

To: Members of the Divinity School Community
From: Beth Bidlack, Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy
Date: April 25, 2011
Re: What's happening in the Library (news for Spring Quarter 2011)

Greetings from the Library! 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 give you an update on our construction projects, announce a few library events, and highlight a few digital collections (books and manuscripts) that may be of interest.

First, I am pleased to report that our [Special Collections Research Center](#) (SCRC) has reopened in its remodeled space. To celebrate this occasion, The SCRC readers' services staff and I will be hosting an **open house in SCRC on Monday, May 23 from 10:30am until 12:00pm**. You'll be able to see the beautiful new exhibit area and renovated group study and classroom spaces. There will also be a small display of archives, rare books, and manuscripts from SCRC. What are your favorite items from SCRC? What items have you used in your research and teaching? Let me know. I'd love to include them in the display. Also, you'll see that the [Joe and Rika Mansueto Library](#) is nearing completion. This is a very exciting and busy time at the Library. In the next few weeks, we will be starting to load materials into the automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS). Because we need work and swing space on the A-level of Regenstein, the dissertations on that level will be among the first volumes loaded into the ASRS. After that, materials from SCRC, Crerar Library, and D'Angelo Law Library will be loaded. Materials from Regenstein Library will be loaded over the summer.

On May 9, SCRC will open its first **exhibition**—"[Firmness, Commodity, and Delight: Architecture in Special Collections](#)"—in its new exhibit space. The exhibition will close July 29. Currently, there is a wonderful [exhibit](#) on the first floor of Regenstein Library: Tibetan Art & Culture: An Exhibition of Photographs and Drawings. This exhibit runs through June 3.

This quarter I'll be leading two library workshops: Monday May 9 from 9-10:30am and Tuesday May 10 from 9-10:30am in Regenstein room 127 (near the stairs to Ex Libris, the student-run coffee shop). Both sessions will focus on how to start your research paper and will include a discussion of how to narrow your topic and find relevant sources. To register, email me at bbidlack@uchicago.edu. If these times do not work for you, please let me know, and I'll add another session or we can schedule 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](#).

On March 30, the **Library launched a [news site](#)** with features, news, and announcements about Library offerings and events. Topics range from new acquisitions and featured electronic resources, to teaching and learning at the Library, to renovations and the making of Mansueto. The site has a number of subject-focused sections—including Business & Economics, [Humanities & Social Sciences](#), [Law](#), [Science](#), and [Special Collections](#). Users are invited to subscribe to RSS feeds that deliver Library-wide news or focus on specific subject areas.

There are **three electronic resources** I'd like to highlight this quarter. First, the Library now subscribes to [Cambridge Histories Online](#) (including the Cambridge histories of the Bible, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism) and [Cambridge Companions Online](#) (including companions to American Judaism, Aquinas, atheism, Augustine, biblical interpretation, Christian ethics, and classical Islamic theology, just to name a few). These print series have been essential reference resources for years. Now they are available online. The Library has acquired a complete [digitization of the *Analecta Hymnica Medii Aevi*](#), a 55-volume work first printed from 1886-1922. This monumental publication of more than 45,000 pages is the largest collection of medieval Latin sacred poetry in existence. In previous newsletters, I've mentioned **HathiTrust**, a partnership of major research institutions and libraries working to ensure that the cultural record is preserved and accessible long into the future. There are now over fifty partners in the Trust. As the number of digitized volumes increases, so does the number of "public collections." For example, there is a collection of Islamic manuscripts at the University of Michigan: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/shcgi/mb?a=listis;c=1961411403>. You can browse this and other public collections at <http://www.hathitrust.org/>.

The Library currently has **trials for several electronic resources**, including American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Historical Monographs series 1 & 2, American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collections, and several Islamic studies titles published by Brill. To access these trials and others, go to our [trials page](#). As always, I welcome your feedback on any trial products.

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 spring quarter!