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## DIGITIZING THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Shawn Nicholson, Assistant Director for Digital Information

Look into the future...and see a world in which all recorded knowledge is freely  
available, at all times of the day or night and from any place you can open your  
Internet connected device. Movies, music, classic works of literature, the latest  
scientific findings, even reproductions of one-of-a-kind manuscript pages. In the  
MSU Libraries, we can see the beginnings of such a world... even if the ultimate  
online library is still in the future.

Taking a step toward that imagined future, the Library—through a fruitful  
partnership with the MSU School of Journalism—undertook to digitize historic  
images of the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Here, we invite you to  
look behind the scenes in the creation  
of digital information resources.

### Selection

The Chicago Tribune Digitization Project  
began in 2008 with funding from the  
McCormick Foundation. The successful  
grant application submitted by School of  
Journalism Director, Dr. Lucinda Davenport,  
meant that the University's stunning "Janet A.  
Ginsburg Chicago Tribune Collection" would  
be preserved, restored and archived and  
that materials would be digitized and made  
accessible to scholars around the world via the  
World Wide Web.

### Document scanning and processing

To insure archival quality imaging, it was decided  
that the A1 size (23 x 33 inch) newspaper pages  
would be scanned in a single pass, rather than  
stitching together multiple images and that the camera  
used must shoot a true, not interpolated, 600ppi  
image. After an exhaustive, worldwide search for a  
device that met all of the exacting specifications, the  
DigiBook SupraScan AO/E scanner was selected and  
purchased by the University. It was agreed that the  
Libraries would house the materials in perpetuity,  
create 600ppi, 32 bit color, high resolution digital  
files, design a website with advanced searching  
capabilities and provide server space and user  
access into the future.



—continues on p.6

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Dear Friends of MSU Libraries:

While facing some difficult budgetary realities, the MSU Libraries have been able to move forward aggressively in a variety of areas, significantly enhancing user access to information resources. This is made not only by significant increases to our acquisition budget, but by cooperative arrangements that continue to flourish and expand. For example, the MSU Libraries prototyped the statewide borrowing system that developed into MeLCat, and this consortium has grown to more than 400 libraries of all types that shared more than 800,000 volumes across the State of Michigan last year. I view this as a true “land grant mission” endeavor that the MSU Libraries were proud to develop. In addition to direct lending, the Library also makes many of its holdings available world-wide via digitization projects that scan treasures from our collection to make them searchable and accessible to users everywhere.

We continue to strive to better serve our campus community as well, recently introducing a time-saving service to the MSU faculty. For journal articles that are available only in print, we now allow faculty to request a scanned copy of the article be delivered to their desktop. Given the range of teaching, research and service responsibilities for faculty, this free service seeks to significantly reduce time spent on information retrieval, thereby allowing faculty to focus on core functions.

The Libraries is responding to undergraduate needs as well, expanding Main Library seating options and striving to provide portions of the Library for quiet study, something that presents a serious challenge in the age of hand-held communication devices, especially in a building that receives more than two million visitors per year.

Articles in this issue of *Insight* will provide additional insights into a variety of Library initiatives designed to better serve users on campus, across the state and around the world. These endeavors are not without costs, however, and we hope that you will consider supporting the MSU Libraries to enable us to increase our reach and impact. Possibly support for new furnishings or additional computer workstations within the building, support for the acquisition of additional resources, or funding to support student assistants that might work on scanning projects to place more of our materials on the Internet, as well as earn the dollars necessary to continue their education.

Wherever you are, I trust that you are using the resources of the MSU Libraries for your enjoyment and betterment.

Sincerely,

*Cliff Haka*

Cliff Haka  
Director of Libraries

Above left: Cliff Haka outside of the Main Library.  
Opposite right: Trinidad Sanchez, Jr. and his wife,  
Regina Chavez y Sanchez. (photo unattributed)  
Opposite left: The Virgin of Guadalupe is an  
important cultural icon in the Chicano community.  
The Sanchez papers include a photograph of  
Sanchez visiting this mural. (photo unattributed)



### Why Am I So Brown?

A question Chicanitas sometimes ask while others wonder: Why is the sky blue or the grass so green?

... It is the color of Chicana women—  
leaders/madres of Chicano warriors  
luchando por la paz y la dignidad  
de la justicia de la nacion, Aztlan!



## NEW IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: THE TRINIDAD SANCHEZ, JR. PAPERS

Diana Rivera, Chicana/o Latina/o Studies Bibliographer

In June the MSU Libraries were pleased to acquire the papers of Chicano author, poet and activist Trinidad Sanchez, Jr. for Special Collections: a rich collection of correspondence, photographs, working files, original manuscripts of poems and books, audiotapes, awards and certificates—a valuable complement to the published works by Sanchez which we already own.

The Sanchez papers are also a significant addition to a growing manuscript collection in Special Collections which documents the presence and contributions of Chicanos and Latinos in the United States, in particular Michigan and the Midwest. They join the papers of other donors such as Gilberto V. and Minerva T. Martinez, Rudy Reyes, Refugio Rochin, Julio Guerrero, Linda M. and Daniel Tirado, Gumecindo Salas and others that preserve community, cultural, and activist history in Michigan.

Born and raised in Pontiac, Sanchez wrote about Mexican American culture and social issues and was an internationally known poet. He frequently took part in poetry slams and *floricantos* festivals, gatherings of Chicano poets in celebration of poetry and song. Before his death in 2006 at age 63, poetry competitions in Detroit and San Antonio were named in his honor, and have become annual events. The Sanchez collection will continue to receive chapbooks of poetry submitted to these competitions as long as they exist.

In a 2005 interview, Sanchez speaks about the young girl who asked her father about the color of her skin—an incident that prompted him to write his most popular poem, “Why Am I So Brown?” The opening line expresses a child’s search for culture, identity and self at an early age, and is answered with encouraging words about her place (and that of other Chicanita/Mexican American girls) in the world.

The Trinidad Sanchez Papers will be available for researchers in late Fall 2010. 🍀

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

**Director of Libraries**  
Clifford H. Haka

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(unless noted)  
**Graphic Design** Theresa Moore

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## STUDENTS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL SERVICES

Arlene Weismantel, Assistant Director for Public Services

A student rushes in: “I’m writing a paper on global warming. My professor asked me to find scholarly articles to support my thesis and I’ve been searching Google for *hours* and haven’t found *anything!*” It’s a typical evening at the MSU Main Library Reference Desk.

There is a popular misperception that libraries are no longer important now that “everything” is available online. And while the MSU Libraries have embraced the online environment, spending over half of our materials budget acquiring online materials and providing a wide variety of services via our webpages, email and chat, students continue to flock to the Libraries, with an average of nearly 6,000 visiting the Main Library each day. Last year, students checked out 300,000 traditional books.

Personal assistance is still an important part of library service in the digital age. Though the MSU Libraries’ offer a wide variety of services via our webpages, email and chat, more than 35,000 students asked librarians for in-person research help last year. Sometimes there is no substitute for personal interaction:

“It helps to be sitting right next to someone to see how they approach searching for information. I try to provide them with strategies that will not only help them with their current assignment, but will also help them throughout their time at MSU and in their future careers,” said Anita Ezzo, a veteran reference librarian and Collections Coordinator for the Sciences. “After our conversation, students say, ‘That makes so much more sense to me now. I wish I had met with you a long time ago!’”

“Google allows anybody to find information,” added Stephanie Perentesis, Library Instruction Coordinator, “but finding the *best* information sometimes requires a conversation.”

Once students have found that high-quality information, the Libraries provide them with wonderful spaces to complete their assignments. Students don’t want one type of space. They want individual carrels that facilitate quiet study and group study areas that allow them to effectively complete collaborative assignments. The traditional library has never been more important and more valued by our students. Six thousand students attest to that each day. 🌱

## Staff News

Laura Leavitt, Labor Relations and Business Librarian, has been honored with the Michigan Library Association’s Loleta D. Fyan Award, which honors librarians in the first ten years of their career who have made a creative contribution to the library profession. The award will be presented in November at the MLA Annual Conference in Traverse City.

Lucas Mak, Digital Services and Original Cataloging Librarian, has been selected to participate in the American Library Association’s Emerging Leaders Program, class of 2010. Lucas is being sponsored by the ALA International Relations Round Table, which will provide financial support towards participation in the program.

From the Artists’ Books Collection, *The Body Temple* by Laura Davidson (Boston, Mass., 1994). Edition of 18 copies; this is no. 9.



From top: Instruction Librarian Stephanie Perentesis demonstrates online resources during the 2009 Library Open House. Dao Rong Gong, Systems and Technical Services Librarian, explains search strategies in the new catalog. In the Map Library, students examine the special features of an atlas.



# RECENT GIFTS

## Elkiss Endowment Honors Harold G. Marcus

Joseph Lauer and Peter Limb, Africana Librarians

**Dr. Terry H. Elkiss** has established an endowment to honor the late Professor Harold G. Marcus, his mentor, by supporting the MSU Libraries’ Africana collections.

Dr. Elkiss is the former senior editor for ABC-CLIO’s Historical Abstracts indexing and abstracting service, author of several publications on African history, and an alumnus of MSU with a Ph.D. in History with an emphasis on Mozambique.

Dr. Marcus was an internationally recognized expert on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, writing books on Ethiopia’s relations with Britain and the US, biographies of emperors Menelik II and Haile Selassie, and a history of Ethiopia. He also wrote many articles, edited several volumes and a journal, and compiled a substantial bibliography. He taught in Addis Ababa, at Howard University, and for 35 years at MSU, where he mentored many national and international graduate students. In the mid-1990s Dr. Marcus was a co-founder of the H-Africa online discussion group. The MSU Libraries greatly appreciate Dr. Elkiss’ generosity in support of our nationally-recognized Africana collections.

## Online Gift for MSU

Kathleen Weessies, Geosciences Librarian and Head, Map Library

The MSU Libraries have received a generous gift of online database access from Bruce Dice, class of 1956, who purchased perpetual access to the electronic library of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for the use of the MSU community.

The “AAPG Datapages” include the full text of more than 250 specialized books and journals, such as the *Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology*, *Environmental Geosciences*, and the *Journal of Sedimentary Research*.

MSU users connecting to the AAPG Datapages site (through the MSU IP range or proxy server) see the following donor recognition information at the top of the screen:

This online subscription is provided through the AAPG Foundation Digital Products Fund through an endowment established by  
**Bruce B. Dice Foundation**  
Michigan State University (B.S., 1956)  
in honor of  
**B.T. Sandefur, Ph.D.**

## Chicago Tribune *continued from p.1*

At its essence, scanning is digital photography. Yet, unlike the “candid” we shoot on our mobile phones, the work of scanning requires painstaking and time-consuming post processing to achieve a high quality image. Student assistants are key to the work of the Library. Some 25 students from the Digital and Multimedia Center spent over 4,000 hours performing the scanning and processing the materials for the Chicago Tribune site. Both sides of each newspaper page were scanned and the students cropped a black band around each image and straightened it as necessary using Creative Suite 2. After a quality control review of each master image, PDF derivatives with background OCR were made using Read Iris Corporate Edition and JPG files using Creative Suite 2.

## Discovery

Merely digitizing content is not enough to make it findable and usable, and post-digitization processes require painstaking effort. A significant portion of the total time to bring these historic images to the web and make them useful revolved around creating metadata: that is, data about data, or the descriptive layer of material that brings searchability to the images. The Tribune project uses Qualified Dublin Core (QDC) as its metadata scheme. QDC is more granular than the Simple Dublin Core (DC), allowing more flexibility in the item description. Students do item description from either a physical page or a digital image. The data was gathered in several stages, with journalism graduate assistants working on proposal information; undergraduate students gathering rudimentary descriptions of the project’s images, such as image type and size; and additional graduate students working with each piece to create interpretive data about the nature of the images and text and to establish historical perspective and significance. Finally, the quality control and professional cataloging experience and knowledge of the metadata librarian capped the process.

The result, we hope, is a visually appealing and highly functional web site: <<http://www.lib.msu.edu/branches/dmc/tribune>>

Building upon the success of this project, we look forward to boldly moving into that imagined future where information resources are freely available. To remain faithful to our heritage and to fully commit to long-term storage of the digital as well as the physical artifacts we will need proper funding, robust storage architecture and most importantly talented and dedicated staff. We look forward to working with our supporters as we build this future. 🌱

# Finding Aids for Robert Coles Papers Now Complete

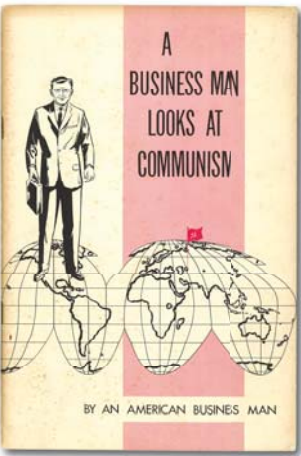
Peter I. Berg, Head of Special Collections and Associate Director for Special Collections & Preservation

In 2007, the MSU Libraries were delighted to announce the acquisition of the Robert Coles Papers. The Pulitzer Prize winning author and researcher—whose newest book is *Handing One Another Along: Literature and Social Reflection* (Random House, 2010)—donated his personal papers and those for the magazine *Double Take* to MSU. After three years of effort, Special Collections staff have finished processing the 148 boxes of material, which are now fully available to scholars. Included in the Coles Papers are letters and manuscripts reflecting a lifetime of work, lecture notes and videotapes of Coles’ highly regarded Harvard course on The Literature of Social Reflection, and much more. The *Double Take* archives include manuscripts from a panoply of contemporary essayists, story writers, poets, and photographers. *Double Take* won six National Magazine Awards during its publishing lifetime.

Finding aids to assist in browsing are available on the library website:

- **Robert Coles Papers**  
<[http://www.lib.msu.edu/finding\\_aids/323c.jsp](http://www.lib.msu.edu/finding_aids/323c.jsp)>
- **Double Take Archive**  
<[http://www.lib.msu.edu/finding\\_aids/305.jsp](http://www.lib.msu.edu/finding_aids/305.jsp)>

The controversial and extreme radicalism of the viewpoints represented in the Arsenal Collection makes it an important addition to the Radicalism Collection, which was established 50 years ago to collect political, social, and cultural publications of the left and right. Today this collection has more than 40,000 books, pamphlets, and periodicals, plus tens of thousands of items in the Radicalism Vertical File Collection. Whether one agrees or disagrees with the thoughts and viewpoints expressed in the Radicalism Collection, it is critical that such materials are not kept hidden, but can be examined and debated on their merits in a scholarly, free, democratic, and open environment. 🌱

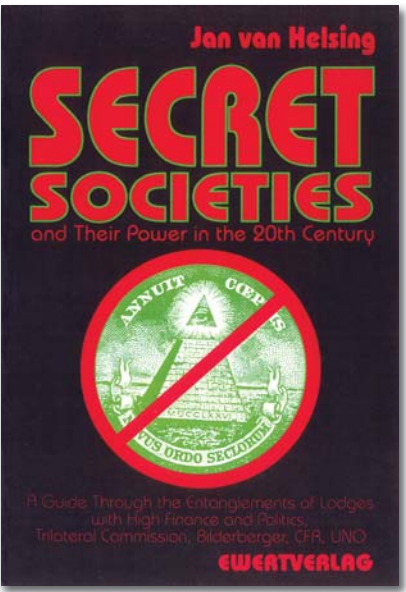


# THE ARSENAL COLLECTION: SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIP ON RADICALISM

Peter I. Berg, Head of Special Collections and Associate Director for Special Collections & Preservation

The Radicalism Collection has recently been expanded with the addition of more than 5,000 leaflets, books, and periodicals from radical right organizations. Acquired in part with funding from the Beth Shapiro Radicalism Collection Endowment Fund, the Arsenal Collection features late 19th, 20th, and 21st century materials from throughout the world.

The original collector, a scholar studying anti-semitism, soon expanded his collecting activity to the radical right and conspiracy topics. These include British Israelism, social credit, anti-communism, New World Order, anti-New World Order, Ku Klux Klan, anti-Catholicism, editions of the Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, Holocaust revisionism, neo-Nazi and fascist literature, Aryanism and white supremacy, anti-Zionism, the Rothschilds and Federal Reserve conspiracy, anti-New Deal, and Christian Identity. Imprints from Canada, United Kingdom, the Arab capitals of the Middle East, Australia, South Africa, and the United States are all well represented in the collection. Almost all of the material is uncommon, and many of the items are not held in any other library. Careful cataloging of the collection is underway and currently almost 2,000 pieces are ready for use in the Special Collections reading room.



*Secret Societies and their Power in the 20th Century: A guide through the entanglements of lodges with high finance and politics* by Jan van Helsing (Gran Canaria: Ewertverlag, 1995) and *A Business Man Looks at Communism* by Fred C. Koch. (Wichita, Kan.: F.C. Koch, 1960) are just two examples of the 5000+ titles in the Arsenal Collection.





## ART IN THE LIBRARY

Terrie L. Wilson, Art Librarian and Head, Fine Arts Library

The MSU Libraries were pleased to acquire a new work of art recently, and an upcoming competition aims to bring student artwork into the Main Library.

The Public Art on Campus committee arranged for a donated work entitled *Artifacts* to be mounted in the Main Library, just inside the Faculty Books alcove. The piece, by Michigan artist Glen Michaels (born 1927), is a stunning wall-mounted ceramic work that includes elements of bronze, brass, wood and ivory. Michaels studied at both the Cranbrook Academy and the Yale School of Fine Art. *Artifacts* was originally created in 1979, but the artist reworked sections prior to installation in 2010. See page 12 for a photograph.

In an effort to acquire more artwork, the “Art in the Library” competition will be held during the Fall semester. Open to any enrolled MSU undergraduate or graduate student, entries are being accepted through October 15, 2010. Students may enter up to three pieces in any media, and the winning artist will receive a \$500 cash prize. By displaying the winning artwork in the Main Library, its presence will highlight existing works of art, such as *Artifacts* and John T. Scott’s *Skyfire* sculpture. With an average of 6,000 visitors per day, the Library is poised to serve as a prime location to showcase works of art. 🌱

## PERSPECTIVES ON COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Steven W. Sowards, Associate Director for Collections

Those who follow the news about the Google Books scanning project or the bewildering array of choices being marketed for e-book readers like the Kindle and Nook, should not be surprised to learn that the trend in library collections is in the direction of more digital materials. Students and professors who use the MSU Libraries find a multitude of reasons to benefit from digital delivery of information: sources can be reached from anywhere (offices and dorm rooms far from the Main Library, or from campus programs in Asia, Africa or Latin America), and at any time of the day or night; books or journal volumes are never missing on the shelf, or missing important pages; and keyword searching often allows rapid scanning of entire volumes in search of relevant passages.

Digital information is no longer confined to printed text that has migrated from the paper page to the screen. The MSU Libraries offer digital resources that include articles from the latest scientific journals, rare books formerly accessible only in distant locations like the British Library, unpublished letters and diaries, dissertations, streaming video of play performances and ethnographic documentaries, streaming jazz or classical music collections, picture archives, and economic data.

While many of us still find it comfortable to curl up with a good book for relaxation or study, these digital resources can be game-changers that simplify research problems:

- A forestry student travels to Brazil for study abroad. She no longer needs to carry an awkward choice of heavy books...the full text of recent MSU doctoral theses, US Department of Agriculture publications, reports by global nonprofit agencies, and university press books are available through the library web site.
- A doctoral student must compare original texts of Elizabethan plays to complete thesis research. He no longer must depend on grant money to visit rare book rooms in English libraries...images of the printed works are available through the library web site.

The MSU Libraries would like to offer more convenience like this to our community. For about \$100 we can buy permanent rights to one scholarly monograph in e-book format. For about \$1,000 we can secure online rights to all books on one subject issued by a major publisher during a year. For about \$10,000 we can buy a digital set of declassified government documents. For about \$40,000 we can buy a twenty-year backfile of a set of scholarly journals. For about \$100,000 we can buy an archive of 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century literature or magazines. 🌱

## BRICKS AND MORTAR: ADDRESSING FACILITIES NEEDS DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

Cliff Haka, Director of Libraries

In spite of challenging economic times and a reduced operating budget for the MSU Libraries, several important facility improvement projects have been completed with the assistance of special funding. One catalyst was the University’s urgent need for more office space in the Biomedical and Physical Sciences building to house a major new research initiative. The University provided funds to purchase electronic equivalents for many of the print titles within that collection, as well as support to relocate compact shelving units from BPS to the Business Library. The Business Library was able to reduce the space needed for shelving, freeing space for study tables and carrels, which are sorely needed in this very busy branch.

Portions of the BPS collection not replaced with electronic files were returned to the Main Library. To recapture the seating lost to that additional shelving, the University provided funds for high-quality individual carrel seating which can be more tightly arranged. Individual carrel seating helps us address another issue, as well. Contemporary students, with cell phones and other devices, are often more gregarious than earlier generations, making it a challenge to maintain traditional “quiet” library space. In response, the East Wing of the Main Library has been designated as the quiet study wing, while the West Wing accommodates group study. Appropriate seating allows us to serve both groups of students: individual carrels encourage quiet work in the East Wing, and tables are available for groups throughout the West Wing.



Above: The Facilities team caps low shelving in the Main Library, the final stage of a summer-long project that included reorganization of the Reference Collections. The summer Facilities team included (clockwise from top right) student workers Mark Costigan, team supervisor, library staff member Jay Johnson, and student workers Matt Rademacher and Jamar Easley Daniels. Student Ben Bodman (not shown) was also part of the Facilities crew in summer 2010.

Opposite: Detail from *America's Agricultural College* (Henry Bernstein, 1938). Originally commissioned by the Works Project Administration for the East Lansing, Michigan post office, the work is now on loan to MSU and on display in the Main Library.

prevent class sessions from disrupting the surrounding area.

More than 6,000 students spend time at the library on an average day. Our facilities department has two goals: to accommodate all the varied activities taking place here, from individual research to group study to classroom-based user instruction, and to maintain a pleasant, welcoming environment. To meet these goals our work embraces everything from upgrading technology labs to replacing worn carpeting. Your support can help us provide the best possible setting for library users with new furnishings, facility upgrades to accommodate new technology, and more. Please consider investing in this important aspect of library operations.

If you’ve ever remodeled your home, imagine how much work it is to maintain and upgrade a 450,000 square foot facility! Planning and execution of each building project requires a tremendous amount of time, effort, and attention to detail. So it is appropriate to recognize our facilities staff, pictured below. Their efforts have and continue to go well beyond expectations. 🌱



## STUDENT EMPLOYEES ENHANCE LIBRARIES' SERVICES

Heather Bentley, Library Human Resources Office

Most units on campus, including the library, depend on student employees as an important part of our workforce. Students are employed in some 275 positions at the library during the academic year, supplementing the work of 64 librarians and 108 support staff.

We receive as many as 4,000 applications each year from students who hope to be hired into one of 40 different units. Library employment offers flexible scheduling, work locations throughout campus, and duties that range from checking out and shelving books to designing library floor plans and working at service desks.

Besides earning money needed to support their education, many students find that library jobs provide other benefits. Jennifer Lawson, a former student employee who worked in the Main Library Copy Center, explained that working at the library taught her about e-resources and online periodicals. Through her job she also learned about interlibrary loan services and thus avoided buying books she would only need for a short time.

Jennifer also noted that she increased her time management skills, enjoyed working in a diverse and multicultural environment, and felt that her supervisors were supportive of her educational goals. "Having a job in the Library allowed me to cover my expenses without having to take out additional loans to pay for my education, rent and other expenses." Jennifer now works full time for the Northeast Guidance Center in Detroit and is pursuing her Ph.D. in Sociology from Wayne State University.

One of our goals is to establish an endowment for student employment. Your contributions to this fund will enable more MSU students to gain the benefits that Jennifer found from working in the Libraries and furthering their education while also allowing the Libraries to provide excellent service. 🌱



The unique collection building and preservation expertise of Comic Art bibliographer and cataloger Randall W. Scott was formally recognized in June with the MSU Library's Career Achievement Award.

Randy's love of comics began modestly as a cherished childhood reading pastime. As an undergraduate he read the book *All in Color for a Dime* (Arlington House, 1970) in which authors Dick Lupoff and Don Thompson shared the view that comic art is very much an art and its own unique form of literature, not to be shunned by academia. The notion of collecting, preserving and studying comics as literature appealed to a young man who wanted to change the world. In his efforts to further his education, Randy added a practical "apprenticeship" with a job at the Curious Book Store where he sorted, priced, and sold comics. There he met a regular customer, Russel B. Nye, professor of English at MSU and author of *The Unembarrassed Muse* (Dial Press, 1972)—a work which promotes the serious academic study of popular culture, including comic art. Randy took Nye as a role model for his career.

To earn money for his education, Randy left his minimum wage job to become an order typist at MSU's library. Learning that Nye had donated his research materials for *The Unembarrassed Muse* to MSU—including 6,000 comics—to form the foundation for the Popular Culture Collection, Randy volunteered his lunchtimes over the next two years to organize the comic books. Realizing that professional credentials would be needed to allow him to work toward preserving comic art and further legitimizing it as a venue for scholarly study, he attended Columbia University to obtain a Master's Degree in Library Service.

On his return to MSU, he became a German language cataloger. With access to the national cataloging



## CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR COMIC ART BIBLIOGRAPHER RANDALL W. SCOTT

Kristine Baclawski, Library Assistant III, Special Collections

database OCLC, he began to catalog comic books. By doing so, he gained positive responses from researchers around the world, becoming an international resource for scholars of comic art. Randy had always envisioned an international Comic Art Collection. While Mexican comics were available locally even in the 1980s, Randy begged friends, family, and colleagues to bring back comics from their travels abroad. Today, the collection has comic books and scholarly works on comics from Europe, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, India, and the Middle East.

Through the 1980s and with Randy's connections to comic fandom, the Comic Art Collection grew with significant additions, such as Jim Haynes' gift of 1,000 Golden Age comic books and 200 microfilm reels of comics privately and lovingly filmed over decades by the late Jerry Bails. Other acquisitions followed in the 1990s originating from the now defunct Eclipse Comics, and 11,000 items from the European collection of

the Swedish Epix Comics publisher, Dr. Horst Schröder. More recently, the MSU Library acquired the King Features Syndicate Proof Sheet Collection, featuring such diverse strips as *Andy Capp*, *Dennis the Menace*, *Donald Duck*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Mickey Mouse*, *Rex Morgan, MD*, *Sally Forth*, and *Tumbleweeds*. With this and other gifts, the Comic Art Collection can boast an archive of more than two million American newspaper comic strips covering the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as well as some 20,000 items including compilations, books, journals, fanzines, and ephemera.

Whether a person comes to renew pleasant childhood memories, for serious research, to enjoy a recent graphic novel, or out of curiosity about the world's largest collection of Comic Art, most leave with a sense of awe at the life's work of Randall W. Scott. 🌱

Photo of Randy Scott by  
Derrick Turner, University Relations.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT STUDENT EMPLOYEE GRADUATES

### December 2009 Graduates

Mary Hollist, Narges Rahman, Sharrell Hall, Stephanie Pavlica, Erika Ross, Matthew Kelterborn, Cherron May.

### May 2010 Graduates

Joy Adkins, Ken Alleman, Kevyn Bailey, Patrizia Barile, Jordan Blekking, Nicki Bogart, Ventura Brohl, Kayla Burns, Nicole Burns, Taylor Conley, Gregory Daniel, Jamar Easley Daniels, Laura Donnelly, Brooke Ferden, Elizabeth Ferguson, Callie Frey, Brent Gamalski, Vanessa Gibson, Tara

Groustra, Katherine Haraf, Alexandra Hauser, Matthew Kawiecki, Emily Keller, Rayna Ketchum, Yelena Kleshchik, Christopher Kuehl, Nitya Lohitsa, Erika MacNeil, Jaymee Mason, Amanda Mattson, Mallory McClowry, Nicholas Moose, Jasmine Nelson, Michelle Niezabytowski, Ginia Oneil, Katherine Sanchez, Shrenik Sanghvi, William Schneider, Jessica Scott, Trisha Slocum, Kaitlynn Sova, Paul Spearman, Nelly Tomas, Caitlyn Vandermarliere, Melissa Vermeesch, Katie Ward, Mallory Weddon, Paul Zerkle.



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Amanda Grace Sikarskie,  
winner of the 2010 MSU  
Student Book Collection  
Competition.



"Artifacts" by Glen Michaels  
*See related story on p.8*