Maps reveal insights to the past

A map can be used for more than to determine where a person is, or wants to go. Studying a map tracks history, reveals changes in population and — of particular importance to a world grant university — supports research.

For many, the Map Library is an unexpected find at the MSU Main Library. Tucked away on the third floor of the West Wing, it features a collection of approximately 212,000 sheet maps and 4,000 atlases, gazetteers and reference aids, such as wall maps, globes, CDs and Internet-accessible resources.

While MSU Libraries collects maps of the entire world, its strongest collections are of Michigan, the Great Lakes region, Latin America and Africa. Specialized collections include 19th to 21st century Michigan county atlases, Canadian topographic maps and Ethiopian maps. The worldwide sheet map collection includes maps from the 17th to 21st centuries.

Also among the Map Library’s collections are maps published during World War II. One set of particular interest contains 3-D maps, or anaglyphs, of northern Italy made by the German Army in 1943 and 1944 to illustrate the terrain of the Italian Alps.

Only two other libraries in the world are known to have these 3-D maps, which were presumably received by the Michigan State College Library shortly after World War II. The U.S. Army confiscated thousands of maps when it accepted the German Army’s surrender, and the U.S. Army Map Service distributed them to select U.S. university libraries.

To produce the maps, the German Army geographic service, Deutsche Heer Abteilung für Kriegskarten und Vermessungswesen, remastered topographic maps made in the 1920s by the Italian Instituto Geografico Militare with its own grid systems and updated features. While the maps lack the precise location information that most military maps include, such as latitudes and longitudes, they clearly illustrate terrain through the use red and green ink, slightly offset. The mountainous terrain appears to pop off the page when the maps are viewed through red and green 3-D glasses.

Flipping the maps over shows that even military mapmakers were not immune to the wartime paper shortage — many of the sheets were printed on the back of other maps. The maps sacrificed to Nazi cartographers include various Italian-made maps of Italy and northern Africa.

When these 3-D maps were published, Allied troops were fighting their way north up the “boot” of Italy and east from France into Germany. Although the Alps had no active fronts, it was an important strategic region for moving German troops.

Carl Liedholm, MSU Professor of Economics and map enthusiast, examines a 3-D map of northern Italy produced by the German Army during World War II. Continued on p.2
Support the Map Library

MSU Libraries has two endowment funds devoted to building and maintaining its map and geography collections.

The Map Library Fund is used for the acquirement of antique and rare maps in the Map Library’s primary collection areas: Michigan, the Great Lakes region, Latin America and Africa. Recent purchases include historic county atlases and circa 1900 mineral rights maps of southern Africa’s gold-rich Transvaal Colony (part of present-day South Africa).

The Brunnschweiler Geography Library Endowment Fund is for the acquirement and preservation of geography materials. It was established in 1993 by Dr. Tamara Brunnschweiler, and its proceeds often purchase maps and atlases that serve scholarly research interests relating to the mission of MSU Libraries.

In addition, the Map Library welcomes in-kind donations of maps, atlases and related geography materials.

For more information about the Map Library, go to http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/maps. To make a donation, go to http://giving.lib.msu.edu or indicate your gift to the Brunnschweiler Geography Library Endowment Fund (AB0218) or Map Library Fund (AB0279) on the enclosed envelope.

Maps reveal insights to the past

continued from p.1

to various fronts and a haven for resistance groups. These maps would have been particularly useful after May 18, 1943, when Adolf Hitler launched Operation Alaric to occupy northern Italy.

The Germans developed the equipment used to view stereoviews, and to produce the 3-D effect, on the eve of World War II. Luckily, cartographers of other nations, including those in the U.S. Army, also acquired the technology. The technique greatly reduced the cost and labor of gathering detailed topographic information. Previously, survey crews measured the ground directly.

It is very unusual to see 3-D features printed as a final map product. Typically, 3-D information is an intermediary step to printing a final topographic map that illustrates elevation features with contour lines or shading. The main advantage of a 3-D map is the ease with which people not accustomed to interpreting maps are able to understand the terrain shown.

The German Army 3-D maps, along with other U.S., British and Italian maps of the area, illustrate the technology and knowledge the Allied and Axis powers possessed during the final years of the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Scant literature exists about 3-D maps, and very little research has been done on the role of army map intelligence in the success or failure of the opposing sides.
Africana Collection

What do Nelson Mandela, Haile Selassie, and the slave trade have to do with Michigan State University? Africana bibliographer Peter Limb has just published a biography of Mandela, drawing on letters of Mandela’s close friend, Ahmed Kathrada, held in MSU Libraries. Other rare materials include those of late MSU Professor Harold Marcus on Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and cast iron replicas of slave masks.

Insight talked to Africana librarians Joseph Lauer and Peter Limb about MSU Libraries’ Africana Collection, which is one of the largest in the country and features over 200,000 books, journals, maps and films covering all areas and disciplines.

Insight: What is the emphasis of the Africana Collection?

Peter Limb: Agriculture, health, education, languages, social sciences, history and culture, with great depth on countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania. Recent areas include sports and U.S. involvement.

A growing collection of archives and audio-visual resources is matched by extensive microfilm sets including those on slavery, and many newspapers. Recent donations include the papers of Mary-Louise Hooper (secretary to 1960 Nobel Prize winner, Albert Luthuli) and John and Eleanor Reuling (first MSU married couple, who went straight from 1927 commencement to teach in Africa).

MSU’s cutting-edge digital projects have put online African journals, manuscripts and audio-visual materials.

Insight: When was the collection established?

Joseph Lauer: The collection has been developed since the 1960 founding of the MSU African Studies Center, one of only nine Title VI National Resource Centers on Africa designated by the U.S. Department of Education, which coordinates courses, seminars and instruction in African languages. MSU students consistently produce more dissertations on Africa than any other university.

Insight: What is its purpose?

Joseph Lauer: The Africana Collection supports faculty research and teaching, and their extensive projects in Africa. We provide expert reference advice to a wide range of faculty and students at MSU and across Michigan and are involved in national cooperative projects.

Insight: Why should people support the collection?

Joseph Lauer: More funds allow us to pursue unique materials when regular funds are exhausted. Gifts help pay for such vital things as expensive electronic resources and films, to help keep MSU in the top tier of Africana research libraries. It’s not often MSU can match the likes of Harvard and Yale!

Support the Africana Collection

MSU Libraries’ Africana Collection serves the nation’s largest group of specialists on Africa. Your gift will greatly enhance the collection of books, maps, films, electronic resources and multimedia, and allow for digitization of rare and unique materials.

For more information about the Africana Collection, please go to http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/africana. To make a donation, go to http://giving.lib.msu.edu or indicate your gift to the Africana Library Collections (AB0271) on the enclosed envelope.
GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Friends help the Libraries support MSU’s local, state and global initiatives

An anonymous donor made an in-kind gift, valued at nearly $100,000, to the Map Library. The gift included approximately 5,000 sheet maps, geographically focusing on Canada and many Asian, African and Latin American countries, as well as a set of 26 cabinets, each suitable for storing several hundred sheet maps.

Elsa Ludewig Verdehr, a professor of clarinet at the MSU College of Music and recipient of the MSU Distinguished Faculty Award, made an in-kind gift to the Fine Arts Library. The contribution of 1,650 items includes sheet music for the solo clarinet, clarinet and piano; concertos, chamber music, method books and étude books; original manuscripts, many of which are signed; music-related books, articles, off-prints, dissertations, theses, music magazines; and compact discs and audio tapes.

MSU Libraries hosted a reception to honor Selma Hollander and her late husband, Professor Stanley C. Hollander. The March event, held in the Special Collections reading room, recognized Mrs. Hollander’s generous gift to fund the renovation of the faculty carrel used by Professor Hollander during his 40-year tenure at MSU.

Mrs. Hollander has also donated $30,000 to create the Professor Stanley C. Hollander and Selma D. Hollander Endowment for the Special Collections at Michigan State University Libraries. The endowed fund will support the acquisition, preservation and access of important rare books of literature, music and art in Special Collections.

More than 500 students work at MSU Libraries each semester.

American studies graduate students assist with Chicano Activist Archive

Last fall, a team of American Studies graduate students from Michigan State University prepared an excellent finder’s guide to a collection of papers dealing with Chicano activism in Michigan. As part of a project for my American Studies: Methods, Theory and Bibliography course (Fall 2007), this team of four graduate students produced a detailed Finder’s Guide to the Juana and Jesse Gonzales Papers which are part of Special Collections archives documenting the lives, activities, history and culture of Midwestern Latinos. They also produced a timeline of national/international events in order to coordinate the archival materials in a larger perspective, and they have included an oral history/interview of Jesse Gonzales. The four first- and second-year graduate students, Benjamin Dettmar, Kyra Glass von der Osten, Stacy Flaherty, and Ann Ransford, have, in a matter of a few short but labor-intensive weeks, performed yeoman service for the university and for scholars of Chicano/Latino history.

Special Collections holds seven titles printed by William Morris and the Kelmscott Press, which re-introduced the art of fine printing in the late 19th century. One of the titles, Love is Enough (1897), is unique for its use of three colors: red, black and blue.

The Book Arts Collections holds over 70 artists’ books from Walter Hamady’s Perishable Press located in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. This summer, a few are on exhibit in the Special Collections reading room.

Did you know...

Strawberry Hill Press, established in England by Horace Walpole in 1757, is considered the first fine, private press of printed books.

Special Collections acquired a copy of the fine press book, Sylvaæ; fifty specimens printed directly from the wood with historical anecdotes & observations (2007), winner of the Gregynog Prize at the 2007 Oxford Book Fair.

By a Thread (2006) by the Michigan book artist, Lynn Avadenka, imagines the biblical story of Queen Esther and that of Scheherazade using original drawings and letter press printing all in a continuous sheet folded in accordion style and enclosed within its own folder. The book was acquired to honor Selma Hollander for her generous support of the MSU Libraries.

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(right) This sample realia in the Treviño Collection — an 11-by-13 clock — was hand-constructed of toothpick-sized wood strips by a Michigan Department of Corrections inmate.
Mexican-American activism from the 1960s to the present in this region of the country. They have produced a valuable work of scholarship and oral history.

In my graduate seminar, students read Shelly Streeby’s *American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture* which deals with popular representations of Mexicans, Mexican-Americans and the Mexican War and we began to connect Streeby’s insights with the local history of Chicano/Latino activism in Michigan. Students were invited to look at materials in the Jose Treviño Chicano/Latino Activism Collections. It was an opportunity to learn about archival work and local history and connect it to the national and transnational history we had been studying. Working with Head of Special Collections Peter Berg, Archivist Anne-Marie Rachman and Diana Rivera, the organizer of the Treviño Collection, we conducted a number of sessions of our seminar in the library working with the papers. Special Collections provided a discrete number of archival materials (a set of six boxes from the Gonzales papers) that had been alphabetized but were in need of a time line index and a thematic index. Special Collections also provided some examples of other materials associated with the collection (e.g. tapes and other popular and visual materials), and the four students who chose to do the archival option worked as a team to produce a time line index for scholars to orient themselves to the collection and a thematic index for scholars searching the collection.

An unplanned but interesting development occurred when Rivera arranged for students to interview Jesse Gonzales and to provide an audio and written transcript of it that could be used to orient scholars to the collection. A Michigan native, Gonzales is an alumnus of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, a former employee of Michigan State University and the state of Michigan, and spent much of his life working on a variety of issues involving Chicano affairs. In the interview, Rivera explains the genesis of the collection.

“Over the course of the years I came up with about a cabinet full of materials . . . and I knew that ephemeral material like that became important for researchers along the way. I became aware of Jesse and Juana Gonzales’ collection because they had put a kind of call out there saying we are interested in donating these materials. I went to look at them and it was a wonderful find, it was just a perfect find to provide . . . an anchor to that type of primary resource materials to do research on Chicanos and the Latino community in Michigan over a span of years. Because, as a historian that’s what Jesse had been collecting.”

The graduate students have done fine, detailed work that will allow scholars to navigate the collection, creating relevant categories for any investigator of Chicano/Latino history. They have also supplied a moving oral history that will enrich the meaning of the collection and guide students toward its fundamental historical values. Special Collections at MSU is in the process of preparing these materials for online use so that all scholars may begin to use the collection—the first of these materials to be made available in this way.

— Stephen Rachman, MSU Associate Professor of English

Each year since 1998, MSU Libraries has recognized MSU faculty, retired faculty and staff whose publications are acquired for the MSU Libraries Faculty Book Collection. MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and Provost Kim Wilcox join in congratulating guests at a reception and book exhibit in their honor. More than 250 new titles were added to the Faculty Book Collection in 2007.
This past spring, an unusual and highly desirable book was added to the Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collection: *Endless amusement; a collection of nearly 400 entertaining experiments in various branches of science, including acoustics, arithmetic, chemistry, electricity, hydraulics, hydrostatics, ... wonders of the air pump, all the popular tricks and changes of the cards, etc. etc. etc: to which is added a complete system of pyrotechny, or, the art of making fireworks: the whole so clearly explained as to be within the reach of the most limited capacity.* (London: Thomas Boys, [between 1822 and 1830])

As the title suggests, there are an amazing assortment of imaginative insights involving numerous subjects described in eight densely filled pages of specialized categories arranged in alphabetical order for quick access. These categories are in turn broken down in sub-categories. For example, “Water” has smaller subsections regarding “Odoniferous Water Balloons, Water Rockets, Illuminated Water, Water Fire Globes,” etc. There are over 40 pages devoted to “Fireworks” and on page 205 a correction has been hand written on the section of detonating works, specifically “Waterloo Crackers,” so positive, proper results can be achieved that will produce “a loud report.” A long, detailed fold out diagram with 18 engravings at the front of the volume provides further assistance for the fun loving, curious, and perhaps mischievous reader to achieve successful results in their endeavors.

The book is from the extensive collection of Joseph Sadony who lived in Montague, Michigan, and was a noted book collector as well as an accomplished and well respected psychic and author. *Endless Amusement* was acquired from the Curious Bookshop, East Lansing, with funds provided by the Force Family Endowment for the Popular Culture Collections.

Previous page: *Direction of the road* by Ursula K. Le Guin. Santa Cruz: Foolscap Press, 2007. Woodcut by Aaron Johnson. This artist’s book (signed, no. 36 of 150) is issued in a portfolio box with an original woodcut illustration in anamorphic art form and a mirror made of plastic tubing and reflective polymer to view the woodcut. From the Book Arts Collection.

In April 2008, Jason McKendrick won the 11th annual MSU Student Book Collection Competition with his collection “Faulkner and Modern Americana.” In addition to his $500 first prize, Jason is automatically entered into the Collegiate Book Collecting Championship, a national competition sponsored by *Fine Books & Collections Magazine* with a top prize of $2,500.


For more information about this exciting event, visit http://www.lib.msu.edu/events/contest.htm.
On Valentine’s Day 2008, we gave students the opportunity to tell us why they love the library — and received an amazing range of responses. Some answers were funny, some were surprising, and some just warmed our hearts. Here are a few of the things the students told us:

- I love foreign language books!
- I love that the library has such a huge selection. You have everything I need!
- Thanks for letting me sleep here so much.
- I love how helpful everyone is here.
- The library is the most social place on campus!
- I love the main library because when I come here, I feel like I’m the best student at MSU.
- The knowledgeable staff who go above and beyond to help me find my sources!
- I love the library because it’s my second home.
- The MSU library is always full of people helping students to learn and develop in the academic environment.
- I came here from the University of Chicago as a Ph.D. candidate, and I worried that the MSU library would not have what I need for writing my thesis. I love that I have been proven wrong ever since!
Digital collections enhance research options

As the research library of a world grant university, MSU Libraries has a commitment to students today, as well as to those who may conduct research 100 years from now.

Books lining the Libraries’ shelves are the permanent property of Michigan State. With protection and care, such as through the Adopt A Book program, they will remain ready for use by generations to come.

But the ever-growing digital collection poses a challenge, for many reasons. Unlike books, which when purchased become physical entities of the Libraries, electronic materials live on publishers’ servers. MSU Libraries pays for the right to look at the materials on their machines. For how long depends on the licensing agreement: some agreements have a “cable television” type access, allowing for viewing only by current subscribers, while other — more favorable — agreements resemble traditional subscriptions and allow permanent access to materials during the subscription time period.

MSU Libraries often subscribes to “baskets,” mixtures of newspapers, trade and scholarly magazines pertaining to broad group of students, like all undergraduates, or of interest to a smaller segment of the university population, such as business school students. A basket can be purchased directly from the publisher, which owns the copyright to the materials, or from an aggregator that works with various publishers to put together a basket.

While baskets are convenient, provide obscure materials and are good tools for beginning research, they are not a substitute for a library’s research collection. The mixture in aggregators’ baskets often changes, because they don’t own the copyrights. When an aggregator’s license expires for an item a basket, MSU Libraries typically loses access to it as well.

Books can also be purchased electronically. Instead of one book physically sitting on a shelf in East Lansing for all of MSU to share, an electronic copy — with the correct licensing agreement — is available simultaneously to students and faculty members studying around the world, as long as they have Internet access.

Access for electronic library materials is controlled by authentication. Only current students, faculty and staff members are able to login remotely, although anyone conducting research inside MSU Libraries has access, just as they would to books on shelves. This has complicated the interlibrary loan system, which is essential for academic research.

Of course, the convenience of electronic materials comes with a price. In most cases, they are more costly than paper materials because of the technology and personnel involved in managing servers. Technology changes rapidly — and will surely continue to do so. Over the next 100 years, electronic materials must continue to migrate to accessible formats.

Librarian Emily Alford instructs a class on use of MSU Libraries’ electronic resources, one of the many courses staff members offer to students during the academic year.
New Purchases

You can help build the collections of MSU Libraries by sponsoring the purchase of a book, periodical, journal or electronic resource. Your gift will help make the Libraries even more useful for our faculty, students and researchers.

LexisNexis U.S. Serial Set Maps Digital Collection. This digital archive provides access to over 56,000 historic government maps published in the American State Papers and the U.S. Serial Set (1789-1969). Included are exploratory surveys and battlefield maps of the 19th century, and water resources, weather, wilderness, public works and Army Corps of Engineers maps extending through the 1960s. (N1, $7,995)

The Way Home. Produced and directed by Dr. Shakti Butler, this documentary features 64 women representing a cross-section of cultures who share their experiences of racism in America through candid conversations about race, class, gender, assimilation, beauty standards, power and school experiences. (N2, $350)

Romanticism and Politics: 1789-1832. The history of the Romantic period is often dominated by the cataclysmic political events that occurred within it. This collection is divided into thematically linked sections, each prefaced with notes on themes, issues and texts, and lists of books for further study. The period has been extended at the beginning to provide extracts from texts that frame the ensuing radical debate that arose around the French Revolution and concludes at the Reform Act of 1832, which can be seen as the culmination of the movement for political reform in the latter half of the Romantic period. (N3, $1,070)

Africa and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History. A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia. This groundbreaking three-volume encyclopedia on African history, nations and peoples, plus African-influenced life in the Americas, traces the complex and continuous movement of peoples of African descent to the West, and the crucial issues of cultural retention and adaptation essential to our understanding of globalization. (N4, $250)

Adopt A Book

Decades of wear and tear leave their mark on the historic volumes of MSU Libraries. You can help preserve our valuable collections by making a gift to support the conservation treatment of a rare book, map or manuscript.

MSU Libraries’ expert conservation staff, with the resources of the Florence G. Wallace Conservation Laboratory, ensure that our print collections remain available for use by current and future generations of students, faculty members and researchers. A bookplate will be placed in the volume your gift helps preserve, and you — or anyone you designate — will receive a note of appreciation with information about the item chosen and the treatment it was given.

A Short History of the French Revolution for Young People, Lydia Hoyt Farmer, 1889. The volume’s subtitle, “Pictures of the Reign of Terror,” clearly illustrates the concern and anxiety that the topic of revolution suggested to American readers, whose memories of the Civil War were still fresh. (A1, $125)

Indian Summer, William Dean Howells, 1886. In this delightful romantic comedy, William Dean Howells, author of the American classic, The Rise of Silas Lapham, offers an affectionate portrait of Americans living abroad, enlivened with his own memories of Italy in the 1860s. (A2, $125)

Songs of a Savoyard, W.S. Gilbert, 1890. W.S. Gilbert, of Gilbert & Sullivan fame, also wrote hundreds of comic poems for the popular magazine Fun. They were collected for his eager fans in The Bab Ballads and Songs of a Savoyard along with Gilbert’s own whimsical illustrations. (A3, $125)

Standard Atlas of Genesee County, Michigan: including a plat book of villages, cities and townships of the county, Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1907. This atlas depicts land ownership of all farms in Genesee County in 1907, and contains photographs of prominent residents and places. (A4, $1,200)

To sponsor the purchase of a new book or to Adopt A Book for conservation treatment, please indicate your intention on the enclosed response envelope. More titles are available at http://giving.lib.msu.edu.
The new Giving to the MSU Libraries Web site is a success! Since the new site’s August 2007 launch, the number of visitors has jumped 76 percent — to more than 2,500 hits a month. Keep visiting giving.lib.msu.edu to keep up to date with what’s happening at MSU Libraries.

The fall issue of MSU Alumni magazine will include a feature story on the importance of MSU Libraries in the digital age. To join the MSU Alumni Association, go to www.msualum.com.

News and notes

Invite MSU Libraries to your next alumni gathering! Libraries staff would be pleased to share news and insights about the MSU Libraries and our role in 21st century education. For more information, contact Diane Nye Mattick in Libraries, Computing & Technology at nyed@msu.edu or (517) 432-6123, ext. 137.

The Naples (Florida) MSU Alumni Club held a Presidential Dinner at the Quail West Country Club in February. One hundred alums attended the event, which was highlighted by a presentation by Cliff Haka, Director of MSU Libraries, and Peter Berg, Head of Special Collections. Guests were treated to a hands-on exhibit of some of the library’s most unique and historic treasures, and learned how the MSU Libraries prepare students for lifelong learning and success in the global economy.

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Grandparents University participants discovered the treasures of the MSU Main Library. Alums and grandkids who attended MSU’s annual Grandparents University in June searched for pirate booty using treasure maps with clues to decipher. For more information about Grandparents University, go to grandparents.msu.edu.

Save the date!

The MSU Libraries’ fall gathering will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2008.

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