

To: Members of the Divinity School Community
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: January 2, 2007
Re: What's happening in the Library (Winter 2007)

Greetings from the Library! In the spirit of New Year resolutions, I'd like to share a few of my **goals for the 2006-07 academic year**. I have already made progress toward some of these goals, but would like to take this opportunity to share them and solicit input from the Divinity School community.

First, I will be continuing my revisions of a few of the **Library's subject web pages**. Last quarter, I mentioned the revised religion page (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/rel/>). Recently, I have revised the Library's **philosophy page** (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/philosophy/>). In addition, I will be working on the Hebraica and Judaica subject page (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/judaica/>). In collaboration with other bibliographers and subject specialists, I would like to replace this page with a broader, more interdisciplinary **Jewish Studies page** and welcome any input. I plan to have a working page up by June.

Second, I am evaluating the religion and philosophy **reference collections** in the fourth-floor reading area in order to update some materials with more current editions, as well as replace any missing volumes. If you have noticed missing volumes, let me know. As an aside, please note that although the reference collections are non-circulating, designed for use within the library, with special permission materials can circulate for a short period of time. If you'd like to borrow something from the philosophy or religion collections for a few days, please contact me so I can arrange this with the circulation staff.

Third, I have been developing and leading **bibliographic instruction workshops**. Last quarter, I led two workshops on electronic resources in religious studies. This quarter, in addition to repeating that session, I will be offering workshops on **BibleWorks**. I'll advertise these via the ATDS and DSA listservs. If you are interested, feel free to contact me with a list of days/times that would work for you. Ideas for other workshops are also welcome.

Finally, I am drafting **collection development policy statements** for philosophy and religion. This goal is related to the Library's larger strategic planning process. Although the Library has a collection development policy, it was written primarily for librarians and accreditation visiting teams rather than library users. My goal is to write brief (two to four pages), updated, jargon-free policy statements which would be posted on the Library's website and linked to the philosophy and religion subject pages. In order to ensure consistency among the many disciplines within the Library's collection, a small working group within the Library has developed a template for these policy statements. As I work on my statement for religion, I'd like to schedule times to talk with you not only about the statement, but also about collection development and evaluation in general. I'll use next quarter's newsletter to continue our conversation and to propose some times for our ongoing discussion.

I can be reached by email bbidlack@uchicago.edu, by phone 773-702-8442, or in person in JRL (Joseph Regenstein Library) room 461.

Best wishes for winter quarter and the New Year!