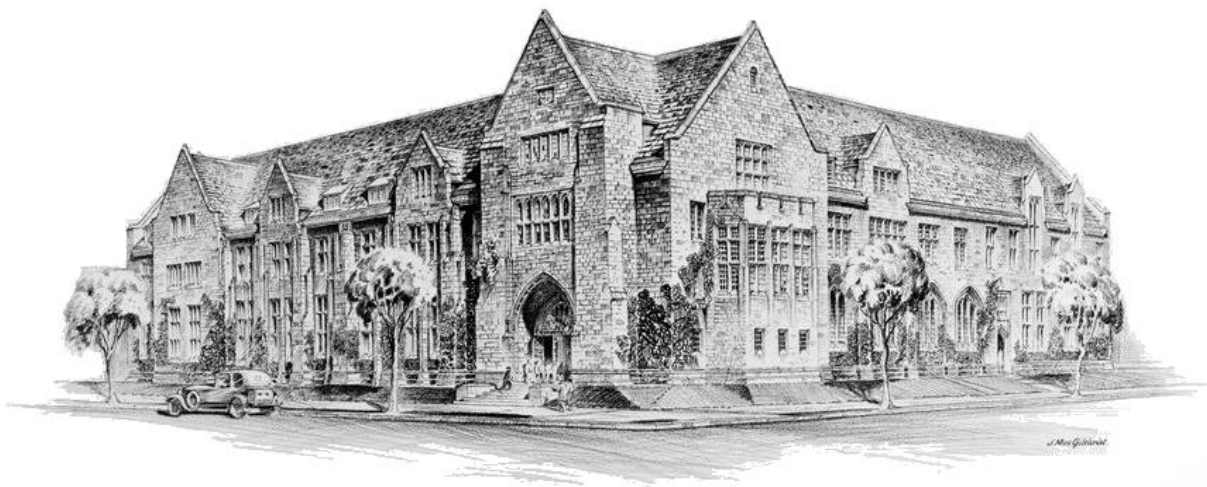
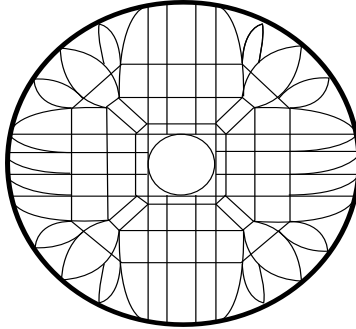


**THE RESEARCH ARCHIVES LIBRARY
OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY
OF ANCIENT CULTURES**



Introduction and Guide



Text, graphics, design and layout by Foy D. Scalf

Based on previous editions by Charles E. Jones and Terry G. Wilfong

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Cover:

Drawing of the Institute housed in the special collections of the Joseph Regenstein Library,
Archival Photofiles (apf2-05422)
Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Access to the Research Archives

The reading room of the Research Archives library is open to faculty, staff, students, and members of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, as well as the entire University of Chicago community. All others desiring to use the Research Archives are expected to enroll as members of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures.

Hours of operation:

9:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday–Tuesday
9:00 am – 8:00 pm Wednesday
9:00 am – 6:00 pm Thursday–Friday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm Saturday–Sunday

Hours during interim periods and holidays are variable and will be [posted online](#). Those who plan on visiting the Research Archives library during interim periods and holidays, and those who are coming from out of town at any time throughout the year, should call ahead to confirm that the Research Archives library will be open.

Contact:

Phone: (773) 702-9537
Fax: (773) 702-9853
email: scalffd@uchicago.edu

THE RESEARCH ARCHIVES LIBRARY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT CULTURES

“... the ancient cultures of the Near East are worthy of special attention as the record of man’s earliest attempts to organize human life on a comprehensive scale, to unfold its higher potential, and to give it a cosmic frame of reference.”

— *Annual Report 1959-1960*

Introduction

The Research Archives library of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures is the scholarly reference library for the research needs of the faculty, staff, students and members of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures. The library materials constitute a non-circulating collection of publications covering all the fields of study of the ancient cultures of West Asia and North Africa from the beginnings of civilization through the Late Antique period, reflecting the interests and work of its users and benefactors. The Research Archives library is not a part of the University of Chicago library system and its holdings bear no relationship to the holdings of the wider university library system. As a non-circulating collection, the library materials housed in our collection are never permitted to leave the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures building, either for personal or inter-library loans, thus preserving the fundamental intent of the collection as a reference source for in-house scholarly work.

Through the Years: A Short History of the Research Archives Library

A library was an essential element of the Oriental Institute when it was founded under James Henry Breasted in 1919. Originally situated in the north room of the third floor of Haskell Hall,¹ at one time referred to as the Divinity Library of Haskell Hall² and partially funded by Ms. Frederick Haskell,³ the library itself consisted of a sole room with a relatively small collection, in modern terms, reflecting not only the youth of the institute but also the vastly reduced size of the fields in ancient Near Eastern Studies as compared to today.⁴ We know very little about the staff of the library from the first



Haskel Hall, circa 1920

¹ George S. Goodspeed and William Rainey Harper, “The Dedication of the Haskell Oriental Museum, July 2, 1896,” *The Biblical World*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Aug., 1896), 107.

² *The University Library* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1904), 264; *Annual Catalog 1916-1917* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1917), 296; Katharine I. Sharp, “Illinois Libraries,” *University of Illinois Bulletin* 5 (June 29, 1908), no. 31, 72.

³ Jay Pridmore and Peter Kiar, *The University of Chicago: An Architectural Tour* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006), 59.

⁴ “The Haskell Oriental Museum of the University of Chicago,” *The Biblical World* 8:2 (August 1896), 81.

few years of the Institute, but Albert S. Wilson worked in the Haskell Hall library before becoming director of the state library school in 1907.⁵

In 1931 with the construction of the Oriental Institute building, the library was moved into its new home. Upon writing his account of the Oriental Institute, Breasted had the following to say about the library: “The most beautiful room in the building is the library reading-room in the west wing, where for the first time the entire specialized group of books representing the field of research with which the Institute is concerned is conveniently accessible.”⁶ The earliest history of the library has been overshadowed, and rightly so, by the tremendous scholarly projects and



Johanne Vindenas,
Institute Librarian 1924-1964

museum acquisitions of the early Institute. Few publications cover the period of 1919–1931 with respect to the library staff. However, the original development of these facilities owed a great deal to Johanne Vindenas, librarian for the Oriental Institute for nearly half a century, from 1924 to 1964. Her meticulous cataloging was renown in library circles⁷ and can be found on display in the sixteen volumes of the *Catalog of the Oriental Institute Library, University of Chicago* published in 1970 under the supervision of then Oriental Institute librarian Shirley A. Lyon. This catalog documented the holdings of the Oriental Institute library before consolidation within the University library system in 1970 when its materials were moved to the newly built Joseph Regenstein Library. The magnitude of this work is overwhelming, with its 284,400 index cards covering over 50,000 volumes.

Consolidation of the University of Chicago libraries meant the disintegration of Breasted's ideal of having all the library resources pertinent to the Institute's areas of interest in one space.⁸ For Institute projects, it meant wasted time and the increased burden of repeated trips to the Regenstein library, often only to check a simple bibliographic item for one of the dictionary projects. It did not take long for faculty and staff to decry the situation and under the directorship of Dr. John A. Brinkman, a new library was established.

⁵ *The Library Journal* 32 (January-December 1907), 473.

⁶ James Henry Breasted, *The Oriental Institute*. The University of Chicago Survey Volume XII (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1933), 122.

⁷ Rober Wadsworth, “Johanne Vindenas Remembered,” *Access* 36, No. 23, November 11, 1988, pp. 2-3.

⁸ The *Oriental Institute Annual Report* lacked a section devoted to the library until the 1969-1970 volume, portentous because of the library consolidation taking place in that very same year (Shirley A. Lyon, “The Oriental Institute Library,” *Oriental Institute Annual Report 1969-1970*, 29-32).

The Research Archives library was founded in 1972,⁹ and opened in September of 1973,¹⁰ at the request of Institute scholars who needed immediate access to research materials for the various projects being conducted at the institute. Director John A. Brinkman announced the opening of the Research Archives library in the 1973–1974 volume of the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*: “The past year also saw the opening of the new Research Archives, a collection of books and reference materials that will form the nucleus of a badly needed research library in the Institute building.” Thus the vision of the Institute's founder had been reborn and retained. The Reading Room still retains most of the original decorative elements from its 1931 completion, including the "lotus" window in the south wall, the wood carvings on the north wall, and the elaborately painted ceiling.



*James Henry Breasted,
Founder of the Institute*

Fundamental to establishing the Research Archives library was the donation of personal libraries to the research needs of the Institute. The initial collection consisted of:

- Personal library James Henry Breasted: Egyptology and ancient Near East
- Personal library of Keith Seele: Egyptology and Archaeology
- Personal library of William F. Edgerton: Egyptology, Demotic, Greek Papyrology
- Megiddo field library: Syro-Palestinian Archaeology

From these impressive, but humble beginnings the Research Archives library has continued to build its collections through both donations and purchases. Many scholars have contributed their personal materials to the library, including:

- Personal library of John Hadley: Assyriology
- Personal library of Richard T. Hallock: Assyriology and Elamalogy
- Personal library of Michael B. Rowton: Assyriology and Syro-Mesopotamian Studies
- Pamphlet collection of Charles F. Nims: Egyptology
- Anna Bruce Mackenzie Memorial Collection: Ancient Near East
- Pamphlet collection of Abraham Sachs
- Personal library of Frank Yurco: Egyptology and Greco-Roman Studies
- Personal library of Erica Reiner: Assyriology
- Personal library of Angel Marzal: Assyriology and Hebrew Studies
- Personal library of Judith Franke: Mesopotmian and Iranian Archaeology
- Pamphlet collection of A. Leo Oppenheim: Assyriology
- Personal library of Shelley Luppert-Barnard: Assyriology

⁹ For the “Needs of the Oriental Institute,” listed in the *Oriental Institute Annual Report 1972-1973* is \$950,000 for a library endowment.

¹⁰ The first report of the Research Archives, written by Charles C. Van Siclen III, appeared the 1973-74 volume of the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*.

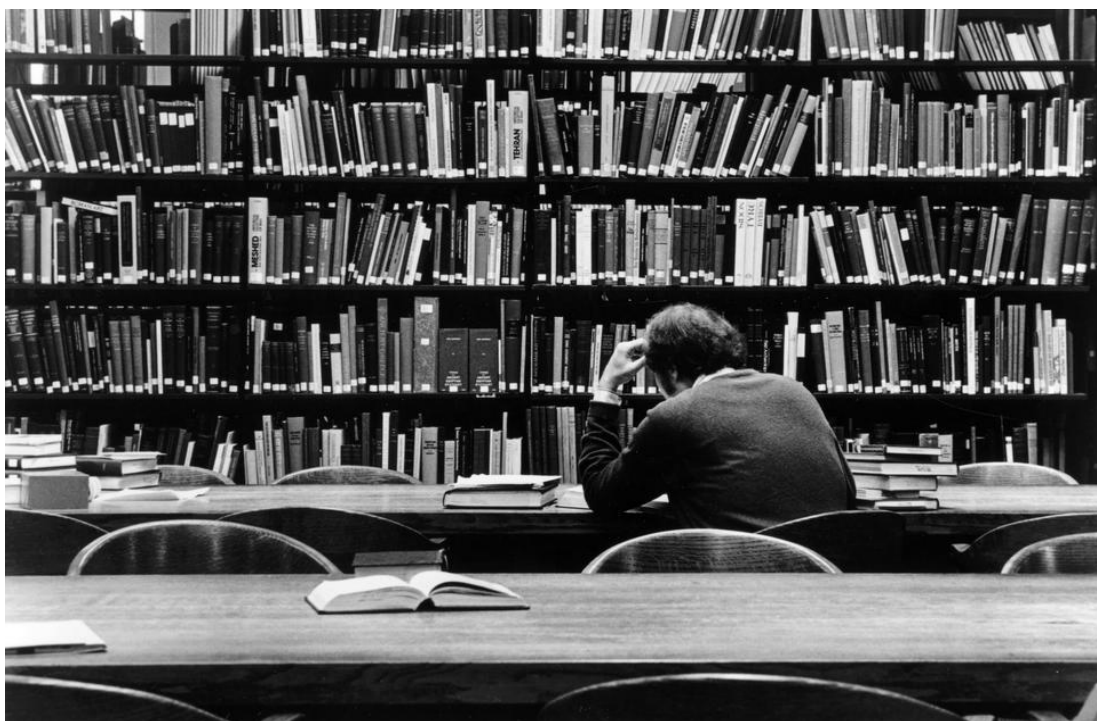
- Personal Library of Stephen Cole: Assyriology
- Personal Library of Eugene Cruz-Urbe: Egyptology
- Personal library of Martha T. Roth: Assyriology
- Personal Library of Miguel Civil: Sumerology
- Pamphlet collection of Walter Farber

Since opening in 1973, the Research Archives library has housed its share of future scholars, obviously as students, but many as employees.¹¹ From 1973 until 1984, three librarians cared for the collection: Charles C. Van Siclen III, Richard L. Zettler, and Alice Figundio Schneider. In the spring of 1983, Charles Ellwood Jones began what would become a 22 year tenure in the Research Archives library, from 1983 to 2005. With the development of the personal computer, these twenty years witnessed a radical shift in how libraries operate. Quickly replacing card catalogs as a means for cataloging their collections, bibliographers turned to electronic databases to manipulate their data. The publicly accessible electronic catalog of the Research Archives library (<http://isac-idb.uchicago.edu>) was begun in 1988. Now, with over 600,000 catalog records, this database remains one of the lasting legacies of Jones's stewardship and a most important research tool within the study of the ancient cultures of West Asia and North Africa.

As of 2023, the Research Archives remains on sturdy foundations with the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures. We seek to collect, as comprehensively as possible, the volumes relevant to the Institute's mission. In addition, we continue to build important research tools, developing the online catalog as well as the Research Archives library webpages where we host dissertations from recent graduates from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and library acquisitions lists. Through our online catalog, users can now access hundreds of thousands of PDF files, housed both internally on our server as well externally on electronic media sites such as JSTOR and Ebsco. Through these efforts and in keeping with the spirit of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures as a whole, our electronic tools and scanning initiatives will continue to make materials accessible to scholars worldwide in an open and public format.¹²

¹¹ For an alphabetical list of former employees of the Research Archives Library, many who went on to productive scholarly careers, see <http://oihistory.blogspot.com/2008/02/oriental-institute-research-archives.html>.

¹² The Oriental Institute distributed for free a number of its early folio publications to institutions and scholars who couldn't afford them and made the purchase price lower than production costs (see Breasted, *Oriental Institute*, 435).



Reading Room of the Research Archives Library

A GUIDE TO THE LOCATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The Research Archives library uses a simple system of organization. The location of a book can be determined by the call number listed in the online catalog.

MONOGRAPHS Call#: MON: Last Name

Shelved alphabetically by author / editor in the New Wing Monograph Stacks.

JOURNALS Call#: J / XXX / 99

Shelved alpha-numerically by call number on the upper level.

SERIES Call#: S / XXX / 99

Shelved alpha-numerically by call number in the built-in cases in the reading room, in the two banks of free-standing stacks located on the south end of the reading room, as well as in the New Wing Series Stacks.

PAMPHLETS Call#: PAM

Filed alphabetically by author in the file cabinets in the Pamphlet Room on the upper level.

REFERENCE Call#: REF

Modern and Ancient language reference materials are shelved on the elephant folio cases in the Reading Room, arranged by language family.

GREGORY ARESHIAN COLLECTION Call#: GAC

The Gregory Areshian Collection consists of 1500 books on the archaeology, history, and languages of the Caucasus region of Central Asia. In addition, this room holds a number of reference materials for Quranic and Biblical studies.

FOLIO Call#: FOLIO

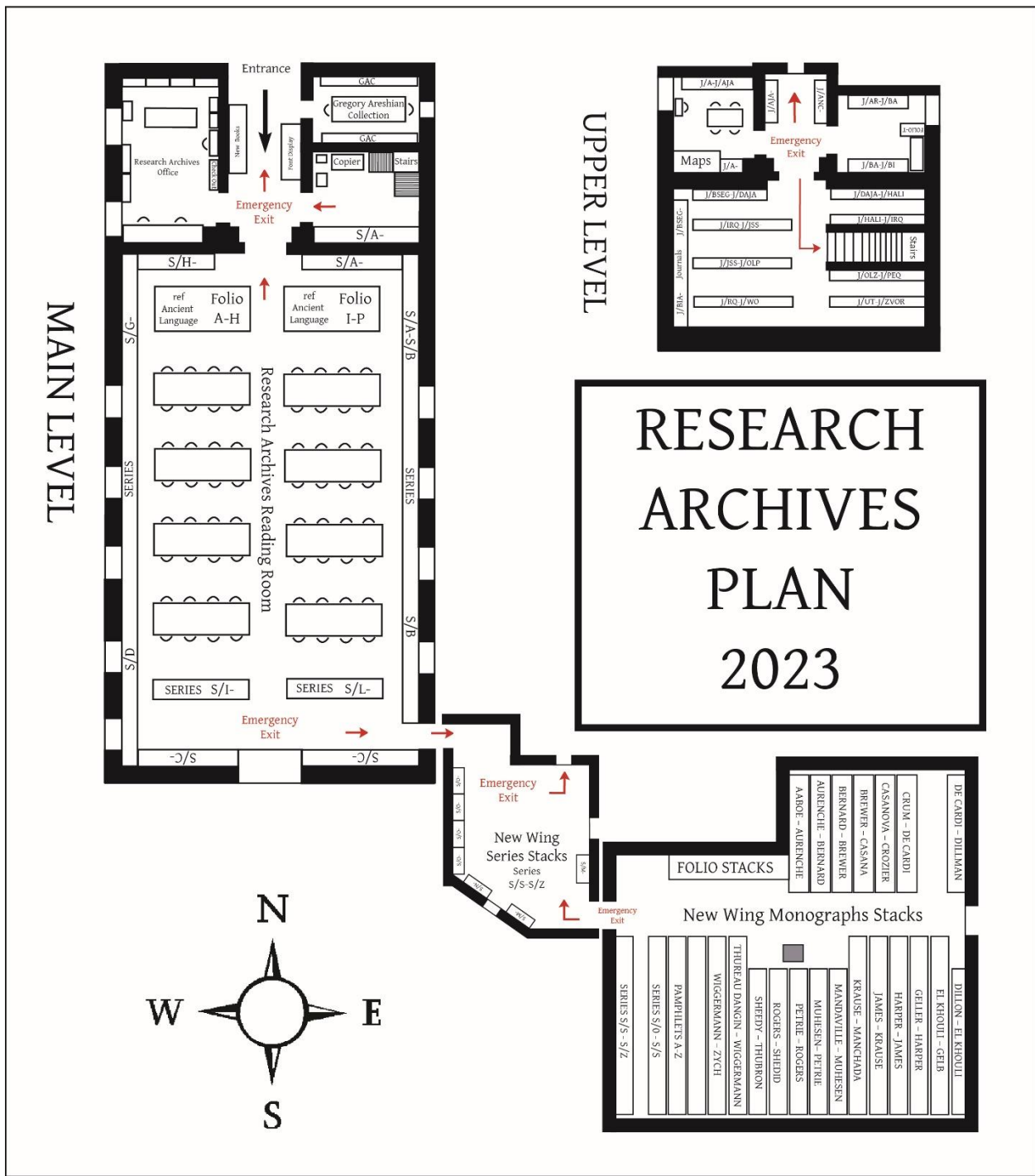
Shelved alphabetically on the west wall of the New Wing.

OVERSIZE FOLIO Call#: FOLIO/Z-99

Shelved alpha-numerically by case and shelf number in the elephant folio cases in the Reading Room.

MAP Call#: map

Located in the Map Room on the upper level.



THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE RESEARCH ARCHIVES LIBRARY

<http://isac-idb.uchicago.edu/>

Search Our Collections

Home / Search Our Collections

Search All Keyword

[Search Tips and Instructions](#)



Highlight from the Museum Collection

Human-Headed Winged Bull (lamassu), Palace of Sargon II (721–705 BC) at Khorsabad, excavated by the Oriental Institute between 1928–1935 (D. 20003). Just one of approximately 300,000 objects available in the collections search.

Browse Museum Galleries

Museum Gallery:

Object Type/Description:

Materials:

Place Name:

Culture:

Dating:

How can we make this a more valuable resource? Let us know what content and features you would like to see. [Feedback](#)

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Introduction

The online catalog of the Research Archives library contains over 600,000 catalog records, reflecting the holdings of the library. While we have only roughly 70,000 volumes, our catalog contains records for every independently authored section from those volumes including: books, series, pamphlets, articles, reviews, chapters, conference proceedings, Festschrift chapters, and encyclopedia entries. Our database thus stands as a near comprehensive index for the study of the ancient cultures of West Asia and North Africa, publicly accessible to scholars worldwide. The following guidelines are meant to aid in navigating the online catalog and assist your scholarly research.

General Principles for Searching the Online Catalog

1. **Enter through the “Search Our Collections” Page:** Begin your search at the homepage of the Oriental Institute collections search:

<http://isac-idb.uchicago.edu/>

If you want to search only the Research Archives library collection, choose “Research Archives” from the first dropdown menu.

2. **Help:** You can find a useful help section on the webpage:
<https://isac.uchicago.edu/research/how-use-idb>
3. **Use the “Keyword” Search:** The keyword search is incredibly useful and most powerful in two cases:
 - You know all the bibliographic information about what you are looking for, but you need to know where it is located in the library. Using a combination of author’s last name and important words from the title will often limit your search to just a few entries, making it easy to find the one you are looking for. If there are rare words in the title, using them will limit your search further, thereby giving you less results to sift through.
 - You are researching a topic. Doing various keyword searches for terminology related to your topic, as well as their German/French/Italian/etc. equivalents, should give you a good idea about what research has been done in that area. For example, you could search for “frogs” and you will get 7 results. If I were interested in temple administration in Nippur, I would try various searches such as “temple nippur”, “temple administration”, “administration nippur”, “administrative nippur”, etc.
4. **Searching Diacritics:** We have begun the tedious process of entering all diacritics in the Unicode standard into the Online Catalog. Each character has a unique Unicode character number and therefore you must search on the specific character in order to get the desired results. Searching for “Egypte” will not find “Égypte.” Likewise, capitalization must match exactly so that a search for “Ägypten” will retrieve different results from “agypten.” In general, it is best to avoid words with complex diacritics (transliteration of ancient languages, etc.) and to try to find what you are looking for by using other criteria.

Expert Tips for Searching the Catalog

1. **Serial and Journal Searches:** If you want to find a particular serial or journal volume, a call number search can find it (as well as all of its articles) immediately. Simply select “Research Archives” from the first dropdown menu and selected “Call Number” from the second dropdown menu. Enter the call number in the following ways, then click the search button called “Submit” at the bottom left:
 - **JOURNAL:**
 J/JEA – this will provide you with all the records for the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*.

 J/JEA/1 – this will provide you with all the articles from *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 1.

 J/RA/80 – this will provide you with all the articles from *Revue d’Assyriologie* 80.
 - **SERIAL:**

S/OLA/25 – this will provide you with all the entries relevant to S/OLA/25, in this case only 1: Gilbert Pollet *India and the Ancient World*.

S/AOAT/42 – this will provide you with all the entries relevant to S/AOAT/42, in this case 25 records: 1 for the volume itself and 24 for the various articles in the volume.

2. Wildcard Searching

- AND: a space between two terms implies an “AND” search so that the database will bring back records that include both terms (in any order). A search for “mummy masks” results in just 12 records.
- OR: inserting “OR” between two terms will result in records that include either term. A search for “mummy OR masks” results in 349 records.
- NOT: use the hyphen before a term to discard records containing that term. A search for “mummy” will result in 300 records, but a search for “mummy -masks” will bring back only 288 records as any record with including the term “mask” was discarded.
- Truncation: the * serves as a wildcard for any number of characters and the ? serves as a wildcard for any single character. A search for “mumm*” will result in 775 records while a search for “mumm?” will result in 308 records.
- Grouping: terms can be grouped using the () signs. A search for “(papyrus OR ostracon) demotic” will result in 53 records. A search for “(papyrus OR ostracon) (demotic OR hieratic)” will result in 81 records.
- Range: a range search can be conducted on the publication date field using the format [##### TO #####]. A search in the publication date field for [2012 TO 2013] will result in 14,999 records from the publications cataloged for those years.

Building Complex Searches

By clicking the plus button on the right side of the search bar, queries of increasing levels of complexity can be constructed.

1. **Searching for Publication Dates:** A very useful search in the database is for author and date in order to find a publication by an author published during a particular year. A search for author=“Pardee” AND publication date=“2012” will result in the 13 records for publications produced by Dennis Pardee in 2012. You could also search for a range of dates. If you search for author= “Pardee” AND publication date=[2010 TO 2013] you will find 27 records for all the publications of Dennis Pardee between the years of 2010 and 2013.

GUIDELINES FOR USING THE RESEARCH ARCHIVES LIBRARY

The successful operation of the Research Archives library requires patrons to observe the following guidelines for the courtesy of all library users:

1. No Food/No Drinks: Please do not bring food or drinks into the library. There is a refrigerator in the student lounge if you need it.
2. No Circulation: Books are **NEVER** to leave the Research Archives except:
 - a. Books may be checked out by prior arrangement with Research Archives staff for short periods to faculty offices in the building. All checked books are subject to immediate recall.
 - b. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BOOKS TO LEAVE THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE BUILDING.**
 - c. If you need a book for an extended period of time (i.e. more than 2 or 3 days), please get it from the Regenstein Library.
 - d. If you need a book which is checked out, ask the Archives staff for assistance.
3. Reshelving: Patrons are responsible for reshelving the books they are using. If you are at all uncertain about where a book should be placed, please ask library staff. An incorrectly shelved book is a lost book.
4. Ph.D. students may keep up to 10 books on a table in the Research Archives. The books should be arranged neatly between bookends, labels facing out, with a note containing the student's name and current date. If more than 10 books are kept out, the books will be removed. If the date is not updated every 3 days, the books will be removed. Please do not keep series books on the tables (return them to the shelf daily). Keeping books on the tables is a courtesy to students. It does not mean the tables are your personal bibliographies. If you need to remember a book, write it down. Do not leave notes and papers inside Research Archives materials as other patrons may need to use the materials.
5. Do not use sticky notes inside Research Archives materials. The glue collects dirt and leaves a residue, while removing them often results in torn pages. If you need to remember a page, write it down.
6. Please do not leave books from other libraries (e.g., Regenstein) in the Research Archives. It is likely to result in confusion and potentially lost volumes.
7. If a book is not where you expect it to be, please check the card catalogue, the on-line catalogue, and the books on the tables before consulting staff.
8. Avoid photocopying/scanning if possible. Photocopying/scanning damages books. If you must photocopy/scan, please do so with care.
9. All new acquisitions are shelved outside the Archives office for up to one month before shelving. New books do not circulate.
10. Please remember to be quiet and courteous to other patrons.