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“Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World,” a traveling exhibition on display through April 22 at the Thompson Library, 1858 Neil Avenue, tells the remarkable story of the man who began his life as a poor printer’s apprentice and ended it as a revered elder statesmen known throughout the world for his wisdom, wit, and resourcefulness. Photographs of handwritten and printed documents, objects owned by Franklin, maps, paintings and drawings provide a colorful background for Franklin’s story. The exhibition draws upon original documents in the collections of the American Philosophical Society, The Franklin Institute, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the University of Pennsylvania, other museums and libraries, and private collectors.

The OSU Libraries is sponsoring free programs in connection with the exhibition. See the Libraries’ web site, library.osu.edu, for more information, or call 292-OSUL (6785).

“We are pleased to have been selected as a site for this exhibition,” said Professor David Lincoe, political science librarian for the OSU Libraries.

“Franklin’s life is the quintessential American success story,” Lincoe said. “His dedication to the welfare of the community, and his belief that overcoming society’s challenges require mutual action, collaboration and generosity on the part of all citizens, offer us inspiration as we face many difficult issues in contemporary American society.”

Franklin’s achievements in diplomacy, science, philanthropy and other fields profoundly influenced the path of a new nation and continue to inspire us more than 300 years after his birth. Franklin’s accomplishments were the result of a lifelong dedication to improving the world around him. “I would rather have it said, ‘He lived usefully,’ than ‘He died rich,’” Franklin wrote to his mother. He also placed great value on self-improvement and believed that integrity and moral responsibility were the foundations for a successful life and a strong community.

“Franklin has a particular resonance in 21st century America,” biographer Walter Isaacson has written. “We would relate to the way he tried to balance, sometimes uneasily, a pursuit of reputation, wealth, earthly virtues, and spiritual values.” Although Franklin excelled at nearly everything he attempted, his first priority was to use his talents for the greater public good. He refused to seek a patent on his numerous inventions, believing that they should be universally available.

Franklin was the only American political figure to have signed five of his country’s key founding documents: the Albany Plan of Union (1754), Declaration of Independence (1776), Treaties of Amity and Commerce with France (1778), Treaty of Paris (1783) and U.S. Constitution (1787). His last years were spent in writing his autobiography, the most widely published memoir in history, and in promoting the abolition of slavery. In 1787, three years before his death, Franklin became the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention. Although in poor health, he played a significant role in the “Great Compromise,” which resulted in the legislature of two houses which is today the United States Congress.

The traveling exhibition was curated by Rosalind Remer, Ph.D., executive director of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, and Page Talbott, Ph.D., Associate Director of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and chief curator of the original “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World” exhibition.

Organized by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World” was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): Great Ideas Brought to Life. The traveling exhibit is based upon a major exhibit of the same name, developed by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and chief curator of the original “Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World” exhibition.

The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Ohio Humanities Council. Program co-sponsors are the OSU Department of English, COSI, and the OSU Department of History.
Walking on Words

by Julia Hans, onCampus staff

Try to run your fingers across the brilliant whirls of paint on a Van Gogh canvas and you're likely to get arrested. Lean too close to the famous visage of the Mona Lisa and you might get yourself body slammed by French security officers.

In short, with most works of art it's "look but don't touch."

With Ann Hamilton's latest masterpiece, however, viewers are not only invited to touch it but to actually walk all over it.

Of course, "Verse" is quite a bit different from a painting you'd find in a museum. It's a "field of words" spread out across — and embedded into — the 6,000 square feet of curved, light-dappled floor space that comprises Thompson Library's Buckeye Reading Room. It's 299 lines of text sifted from three very different books about the start and the end of history, a visual concordance woven together in an intricate, compelling, nuanced tapestry of language.

"So this floor, for me, is about how the experience of reading can be made into something tactile, something material, something that you can touch."

Translating her vision into reality took three years, Hamilton says, and ultimately took the form of a two-toned cork floor with blocky letters that protrude from the surface a scant 1/16 of an inch — just enough to provide some texture and form to words that can be traced by fingers or caught by a heel as you walk over it. Covered with nine layers of heavy-duty sealant, the floor gleams like polished bronze in the shifting streams of light from the enormous windows.

The text itself is taken from three books: 
*American Indian Myths and Legends*, edited by Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz; *A Little History of the World*, by E.H. Gombrich; and *Mirrors* by Eduardo Galeano. Each book presents a unique view of how and why the world is what it is, using myth, poetry and linear narrative.

Running vertically down the center of the room are words from the Native American story "The End of the World," which tells of an old woman who endlessly weaves a robe of porcupine quills as an act of keeping the world in motion. Crossed horizontally with that story are excerpts from the other two texts, in lines that alternate between right-side-up and upside-down. The resultant shape, a dense net of phrases and fragmentary images, calls to mind images of a surfboard, a butterfly book, even the two hemispheres of a human brain.

A fourth text, what Hamilton calls the "reader's text," appears as a bolded scaffolding of words that straddle the spine of the concordance, forming a carefully rendered poem.

"Verse." Taken together, the floor is a shifting and elusive quarry whose meaning is impossible to quantify, and that's exactly the experience Hamilton was hoping to create for its visitors.

However visitors to the Buckeye Reading Room choose to interact with "Verse," which is the 19th work of art to be installed on Ohio State's campus as part of the Percent for Art Program, there is little doubt that it will have a resounding impact. Even during its installation, which took place during the university's winter break, students were taking notice.

"On the third day of the process, there were a couple of students standing at the threshold who we could overhear saying, 'This is so cool, they're always doing cool things at this university. That's why I go to school here,'" Hamilton said.

The Libraries Web Implementation Team worked with Ann to devise an interactive concordance allowing web users to create their own interwoven text. The concordance is accessible at library.osu.edu, under the "About" tab; select "Thompson," then "Verse."

At its official unveiling January 13. "Verse" was heralded by University Libraries Director Carol Pitts Diedrichs as a unique attraction that would draw countless visitors to the library in years to come. "I'm particularly delighted, truthfully, that Ann's work is going in after the building has been open for a while, because when you open something new, there's a lot to see and experience," she said. "Now it will be its own showcase, something new to come in and experience at the Thompson Library."
The Next Chapter
Director Announces Libraries New Administrative Team

Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Director of University Libraries, has announced the appointment of five individuals to the Libraries executive team.

“Over the past several months, we have been actively recruiting to bring the best talent in the library profession to our administration here at The Ohio State University Libraries (OSUL),” Diedrichs said. “These leaders will help me to continue implementing our strategic plan and our new organizational model alongside the Libraries’ talented faculty and staff,” Diedrichs said.

“We have an ambitious agenda to fulfill our mission of delivering high quality content and responsive services in support of research, teaching and learning at Ohio State, within Ohio, and to a wider scholarly community,” Diedrichs said. “These new colleagues will join a talented group of OSUL faculty and staff as we seek to meet the needs of the Ohio State community.”

“With our colleagues across the Ohio State campus, we will contribute to the realization of OSU President Gordon Gee’s vision of taking the university ‘from excellence to eminence.’”

Karla Strieb, Associate Director for Collections, Technical Services and Scholarly Communications: Karla will manage the collection development process; acquisition and description of content, including special collections materials; preservation services; and collection access and storage, including circulation, e-reserves and interlibrary services. Karla has served as Assistant Executive Director for the Transforming Research Libraries program at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) since 2009, after leading ARL’s Scholarly Communication program beginning in 2005. Karla previously served at the University of Maryland Libraries and the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University.

Craig Gibson, Associate Director for Research and Education: Craig will provide leadership, vision and strategic direction for the teaching, research, outreach and subject liaison services of the Libraries. Craig has been Associate University Librarian for Research, Instructional, and Outreach Services at the George Mason University Libraries since 2005. Prior to his time at George Mason, Gibson worked at Washington State University, Lewis-Clark State College, University of Texas at Arlington, and the Colorado State Library.

Lisa Carter, Associate Director for Special Collections and Area Studies: Lisa will lead special collections operations, services and resources, and enhance and promote the unique research opportunities that these collections provide. Lisa is from the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries, where she was Head of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), a position she has held since September 2007. Prior to her work at North Carolina, Lisa was Director of Archives for the University of Kentucky Special Collections and Digital Programs.

Beth Warner, Associate Director for Information Technology: Beth’s responsibilities include a wide range of digital systems and services, including the integrated library system; federated search software; search and discovery services; library web development, digital publishing and repository tools, and desktop support. Beth was the Officer for Grants, Research Support and Library Assessment at the University of Kansas. Her previous jobs include Assistant Vice Provost for Information Services; and Director, Digital Library Initiatives, at KU; Head of the Library Systems Office and Associate Director for Technical, Access, and Systems Services at the University of Michigan Libraries; and NOTIS Systems, Inc., as a project analyst.

Lisa Patton-Glinski, Assistant Director for Planning and Administration: Lisa is responsible for financial management, human resources, facilities, security, communications and graphic design, mail services and event coordination for the Libraries, as well as project management, strategic planning and assessment, and executive support to the Libraries’ Administration. Lisa comes to the Libraries after a 17-year career with Luvata, Inc. a world leader in metals manufacturing. Lisa most recently served in a GM role with full P&L responsibility overseeing finance, HR, engineering, facilities, matrix sales, IT, manufacturing and purchasing. Working both domestically and internationally, she previously held a number of other leadership positions including Director of Lean, Director of Manufacturing and Director of Human Resources.
Thanks to the generosity of Thom and Pat Robinson of Troy, Ohio, who have donated $1 million dollars to the Schulz Challenge, the goal of $2.5 million is within sight.

“We are so grateful to the Robinsons for this generous gift,” says library director Carol Pitts Diedrichs. “One cannot overstate the impact this wonderful couple has had on the libraries at Ohio State.”

“Pat and Thom were the lead donors of the Thompson renovation and now have made another magnificent gift,” Diedrichs said. “Their kindness has truly transformed the facilities we provide for our students.”

Besides their generous support of the libraries, the Robinsons have made numerous gifts to Ohio State in support of the medical center, the marching band and athletics.

The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum will move into its new location in Sullivant Hall following the completion of a $22 million renovation in 2013. The Dance Department and Arts Education will also be housed in Sullivant, and groundbreaking is expected during the summer of 2011. Jean Schulz, the widow of Peanuts creator Charles Schulz, will match all gifts to the project up to $2.5 million and the library now needs an additional $300,000 to reach the goal and fully meet the challenge.

The third annual “Tasteful Evening” presented by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library will highlight the library’s fine collection of American fiction, considered to be one of the most outstanding in the nation. The event will be held at The Columbus Club on Thursday, May 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Dr. Geoffrey D. Smith, head of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, will present an informative tour of the Charvat Collection of American Fiction. The collection is recognized for its outstanding holdings from the 18th century to the present day and is an important research resource for the Ohio State community and wider audience. The Library’s holdings of works from the first quarter of the 20th century are rivaled only by those of the Library of Congress.

As in previous events which focused on Scotch and Irish whiskeys, the “Tasteful Evening” will present a survey of American bourbon by a whiskey master from Kentucky. The event will be hosted by J. C. Hanks and Paul Tingley. Information is available by calling Lola Klein at 614-292-8174 or at klein.40@osu.edu. Cost is $50 per person and the amount is fully tax deductible. All proceeds benefit the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library.

Sullivant Hall Renderings

North Lobby

High Street Entrance

Gallery

Planning “Bourbon Night,” from left: J.C. Hanks, Geoff Smith and Eric Johnson.
Tell us about your research project.

I researched a specific Tyndale Bible in the OSU Libraries' collection. This Bible is important historically because it was one of the first translations into English. The translation was very controversial and William Tyndale was eventually executed for it.

This particular Bible was printed in 1566 and each page is covered in a yellow resin-like material, a treatment that is very rare and largely unstudied. I am using techniques such as Raman, Infrared, and UV-Vis spectroscopy, pH testing, and other material testing in the lab to try to determine the composition of the resin.

Another interesting aspect of this Bible is that it contains partial family histories of its owners in the 18th century. I traveled to England to research these families in the British Library, the Cornwall Record Office, and the East Sussex Record Office. By knowing the history of the family it might be possible to determine the origin and reason for the yellow resin, and by determining the composition of the resin it should be possible to determine how to best preserve the Bible for the future.

What have you enjoyed from your experience?

I have enjoyed my research experience so far. There have certainly been some frustrating moments due to setbacks in time and instrumentation but there is also never a dull moment. I was brand new to the fields of conservation science and paper conservation when I started this project, so I am constantly learning.

I have become a member of the American Institute of Conservation and am therefore getting my name out there in ways I did not know were possible previously. I studied abroad in Florence, Italy, last quarter and I was able to speak with a paper conservationist there which was quite a unique experience.

What advice would you give to undergraduates who want to get involved in research?

First of all, talk to your professors! Ohio State is a research university and even if your professor is not doing research that interests you, he or she is most likely in close contact with someone who is. Never be afraid to approach a professor after class or at office hours and ask them about their research.

Another piece of advice is to set reasonable goals for yourself and for your project. If you are undertaking an independent project like mine, you cannot try to accomplish everything in six months to a year. Take the time to really understand your research question and how to go about finding the answers, and then follow through with every loose end until your project is completed. Contact experts in the field outside of the University.

Finally, and most importantly, be patient! Do not expect your research advisor or anyone you are working with to respond to you instantaneously, and don’t expect every experiment to work correctly the first time. Running into dead ends just means that one possibility has been crossed off of the list. The point of research is to explore new frontiers, so we should not be in any way discouraged to run into a few roadblocks along the way.

(Ashley’s research advisor is Terry Gustafson, Professor of Chemistry.)
The entire flight lasted 24 hours. On his way from Cleveland to San Francisco, the flight attendant asked Ohio-born Captain J. Alan Day about his final destination. When he said Vietnam, she offered him a few extra drinks.

The rest of the trip, from Anchorage to Japan to the Philippines, was uneventful. Finally, Saigon came into view. From the plane he could see the iconic Highway One, the country’s main north–south road. A few years later the triumphant North Vietnamese Army would push its way into Saigon along the same road. When the plane landed, a sergeant came aboard and greeted the green troops, “Gentlemen, welcome to Saigon, South Vietnam.” According to Captain Day, “the cat calls and vulgarities were something else.” But the deed was done. The year was 1971 and Captain J. Alan Day, a 1968 Ohio State University history and ROTC graduate, had arrived in South Vietnam.

A Captain’s Story, the memoirs of J. Alan Day, offers a glimpse into army life during the late 1960s and early 1970s. In frank and unembellished language he describes his tours of duty in West Germany and Vietnam. He writes with remarkable candor about his frustrations with the Army’s bureaucracy, the tense racial relations in the US Army, his visit to East Germany, his modest involvement in the CIA-run Operation Phoenix, and his fears of helicopters (a fear that remains to this day). His descriptions of wartime Saigon, Hue, and Cholon are detailed and informative.

A Captain’s Story is now deposited in the University Libraries’ Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection. It complements the library’s growing collection of soldier’s narratives and opens the door to a more systematic collecting of the memoirs and papers of Ohio’s Vietnam veterans. Thanks to the good auspices of Professor Peter Hahn, Chair of the History Department, and the generosity of Mr. Day, the 98-page typed manuscript will assist faculty, international scholars, and students to learn about the Vietnam War through the voice, the point of view, and the personal experience of the conflict’s central character: the combat veteran.

A Captain’s Story
by José O. Diaz, Ph.D., Associate Curator, University Libraries

The Rare Books & Manuscripts Library hosted its second annual “Preview Night” last fall, showcasing recent acquisitions from the Library’s collection. The featured speaker was Dr. Michael Suarez, co-editor of “The Oxford Companion to the Book.”

Pictured with Dr. Suarez (center) is Libraries Director Carol Pitts Diedrichs and Dr. Geoff Smith, Head of Rare Books & Manuscripts.
The Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States sponsored Jenny Robb, curator of Ohio State’s Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, for a visit to France in January.

The purpose of the trip was to develop collaborative projects between The Ohio State University and France relating to comics. They are extremely popular in France, with a strong tradition of scholarship and criticism about them.

Robb attended the largest cartoon festival in Europe, the Angoulême Festival International de la Bande Dessinée, and met with Jean-Pierre Mercier, conseiller scientifique of the Musée de la bande dessinée. “Bande dessinée” is the French term for comics and literally means “drawn strip.”

The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum loaned several pieces from its collection to an exhibition at the museum called Parodies. In addition, there was a large outdoor exhibition celebrating Peanuts 60th anniversary where Robb met with Charles Rivkin, the U.S. Ambassador to France, who has previously served as CEO of several animation and popular culture companies in the U.S. including The Jim Henson Company. Jean Schulz, widow of Peanuts’ creator Charles Schulz, also attended.

“I have always heard of the wonderful variety and high quality of French comics and it was especially illuminating to experience these things first-hand,” Robb said. “I was very impressed with the Festival and the museum, especially the permanent exhibition which is a chronological history of comics, including U.S. comics that have had an influence on those in France.”

“Jean-Pierre and I discussed several possible collaborations and I look forward to our continuing discussions.”

Major enhancements to the Gardener Family Map Room in the Thompson Library are nearly complete and have been funded through gifts from library donors, Bill and Sally Gardner of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Gardners have generously donated a large gift to provide renovations to the map room located on the second floor of Thompson adjacent to the Grand Reading Room. The first phase of the renovations were installed in the fall of 2010 and the second phase will be completed this spring.

The Gardners are both Ohio State alumni and active university citizens. He is an Emeritus Director of the Presidents Club and a member of the Ohio Staters. Bill and Sally were residents of Columbus before moving to Charlotte and were major donors to the Thompson Renovation. Besides their support of the libraries, they have made gifts to more than 30 areas of Ohio State including the Gardner Family Cancer Research Fund.

The Libraries’ Gardener Family Map Room houses an extensive, wide ranging collection of maps and atlases including topographic maps, navigational charts and historical and thematic maps of the world.

Carol Pitts Diedrichs, Sally Shortz Gardner and R. William Gardner
Good Work Tonya

Libraries Director Carol Pitts Diedrichs recently received the following email, complimenting the work of Tonya Maniaci of InterLibrary Services:

I am composing this e-mail to offer some well-deserved effusive praise to one of your workers, Tonya Maniaci. I have been helped by Tonya many times in the past couple years while I have been at the Ohio State University. I am finishing up my Ph.D. in Spanish literature, having completed my coursework in 2006 and moved back to Erie.

I first contacted Tonya when certain literature I sought after was unavailable. As InterLibrary Services (ILS) only delivers materials to Ohio State, Tonya very nicely offered to mail the literature to me, and, when finished with it, I would mail it back.

The mere fact that she made these materials available to me saved me an enormous amount of money and time. Tonya has continued to demonstrate both assistance and professionalism in the last few years that I have been writing my dissertation. She has consistently made materials available to me that I otherwise would have had no means of obtaining.

Words cannot sufficiently express the degree of gratitude and appreciation I feel for all that Tonya, ILS, and the OSU Libraries in general have done for me. There is no way that I otherwise would be able to have access to this literature. Tonya has been one of the driving forces behind my access to this literature, and for that I am eternally grateful. She exemplifies the spirit of ‘magis’ (‘a little more’), demonstrating that she is more than willing to go above and beyond the call of duty on my behalf.

She has always been professional, helpful, affable, timely, courteous, and, in general, everything a top-notch representative of your library should be. Thank you for employing workers such as Tonya Maniaci—I truly feel that I could not have fulfilled all the requirements of my degree without her help!

Laurie Urraro
OSU Libraries’ Logan Elm Press recently teamed with Spagio Restaurant’s Chef Hubert Seifert to create a unique and beautiful volume.

Such Sensations/Solche Sensationen: Food & Philosophical Reflections of Chef Hubert Seifert, a memoir told through 12 menus, was written and edited by Louisa Bertch Green. Designed by Logan Elm Press Book Arts Specialist Robert Tauber, the book includes 12 initial letters hand drawn by Ann Alaia Woods, who also designed the calligraphy for the volume. Twelve dry-point monoprint menus were created by Anthony H. Rice.

A book signing celebrating the work was held at Aubergine, Spagio’s private dinner club, on November 18. Limited to 26 numbered copies and signed by the chef, author, artist, calligrapher and designer, each volume sells for $2,000. Seven copies were sold the evening of the book signing; three more copies have been sold since, including one to the Lilly Library at Indiana University and one to the University of Iowa’s preservation unit.

Chef Seifert was born in Aachen and began his culinary career at the age of 14 as apprentice in one of Germany’s top restaurants. In 1981 he started the Gourmet Market, in the location where Spagio stands today. He can be seen each Tuesday at noon on WSYX/ABC6 News in Columbus.

Logan Elm Press produces and publishes unique, high quality limited edition books and ephemera that reflect the interests and talents of the University community along with the highest standards in the Book Arts.

Logan Elm Press Prints a “Sensation”

Chef Hubert Seifert, left, with Libraries Director Carol Pitts Diedrichs and Robert Tauber, Logan Elm Press Book Arts Specialist.

Thompson Library on OSU Basketball Uniforms

The OSU basketball team’s new Nike uniforms include a representation of the Thompson Library. Thad Matta, head coach of the Buckeyes, was adamant an academic building be featured on the jersey to make certain the team continues to recognize the meaning behind the term “student-athlete” each time the team takes the floor. After consulting with Ohio State President Gordon Gee, it was decided the library would be the most appropriate building.

The Libraries’ Center for Book Arts (LCBA), which hosts a variety of teaching and learning experiences throughout the year, including credit and non-credit courses, workshops, seminars, lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions and conferences open to OSU students, faculty and staff as well as the community at large. The Book Arts Laboratory serves as a facility for collaborative research opportunities, creative exploration and the construction of knowledge through the Arts of the Book, including binding, printing, typography and papermaking.

Extended Schedule Being Tested at Thompson

The OSU Libraries are running a pilot project which extends hours at the Thompson Library until 2 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday evenings during spring quarter 2011. The Thompson Library was previously open until midnight on those evenings, except during finals, when the facility was open until 2 a.m.

There has been a strong expression of interest in adding hours to the Thompson Library’s schedule. On December 1, University Student Government unanimously passed Resolution 43-R-46, declaring official support for the effort to extend Thompson’s closing time. The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) and the Libraries are funding the pilot.
The Friends of the OSU Libraries are asking for donations of books to help raise money to fulfill the organization’s $400,000 pledge toward the renovation of Sullivant Hall, the future home of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum (see story page 5). Jean Schulz, widow of Peanuts creator Charles Schulz, will match gifts for the Sullivant project up to $2.5 million. The Friends use the services of Better World Books (BWB) to repurpose volumes that are not needed in the Libraries’ collection and generate income for the pledge. Your contribution of used books can help reach the goal. The Friends are particularly seeking book donations in these categories:

• Antiquarian, Rare and Collectable Books
• Dictionaries and Thesauruses
• DVDs and Books-on-CD (must be operable and include original artwork and casing)
• Gently-used Children’s Books (especially Newberry winners)
• Hardcover Fiction and Non-fiction
• Mass Market paperbacks (must be in “like new” condition, copyright 1980 or newer)
• Monographs
• Textbooks (copyright 1998 or newer)
• Trade Paperbacks
• Travel Books (copyright 2003 or newer)

Books not needed for the Libraries’ collection will be shipped to BWB. The Friends of the OSU Libraries receive a percentage of the profit for each book sold through BWB’s online web sites. Another percentage of the profit goes to support “Books for Africa”, the agency the Friends have selected as their designated literacy charity (see sidebar).

If you live in the greater Columbus area and have books you would like to donate, let us know: Please use the pickup request form on the Libraries’ web site, at http://go.osu.edu/book-pick-up or call the Friends’ office at 614-292-3387 to make arrangements. Donations must be boxed for pickup. You will receive a donation acknowledgement form you can use for tax purposes.

The Friends of the OSU Libraries have selected “Books for Africa” as the literacy program being supported through the Friends’ work with Better World Books (BWB). BWB recently announced four grants for Africa-related literacy efforts, supported in part by the sale of discarded and donated books from the OSU Libraries. The four grants combined will ensure 81,000 books, valued at $607,500, will reach 43 libraries and 83 schools in Africa.

• Ethiopia Reads services 43 libraries in Ethiopia and expansion to “Portable Box Libraries” in schools without space for a proper library.
• Books for Knowledge and Empowerment works with 10 nursery schools, 30 primary schools, 30 secondary schools, and five high schools in Cameroon. These books will be donated to the schools to promote reading opportunities and literacy to 20,000 students and villages with a total population of over 100,000.
• Books for St. Peter Claver High School in Tanzania. The school is a new school with 1,200 students.
• Ijara District Project, which benefits five primary schools and two secondary schools by providing textbooks and computers in Kenya, will receive 50 desktop computers and approximately 15,000 books.

You can buy used books at bargain prices and support the OSU Friends of the Libraries by purchasing discarded and donated materials through the Better World Books web site. Just go to the BWB web site at betterworldbooks.com.