



# Olininfo

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANKLIN W. OLIN LIBRARY AT ROLLINS COLLEGE

April 2004

## Olin Hours-Spring

Mon - Thurs.. 8:00am to Midnight  
Friday ..... 8:00am to 6:00pm  
Saturday ..... 9:00am to 6:00pm  
Sunday ..... 11:00am to Midnight

## Calendar *online*—

<http://www.rollins.edu/olin/circulation/calendarpage.htm>

## Olin Telephone Numbers

Hours ..... 646-2376  
Circulation ..... 646-2521  
Reference ..... 646-2507  
Documents ..... 646-2693  
Archives ..... 646-2421

## *Olin Info online*—

Current and back issues may be viewed at: [rollins.edu/olin/olininfo/](http://rollins.edu/olin/olininfo/)

## Director's Notes – Information Literacy

I just read the evaluations from recent classes taught by Olin librarians. The comments were uniformly positive, and they reinforced my belief that students benefit most when librarians and other faculty collaborate in a consistent pattern of library instruction for Rollins students.

In our evaluations we ask students to comment on whether the presentation covered information that was new to them. For recent classes students remarked that they had not known about several library-licensed databases such as Wilson Web, World Cat, and Stat-USA; moreover, they were unaware of the availability of inter-library loan and of the procedures for accessing UCF's resources. The students also appreciated our recommendations of subject-specific web sites. As one commented, "I would just use Yahoo, but now I have more resources that are specific to what I need."

When asked what was most helpful, students remarked that they appreciated hands-on searching as a part of the instruction; strategies for recognizing scholarly books as opposed to popular books; and instruction in search terms and search techniques, such as Boolean searching and truncation. They were pleased with introductions to reference books in their subject areas. One student remarked that, without that introduction, "I don't think I would have ever used them." Another found the step-by-step instructions valuable because: "while getting to the database or catalog is one thing, navigation of them is tough sometimes." In addition, students find the research guides developed by the librarians helpful for their current work and for future research in their disciplines. "The hand-out is priceless for the research, giving a great head start into the project at hand."

One of the benchmarks our library uses to measure the quality of its services is comparison with the annual statistics gathered by the seventy-five Oberlin Group Libraries. Olin librarians teach an average of ninety classes per year (not counting the Using the Web for Research course), close to the median number for all Oberlin Group libraries. Reference librarians answer 212 questions in a typical week, well over the median for the Oberlin Group. But more than statistics, the library relies on qualitative evaluation to determine the success of its programs. Sometimes this information may be difficult to obtain. Some libraries have experienced success with having students maintain "research diaries" in selected courses; others have analyzed bibliographies submitted with honors or graduate theses. The Olin Library public services department is currently gathering data about students' library skills through pre-and post-testing of first-year students. Our future goal will be to assess the information literacy skills of our graduating seniors to determine the effectiveness of library instruction.

*Donna Cohen, Library Director*

## Fourth Annual Book-A-Year Reception

On Friday, March 5, the Olin Library and the Office of Planned Giving hosted the fourth annual reception to honor Book-A-Year donors and honorees. The Book-A-Year Fund was established in 1933 by Dr. Edwin Osgood-Grover, a former Rollins librarian, in order to provide an endowment for the Library and to “give friends of Rollins, and anyone who loves books, an opportunity to project that affection into the endless future.”



Josh Englert

Josh Englert, a Rollins student musician, performed on the classical guitar as part of the evening activities. Robert R. Cummins, J.D., M.B.A., Director of Planned Giving, welcomed guests and introduced the speaker for the evening, Professor Emerita Jean West. Professor West presented an enjoyable and informative reading of manuscript material from the Olin Library’s Jessie Belle Rittenhouse Collection. Rittenhouse, who worked on the editorial staff of the *New York Times Book Review* and corresponded with many poets of the early twentieth century, was noted for her anthologies of modern poetry and was the only woman involved in the founding of the Poetry Society of America. Rittenhouse also founded the Poetry Society of Florida. While living in Winter Park, she became acquainted with Hamilton Holt and was drawn into his circle at Rollins College. She taught courses on modern poetry and accepted the position of “Poetry Consultant” at Rollins College. Jessie Rittenhouse generously bequeathed her collection of over 1,200 volumes of poetry and her literary correspondence of 1,400 letters to Rollins College. Professor West shared excerpts from Rittenhouse’s correspondence with Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, and Sara Teasdale.

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.”

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

## Books That Made a Difference

*The Blank Slate: the modern denial of human nature*

In *The Blank Slate*, noted neuroscientist and MIT professor Steven Pinker elucidates the nature of human nature. Pinker combines research from areas as diverse as psychology, genetics, neuroscience, and evolutionary psychology to paint a picture of human functioning driven by biological and genetic processes (e.g., “everyone acknowledges that there can be no learning without the innate circuitry to do the learning.”) In



Prof. Gio Valiante

doing so, Pinker tips the balance of power in the nature vs nurture debate heavily in the favor of nature; he handles the relationship elegantly as in a passage where he writes “People sometimes fear that if the genes affect the mind at all they must determine it in every detail. That is wrong for two reasons. The first is that most effects of genes are probabilistic. The second reason is that the effects of genes can vary depending on the environment” (48-49). Pinker does not end there, however, as he takes the debate a step further by discussing the implications these findings have in areas as diverse as politics, religion, and child care. This is an excellent book that is well worth the time it takes to familiarize oneself with the jargon of such varied disciplines.

## Book-A-Year Plus for Dr. Bornstein

On March 4th, the Olin Library faculty and staff honored President Rita Bornstein by placing a book in the library in honor of her leadership to the college. The library faculty and staff noted her many achievements, including increases in the endowment, in the number of endowed chairs, and in scholarships for students and contributions to faculty development. To recognize her hard work, we plated in her honor a copy of Richard J. Light’s *Making the Most of College*, published in 2001 by Harvard University Press.



President Rita Bornstein and Edna McClellan, Head of Technical Services

## Gift of Art

The Olin Library recently received a gift of seventeen art works from Fred W. Hicks III '79 '80H. The original paintings, prints, and photographs collected by Dr. Hicks and are the result of his interest in the fine arts and the works of late Twentieth-Century American, British, French, and Russian artists.



Fred W. Hicks III '79 '80H

Dr. Hicks' appreciation for art developed under the mentorship of former Rollins College President Hugh McKean. During the years when he served as assistant to Presidents McKean and Critchfield (1969-79), Dr. Hicks was instrumental in preserving the Rollins College art collection and situating it in the Cornell Fine Arts Museum.

The gift consists of four linocuts by Russian artist Alexander Ivanov; "Petanque a la Fontone," oil on canvas by French artist Daniel Mahieu; three dry point etchings by Russian-American artist Anna Shakeeva; "Chicago Symphony," Gouache and acrylic by British artist Mark Silwood; "Down by the Riverside," a watercolor by African-American artist Ogbonna Mossi, an untitled graphic study in fused glass by American artist Kathie Farr; five color photographs by French photographer and artist Gerald Sioen; and "Tournedots en Provence," oil on canvas by French artist Roger N. DiBlanco.

### Olin Faculty Publications

- Svitavsky, William. "From Decadence to Racial Antagonism: M.P. Shiel at the Turn of the Century." *Science Fiction Studies* 31.1 (March 2004): 1-24.
- Zhang, Wenxian. "Development and Structure of the Chinese Thesaurus for Subject Indexing." *International Information and Library Review* 36 (2004): 47-54.

## Celebrating 95 Years as a Federal Depository Library

In 1909, when Congress designated the Rollins Library as a federal depository, we accepted the responsibility to provide access to government information to all citizens in our community.



Today, with so much of our energy focused on electronic sources, it's easy to forget the more than 200 years of United States government publications that are still preserved only in print format. Information on almost any subject: art, education, music, energy, environment, food, nutrition, and health can be found in Olin Library's collection of more than 50,000 documents.

Here are three historic examples to explore:

### *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1907-1976.*

This series consists of sensitive correspondence and other documents of the State Department and other material affecting our nation's foreign relations. Items in this collection were not released for publication until twenty-five years after they were originally produced.

### *Territorial Papers of the United States, 28 volumes.*

Volumes 22-26 cover the Territory of Florida (1821-1845). Selections from the official papers of the Territory, found in the National Archives, begin with "papers relating to the transition from Spanish to American rule" and the appointment of General Andrew Jackson as Governor of Florida.

Publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology (1877-1933) include writings by John Wesley Powell, the distinguished ethnologist and geologist who explored the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon, and the homeland of Indian tribes of the American Southwest. Powell published the first classification of American Indian languages and was the first director of the U.S. Bureau of Ethnology.

Visit Olin Library's government documents collection or the documents home page at: <http://www.rollins.edu/olin/documents/docfrm.htm>.

"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

*John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)*

## New Reference Books

Titles recently acquired for our Reference collection include:

*The Brontës A to Z*: provides a chronology and alphabetical entries on the lives and writings of the Brontë family. This work covers “topics that range from a description of Emily Brontë’s dog Keeper, who famously followed his mistress’s coffin during her funeral procession, to the Luddite rebellion against industrialization that threatened Patrick Brontë’s life and livelihood.” The book’s format “allows readers to investigate discrete points of interest quickly or to browse through a sequence of entries, following their interests.”

*Jazz Makers: Vanguard of Sound*: contains brief biographies of approximately fifty jazz musicians, with related discographies and websites. This volume does not attempt to cover the history of jazz in depth, but aims to help the reader “get a good idea of how the sound of jazz developed.”

*Contemporary North American Film Directors: A Wallflower Critical Guide*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.: looks at the works of directors working in the American and Canadian film industries. Professors, doctoral students, filmmakers, and critics are among the contributors to this very readable volume, whose first edition was described by *Empire Magazine* as “an invaluable reference tool and thoroughly enjoyable read.”



ROLLINS COLLEGE  
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**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Olin Library provides instruction, information, and services to support the teaching and research needs of the Rollins Community.

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## Across the Tracks: A Collective History of Black Churches of Winter Park

On February 23, more than seventy people gathered to hear Dr. Rebekah McCloud present her research on the history of African American churches in Winter Park. The presentation was hosted in the historic Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, one of the eight churches on which she focused her research. Dr. McCloud asserted that the black church is the cornerstone of the African American community and stands as a testament to the “hard work, commitment, and tenacity of the people.” As part of her research, she interviewed dozens of elderly church members whose memories were invaluable for documenting the development, funding, and building of these churches in the early and mid-twentieth century.



Dr. Rebekah McCloud

Dr. McCloud’s lecture was sponsored by the Rhea Marsh Smith History Research grant, which is jointly supported by the Olin Library and the Winter Park Public Library. The grant’s objective is to foster research and interest in various aspects of Winter Park history. Copies of Dr. McCloud’s research will be kept on file at both libraries as a permanent record of this important facet of local history.

Applications for next year’s grant are now being accepted. The contest is open to students, professors, or interested members of the community. Information regarding the application process will be available from the Winter Park Public Library <http://www.wppl.org/wphistory/> or the Olin Library Homepage.

## Memberships and Memorials

You can honor or memorialize a friend, relative, or member of the campus community by sponsoring a Book-A-Year Endowment. For details, contact:

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