

Books and Bytes

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A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

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Jessica Olin Leaves for New Position

Jessica Olin has left the Hiram College Library to accept the directorship of the Robert H. Parker Library at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. Jessica's last day at Hiram was January 15 and she will assume her new duties on February 1.



During her tenure at Hiram as the Information Literacy/Instruction Librarian, Jessica was instrumental in making library instruction an important component of the College curriculum, particularly in the first-year program. She also played a major role in raising the library's profile on campus.

While we will miss her, we also congratulate her on this wonderful opportunity and wish her the best.

Database Changes

OhioLINK has announced the addition of two new online resources. *Statistical Abstracts of the United States* is currently available and is listed on our database pages. The resources is produced by ProQuest and represents that company's efforts to continue this standard reference work after the U.S. government discontinued its production. This database is a first stop for almost any statistical question.

China Academic Journals, from East View, will be available soon. The database contains the full-text of scholarly journals published in China. Many of the journals are in Chinese and cover disciplines in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Stay tuned for more on this resource.

The library has ended its subscription to *Library Press Display*. Originally subscribed to as part of the library's News Center, the database did not receive sufficient use to justify the ongoing cost.

OhioLINK has also announced it will cease adding new titles to the *Oxford Scholarship Online* resource (a part of OhioLINK's E-Book Center) or the *Oxford Reference Shelf*. E-books previously purchased for these collections will continue to be available.

Coming to the Library in February

Library Forum – Wednesday, February 13, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room. Dr. Jennifer Miller, Associate Professor of Education and Director of Assessment, will speak.



Friends of the Library Book Sale – Monday, February 18, through Friday, February 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The book sale is located just inside the entrance. Hardcover are \$1.00 and paperbacks are just 50¢.

Library Forum – Wednesday, February 20, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room. Mr. Chris Ryan, Associate Professor of Art, will speak.

Library Forum – Wednesday, February 27, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room. Dr. Debbie Kasper, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, will speak.

Text a Reference Librarian

The library has added a "Text the Librarian" option to its popular "Chat with a Librarian" service. Just text your question to 330-400-3335 when the reference desk is open. Please note that regular texting fees based on your cell phone plan will apply.

You can connect to the Chat service from a link on the library's Home page or on the How Do I Find Help page at <http://library.hiram.edu/index.php/how-do-i/get-help>. You may also phone the reference desk at 330-569-5473 or email your question to reference@hiram.edu.



The "Text a Librarian" service is available Monday through Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is also available on Weekend College weekends on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., as well as on Sundays (12-week terms only) from noon to 5 p.m.

Hidden Treasures

The Library of America

"The only trouble with American literature is that so much of it is so hard to find. That is the philosophy underlying one of the boldest and biggest publishing ventures of recent years." — *Parade* (from the Library of America website (<http://www.loa.org/>))

Some treasures in the library are hidden because they are in specific formats, such as microfilm, while others are in obscure places (old government documents). However, many difficult to identify treasures are simply the result of splitting them up and distributing them throughout the collection based on subject. Such is the case with *The Library of America*, a series that brings the best of American writing back into print with newly-edited, handsome and reasonably-priced editions, clothed in black dust jackets. Begun in 1979, *The Library of America* has since published more than 230 volumes of fiction, political writings, travel, speeches, plays, poetry, letters, journalism, and autobiographies by American writers. While our library doesn't have all the volumes in the series (we probably don't need all of them, as some duplicate materials we already own), we have purchased approximately one-fourth of the series, and nine more volumes have just been ordered as of this writing.



In the Fiction Collection, the library has volumes in the series devoted to Willa Cather (early and late), Raymond Chandler, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Dashiell Hammett, H. P. Lovecraft, Saul Bellow, Jack Kerouac, and several other prominent authors. The Kerouac volume contains his five road novels, including *On the Road*, and *The Dharma Bums* (which brings back memories of college days!). Poets include Elizabeth Bishop, Wallace Stevens, Ezra Pound, and of course, Hart Crane. For travel writing enthusiasts, two volumes of Henry James, of his excursions to Great Britain and continental Europe, and one by John Dos Passos are in the collection.

Political and historical writings of various kinds are a favorite of the series. Speeches are sometimes hard to come by, and so the library picked up volumes by Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. There are also selected writings of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and surprisingly, Captain John Smith (who wrote a lot, much of it self-aggrandizing). It took the series editors 61 volumes before they decided to publish collections not centered on a single author, but since then such volumes have been a staple of their roster. The first two, *The Debate on the Constitution*, includes speeches, articles, and letters, at both the national level and at the state ratifying conventions. Those were followed by

collections of American poetry, war journalism, civil rights reporting, sermons, and slave narratives, among other writings. Most recently the editors have begun a series on the Civil War, the first volume of which is *The Civil War: The First Year by Those Who Lived It*. It contains newspaper articles, letters, speeches, and other fascinating materials. We've ordered year two.

Happily, there is no end in sight for this fine series, and we look forward to many more remarkable discoveries of American literature in *The Library of America*. The volumes of the series can be located in the library's catalog by author, title, subject, or browsed with the phrase, "library of america."

By Jeff Wanser, Government Documents and
Collection Development Librarian

OhioLINK to Provide Discovery Layer to Improve Searching (and Finding!)

OhioLINK has selected EBSCO Publishing to provide the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) as a shared service to OhioLINK libraries. A "discovery layer" refers to a search service that allows patrons to simultaneously search for library resources across multiple databases, including the library's catalog and many of a library's databases. As such, users will see a single search box that will search many resources at once. In the Hiram College Library installation, traditional search methods will continue to be available.

As Gwen Evans, executive director of OhioLINK, noted "Currently the vast resources of the consortium are in separate silos of content, and it can be very difficult for our users to discover the wealth of resources that OhioLINK and their local academic libraries provide. Making the EBSCO Discovery Service available to the students and faculty in participating Ohio institutions will allow them to navigate seamlessly across all the resources available to them—it is discovery and access on a scale impossible to provide in more traditional ways."

The Hiram College Library will add this service sometime during the 2013 calendar year. While the exact timeline is not yet known, planning has already begun within the library. The OhioLINK site and 15 other libraries will be among the first group to install the discovery layer by the end of March. Another 15 libraries will install the service by the end of June, 15 more by the end of September, and the final 15 participating libraries by the end of December.

As a first step, OhioLINK has made a temporary change to its Quick Search service. That search box for QuickSearch on the OhioLINK home page will now do a search of many EBSCO databases, but not the OhioLINK catalog or the Electronic Journal Center. This is a temporary change until OhioLINK installs the discovery layer.

Hiram College Library: Learning Unshelved