



LIBRARY

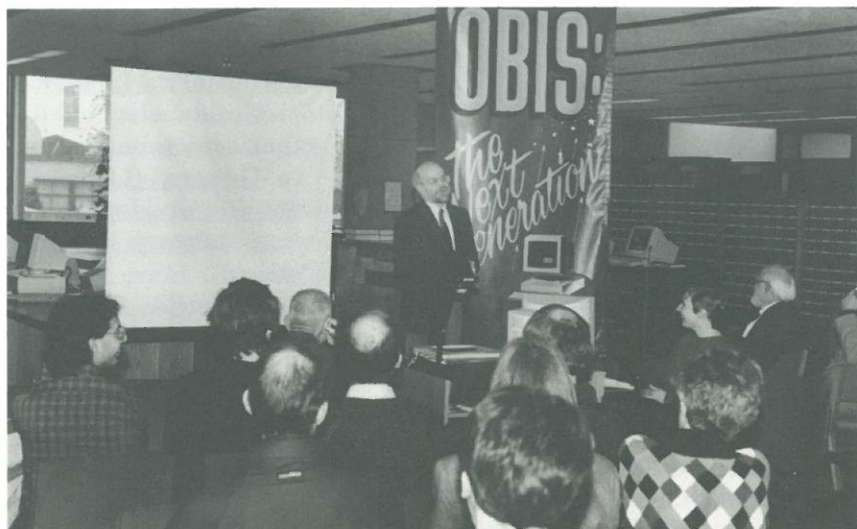
A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

PERSPECTIVES

NUMBER ELEVEN

FEBRUARY 1995

Celebrating the New Online System



Ray English introduces new online system

On January 18 faculty, staff, students, and Friends of the Library gathered in the Main Library to celebrate the installation of the new Oberlin Bibliographic Information system (OBIS). The celebration, entitled "OBIS: The Next Generation," featured a demonstration of the new system as well as remarks by Director of Libraries Ray English, Associate

Director Alan Boyd (who coordinated the system installation), and Provost Sam Carrier.

The new OBIS, which became available to the public at the beginning of the new year, is the library's fourth-generation automated system and the first to integrate all essential library functions and incorporate new networking technologies. Manufac-

tured by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., a leading academic library automation vendor, the new system has a variety of features that markedly improve user access to the library's collections and to external bibliographic databases.

Users of the new OBIS follow a straightforward menu structure to navigate rapidly throughout the catalog, taking advantage of a variety of search features. These include the capacity to define and limit searches in order to achieve precise results, to browse book titles as you would on a shelf, and to locate easily titles on similar subjects. The new system also provides direct access to the FirstSearch service, to Uncover, and to other external databases. The installation of the new system is the first step in the library's plan to join the OhioLINK system of statewide resource sharing.

The new OBIS represents a major phase in an ongoing process of utilizing electronic information technologies to improve access to library resources, a process that

—continued on p. 7

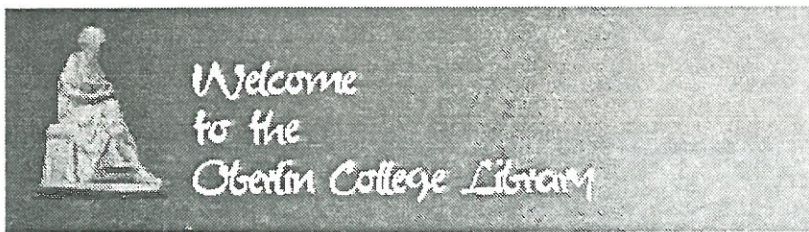
Electronic News of the Day

The Library and the Computing Center recently added a subscription to ClariNews, the oldest and largest electronic news service on the Internet, to the list of electronic information resources offered to Oberlin's students, staff, and faculty. The service includes

frequent reports on general, international, technology, entertainment, and financial news, as well as special features and columns. The wire services of Reuters and the Associated Press provide the news and features coverage for ClariNews.

Documentation on how to set up a ClariNews account is available both electronically and in paper form from the Computing Center (either "Internet on Macintosh: Usenet Using InterNews" or "Internet on the VAX: Usenet Using NEWSRDR").

Introducing: The Library's World Wide Web Homepage



Be sure to see what's new at the Oberlin College Library.

- [Information about the Library](#)
- [Connect to OBIS](#), the online catalog

Here are some starting points from which to enter wide world of World Wide Web Internet information, directories, and databases .

Return to the [Oberlin Online](#) home page.

Library Homepage

The library has developed a World Wide Web (WWW) homepage, which is available on the Internet using any WWW browser (such as Mosaic or Netscape). The purpose of the library's homepage is to make information about the library, its services, and its staff available in this new format both to the Oberlin College community and to the huge and quickly growing national and international audience on "the net." The development of the library's homepage paralleled the development of a homepage for Oberlin College (Oberlin Online), which provides information on many aspects of the college, including admissions, student life, and academics.

Use of this technology to provide another source of information about the college and the library was inevitable since increasing numbers of people have access to the Internet.

http://www.oberlin.edu/wwwlib/OCL_homepage.html
Oberlin Online's WWW address/
URL is:
<http://www.oberlin.edu/>

In brief, information is accessed from a homepage via links (any underlined word or text) that connect to screens with information on those topics. For example, the Library's homepage, pictured on the left, has a link to [Information about the Library](#), pictured below, and that screen has links to [General Library Services and Information](#), [Library Hours](#), etc.

Oberlin College Library's WWW address/URL is:

Information about the Oberlin College Library

Oberlin has one of the best undergraduate library systems in the nation. It includes the Main Library, housed in Mudd Center (completed in 1974), and the departmental libraries for science, art, and music. The collection contains well over 1 million volumes, more than 300,000 microforms, about 360,000 government documents, and 42,000 sound recordings. The library receives more than 4,500 subscriptions, and it adds approximately 19,000 volumes, 2,500 musical scores, and 1,500 musical recordings annually.

- [General Library Services and Information](#)
- [Library Hours](#)
- [The Main Library](#)
- [The Conservatory Library](#)
- [The Art Library](#)
- [The Science Library](#)
- [Audio Visual Services](#)
- [The Library Collections](#)
- [Special Collections](#)
- [The Library Staff](#)

Return to the [Welcome to the Oberlin College Library Home Page](#)

"Information About the Library" page

Focus on the Collections

East Asian Studies

The Oberlin College Library is one of a very few college libraries in the country to support East Asian studies with an extensive East Asian language collection and a full-time specialist librarian.

Jiann Lin came to Oberlin in 1969 and has been developing and cataloging the East Asian collection for twenty-five years. Assisting on a volunteer basis since 1993 is Emiko Custer, who has retired to Oberlin after a career as a classification specialist at the Library of Congress and as a foreign language cataloger at Los Angeles Public Library.

Oberlin began collecting East Asian materials in the mid-1960s. At that point Chinese and Japanese languages were being taught at Oberlin, the collection reflecting an early emphasis on Chinese language materials. Lin estimates that today eighty percent of the collection consists of Chinese language materials, with Japanese language materials increasing rapidly as more faculty have been appointed in this area.

The collection of East Asian language materials currently consists of some 20,000 volumes; approximately 500–750 new volumes are added each year. About fifty percent of the collection is devoted to literature. Modern literature predominates, with some empha-

sis on post-World War II novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. Another twenty-five percent of the

shapes Oberlin's library holdings in this area, he sees continued growth for the East Asian collec-



Jiann Lin and Emiko Custer

collection focuses on history—in both the Chinese and Japanese languages, with the remainder of the collection including social sciences materials, reference sources, and works relating to the fine arts.

The East Asian collection supports an active interdisciplinary program with a focus on China and Japan. In addition to studying the languages of these countries, Oberlin students may choose related courses in art, ethnomusicology, history, literature, politics, and religion. As Lin

Not only are relations between Asian countries and the United States becoming increasingly important in economic, political, and cultural spheres, but Oberlin continues to enjoy its own long-standing relation with Asian countries—in part through the Shansi program.

Thus, Oberlin students have special opportunities in East Asian studies, not the least of which is a carefully selected and maintained East Asian language library collection.

New Electronic Services: QuickMail Book Orders

Many faculty who participate in library collection development may now routinely order individual titles for the collections using QuickMail, the college's electronic mail system. Titles can be ordered either for the general collections or for the faculty member's reserve list using standardized forms installed on the QuickMail system. The simple process involves filling

out the information requested on the form and sending it to a library liaison or to the Reserve Room.

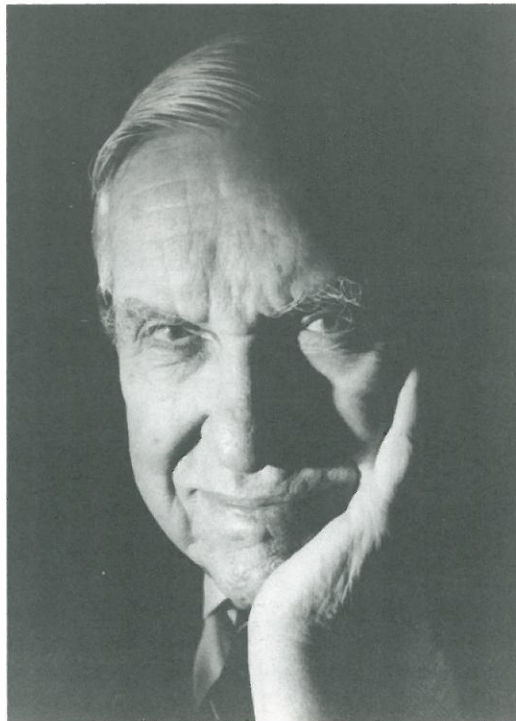
With the addition of these functions it is now possible for faculty and students to utilize the campus network for a variety of library services. In addition to the new book ordering capacity, faculty may place interlibrary loan

requests and ask brief reference questions from their offices via QuickMail. Most faculty and students may also use the network to access OBIS, many bibliographic databases via the CD-ROM network, and the library's World Wide Web homepage, which includes general information about the library (such as current library hours).

In Memory of Erwin Griswold

The Oberlin College Library has lost one of its most generous and supportive Friends.

Erwin N. Griswold, who died in Boston on November 19 at the age of 90, had been Honorary President of the Friends of the Library since the organization's founding in 1991. He also served as a member of the Library Visiting Committee from its inception in 1989. In addition to working consistently to improve the quality of Oberlin's library, Mr. Griswold created the library's largest endowed acquisitions fund. The James H. and Hope E. Griswold Fund, established in memory of his parents, supports monographic purchases for the



Erwin Griswold

Department of Politics and for other social science areas.

Mr. Griswold graduated from Oberlin in 1925 and from Harvard Law School in 1928. He joined the Harvard Law School faculty in 1934 and was named dean of the school in 1946, a position he held for twenty-one years until President Lyndon Johnson appointed him Solicitor General of the United States. From 1973 until his death he was a partner in the firm of Jones, Day, Reavis, and Pogue. During the course of his extraordinary legal career he argued 127 cases before the United States Supreme Court. Dean Griswold had been a Trustee of Oberlin College since 1936.

Recent Gifts

Leonard Baskin, proprietor of the Gehenna Press, and his wife **Lisa Baskin** have donated two valuable examples of fine book illustration and printing from his press: *The Drawings of Jacob de Gheyn II* and an edition of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. Both are sumptuously illustrated by Leonard Baskin himself. His daughter, Lucretia Baskin, is currently enrolled as an Oberlin student.

In June 1992, **Leo Guzik**, of Pompano Beach, Florida, donated nearly 5,000 volumes of his personal library to Oberlin College. The collection consisted of books and journals in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish on Judaism and related topics, such as archaeology, anthropology, history, literature, and music. Mr. Guzik died this fall, and his daughter, **Tamara Guzik Bliss**, donated an additional 854 volumes from her

father's library to Oberlin. This gift adds further depth to the Library's Judaica collection.

Robert Rotberg (Class of '55), a member of the Board of Trustees and a leading scholar of African history and politics, donated a major portion of his research collection on contemporary African affairs. The gift consists of approximately 4,000 items, including hundreds of newspaper clippings from African, European, and United States newspapers; government publications from many African countries; runs of scholarly journals; microfilms of primary research materials; publications by African banks and other research reports; offprints of journal articles; and some monographs. Most of the materials are in English and were published from approximately 1960 to the early 1980s. The collection will be housed in file cabinets in the Main Library's

Reserve Room and will support teaching activities in African-American Studies and the Department of Politics.

The Conservatory Library has received a complete set of the printed scores of **Leonard Bernstein**. Included are the scores of Bernstein's three symphonies—*Jeremiah*, *The Age of Anxiety*, and *Kaddish*—as well as his *Mass*, *On the Town*, *Fancy Free*, and *Trouble in Tahiti*. When presently unprinted scores, including *West Side Story* and *Candide*, are printed, they will be added to this gift. The gift was made jointly by the Bernstein Estate with Boosey & Hawkes and Jalni Publications to "leading music school libraries around the world...to honor Leonard Bernstein's belief in education and scholarly pursuit and to enable future generations of young musicians access to the Maestro's legacy."

Friends Meeting Highlights

At their November 5 meeting the Friends of the Library Council and the general membership discussed future directions for the organization, including the development of the new student Friends group and the possibility of having regional Friends events in major cities where large numbers of alumni and Friends members live.

The Council agreed to have one or two regional events on an experimental basis to see how well they will serve members who are not in a position to come to Oberlin for programs, and to determine

whether or not they are successful in helping to expand the membership base. The Council also considered ways to encourage the expansion of the student Friends group by supporting programs that are of immediate interest to students. The meeting also included reports on membership, programming, acquisitions, and honorary and life members.

Minutes of the Council and membership meeting are available from: Friends of the Oberlin College Library, Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074.

Friends Membership Update

As of mid-January the Friends of the Oberlin College Library counted 612 current year members. This total includes 4 honorary and 15 life members, 336 regular members, 157 student members, and 100 who have contributed to other library funds or donated gifts-in-kind.

Purchases with Friends Funds

In November 1994 the Friends Acquisitions Committee authorized the use of Friends of the Library funds to acquire a variety of resources that will improve support for selected curricular areas and generally enhance the Library's collections. Here is a summary by category of the most recent Friends purchases:

New Curricular Areas (\$2,500)

1. Professor David Egloff is teaching a new course focusing on moral dilemmas created by the practice of modern medicine. Friends funds will provide support for acquiring library materials in this area.

2. Professor Francesco Melfi, Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Program, is new to the Oberlin faculty and began offering some new courses in the Fall of 1994. Materials on Hebrew language and literature (primarily in English, with some in Hebrew and Yiddish) are needed to support these courses.

Painting (\$300)

Friends Acquisitions Committee members approved \$300 to-

ward the purchase of a watercolor painting by Alonzo Pease, "View of Oberlin."

Anti-Slavery Materials (\$1,000)

These funds will permit continued acquisitions in an area that historically has been a strength of Oberlin's library collection. Two prior Friends allocations have been used to purchase a number of significant anti-slavery titles.

Literary First Editions (\$1,000)

The Friends' purchase in 1993 of Aphra Behn's *Poems Upon Several Occasions* (1684) has been greatly appreciated by faculty and students in the English Department. This further allocation will be used to purchase other seventeenth- and eighteenth-century first editions.

Reference Titles (\$6910)

Friends funds were approved for the purchase of the following reference sets: *Dictionary of Art* (34 vols., 1994- , the new comprehensive, definitive English language reference encyclopedia of art and art history); *The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (10

vols., 1994); *Statistical Reference Index 1990-1993 Cumulative Index* (1994, a basic source for indexing of statistical data published by state governments, universities, associations, institutes, and other business and research organizations).

Research Collection on Contemporary Art (\$5,000)

The Harley-Terra Candella Archive of Mail Art and Artistamps is a major archive documenting the Mail Art movement. Gathered over twenty years by Harley, an artist who formerly lived in Oberlin, the collection represents 1,250 artists from sixty countries in a variety of media. It documents a unique artistic movement, also known as Stamp or Correspondence Art, which was developed outside of the art gallery system. The collection includes hundreds of artists stamps, covers (envelopes), posters, prints, photographs, collages, and other original works of art. It has been purchased with the strong support of the Art Department and the Allen Memorial Art Museum under a two-year purchase agreement.

Friends Honorary and Life Members

One honorary and two life memberships in the Friends of the Library were awarded at the organization's annual dinner on November 5. Honorary membership, the Friends' highest award, is given in recognition of extraordinary contributions or outstanding service to the Library or the Friends of the Library, while life membership recognizes individuals who have made generous contributions to the Library or to the Friends.

William A. Moffett, former Director of Libraries, was designated an honorary member. During his distinguished eleven-year tenure (from 1979 to 1990), the quality of the Oberlin College Library's collections and services was firmly reestablished. Major accomplishments resulting from his leadership included the development of a library professional staff of exceptional quality, computerization of basic library functions, the reestablishment of strong institutional support for library acquisitions, the renovation and expansion of the Conservatory Library, and marked expansion of library services in support of Oberlin's academic program. Moffett also brought great recognition to Oberlin and its Library by advocating the importance of college libraries within the library profession, by founding the "Oberlin Group" of liberal arts college library directors (which first



Mimi Halpern receiving life membership certificate from Trustee George Bent

met in Oberlin in 1986), and by capturing a notorious book thief and in the process creating greater knowledge and awareness of the problem of theft in libraries. He has gone on from Oberlin to become one of the nation's most prominent library figures as the director of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Mimi Halpern, Class of 1960, was awarded a life membership in recognition of her consistent advocacy for and support of the library, her service as a member of the Library Visiting Committee since its inception, and her generous donations to the library's capital fund-raising effort. Her contributions have in large part funded the

library's CD-ROM network, which provides greatly improved computerized access through the campus network to basic bibliographical indices in numerous disciplines.

Robert and Betty Weinstock were designated life members in recognition of their strong support of the library over many years, their generous annual contributions to the Friends, their donation of a substantial portion of their personal and professional book collection, and their gift of one of the rarest and most valuable volumes the library has received in recent years—an 1867 first-edition of Mark Twain's *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*.

Student Friends Are Rolling

Student membership in the Friends of the Library took a big jump this fall following a membership drive coordinated by three students.

Steven Valdez, Cathlin Davis, and Henry McCann, winners of last year's student book collecting contest, wrote a letter to all stu-

dents asking them to join the Friends and then staffed a membership table on the day the letter was distributed. As a result of their efforts the Friends now have 130 new student members.

Members of the new Student Friends group met in early December and decided to sponsor a study

break during Reading Period. The event, which included music by a saxophone quartet and free baked goods for students, proved to be extremely popular. The group plans to coordinate other programs of interest to students in the future.

Leonard Baskin to Speak in April New Online...from p. 1

Leonard Baskin, a leading American sculptor and graphic artist, will speak in Oberlin on Saturday, April 29. His lecture will focus on the early history of the Gehenna Press, one of the country's finest and most respected private presses, which he founded in the 1940s.

Throughout its history the Gehenna Press has published numerous books that are distinguished by both the quality of their printed texts and their striking images, most of which were created by Baskin himself. Baskin was inspired by such British figures as William Blake and William Morris and sought to emulate in the productions of the press their

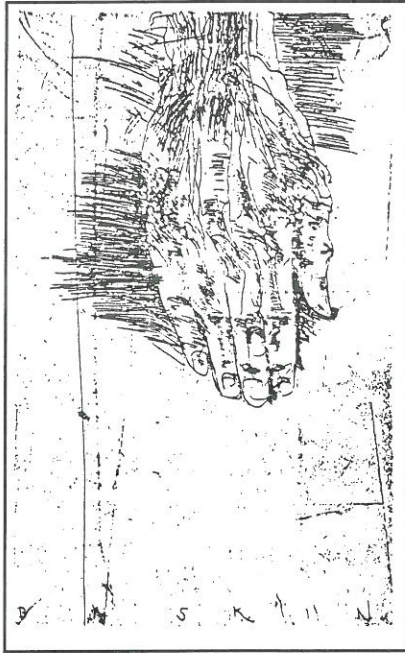


Illustration from the Gehenna Press edition of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, a recent gift of Leonard & Lisa Baskin

achievements as artists and as craftsmen/printers.

Titles published by the press cover a variety of topics. A particularly outstanding series inaugurated by the press in the 1960s is the Gehenna Essays in Art. Baskin's art works, which have been shown in numerous one-person and group exhibitions, are well represented in major U. S. and European public and private collections.

Leonard Baskin's visit to Oberlin is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Friends of Art. His lecture, entitled "Impulsion to Print," will be held in Fisher Art Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. on April 29.

began at Oberlin in the early 1970s. A pioneer in the process of library automation, the Oberlin library was a founding member of the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC); it installed one of the first automated circulation systems in a liberal arts college setting (in 1978); and it automated acquisitions and serials functions in 1983. The library used the previous Geac 9000 online catalog and circulation system since 1988.

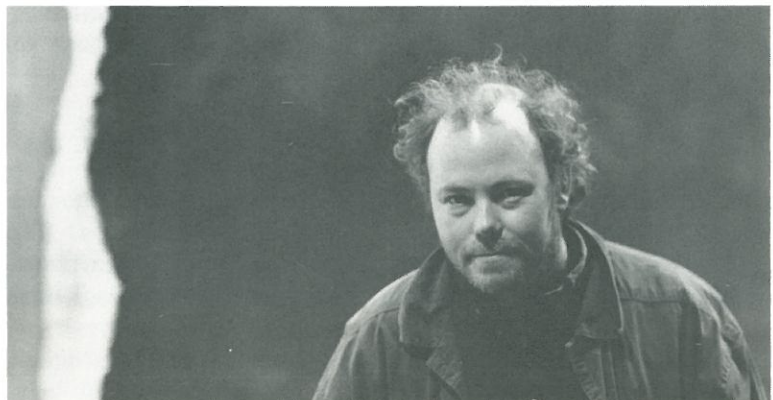
The best way to appreciate the capabilities of the new OBIS is to try it out! Those living off-campus who have Internet access may search the system by telnetting to: obis.lib.oberlin.edu.

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 Art Work Installed in Library

A monumental art work by New York artist James Hyde was recently installed in the main stairwell of the Main Library. Hyde's untitled work is a painting on a fresco surface that adheres to a large styrofoam block. The piece, which is 9' x 6' x 3' in size and weighs approximately 400 pounds, required a large work crew to be moved into the building and installed on the wall above the stairwell landing between the first and second levels. While the work will be housed in the library

indefinitely, it is actually a part of the Allen Art Museum collection and was given to the museum by Robert J. Schiffler.



James Hyde in front of his art work

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.

- Annual membership categories: \$1 Student
- | | |
|---|--|
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Please return this coupon with your membership contribution to:

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Mudd Center, Oberlin, OH 44074



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