



LIBRARY

PERSPECTIVES

A Newsletter of the
Oberlin College Library

NUMBER NINE

MAY 1994

New Online System for Library

On April 8 Oberlin College signed a contract with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. to install a new online system that will integrate the interdependent library functions of acquisitions, cataloging, the public catalog, circulation, and reserve. The new system will replace the Geac 9000, which was installed in 1987.

When the new system is made public in January 1995 it will still be known as OBIS, but it will have a new look. Behind the scenes there will be changes, too, as cataloging staff begin to work on the new system and as the circulation function in each of the four campus libraries is switched over.

Innovative Interfaces is one of the fastest growing academic library systems vendors in the country. Their system, which is exceptionally easy to use, incorporates the latest developments in functionality, such as the ability to export search results to diskettes or to e-mail accounts. Innovative Interfaces has provided regular enhancements for their software, virtually assuring that they will continue to develop and improve the system that will provide access to Oberlin's rich library collections.

This new system will provide an important link to other library collections. It will enable Oberlin to join the OhioLINK project,

which is based on Innovative Interfaces software. OhioLINK is a new statewide information system that will unite the library catalogs of the state-supported universities as well as some private universities. It allows users to request items online directly from other libraries and provides rapid delivery of these materials. The Library is already benefiting from the statewide delivery service associated with OhioLINK (see Pony Express article, page two). With the advent of the new Innovative Interfaces software Oberlin will be poised to take full advantage of this new venture in interlibrary cooperation.

Library Serves as Test Site for *Oxford Analytica*

The Library, working in cooperation with the Houck Computing Center, is now a test site for a new information service called *Oxford Analytica*, an online database that provides up-to-date briefs on current international affairs, events, and policies. The database, created and maintained by Oxford Analytica Ltd. in Great Britain, was originally developed to provide officials in government and industry with quick overviews and analyses of important developments in world affairs. The broad customer base for *Oxford Analytica* includes the U.S. Department of State, the French Parliament, the World Bank, and the European Community. The company is now interested in making *Oxford Analytica* available to the academic market, and Oberlin, one of only two academic institutions in the U.S. to have the opportunity to test it, will provide feedback to the company about its product.

Oxford Analytica is updated daily, and is currently available on a computer in the reference area of the
continued on page 5



David Young, President of Oxford Analytica (second from right), discusses project with Director of Computing Joseph Palmieri, Director of Libraries Ray English, Academic Computing Consultant Don Hilton, President S. Frederick Starr, and Provost Sam Carrier

Science Faculty Have Document Delivery Options

In February the Library began an experiment in which faculty members in Biology, Chemistry and Neuroscience were given the ability to order documents directly from the commercial document delivery supplier UnCover II at Library expense.

Using the Internet, faculty members connect to the service from their offices and use it to search for known citations, browse through journal tables of contents, or search by keyword or author for relevant articles. They can send orders directly to the supplier for items the Library lacks, and the document supplier faxes requested articles to the departmental fax machine.

The Library also contracted for a one-month trial with a competing service offered by Faxon, Inc. During the Faxon trial period faculty were encouraged to use both suppliers. The Library's goals during the trial were threefold: to compare the commercial suppliers to traditional interlibrary loan, to compare the service of one supplier to the other, and to assess how well *access* through a commercial supplier (or group of suppliers) might substitute for *ownership* of relatively low-use, high-cost journals.

Results of the experiment have been mixed thus far: print quality, speed of delivery, and availability are not consistently excellent. In

view of that, the Library will explore other options before extending such delivery services to additional faculty and students. Preliminary observations suggest that UnCover and FaxonFinder excel in providing copies of current articles from journals with a relatively wide subscription base. Very specialized research journals are often lacking in the databases. A wider mix of commercial suppliers is needed to support the broad range of research and teaching activities of Oberlin faculty. Further, traditional interlibrary loan satisfies an enormously wide array of patron needs, and no assemblage of existing commercial suppliers can replace it.

The Faculty Library Committee

The Library Committee of the General Faculty meets monthly during the academic year. Its main roles are to advise the Director of Libraries and to facilitate two-way communication between the Library and the faculty. The Director of Libraries frequently solicits the committee's opinion on pending initiatives or policy changes. Occasionally committee members raise their own concerns or those of faculty colleagues.

The committee needs to be broadly informed about the Library so that it can discuss specific issues in the context of the Library's many responsibilities. Most meetings are devoted to informing the committee about the Library's operations and plans. Recent topics have included collection development policies, document delivery systems, reference services, and preservation. Within any three-year period, the committee addresses virtually every aspect of the Library's activities.

Sometimes the committee has formally endorsed a policy change, publicized an important development, or urged action by the General Faculty or the College or Library administration. In recent years, for example, the committee lobbied persistently for acquisitions budgets able to keep pace with rapidly rising prices of library materials.

Committee membership is specified as four Arts & Science faculty, two Conservatory faculty, one A&S student and one Con student, and, ex officio, the Director of Libraries and the Director of the Computing Center. Those who volunteer for this committee bring diverse perspectives but share a strong interest in maintaining and enhancing the remarkable quality of our Library. I am happy to report that this group, with its wide-ranging knowledge of both problems and achievements, appreciates greatly the Library's outstanding collections and services and the ability and dedication of its staff.

Terry Carlton, Professor of Chemistry

Sent by Pony Express

At the end of February the Library began using a new interlibrary delivery service called Pony Express, which links most of the major state-funded university libraries in Ohio, and guarantees next-day delivery of books and photocopies to and from most libraries in the system. The Interlibrary Loan Office now uses the service for deliveries to and from the University of Toledo, Ohio State University, Bowling Green State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, Ohio University, Miami University, Antioch College, Wittenberg University, and Wright State University, as well as many smaller schools.

In addition to increased speed of delivery, Pony Express provides considerable savings in shipping costs. For under \$7.00 a day the Library can send an unlimited number of items to any or all of the libraries participating in the Pony Express and OhioLINK systems.

Focus on the Collections: Artists' Books in the Art Library

Artists' books are created by artists; they are books that themselves constitute works of art, rather than books that discuss or reproduce the work of an artist. Some artists' books are unique, others are produced in relatively small editions, and

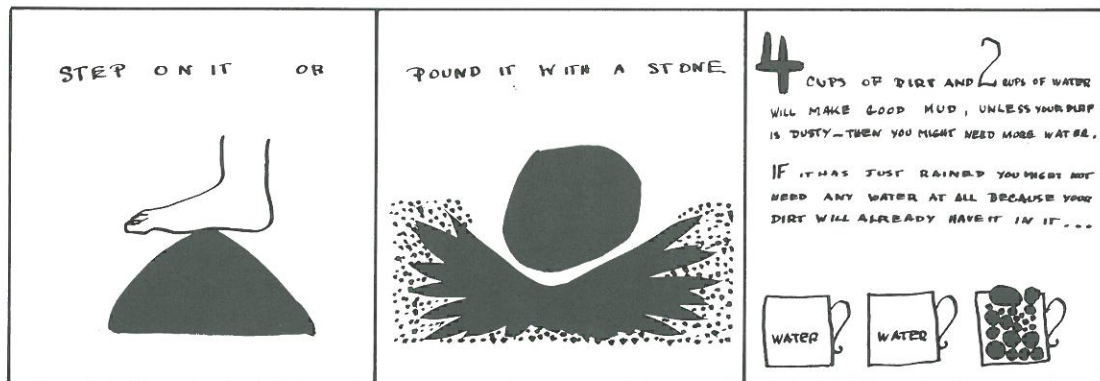
some, most often produced by large commercial publishers, are published in larger editions.

The Art Library's Special Collections now contain over 300 titles that illustrate all facets of the artists' book genre. This fine collection has been consolidated and greatly expanded during the past decade. In response to strong curricular interest, the Art Library actively seeks to build its artists' books holdings through both donations and purchases.

The present collection includes many titles by established figures such as John Baldessari, Mel Bochner, Marcel Broodthaers, John Cage, Yoko Ono, and Oberlin Professor of Art Athena Tacha. Most recently artists' books from the collection of former Professor of Art Ellen H. Johnson have been added; many of the titles from her collection are inscribed "to Ellen," as is Claes Oldenburg's *Raw Notes*. The collection also contains numerous works—often one-of-a-kind—by Oberlin College students and alumni, such as Eric Bogosian and John Carrera, as well as books by Oberlin artists,

such as Harley, Greg Little, and Audrey Skuodas.

In the spring of 1984, the Main Library hosted an exhibition en-

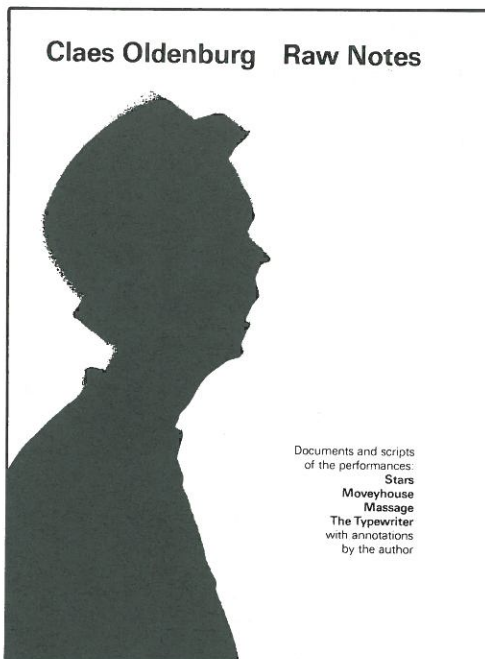


From John Cage's *Mud Book: How to Make Pies and Cakes*

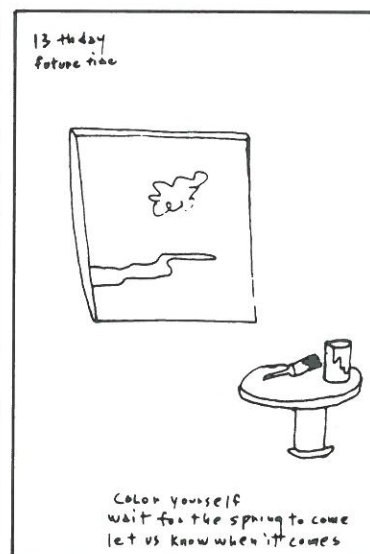
During the past several years the Art Library has made a concerted effort to acquire pop-up, interactive, and other types of books that are intimately related to artists' books. Examples of these books include Christopher Frayling's *Art Pack*, Red Grooms's

titled "Black and White and Read All Over," a show of artists' books created by students in Professor Barbara Tannenbaum's course, "The Artist and the Book." The exhibition catalogue was an artists' book designed and created by the students.

The Art Library draws attention to these holdings through an ongoing display of artists'



Cover of Claes Oldenburg's *Raw Notes*



From Yoko Ono's *Grapefruit*

Ruckus Rodeo, *The Paradox Box*, *The Pop-Up Book of M. C. Escher*, and Kit Williams's *Masquerade*.

books from Special Collections. The current display highlights the books of Nick Bantock.

And the Winner Is!

Prizes in the first student book collection competition were awarded at the Friends of the Library program on April 17.

The Bridegam First Prize went to Henry McCann '95 for his collection of books about martial arts in China and Japan. Henry is an East Asian Studies/Music Education joint major who has studied East Asian martial arts since he was a child. He began his collection at the age of ten and has been adding to it since, taking advantage of a semester spent in Japan in 1993 where he sought rare books in this subject.

Cathlin Davis '96 was awarded second prize for her Louisa May Alcott collection, which includes books printed from 1880 to the present. She began her collection in the fifth grade when she read *Little Women* and her mother gave her a set of Alcott's books. In addition to Louisa May Alcott's novels, Cathlin also collects biographies of Alcott and works of authors who influenced her writing.



Henry McCann, Cathlin Davis, Stephen Valdez



Henry McCann describes his collection

Third prize was awarded to Steven Valdez '96 for "Nile Morning: Travelogue Collection," a collection of books about adventure and travel in bygone days. Early explorations of Mayan and Aztec regions, and Erle Stanley Gardner and the Sitwell family travel books are among the areas that especially interest Steven.

Representative books from the collections of the winners were exhibited in the Main Library from the end of March through April 20. The winners also gave brief talks and answered questions about their collections as part of the April 17 program.

The library is grateful to Friends Council members Willis and Marybeth Bridegam of Amherst, Massachusetts; Keisogloff Rare Books and United States Book Exchange of Cleveland; and the Co-op Bookstore and Miranda Books of Oberlin for generously providing the prizes for the contest. It also expresses sincere thanks to Paul Csank, Susan Hill, and Robert Jackson who judged the contest.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY Spring Semester Schedule

Sunday, May 29

Commencement Reunion Weekend Program

2:00 p.m., King 106 "Clash of Cultures: Missionaries, Boxers, and the Memorial Arch." A talk by Nat Brandt, author of *Massacre in Shansi*. Response by Carl Jacobson, Executive Director, Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association.

Followed by reception for Nat Brandt.

Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library, Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, and Syracuse University Press.

Exhibition

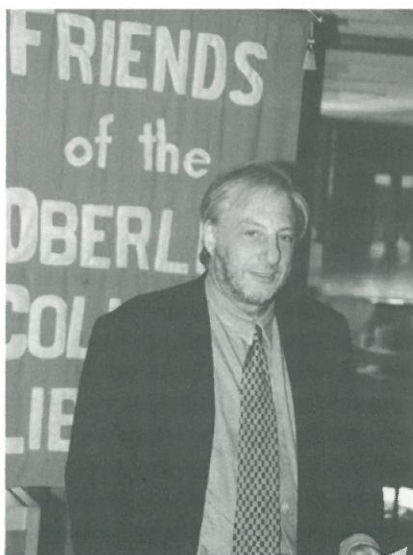
April 25 to June 15

Friendly Support: Titles Purchased by the Friends of the Library

Collecting Friends

Book collecting was the focus of the spring program of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library on Sunday, April 17.

The featured speaker of the afternoon was Robert H. Jackson, a well-known book collector from Cleveland who is also a member of the Friends of the Library Council and the Library Visiting Committee. A lawyer and lifelong book lover, Jackson collects books in such diverse areas as the "beat" poets of the 1950s and nineteenth-century literary works that were originally published in parts, such as the novels of Charles Dickens. In his entertaining talk, entitled



Robert H. Jackson

"The Second Greatest Sport: Book Collecting," he discussed why book collecting interests him and detailed his wide-ranging collecting projects and exploits.

In addition to Jackson's talk, the program included a panel discussion with Jackson, Paul Csank of Keisogloff Rare Books in Cleveland, and Susan Hill of Miranda Books in Oberlin. The panelists discussed the nature of collecting, recent trends in collecting, and topics of interest to the audience.

The program, attended by approximately forty participants, also featured the student book collection contest winners.

A Celebrated Gift

Robert Weinstock, Professor Emeritus of Physics, and his wife Betty Weinstock have given the



Betty and Robert Weinstock

Library a valuable first edition of an American literary classic. The Weinstocks purchased the 1867 edition of Mark Twain's *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* in 1949 at a used bookstore in San Jose, California for what Professor Weinstock describes as "no more than two dollars." According to the Weinstocks,

neither they nor the dealer who sold the volume to them was aware of its value. The book remained in their collection for many years until Professor of English Dewey Ganzel happened to see it and point out its rarity.

The Weinstock's gift of this volume was announced on April 17 at the Friends of the Library program on book collecting. Director of Libraries Ray English calls the Twain volume "a marvelous gift of a book that is rarely found in such fine condition. It's one of the most valuable single volumes the library has received in recent years."

Oxford Analytica...continued from page 1

Main Library. The service will soon be available to Oberlin College faculty and students directly from their personal computers via the campus network.

Although Oxford Analytica Ltd. is independent of Oxford University, faculty members at the University, working in conjunction with *Oxford Analytica* staff and more than 500 senior scholars all over the world, provide much of the text for the daily briefs and help decide which of the often more than a thousand news developments in any one day to include. Students and faculty in Politics, Economics, and area studies will find *Oxford Analytica* particularly useful.

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.

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:

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