

2015

# The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago

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### Recommended Citation

Twiss-Brooks, Andrea (2017) "The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 27: Iss. 2, Article 12.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7036>

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# Update on the Welch Medical Library

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This brief communication updates a presentation given at the **2010 Charleston Conference** that described, in part, **Welch Medical Library's** journey to an all-electronic collection. The **Welch** journal collection was then almost entirely online, and the next goal was to remove up to 80% of the print collection that duplicated those online holdings. Staff developed criteria for selecting titles to withdraw (e.g., out-of-scope works and or those that duplicated our electronic holdings

but were also held in trusted third-party archives like the **National Library of Medicine and Portico**.)

A temporary staff member was hired to help with the extra work. She and cataloging staff began identifying and removing the appropriate titles and then correcting the catalog records to reflect the removal.

Four years later **Welch** has moved even closer to an all-electronic collection. We have only six current journal subscriptions in print format and spend less than .2% of our budget on print books. Print has not dis-

appeared completely, however. Print books can be requested via the catalog and are then delivered to and retrieved from a user's office on campus. Recently **Hopkins** joined the Borrow Direct program, and, as a result, the collection of shared print materials available to Welch users has grown enormously.

After weeding slightly more than 80,000 volumes, **Welch** stopped to consult with a committee of users from across the medical campus about the future of the **Welch** building. In response to this committee's

work the decision was made to pause the weeding project for now. Neverthe-

less **Welch** staff continue to generate lists of titles for expected future removal. We believe that eventually **Welch** will be asked to remove the print collection from the building. We have seen this occur in other academic medical libraries. The print collection requires valuable space in a grand building on a large, crowded, decentralized medical campus. Our proactive efforts now will allow us to make

careful recommendations about what to keep and what to weed.

In addition to changes in the weeding project, library staff have been re-located; the **Welch** building has been repaired and renovated; and a new academic center has been moved into its ground floor. The West Reading Room, home to the famous portrait of the Four Doctors, was refurbished to facilitate quiet study, and serve as a space for lectures, or a hall where up to 100 people could dine. A handicap-accessible bathroom was installed to meet building codes. The East Reading Room was renovated to create inviting areas for individual and group study. Long-deferred repairs and upgrades were made. Energy-efficient windows replaced single-pane ones on three sides of the building, two leaking skylights were repaired, and many electrical outlets were added for users who bring their laptops and other devices needing to recharge.

The renovated **Welch** building has once again become a favorite site for events on campus. The **Welch Library** continues to grow its collections and services, delivering them wherever our users are. 🌸



# The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago

by **Andrea Twiss-Brooks** (University of Chicago Library) <atbrooks@uchicago.edu>

Beginning more than a decade ago, the **University of Chicago Library** began a planning process to address the need for additional shelving space for collections. Planning included involvement by library staff, University faculty and administration, and other stakeholders and culminated in the construction of the **Joe and Rika Mansueto Library**, a storage library, which was dedicated on October 18, 2011.<sup>1</sup> With the opening of this facility, the University demonstrated a commitment to keep the print collections on campus for the next few decades. Peer institutions have chosen to move significant volumes of materials to off-site storage facilities when faced with capacity issues; local opinion held that this solution would impede scholarly research. While faculty at the University value the availability of large full-text databases like **HathiTrust**, online journal subscriptions, and commercial eBook offerings, in at least some disciplines these resources are not viewed as replacements to on-site print collections. This

is what the previous Library Director, **Judith Nadler** wrote:

*"Mass digitization leads users to collections; it does not take their place. As companies such as Google and libraries around the world digitize a growing proportion of books and make them searchable online, such search results will increasingly point the way to our rich print collection, fueling scholarly demand for access to these materials."<sup>2</sup>*

The new **Mansueto Library** uses state-of-the-art robotic storage and retrieval technology to house up to 3.5 million volumes (or the equivalent in archival boxes or other formats) of material in high-density storage space, providing scholars with delivery turnaround times of 15 minutes. The selection of materials shelved in the **Mansueto Library** is focused on those whose removal from the browsable shelving in the **University of Chicago's** five campus libraries will have the most limited or controllable effects on research and teaching.



The Library also wanted selections which could be easily explained to library users, as well as selections that provided a large volume of material which could be identified and processed in a timely fashion. During the first year of operation several hundred thousand volumes were transferred from various campus libraries.

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# Remote Storage and Pritzker Legal Research Center — Figuring Out How to Do More with Less

by **Eric C. Parker** (Northwestern University, Pritzker Legal Research Center) <ecp278@law.northwestern.edu>

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## Getting Ready and Beginning Work

**Pritzker Legal Research Center** is the library for **Northwestern University School of Law** (“Northwestern Law”). As with many long-established libraries, we hold many older print materials, a significant portion of which are now reliably available electronically. The library expects to renovate its physical space, though that will likely entail a smaller footprint and less stack capacity.

In late 2010, the then-Associate Dean for Information Services asked our librarians to develop a plan detailing which materials would move off-site were the library to reduce its shelving capacity by up to 55%. In late spring, 2011, the librarians completed the plan, which consists of a series of rules for what to keep on-site and what to move to remote storage. The rules vary a bit from collection to collection within the library, but by and large they say to send off-site:

1. those print materials which do not require extensive browsing, and for which there is reliable electronic access; and
2. many older materials (regardless of electronic access) which have seen little use in the past 20 years.

While **Pritzker** planned, the University was building the first module of its **Oak Grove Library Center**, which opened in late fall, 2011. During the facility’s first two years of operation, the University Library and the **Galter Health Sciences Library** sent materials there. (A similar deselection project at the **Galter Health Sciences Library** is also detailed in this issue.)

As a construction project at **Northwestern Law** was about to break ground in spring, 2014, **Pritzker** became aware that about 5,000 vol-

umes stored in our basement would need to be moved to allow construction crews access to a particular area. In our 2011 plan, we had identified these volumes to send off-site. These were sent during a three-week period in February and March, 2014. Later that spring, the **Galter Health Sciences Library** completed sending its weekly loads to **Oak Grove**, freeing up system capacity for **Pritzker** to begin sending materials. Following our 2011 plan, we have been sending weekly loads of materials since June, 2014, with occasional breaks.

## Specifics on Doing the Work

Because we need to prepare weekly shipments with a lean staff, we have found a few ways to achieve maximum efficiencies.

First, our University Library colleague **Gary Strawn** helped us by modifying the

Oak Grove Assistant program he developed for **Northwestern’s** internal use with Voyager. The modifications allow us to change item records in bulk by having Oak Grove Assistant process .txt files of scanned barcodes rather than scanning barcodes one-by-one into the program. Second, we decided to minimize the handling of materials. With the software modifications discussed above, we could pack the materials into totes in the stacks, instead of moving all volumes on trucks to a workstation for scanning and packing. The filled totes are moved from

the stacks to our loading dock each week by facilities staff, which also drops off empty totes in the stacks.

In some cases, the staff use a laptop and portable barcode scanner to create the files of scanned barcodes that are emailed to be processed. In others, staff members pack the entire run without scanning, and the necessary database work is done with a related piece of software making batch changes to Voyager. The first approach works best when picking non-sequential volumes from an area (such as a portion of the monographs). The second approach works better when an entire run of a serial is being sent off-site.

There is typically a bit of cleanup work to do after the data are processed. However, this takes relatively little time compared to moving volumes and processing them one-

by-one at a workstation, and has allowed **Pritzker** to continue work on an important project through a period of lean staffing and staff turnover.

We estimate our **Oak Grove** project will take about three years total to complete. At the end of that time, we expect to have on site a more compact

and fresher-appearing collection that will be of greater use to our patrons, while allowing for changes to library space that accommodate contemporary usage patterns. 🌱



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A number of selection options were considered: selecting clusters of subject-related materials in areas of low research/teaching interest, selecting duplicates and closely related editions, selecting materials by format or type which do not have close subject classification (e.g., dissertations, microforms, etc.), transferring materials that were already shelved in non-browsable locations, and transferring bound serial volumes from library stacks. After much discussion and consultation with faculty advisors, the Library chose to focus on the transfer

of bound serials volumes, with highest priority being those available as online full-text equivalents or well indexed in online databases. In addition, extremely large oversized volumes (aka “elephant folios”) and archival materials, which also are of limited value for browsing, are located on special racks in the facility. As of June 30, 2014 the **Mansueto Library** contained nearly 1.2 million items.

In addition to providing greatly expanded shelving capacity, the construction of the **Mansueto Library** provided space for library services and for scholars and students. A state of the art conservation laboratory and space for the Library’s digital preservation program staff and equipment were included

in **Mansueto**, and, while not directly related to its function as a storage library, a grand reading room “under the dome” provides a unique environment for consulting materials from the collection or for other scholarly work or study and has become a popular destination for students on campus. 🌱

### Endnotes

1. <http://mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/>
2. The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library: Director’s Message <http://mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/director.html> (accessed Feb. 19, 2015).