



PERSPECTIVES

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Johnnetta Cole '57 to Speak at Friends Dinner

Johnnetta B. Cole, President of Spelman College, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner on Saturday, November 5.

Dr. Cole has established an extraordinary career as an anthropologist, teacher, author, higher-education administrator, and lecturer, becoming one of the most important figures in the American higher education community.

After graduating from Oberlin as a sociology major in 1957, Dr. Cole earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from Northwestern University. She subsequently held teaching posts at Washington State University (where she was named Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year); at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (where she became Professor of Afro-American Studies and Anthropology and

also served as Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education); and at Hunter College (where she was Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program).

Dr. Cole was named President of Spelman College in 1987. As the first African American woman President of Spelman, she has led the historically black college for women on a path of sustained improvement into the ranks of America's best colleges. At her inauguration, Drs. Bill and Camille Cosby gave \$20 million to Spelman, the single largest gift from individuals to an historically black college or university.



Johnnetta B. Cole

Dr. Cole has written extensively in the fields of anthropology, anthropological education, African

—continued on page 7

Table of Contents and Document Delivery Services Available to Faculty

This fall the Library is making available to all faculty two information services from the UnCover Company.

The first, UnCover's new Reveal service, allows faculty to receive through electronic mail the table of contents listings of selected journals. Faculty who wish to use the service set up a simple profile

that contains their electronic mail address and a list of journals they wish to monitor. They choose the journal titles from the UnCover database, which contains bibliographic information for over 17,000 current scholarly journals in all subject fields. The table of contents of each new issue of those journals is then sent to the faculty

member automatically by electronic mail soon after its publication.

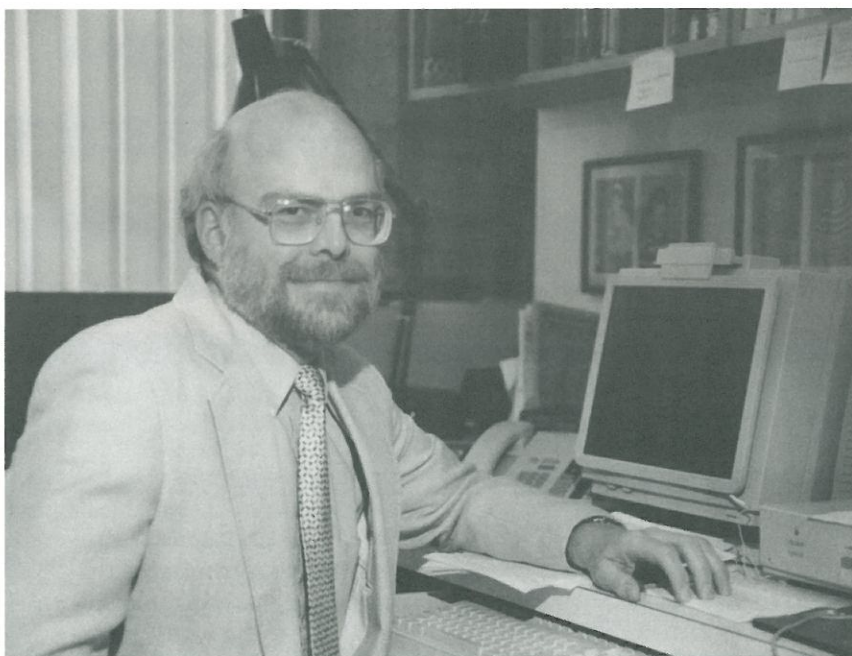
The second service is an expansion of the subsidized document delivery service that was begun on an experimental basis with selected science departments last year (*Perspectives*, May 1994). With this service faculty can order

—continued on page 5

From the Director — Planning for the Year 2000

The inauguration of Nancy S. Dye as Oberlin's thirteenth president marks the beginning of a new phase in the College's history. The advent of her administration and the process of institutional priority-setting that naturally occurs at such a juncture provide a fitting occasion for the Library to rearticulate its plans for the future. Accordingly, in the weeks ahead I will be developing—in consultation with library staff, the faculty library committee, and the College administration—an "Oberlin College Library Plan for the Year 2000." While my work is only preliminary at this point, I expect that the plan will address six main areas.

1. Collection Development. In my conversations with faculty and students I am continually reminded of the extraordinary resources represented by our library collections. As but one example, I recently listened to a faculty member speak enthusiastically about our collections relating to World War I, many of them the result of the personal efforts of President King. The Library's holdings were one reason why the faculty member decided to develop a new course on that topic. As a librarian I am very aware that collections such as the one he mentioned did not simply appear at Oberlin. They were built over time through the patient and persistent efforts of faculty and library staff, working together in close cooperation and with sustained financial support from the College. Continuing to develop the extraordinary print resources represented by the Library's collections will remain one of the Library's highest priorities in the years ahead.



Ray English

2. Collection Preservation. As the faculty member's comments illustrate, our older collections represent an exceptional resource for the College community. Yet the age of those collections also presents extraordinary challenges. While the Library has maintained an active program of collection preservation for over a decade, we must expand it to address the problems posed by deteriorating acidic paper that was used in printing most of our older books and journals. The Culpeper Foundation preservation grant, which we received last year, is only an initial step in that direction.

3. Information Technologies. As it happened, the above-mentioned faculty member and I touched on the library collections only in passing as part of a discussion on another topic. In the two days immediately following our encounter I exchanged five electronic mail messages with him about our other concern. The speed and flexibility with which we addressed the question at hand illustrates one of the enormous advantages brought by the widespread communication of information in

electronic form. As I have noted in earlier issues of *Perspectives*, emerging information technologies are quite literally revolutionizing the way in which modern academic libraries function. There is no doubt that Oberlin, as an institution, must do much more to tap the advantage of these newer technologies—no doubt, too, that the Library will be a central part of that effort.

4. Increased Curricular Integration. The implementation of newer electronic technologies and the continuing expansion of printed information present real challenges for our Library's users, especially our students. The complexity of the environment they face, including the extraordinary volume of resources from which they must choose and evaluate relevant information, requires of Oberlin an improved job of teaching its students how to take best advantage of information resources, both those that are housed in our local collections and those that are accessed electronically. This effort will require building even closer ties between the Library and the curriculum,

—continued on page 7

Progress On New System

The process of implementing the Library's new integrated system (see *Perspectives*, May 1994) is now well under way.

In late July the Innovative Interfaces software and a test database of approximately 20,000 of the Library's bibliographic records were installed on the system computer, a Digital Equipment Corporation Alpha 3000. Training for members of the Library staff began at that time and will continue through November. By the end of September the Library's full database, containing well over 700,000 bibliographic records for all holdings that have been converted to machine-readable form, will be loaded and the acquisitions database will be transferred to the integrated database. Library staff will begin cataloging recent acquisitions on the new system at approximately that time, and a reorganization of technical services staff, designed to take advantage of the integrated functionality of the new system, will also be implemented.

In January, following the conversion of the circulation database, the new system will be made

—continued on page 7

Recent Gifts-In-Kind

Stephen E. Ostrow '54. Head of the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress, has given the Clarence Ward Art Library over 500 volumes from his personal collection of art books. His gift includes rare art exhibition catalogs and a 1755 edition of Carlo Cesare Malvasia's *Le Pitture Di Bologna*.

August Meier '45, Emeritus Professor of History at Kent State University, has donated the final portion of his collection on the history and culture of India, bringing the total number of volumes in his gift to over 1,000 volumes. Professor Meier has also given two handsome Indian paintings that are now on display behind the Circulation Desk in the Main Library. The paintings are contemporary copies of originals done for the Mogul Court in Northern India.

Artist **Peggy Badenhansen** has given the library her artwork "Sarcophagus Triptych," which is displayed on the second floor of the Main Library.

Former President **S. Frederick Starr** has donated to the Library over 1,500 volume from his personal collection. His gift includes numerous volumes on Russian history, art, architecture, and contemporary events.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting and Dinner Events Saturday, November 5, 1994

11:00 a.m.	CD-ROM network demonstration and hands-on workshop Main Level, Main Library
noon	Lunch for Friends Council and out-of-town guests Main Library Offices
1:30 p.m.	Friends Council and Annual Membership Meeting Goodrich Room, Main Library
3:30 p.m.	Johnnetta Cole Informal Question & Answer Session and Book Signing Meeting Room Oberlin Public Library
5:45 p.m.	Reception Root Room, Carnegie
6:30 p.m.	Dinner Root Room
7:30 p.m.	Program Root Room
8:00 p.m.	Address by Johnnetta Cole '57 Root Room

Friends Update

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library have had another successful year, continuing their fine record of membership contributions, programming, and support for the Library.

At the end of the fiscal year the Friends of the Oberlin College Library counted 519 current members. This total includes 3 honorary and 12 life members, 339 contributing members, and 165 members who contributed to other library gift or campaign funds or donated gifts-in-kind. Contributions made specifically to the Friends organization during the 1993-94 academic year totaled more than \$23,000.

Programs sponsored by the Friends—including lectures by dramatist Romulus Linney, authors Nien Cheng and Nat Brandt, and deacidification specialist Andrew Barron were enthusiastically received.

The organization also continued its strong support for the Library's collections by assigning \$15,000 to purchase significant acquisitions and materials in several new curricular areas.

Developing Oberlin's Library Collections

Oberlin College is justifiably proud of its library collections, which contain approximately 1.7 million items in all formats—books, bound journals, government documents, scores, recordings, microforms, and video resources. The size of the Library's collections places Oberlin in the uppermost ranks of the nation's college libraries. Who builds these collections and how are decisions made concerning what items to acquire?

Collection development at Oberlin is a collaborative effort involving librarians, faculty members, and students. Each academic department and program is assigned a librarian who functions in a liaison role providing communication between the department and the Library. The librarians working in this role have primary assignments elsewhere in the Library, perhaps in reference or cataloging, for example. Their collection development responsibilities include directing to departments information needed for selection decisions (such as publishers catalogs and new book announcements), receiving recommendations for purchase, and insuring that needs are met and the budget expended in a timely fashion.

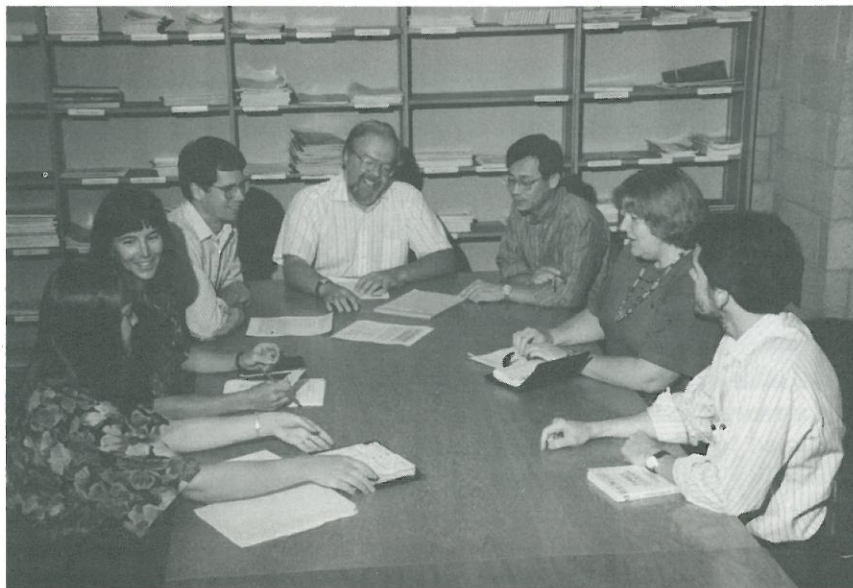
The percentage of selection done by faculty members on the one hand and librarians on the other varies by discipline. In the sciences, for example, faculty do most of the book selection, with the Science Librarian facilitating

their work by providing them with selection resources. In the Art Department, both the Art Librarian and the faculty select materials for the collection. The same is true in Russian language and literature, where the liaison librarian

purchase, certainly the majority of student requests do result in orders being placed.

Overseeing and coordinating the collection development activities of librarians, faculty members, and students is the Collection Development Librarian, Eric Carpenter.

In addition to providing liaison with the English Department (his area of subject specialty), Eric is particularly active in monitoring interdisciplinary subjects in the humanities and social sciences—areas that might not attract the sustained attention of single



Collection Development Librarian Eric Carpenter (center), liaison librarians Cynthia Comer, Alison Ricker, Alan Boyd, Haipeng Li, Allison Gould, and John Sluk

has been active with the faculty in selecting materials for the collection. The key to the success of this enterprise is collaboration between the faculty and librarians. There is simply no substitute for the subject expertise of individual faculty members. Similarly, the bibliographic expertise of the Library staff insures that once materials have been selected they will be ordered, received, cataloged, and processed quickly and accurately.

Students too play an important role in the collection development enterprise. Students are encouraged by the Library staff to submit requests for materials in all formats. Sometimes these student requests provide a clue to unmet needs or the first indication of research projects just getting underway. While the Library cannot promise that every student (or faculty) request will result in an immediate authorization for

departments but in which a selection of scholarly writings is crucial for current and future work by Oberlin faculty and students.

Not even the largest academic libraries can acquire all currently published scholarship. The art of collection development is to understand the curriculum, the research and teaching needs of the faculty, and the interests of students so well that librarians and faculty can select from the universe of publications that subset of scholarship needed most immediately to support and nourish the intellectual life of the College.

Given the necessity to match collection development time and dollars to very specific needs, it stands to reason that most selection work involves sifting through sometimes large lists of new publications and discriminating on a title-by-title basis what is most needed at Oberlin. Ninety percent

—continued on page 5

Developing Collections...from page 4

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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Women's studies in the 1990s: doing things differently?, ed. by Joanna de Groot and Mary Maynard. St. Martin's, 1993. 182p index ISBN 0-312-09122-2, \$39.95

Coedited by a historian and a sociologist (both Univ. of York), who also contributed the first and last chapters, this collection contains six additional chapters written by a British economist, a Turkish journalist, two British women's studies scholars, a German political science professor, and a German historian. The impetus for the collection is entry into the third decade of "modern feminist scholarship and the practice of 'women's studies.'" Arrival in the third decade requires self-reflection, and the editors pose a set of useful challenges for this critique. Although each contribution is useful, several do not address the central questions: some describe a particular research project; another considers what "women-centered politics" might mean. Two very useful essays are those by Trev Broughton, who discusses her own transition from the Department of English to the Centre for Women's Studies, "lock, stock and typewriter" and that of Uta Schmidt, who analyzes the meaning, method, and theory of feminist history. Fatmagul Berkay raises the important question of how feminist scholarship will face the issue of pluralism. The conclusion poses a broad set of challenges that women's studies (i.e., feminist scholarship) will face in the 1990s. Each chapter concludes with extensive bibliography and notes. Graduate; faculty; professional.—S. Reinharz, *Brandeis University*

CHOICE APR '94

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392

A new publication review card published by Choice magazine, one of many sources used to select materials for the collections

of the Library's collection development work proceeds in this way. There are other ways, of course, to bring new materials into the collections. One of the most beneficial is to work closely with reputable library vendors so that they supply the Library with, for example, all the new works of certain authors whom we have decided ought to be collected comprehensively. Such an author-based collecting profile has been drawn up by the Department of Romance Languages for Francophone Africa. Similar plans may soon be put in place for other subject areas, such as German and Russian, where, for specified authors, their poetry, short stories, novels, and plays will arrive regularly without our having to order each title individually. The Conservatory Library acquires much of its twentieth-century scores collection in just this way. Such "approval plans" save the time of librarians and faculty members by allowing items of known need to arrive automatically.

In all of the Library's collection development work, written collection development policy statements for each department and program provide guidance to

faculty and librarians alike, specifying at which of five levels Oberlin will collect various subdisciplines, chronological periods, formats, and languages. These levels range from a minimal level to the comprehensive level. In the area of physical education, for example, Oberlin no longer offers a major, the department having been reorganized into athletics and physical education. Minimal collection support is sufficient in such an area. The second level of support is conceptualized as a "basic information level," an example for Oberlin being our collection of world travel guides—not extensive, but up-to-date and adequate to provide basic information for the travel of students and faculty. By far the most common level of collecting at Oberlin is a third level entitled "study or instructional support." Such collecting is aimed at supporting a discipline in a systematic way but at a level less than research intensity. Collecting at the research level, the fourth level of collecting, is pursued sparingly at Oberlin, though there are some areas in which our collecting attempts research coverage. Nineteenth-century American history is supported

at this level, building on existing strengths in nineteenth-century American periodicals and Abolitionist materials. In the Conservatory Library, the collected critical editions of individual composers are collected at a research level, the texts represented by these editions supporting both performance activities as well as historical and theoretical inquiry. Oberlin's collection development policies, which have just recently been completed, provide invaluable guidance in the overall enterprise of shaping responsive, focused library collections.

Collection development work is at the heart of the Library's mission. The collections are a community resource and their development is a community responsibility requiring a stable and predictable level of funding and an institution-wide commitment to the systematic and continuous work of selecting from a universe of information those materials that will support the intellectual life of Oberlin College.

Delivery...from page 1

electronically the full text of journal articles they identify by searching the UnCover database or using the Reveal table-of-contents service. Articles are transmitted to a fax machine of their choice within twenty-four hours.

Since this latter service does incur an expense for the Library, faculty should use it only when they urgently need an article from a recent journal that the library does not own and there is not sufficient time for it to be delivered through normal interlibrary loan channels.

Interlibrary Loan: An Old Idea Reaching New Heights

When you think of Interlibrary Loan, chances are you conjure up a fairly basic scenario: that of one institution borrowing books and articles from another institution to fulfill requests from its patrons for materials it doesn't own. While this is certainly the basis of what all modern ILL units still do, the actual functioning of interlibrary loan today is based upon a variety of electronic services and networks, most of which remain invisible to the library user.

The interlibrary loan operation at Oberlin College Library is a good example of how the function of borrowing and lending materials has changed and evolved in the information age.

The system upon which the vast majority of our lending and borrowing transactions takes place is OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center, which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. OCLC maintains the largest bibliographic database in the world with holdings of over thirty million bibliographic records from approximately 18,000 libraries. Our Library uses the OCLC network to transmit requests for loans electronically to other libraries across the nation, and we receive requests from other institutions in the same way. The system has the capacity to forward requests automatically to a series of libraries until one responds that it will loan a particular item.

Within OCLC many consortial agreements exist among groups of libraries to facilitate resource sharing. Oberlin is a member of two such consortia—the Oberlin Group



Michael Palazzolo, Interlibrary Loan Borrowing Supervisor, sending a book request to other libraries

(composed of 73 leading liberal arts college libraries and so-named because the library directors of those institutions first met in Oberlin in 1986) and NEOMARL (the Northeast Ohio Major Academic and Research Libraries).

In addition to OCLC, the interlibrary loan staff at Oberlin regularly searches countless other electronic resources in the process of verifying patron requests; these resources include RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network), another large bibliographic database, and many CD-ROM indexes.

The methods by which we receive and send out materials has also evolved greatly over the years. While some books and photocopies still travel by traditional mail or UPS, an increasing number now arrive and depart via a statewide courier, Pony Express (see May 1994 *Perspectives* article), with an average delivery time of one day.

The most dramatic changes in ILL over the last several years, however, have occurred in the area of article transmission. Not only are articles and requests routinely faxed between ILL offices for quick delivery, but electronic systems such as Ariel, in use at Oberlin since last fall (*Perspectives*, September 1993), make the delivery of articles almost instantaneous. Using these kinds of systems, our interlibrary loan office is often able to deliver articles to our users within a day of their requests.

If one thing is certain for the future of interlibrary loan, it is that change will continue at a rapid rate. The changes we'll see at Oberlin over the next several years will include an increasing exploration of and reliance on rapid, commercial document delivery services, and participation in the statewide resource sharing system OhioLINK.

Library Perspectives, a newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Library, is issued three times a year. Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin A. and Emiko Custer. Editors: Ray English, Jessica Grim, and Dan Zager.

New CD-ROM Databases

Over the summer the Library added eight new titles to its CD-ROM network. The new titles include three broad, interdisciplinary indexes, *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, *Humanities Index*, and *Social Sciences Index*; and the more subject-specific *PAIS International* and *Religion Index*. Also added were three U.S. government sources: *GPO CAT/PAC: Index to Government Publications*; *NESE: National Economic, Social & Environmental Data Bank*; and *NTDB: National Trade Data Bank*. With the addition of these titles there are now seventeen CD-ROM indexes on the network, which can be searched from any of eight workstations in the Main and Science Libraries. Plans call for making the CD-ROM network available

over the campus fiber-optic network in late September or October. Access over the campus network will mean that these sources will be searchable from the Art and Conservatory Libraries, as well as from networked computers in private offices and dorms across campus.

The Library also makes available a number of non-networked CD-ROM titles (i.e. sources which must be searched from a single in-library workstation). The newest addition to this category will be a title now on order for the Science Library, *NIST: Critical Stability Constants of Metal Complexes*. The CD-ROM version of this important chemistry source will provide data previously available only in a cumbersome, out-of-date print format.

From the Director...from page 2

expanding the role of both the library staff and the faculty in teaching Oberlin students the value of information resources and the critical thinking skills necessary to make wise use of them.

5. Facilities. Oberlin is for the most part blessed with a superb library physical plant, but one that is aging steadily and that is inadequate in some respects. Several facilities projects must be completed if we are to continue implementing newer information technologies, have adequate space for managing the Library's collections, and serve the needs of our users.

6. Staff. As I believe library users are well-aware, our Library is fortunate to have developed a staff of exceptional quality. An essential key to our continued success in every area—from tra-

ditional collection development, to the expansion of electronic resources, to the teaching and curricular role of the library—is the maintenance of a library staff of superb quality. A number of measures, both internal and external to the Library, will be necessary to insure continued success in this area.

This is an exciting time for the entire college community. I look forward to working with President Dye's administration to address these library and college concerns in the years ahead. I remain confident that Oberlin will continue in the forefront of the nation's liberal arts college libraries, fulfilling our traditional functions while meeting such challenges as those posed by the new information technologies.

—Ray English, Director of Libraries

Progress...from page 3

available to the public and OBIS will then have a brand new look! Public orientation and training

sessions for the "new OBIS" will be announced at that time.

Focus on Reading

A selection of prints from the art collection of Donald Oresman '46 will be exhibited in the Allen Memorial Art Museum Ripin Print Gallery from October 15 to December 4. Entitled "Reading Between the Wars: Books and Readers 1915-1950," the exhibition illustrates Mr. Oresman's interest in art works that feature books and reading. Mr. Oresman is a member of the Oberlin College Library Visiting Committee.

In conjunction with the museum exhibition the Library will mount a book and photograph exhibit that illustrates the reading interests of library staff.

Cole...from page 1

American studies, and women's studies. Her two textbooks are used widely in college and university anthropology classes. In her most recent book, *Conversations: Straight Talk With America's Sister President* (Doubleday, 1993), she speaks directly to the concerns of African American women.

Among her many activities, Dr. Cole served on President Clinton's transition team as Cluster Coordinator for Education, Labor, and the Arts and Humanities. She currently chairs the board of the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education as well as the president's assembly of the United Negro College Fund. Dr. Cole is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including thirty honorary degrees from American colleges and universities.

In addition to her talk following the Friends of the Library dinner on Saturday evening, November 5, she will participate in an informal question and answer session and book-signing at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon.

JOIN US. BE A FRIEND.

The Friends of the Oberlin College Library provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the library fulfill its fundamental role in the academic life of the college.

Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter (published three times a year), invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding library.

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