

Helen Zoe Veit, assistant professor of history, has been awarded a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a digital archive and interactive website on food during the Great Depression. The three-year *What America Ate* project will include digitization of rare community cookbooks and food marketing materials from Special Collections.

The project name recalls the WPA's celebrated *America Eats* project, which employed writers to document American food culture and regional specialties during the 1930s. Much of their material was never published, but will be digitized as part of the NEH project.

"The *What America Ate* project is exciting because it offers so much to so many people," says Veit, "from scholars to students to home cooks to anybody interested in food history or the Great Depression.

"Scholars will find all sorts of new sources here,



What America Ate: MSU community cookbooks to be digitized for NEH

including five different collections of papers from the original WPA *America Eats* project, which had previously been scattered across the country. Digitizing these would be a worthwhile project all on its own. But I think our project will result in an even richer digital archive because it complicates the nostalgic focus of the WPA writers, who tried explicitly to document only rare or backwoods

food traditions that were threatened with extinction, they believed, by an increasingly industrialized food culture.

"The other sources to be included in our digital archive—including food marketing materials and community cookbooks—give a sense of that more complicated reality. Community cookbooks, like those we have at MSU, are particularly

valuable because to a greater extent than most cookbooks they show what real people were actually cooking—and often, what they were cooking combined industrial food products with regional habits, larger food trends, and personal tastes in all sorts of interesting and unpredictable ways."

Peter Berg, head of Special Collections, examines 1930s cookbooks with history professor Helen Zoe Veit.

From the Director's desk

Friends & Colleagues,

Libraries are primarily engaged in gathering information resources, setting up access to these resources, and assisting researchers with their use. This statement describes most of what goes on within the MSU Libraries.

Sometimes, though, we have a chance to step outside our traditional pursuits and do something a little different. One such effort has been to acquire artwork to display in our public areas. Doing so adds warmth and richness to the environment of this heavily-used building.

For many years, the only significant work of art in the Main Library was a beautiful WPA mural, *America's First Agricultural College*. After arriving here in 1982, I had countless opportunities to admire this classic piece while working at the Reference Desk a few yards away.

The importance of art in the library was brought back to my attention ten years ago, by the fabulous gift of Selma Hollander, who commissioned *Skyfire* in memory of her husband Stanley Hollander, distinguished professor of marketing. This vibrantly colorful sculpture now stops visitors in their tracks on the landing between the first and second floors of the West Wing.

Since 2004, *Skyfire* has been joined by Glen Michaels' mixed media work *Artifacts*, a gift made possible by Jeff Kacos of Campus Planning and Administration. And, most recently, by the steel and bronze sculpture *Clang Tone*, seen above, which was conceived by Mark Ritzenhein, commissioned for the library by Steven Wilensky and Mark Ritzenhein, and created by sculptor Jim Cunningham.

Thanks to the generosity of Irene Arens, we are also able to encourage student artists. The Irene B. Arens Endowment funds an annual student art competition, now entering its fourth year. Two winning artists—one graduate student and one undergraduate—each receive a \$500 award, and their painting or sculpture is acquired by the MSU Libraries for public display.

To preview these and other welcome gifts of artwork, visit lib.msu.edu/art. But even better, visit the Main Library and see them in person. We will be glad to see you!

Acquiring artwork is, of course, something we have to pursue outside the library's normal budget; we would never take library funds away from books or journals to buy paintings instead. That means we have our supporters to thank—and to depend on—for this special effort to make the library an even more welcoming and stimulating place to be.

Many thanks to Selma, Jeff, Steve, Mark and Irene for their support of this endeavor, and to all of you for supporting our many efforts on behalf of the MSU community.

Cliff

Clifford H. Haka
Director of Libraries



Clang Tone, a steel and bronze sculpture commissioned for the MSU Libraries by Steven Wilensky and Mark Ritzenhein, will be the centerpiece of a new study lounge on 2 West.

insight | MSU Libraries

Insight is published to inform the MSU community about the collections, services and activities in the MSU Libraries. Story ideas and comments from readers are welcome. For information about MSU Libraries, contact the Office of Development for Libraries & Information Technology at 517.884.6446, or visit <http://giving.lib.msu.edu>.



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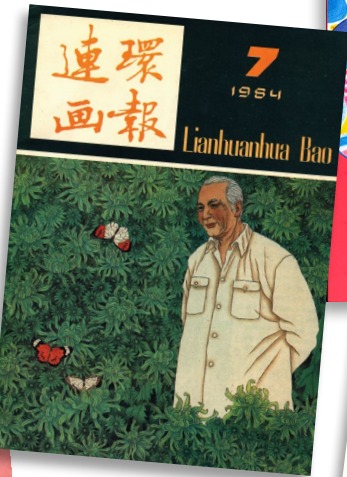
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Help make our Asian comics accessible!

Comics are truly a global phenomenon, and an important goal of our Comic Art Collection is to document how cultures around the world have adopted and transformed the medium.

That's why our collection ranges from Golden Age adventure strips to South American *fotonovelas*, and from Japanese manga to a nearly complete run of *THE 99*—the world's first comic series with Muslim superheroes.



Comic books from Korea, China, Taiwan, and Japan.

However, it's not enough to acquire these diverse materials. It's essential to catalog them as well, so users near and far can determine what we have available.

Thanks to recent gifts, we have far more Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese comics waiting to be cataloged than we can handle – even with the broad range of language skills among the cataloging team!

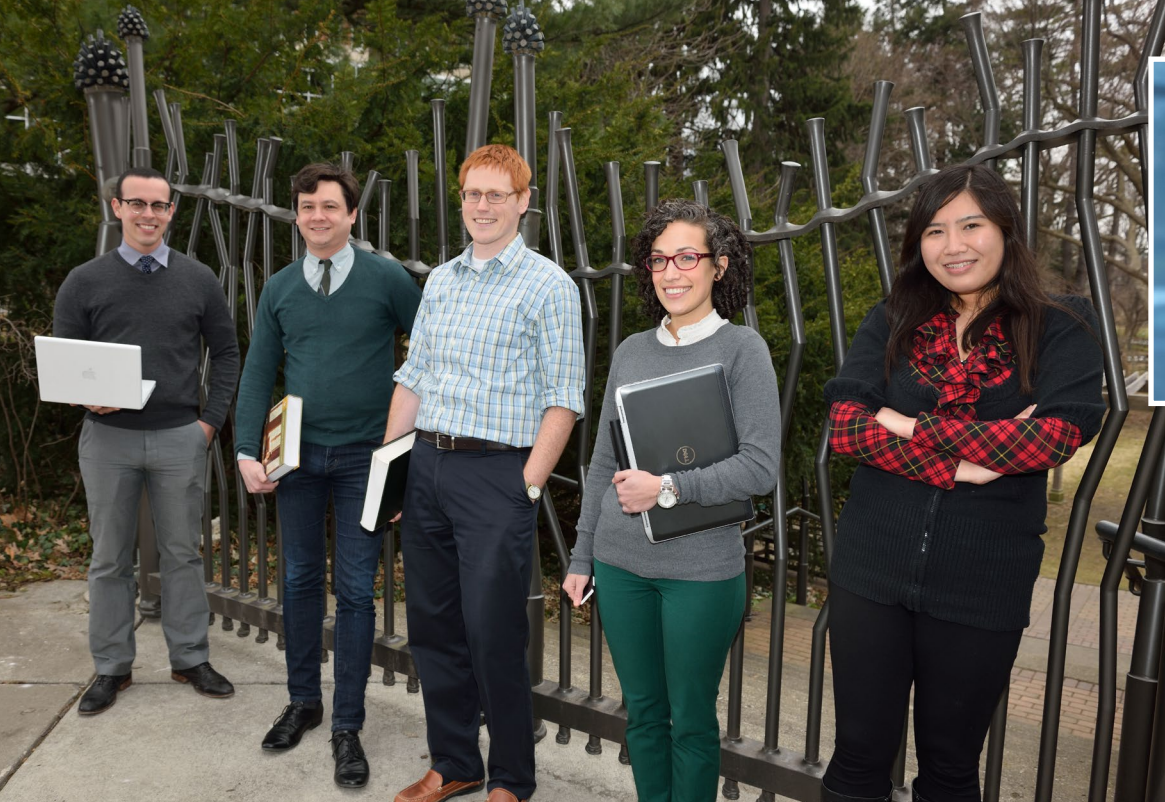
Fortunately, help is available. We can send the work to an outside contractor, Backstage, which performs research-level cataloging in some 70 different languages. Backstage can complete about 150

of the most needed items for \$5000 – and we have already have a generous gift of \$1000 to start us off.

The Comic Art Collection is heavily used by MSU students and faculty working in the fields of history, literature, and cultural studies. Help us support their research by putting more Asian comics on the shelf!

"I always recommend the MSU Comic Art Collection to fellow comic researchers since it is the world's most comprehensive and internationally oriented collection in the field."

Matthias Harbeck, doctoral candidate, Carl von Ossietzky Universität, Oldenburg, Germany



New directions for the MSU Libraries

Last fall, Cliff Haka announced the very exciting news that the University has committed to adding 20 librarian positions over five years. This will bring our professional staffing level up from the lower end of the CIC rankings to a more appropriate position.

We're now in the second year of this process, with six new librarians on board so far. And, five of these librarians actually have job titles that are completely new to the library—a shorthand way of saying that new staff allow us to expand our services to new areas! Our new colleagues' specialties are all over the map:

Ebony Magnus joins us from the University of British Columbia as the new **user experience librarian**. “My job is to evaluate our physical and virtual service points,” she explains, “so that we can optimize our services according to user needs.” Ebony has already coordinated a space study in the Main Library, which will inform our understanding of how students, faculty, and visitors use the Library’s facilities and technology.

Terence O’Neill has arrived from the University of Michigan to become our first **entrepreneurship librarian**. He works closely with recent campus initiatives, including

The Hatch, a student-run incubator which cultivates student start-up businesses; the Institute for Entrepreneurship at the Broad College of Business; and MSU’s Entrepreneurship Network.

Tina Qin is our new **chemistry librarian**. We are happy to be able, once again, to provide chemistry faculty with their own liaison, rather than sharing a librarian with physics and astronomy. Tina has a second master’s degree in paper and chemical engineering from Miami University.

Eric Tans joins us from the University of Pittsburgh as **environmental sciences librarian**, the first time we



From left: Thomas Padilla, Bobby Smiley, Eric Tans, Ebony Magnus, and Tina Qin. Inset: Terence O’Neill.

have been able to dedicate an entire position to this area. Eric takes over from Susan Kendall (who continues to lead the health sciences team) as liaison to Fisheries and Wildlife. His presence allows us to provide more support to the many interdisciplinary research projects related to environmental and sustainability studies.

Bobby Smiley and **Thomas Padilla** have both started at MSU as **digital humanities librarians**. Bobby comes to MSU from the Pratt Institute in New York, and Thomas was previously at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. With Michael Rodriguez and Devin Higgins, they bring our new Digital Text Services team up to full strength. Read more about Digital Text Services at right.

We’re extremely happy to welcome Ebony, Terence, Tina, Eric, Bobby and Thomas to the MSU Libraries!

Supporting digital humanities at MSU

The digital humanities are gaining momentum at MSU!

MSU has long been the home of MATRIX: The Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, and to an undergraduate digital humanities specialization in the College of Arts and Letters.

But in the last 18 months, these have been joined by CAL’s Digital Humanities and Literary Cognition Lab, CAL’s new graduate certificate in Digital Humanities, and the Libraries’ new Digital Text Services team.

Led by Dr. Michael Rodriguez, collection coordinator for the humanities, the team includes Devin Higgins, digital library programmer; Thomas Padilla, digital humanities librarian; and Bobby Smiley, digital humanities and American history librarian.

The addition of Thomas and Bobby has allowed the team to expand its support of digital humanities research. Recent activities include partnering with faculty on a grant proposal to the HathiTrust Research

Center; developing a tool for scholars working with the Google Books corpus; and presenting guest lectures on topics as diverse as digital publishing, information visualization, network analysis, and moving image analysis.

The Digital Text Services team is also investigating the research potential for digital collections created at MSU, such as the holdings of the Vincent Voice Library and the historic cookbooks in the *Feeding America* project.

“We anticipate a greater embrace of digital humanities scholarship at MSU in the next few years, and more vibrant and disciplinarily-diverse conversation about DH,” says Rodriguez. “We hope to establish the library as a primary partner in these conversations and research, as a central meeting place, as a provider of data and collections, and as an institution

that helps build Digital Humanities capacity through faculty and student training.”

The Digital Text Services unit partners with our Research Data Management Group to form the Digital Scholarship Collaborative (DSC)—a team of librarians ready to work with researchers across all the disciplines on the creation, curation, and navigation of data and digital text.



Research Data Management Guidance service is a joint effort between the MSU Libraries and University Archives to respond to the emerging concern surrounding research data management. Effective research data management is an active and ongoing process during the entire research lifecycle, from project conception to long after it is finished.

MSU Libraries Digital Text Services team members, clockwise from top left: Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Bobby Smiley, Thomas Padilla and Devin Higgins.



Follow MSU scholars online: spartanideas.msu.edu

Fifty years ago, scholars communicated with each other primarily through journals, conferences, and private correspondence.

Now, many researchers are using blogs as another way to keep in touch with colleagues—with the added benefit that the online nature of a blog makes it easy for anyone else who's interested to read and join discussions.

The MSU community has many active bloggers! They are faculty and students who share reflections about their research, report developments in their academic fields, and comment on current events from a disciplinary perspective. Their posts are a fascinating way to keep in touch with intellectual currents at the university.

But how can you find MSU faculty blogs? The MSU Libraries have launched *Spartan Ideas*, a new portal to provide access from a single location.

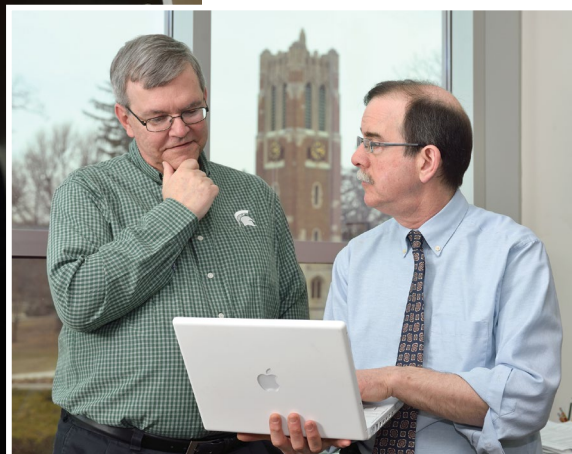
Steven Sowards, associate director for collections, leads the team responsible for the site. Judy Matthews, science subject librarian, and Jon Harrison, social science subject librarian, handle the daily review and selection of material for the site.

"The Internet has deeply changed opportunities for scholars to share information," explains Steve Sowards. "It is much easier for researchers to quickly make their ideas and findings available to a global audience, but on the other hand, all of us are flooded today with online information, much of which is not of good quality.

"*Spartan Ideas* tries to bridge that gap: because librarians actively select interesting, revealing and thought-provoking material that also originates with experts and authorities at MSU, readers can have confidence in what they are reading, as well as expanding their horizons."

Just a few of the countless topics you'll find addressed at *Spartan Ideas*:

- Is a little bit of autism a good thing?
- The return on investment for an MSU education
- Three ways a national digital strategy will vitalize cooperative extension
- Scientists lend proof to purpose of zebra's stripes
- Creativity in the lives of accomplished teachers
- What I learned from organizing a conference
- Where do thinking machines come from?
- Zombie apocalypse and the digital humanities
- Of math and ambigrams, a new series of articles
- Discretion & valor in organic farming



Far left: Judy Matthews at work on *Spartan Ideas*. Above: Jon Harrison, left, and Steve Sowards discuss *Spartan Ideas*.



Above: President Lou Anna K. Simon launches the audio-visual kiosk for guests at the Morrill Plaza dedication in February. Photo courtesy of University Archives & Historical Collections.

University Archives & Historical Collections

Dear Friends,

What makes history matter? For some, history is just facts and figures—events that happened, but have no relevance today. But for archivists, history is filled with people facing challenges, making decisions, and giving their all—for the sake of future generations.

MSU's history now stretches back more than 150 years—but the *people* are what make the institution so impressive. Our achievements would never have happened without men and women like John Hannah, Robert Kedzie, Maude Gilchrist, Linda Landon, and countless others.

In this issue, we'll highlight our efforts to preserve and honor the achievements of MSU faculty members, with critical support from a new endowment to support MSU Faculty Collections at the University Archives & Historical Collections. In addition to organizing the donated papers of faculty and making them accessible to researchers, we are thrilled to have a new opportunity to connect with the public: the audio-visual kiosk at Morrill Plaza, dedicated in February, which provides visitors with an interactive window onto MSU history.

The Morrill Plaza kiosk also calls attention to our irreplaceable audio-visual collections: thousands of hours worth of film, video, and audio cassettes. These analog formats are much more vulnerable to deterioration than paper or photographs, and we must transfer them to digital files before the content is gone forever.

Like our Faculty Collections, these audio-visual treasures remind us that MSU's current achievements are built on foundations of the past. We stand on the shoulders of giants.

Yours in MSU history,

Cynthia A. Ghering

Cynthia A. Ghering
Director, University Archives & Historical Collections

University Archives & Historical Collections

Location: 101 Conrad Hall

Phone: 517.355-2330

Email: archives@msu.edu

Reading room hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Website: archives.msu.edu

MSU Archives on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MSUarchives

MSU Archives on Flickr:

www.flickr.com/photos/msuarchives

MSU Archives blog:

www.msuarchives.wordpress.com

On the Banks of the Red Cedar:

www.onthebanks.msu.edu

Join the team: help save priceless Spartan memories!

Ed Busch, Electronic Records Archivist

Do you still have your Betamax video player? How about an old reel-to-reel tape recorder?

If you laughed at the absurdity of that question, you're not alone. AV formats have changed constantly over the last century, and maintaining obsolete equipment is nearly impossible when replacement parts are no longer being produced.

Even worse, the actual magnetic tape these formats depend on deteriorates over time—and once the data is lost, the sound or image is gone forever.

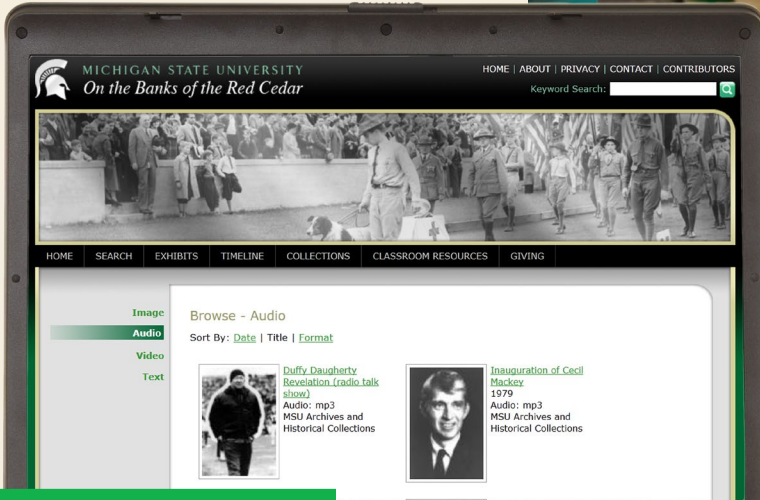
The MSU Archives has thousands of hours worth of film, video, and audio recordings, dating from the 1930s to the 1990s, when

digital cameras took over. The collection documents Spartan athletics—football, basketball, and other sports—the MSU Marching Band, 4H and Cooperative Extension, campus events, and much more. This valuable footage illustrates the special place of MSU sports, music, and youth programs to Michigan life and culture.

Help us digitize and preserve these important moments in Spartan history with a gift to the MSU Film and Video Preservation Fund, at archives.msu.edu/giving. Your support will not only prevent the loss of our history, but bring new life to these resources by providing easy access for researchers, students, and alums.

Listen online to samples from our AV collection:

onthebanks.msu.edu/Browse/Format/Video



The Morrill Plaza Kiosk project

Jennie Russell, Assistant Records Archivist

In February, MSU dedicated the new Morrill Plaza—honoring the legacy of the Morrill Act; MSU's history of academic excellence; and the special contributions made by MSU's distinguished faculty members.

The centerpiece of Morrill Plaza is a beautiful stone monument, graced with a very modern element: an interactive electronic display. A touchscreen allows visitors to learn about the achievements of the featured faculty members.

The University Archives has had a critical role in the development of the new display. More than 400 photos have been provided so far: gathered from biographical files, collections of photo negatives, and the papers of retired faculty.

Assembling such a large collection of photos was a chance to reflect on the many factors that historic memory, and the survival of historic material, depend on. Faculty with longer careers at MSU have tended to leave behind more records—but impact and length of tenure are two different things. One such example is Ernest Everett Bogue. He had taught forestry at MSU for only five years at the time of his death, but the street carrying his name keeps his memory alive.

Photos provided by the Archives “bring to life the stories of some of MSU’s most prominent former faculty members,” says Mike Zeig, Morrill Plaza project manager from the President’s Office. “It’s particularly interesting to see, from old pictures of laboratory and classroom spaces, how far the campus has evolved.”

Vintage coaster set @ shop.msu.edu

Take a journey back in time with these 4 1/4" sandstone coasters from University Archives and Historical Collections. Each of the four black and white coasters depicts a vintage scene from Michigan State University: the MSU marching band in 1954, the making of “The Spartan” statue, a classic Beaumont Tower scene, and an early version of our Sparty mascot. The cork-backed construction of these absorbent coasters ensures long-lasting use while protecting your tables and counters. A great gift for any MSU aficionado!



New endowment preserves the legacies of MSU faculty

Sarah Roberts, Acquisitions Archivist



David Anderson, lead donor for the MSU Faculty Collections Endowment, received his BS and MA degrees from Bowling Green State University and his PhD from Michigan State. After teaching in Flint for several years, Anderson joined the MSU faculty in 1957. His critical biography of author Sherwood Anderson won the MSU Book Manuscript Award in 1961, and he was named a University Distinguished Professor in 1990. Anderson retired in 1993.

The contributions of MSU faculty to higher education, and to MSU, are the focus of a new endowment: MSU Faculty Collections at the University Archives & Historical Collections.

The endowment was established with a significant gift from the late David Anderson, distinguished professor of American Thought and Language. Additional gifts have been received from Margaret Zee Jones, professor emerita in human pathology, and Arlene Brophy, in memory of her husband Jere Brophy, professor of teacher education and educational psychology.

The Vietnam Project Archives

<http://archives.msu.edu/collections/vietnam.php>

"The archives of MSU's projects in Vietnam are a valuable piece of the history of the university's engagement with the world. As controversies over the Vietnam War fade, these archives remain a crucial source for understanding the situation in South Vietnam in the early years of the Cold War, and how the university envisioned and carried out global engagement in this complex political and cultural moment. For me, this collection has been a priceless resource both to pursue my own research in Vietnamese history and to better understand the history of my own institution."

Charles Keith, Assistant Professor
Department of History

The MSU Faculty Collections Endowment supports the acquisition and organization of the personal papers which document a faculty member's research projects, teaching career, involvement in scholarly organizations, and other achievements which had an impact on the MSU community.

The University Archives have received many valuable sets of faculty papers in recent years, including those of pathologist Margaret Zee Jones; biophysicist Barnett Rosenberg; sociologist Ruth Simms Hamilton; and MSU Marching Band director Leonard Falcone.



In April 1966, Ramparts magazine published a scathing article critiquing MSU's involvement in South Vietnam. Among the charges in the article was that MSU was acting as a front for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Provenance: the secret lives of books

Of all the rare books in MSU's collection, only a few were purchased new—usually modern examples of fine printing and binding. The rest of our volumes had a life before MSU, and may have passed through many hands before reaching our shelves.

Andrew Lundeen, a graduate student in library and information science at the University of Illinois, has been studying our rare books for clues to their provenance for the last nine months. His work has brought some fascinating items to light—from a set of manuscript poems in a bound volume of Dryden, to an F. Scott Fitzgerald inscription commenting on the characterization of Jay Gatsby.



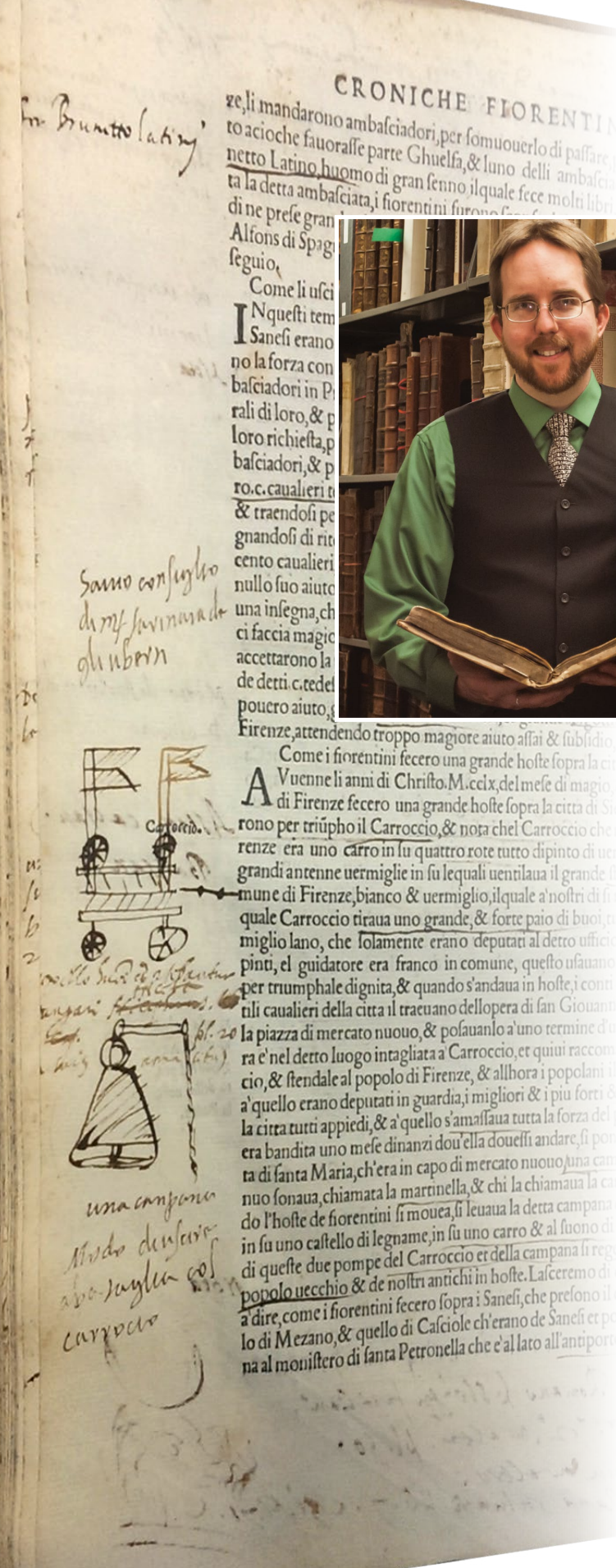
"Modern readers have become accustomed to mechanically perfect texts," Andrew explains, "and tend to feel that evidence of use and marks of ownership reduce the value of a book. But they are tremendously interesting to the historian."

One volume which rewards a close examination is a 1537 printing of Giovanni Villani's history of the city of Florence. The copy in MSU's collection was heavily annotated by an early reader who had evidently lived in Florence, and who provided explanatory notes in the margins and drawings to illustrate points in the text.

"We also have examples of volumes which early readers had indexed on their own," Andrew adds. "That was a lengthy task, first for the reader to decide which parts of the text he might want to consult again, then to organize the entries and add them to the volume by hand."

"These marginalia and indexing help us enter the mind of the reader who owned the volume hundreds of years ago."

Above: Andrew Lundeen in the Special Collections vault. (Photo by Shelby Kroske.) Right: An early reader of Giovanni Villani's history of Florence added numerous drawings and notes, including this sketch of a wheeled cart used to carry the city's standard into war, and the bell used to signal military maneuvers. (Image by Andrew Lundeen.)



MOOCs: teaching the world from MSU

This winter, librarian Lisa Robinson had an unusual opportunity: to help teach an online course offered by MSUglobal.

In fact, it was a MOOC—a massive open online course—with video lectures, online discussion, one thousand students from around the world, and a very timely topic: “Mega Events: Inside the Winter Olympics.”

The lead instructor was Mark Wilson, professor

of urban and regional planning in MSU’s School of Planning, Design, and Construction. Also part of the five-week venture was Eva Kassens-Noor, assistant professor of urban and regional planning and global urban studies.

“This was only the fifth MOOC that MSUglobal has offered so far,” explains Robinson, “so there was new ground to explore. For me, it was the sudden immersion into the world of open educational resources.

“Academic libraries acquire extensive online scholarly resources for their universities, but almost every license restricts access to *only* the staff and students of that institution. In the case of a MOOC, with students joining from any school or no school at all, those resources are off the table.”

By contrast, open educational resources are materials made available to the entire world. The MSU Libraries have contributed

generously to this store of knowledge with online archives of our historic cookbooks, recordings from the Vincent Voice Library, the Ginsburg Chicago Tribune Collection, and much more.

“Tools for finding these widely dispersed resources are less developed than tools for searching traditional scholarly sources,” Robinson continues, “and open resources do *not* duplicate the resources that libraries pay for. Open educational resources are heavily skewed in favor of informal publications and pre-1923 primary documents, because current scholarly publications are protected by copyright.

“That in turn affects how an instructor can present a topic or build an argument, not to mention a librarian’s strategy in finding usable material. It’s going to be very interesting seeing how this dynamic evolves over the next few years.”

Watch for
“Mega Events:
Inside the FIFA World Cup”

msuglobal.com/moocs-at-michigan-state-university/

June–July, 2014

REAL space: active learning at the library, with your support

The Libraries are pleased to be the site of MSU’s newest REAL space! REAL stands for Rooms for Engaged and Active Learning.

They’re an initiative of MSU’s University Classroom Committee, and the library’s new room is only the 6th REAL space on campus.

REAL spaces use innovative classroom design to facilitate collaborative use of technology and interactions between students and faculty.

Set up an information literacy session with your class!

lib.msu.edu/infolit/information-literacy

Why put a REAL space in the library? Teaching is an essential part of the library’s mission! MSU librarians teach more than 600 information literacy sessions every year. Hands-on information literacy training fosters student learning by supporting analytical thinking, integrated reasoning, and effective communication.

The design of the REAL space allows student interaction to happen naturally—instead of working around the barriers of straight rows of desks—and the technology hardwired into the room supports collaboration and sharing that traditional classrooms can’t provide.

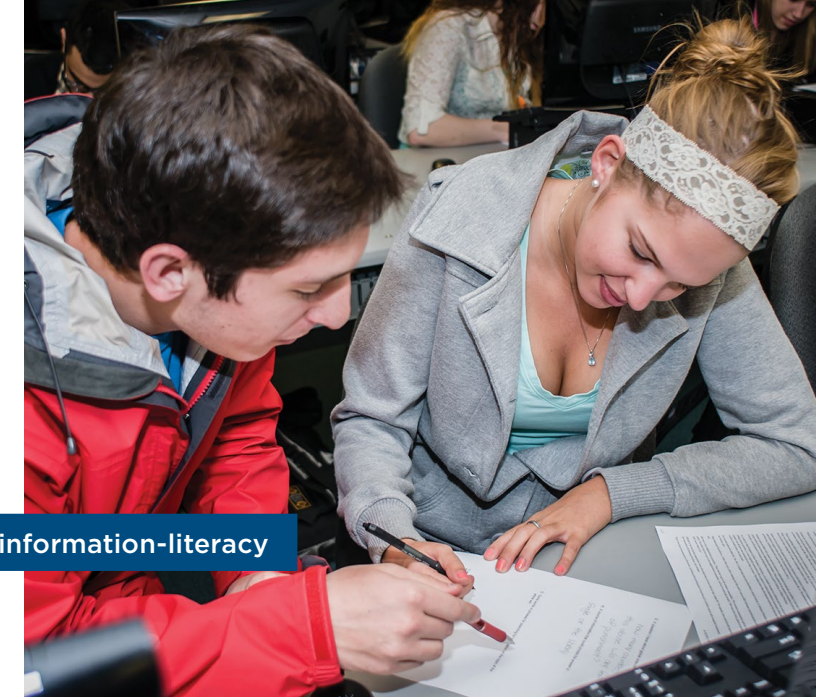
“Collaborative learning is critical to effective information literacy instruction,” explains Sara Miller, head of the library’s Information Literacy unit, “because our search habits and practices of thinking about information — usually experienced individually—are brought to light in a group setting. Making our practices and assumptions visible is the first step in learning to critically analyze how we’re searching, interacting with, and making decisions about information.”

“The technology in the REAL space allows us to integrate collaborative learning into information literacy teaching much more effectively than our traditional wired classrooms, with rows of computers. It opens up a whole world of creative possibilities. We’re thrilled to have this new resource to enhance the student experience!”

Above: Students engaged in a group activity during a customized information literacy session. Photo by Louis Villafranca. At right, from left: Sara Miller, Rachel Minkin, and Ben Oberdick in the Main Library’s new REAL space.



Lisa Robinson, metadata management librarian and co-instructor of “Mega Events: Inside the Winter Olympics.”



Honoring faculty authors

Each year, the MSU Libraries honor faculty members who have published a book, musical recording, or multimedia work in the previous year. On April 18, we recognized more than 250 members of the faculty for their 2013 publications.

“You have captured your creativity, your scholarship, your perspective,” Provost June Youatt said in her welcome to faculty, “in ways that matter to someone. You don’t know where, and you don’t know who, but somewhere, people are picking up what you did, and it will contribute to their perspective, or their thinking, or their creativity.”

She continued, “When I think about the cumulative effect of this faculty on the direction of scholarship and creativity around the country and around the world, it’s an amazing thing.”

The annual MSU Faculty Authors Reception honors MSU faculty who have written, edited, or translated a book or musical score; contributed

to a multimedia work; or participated in a professionally recorded musical performance during the previous year. The authors are identified by the subject librarians who serve as liaisons to MSU colleges and departments, and by extensive database searches using faculty lists provided by the Provost’s office. Works by retired faculty and academic staff are included whenever we are able to identify them.

Guests at the Faculty Authors Reception from top: Professor Patricia Edwards (Dept. of Teacher Ed.) and Dr. Donald Heller, Dean of the College of Education; Anita Ezzo, Science Collections Coordinator & Food Science, Nutrition and Packaging Librarian, with Professor Mark Uebersax (Food Science & Human Nutrition). Photos by Louis Villafranca.

View the complete list of honorees:

<http://img.lib.msu.edu/special-collections/FacBooklet2013.pdf>



Learning about Islam through Muslim Journeys book discussion series

From January to March this year, more than 65 people—students, faculty, and community members—took part in “Muslim Journeys: Pathways of Faith,” a five-part book discussion series organized by the MSU Libraries.

The program was part of *Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys*, a joint project of the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Mohammad Hassan Khalil, associate professor of religious studies, led thoughtful and lively discussions on five books:

- *The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam* by F.E. Peter
- *Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction*, by Jonathan A.C. Brown
- *The Story of the Qur’an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life*, by Ingrid Mattson
- *The Art of Hajj*, by Venetia Porter
- *Rumi: Poet and Mystic*, translated and introduced by Reynold A. Nicholson

Lansing resident Marion Owen-Fekete said about her experience, “I was overjoyed to be part of the serious, non-judgemental, free Muslim Journeys event. It’s so praiseworthy that MSU involves itself with not only young students but with people of all ages and in non-academic, non-grade-receiving pursuits, and

that the general public has access to intelligent, well-informed people presenting worthwhile material in an objective, factual way. *Muslim Journeys* was an excellent example of what MSU can do for the society in which it is situated.”

“We worked with academic units like the MSU Muslim Studies Program and the MSU Honors College to spread the word on campus,” said librarian Deborah Margolis, who organized the series. “The Islamic Society of Greater Lansing, the East Lansing Area Clergy Association, and the Michigan Humanities Council all helped us reach the wider community. The result was a great mix of people of all ages and backgrounds learning from Professor Khalil and sharing their own ideas and experiences on the common readings.”

More than 125 communities nationwide are hosting similar programs this year, using one of five themed booklists on Islam and Muslim cultures: American Stories, Connected Histories, Literary Reflections, Pathways of Faith, and Points of View.

“The result was a great mix of people of all ages and backgrounds learning from Professor Khalil and sharing their own ideas and experiences on the common readings.”



Professor Mohammad Hassan Khalil lectured on and guided discussions for each of the five readings.



Muslim Journeys participants discuss the week’s reading during a break-out session.

Photos by Louis Villafranca.

Harvesting the Past: Early Farm Machinery Catalogs

On exhibit through August 31, 2014
MSU Main Library
1st Floor Lobby



**MICHIGAN STATE
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The World at Your Table: International Cookbooks in MSU Special Collections

On exhibit July 1–August 31, 2014
Special Collections Reading Room, Main Library
Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm

