the streets of Hyde Park; the issues of mentorship, intellectual community, and career advancement; and the opportunities for political action and community involvement, for friendship, romance, and sexual experimentation. Visitors can also check out an iPod from the front desk of Special Collections and listen to excerpts from a group of more than 70 oral histories with alumnae conducted by The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago." Please note that there will be no exhibits in the main gallery next year (2009-10) due to construction for the Mansueto Library. In fact, this will be the last exhibit in the main gallery as it is currently configured so be sure to stop by before July 14th. Also note that SCRC will be impacted in other ways by the Mansueto construction.

The latest information will be posted on the [SCRC website](#). If you plan to use SCRC classrooms or materials in the fall, be sure to contact the SCRC staff. During construction the Center may experience reduced hours and limited seating availability, but staff members will be happy to assist you in any way they can.

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 don't hesitate to contact me. Best wishes for spring quarter!