

To: Members of the Divinity School Community
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: February 7, 2011
Re: What's happening in the Library (news for Winter Quarter 2011)

Greetings from the Library! I hope you're recovering from the Blizzard of 2011. As you may know, each quarter I write a short newsletter to the Divinity School community to provide updates on library news, events, resources, and services. You can view the "[back issues](#)" on the Library's [religion research guide](#). This quarter I'd like to mention a recent microform purchase by the Center for Research Libraries, announce a few library workshops, and then start a conversation about e-books.

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL), located in Hyde Park, will purchase nine microform sets through this year's Purchase Proposal Program. These sets will be available soon for use at CRL or through interlibrary loan. There are two sets that may be of particular interest to researchers in religious and Jewish studies: Early Printed Books on Religion from Colonial Spanish America 1543/4 - c.1800, and Ha-Arets. Tel Aviv (1919-63). For more information on these purchases, see the [notice on CRL's website](#).

During winter quarter, I will be leading two workshops. Both will meet in Regenstein Library room 127. As you enter the library, it's the room to your left before the turnstiles, near the stairs to the Ex Libris coffee shop.

Monday, February 14 from 10-11:30am, "Starting Your Dissertation": This workshop will provide tips on how to (1) organize your citations and research, (2) locate resources you may not have used in the past, including ProQuest Dissertations and Theses (formerly Dissertation Abstracts), and (3) formulate specific search strategies for the library catalog, WorldCat, and various journal databases.

Thursday, February 17 from 9-10:15am, "Using ATLA Religion Database and Other Journal Indexes": This workshop will help you (1) determine what journal databases to search, (2) construct more effective searches, and (3) organize your search results. To register for either workshop, please send a message to bbidlack@uchicago.edu. If you are working on a specific topic or paper, please include a brief description so that I can tailor the workshop to your needs. If these times do not work for you, please let me know, and I'll schedule another workshop session or an individual research consultation. If you have ideas for a library workshop (e.g., finding early American newspapers, sermons, etc.), please let me know. For a list of other library workshops, see the Library's events [calendar](#).

Now, let's start a conversation about e-books. What do you think of when you hear the term e-book? The term can mean a variety of things. For consumers, an e-book often means a book that can be downloaded to a device such as a Kindle, Nook, or iPad. For libraries, it often involves a web-based interface supplied by a third-party vendor such as [ebrary](#) and [NetLibrary](#). An e-book can also be a digitized version of an older book such as those found in [Google Books](#), [HathiTrust](#), and the [Internet Archive](#).

In the library world, the transition from print to electronic format/versions occurred first for journals. During the past few years in response to the downturn in the economy, the Library cancelled many of its print journal subscriptions. Important reference works (which often benefit

from cross searching) have also become available in electronic format. Sometimes they are published simultaneously with a print version, but not always. In the past few years, digital libraries such as [Google Books](#), [HathiTrust](#), and the [Internet Archive](#) commenced and continue to grow daily. In addition, there has been an increasing demand from consumers for e-book readers such as the Kindle, which provide a wonderful alternative for popular and general reading.

The Library also has a growing number of e-books available via the ebrary web-based interface, HathiTrust, and Google Books. There are records to books supplied by ebrary in the traditional library catalog, as well as in Lens, which also provides links to Google Books and HathiTrust. For example, at this time over 1,400 University of Chicago Press titles are now available through [ebrary](#) so if you need to consult *The Craft of Research* or my good friend Kate Turabian (both published by the University of Chicago Press), try using ebrary. The Library also provides access to some important works from Brill and Cambridge University Press via ebrary. In addition, we have a six month trial to [Ebrary Academic Complete](#), which includes some important religious studies titles. Because I sometimes I have a choice—print or e-book—when I'm selecting materials for the Library, I would like to hear your thoughts on e-books. What do you expect from an e-book? Are there particular interfaces or platforms that you like? How much text can you read in electronic format? When do you prefer print? Why? Please [contact me](#) and share your experiences with e-books.

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!