MSU LIBRARIES WELCOME ISRAELI LITERATURE COLLECTION

The MSU Libraries, together with MSU’s Jewish Studies Program, have just received a generous and very welcome gift: the Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Collection of Israeli Literature.

The Holtzman Collection represents many years of passionate work by Irwin Holtzman, a Detroit-area builder and business owner who died in 2010. Holtzman’s collection of Israeli literature was inspired by a 1973 visit to Israel, and over the years he became a dedicated supporter of Israeli authors, providing financial assistance for translations and literary efforts.

The collection begins with the earliest days of statehood in 1948 and continues to the present. Many volumes of fiction, poetry, and drama are inscribed by the author, and the collection also includes literary journals and literary criticism.

The published works are accompanied by a wealth of primary resources. These include manuscripts of poetry and drama; posters advertising literary events; political cartoons and other original artwork; and Irwin Holtzman’s extensive correspondence with many important Israeli literary figures, including Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, Amalia Kahana-Carmon, and Yoram Kaniuk.

“The Holtzman Collection will be a tremendous asset to teaching and research at Michigan State,” said Marc Bernstein, professor of Hebrew. “Many of the literary works were printed in small quantities, and are no longer available. And, the correspondence and manuscript materials are absolutely unique and will be an important resource for scholars.”

The large influx of titles in Hebrew presented a challenge for the library—one that was solved when financial support for a student employee was generously provided by Mrs. Holtzman. The Libraries were fortunate to hire Ortal Lieberman (at left), an MSU student who will be graduating in May 2012. An English major with a specialization in Jewish Studies, Ortal is fluent in Hebrew—and, she is planning a career in librarianship.

New Ways to Give

As proud as we are of our collections and services, there are always more resources we’d like to provide for the MSU community. And you can help!

Congress has re-authorized the provision that allows you to make a tax-free gift from your IRA to MSU, from now until December 31, 2011. If you will be 70½ or older in 2011 and do not need your required IRA withdrawals, this is a new way for you to support our role in the MSU community.

Throughout this issue of Insight you’ll find a few of the many ideas we have for expanding our collections, preserving our rare books, and providing important new services to MSU’s students and faculty.

Detailed information on the IRA provision is available at http://www.msu.planyourlegacy.org/ira.php. For more ideas about how you can help the Libraries, contact me at any time.

—Seth Martin, Director of Development for LC&T, 517-884-6446.
Dear Friends,

It is indeed a strange and wonderful, yet frequently bewildering time to be involved in the world of academic research libraries. Even as MSU Libraries staff use our state-of-the-art I2S Digibook scanner to produce images of rare and unique items for web access, just two floors down you’ll now find an Espresso Book Machine® that turns a digital file into a book in a matter of minutes.

This is just one of many apparent contradictions as the world of information moves from paper to electronic. In this world some resources function better in one medium than the other, not to mention that personal preferences and circumstances will influence user choice. For example, have you ever wanted a paper road map when your GPS navigation system keeps suggesting that you return to a road that is currently under construction? This type of variability in user demand keeps the library staff on its toes.

Another surprise is that with remote access available to an enormous array of library digital resources, it is logical to assume that the number of users coming to the Library has plummeted. In fact, just the opposite is true. Last year approximately 1.8 million individuals visited the MSU Libraries, more than triple the number that attended MSU home football games.

Given these numbers, we welcome the opportunity to provide additional experiences for our visitors. For example, we have become more aggressive in pursuing additional pieces of artwork for display within the Libraries. The upcoming second annual student art contest, graciously sponsored by the Irene Arens Endowment, will provide two additional pieces of original artwork. Additionally, I could not be more pleased with the reinstallation of John Scott’s magnificent Skyfire. For the first time, the true beauty of that magnificent sculpture, commissioned by Selma Hollander in memory of her husband Stanley, is readily available for all visitors to enjoy. If you haven’t seen Skyfire in its new location, please stop by. You will be amazed.

In this dynamic environment, with print-to-digital and digital-to-print, plus the challenge and opportunity of interacting with millions of users, the possibilities for the MSU Libraries are endless. Thanks to so many of you that have lent your support to enable the staff to pursue new and creative options, it advantages our users, and makes things rewarding for our staff. We look forward to more excitement moving forward.

Sincerely,

Clifford H. Haka
Director of Libraries

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The MSU Libraries have just acquired an Espresso Book Machine® for on-demand book printing in the Main Library Copy Center—only the third such installation in the state of Michigan. The Espresso Book Machine® prints and binds a paperback book at the press of a button, producing a finished product in less than 10 minutes.

Customers can choose from any of the 3.3 million books already digitized on Google Books, or print their own material. This could include the customer’s own creative writing, a book manuscript to submit to a traditional publisher, the annual report for use, and many other possibilities.

The Espresso Book Machine® incorporates a high-speed Xerox copier to produce black & white interior pages, and an Epson printer to produce a full-color cover. Then, robotic machinery designed by On Demand Books assembles the pages, glues the book spine, attaches the cover, trims the book to size and delivers it. For a 150-page book, the entire process takes about 5 minutes.

The Espresso Book Machine® was purchased with an allocation from MSU’s Teaching and Learning Environment fund, which is designed to introduce cutting-edge technology to the University.

“We are delighted to bring this new, exciting technology to campus and to the local community,” said Cliff Haka, director of the MSU Libraries. “The Espresso Book Machine is a terrific example of how digital technology can benefit our users, especially those who prefer to have a physical copy of a book.”

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On August 30, the Libraries celebrated the contributions of our long-time supporters Stanley and Selma Hollander with a re-dedication of the sculpture Skyfire, by MSU alumnus John T. Scott. Skyfire was commissioned for the MSU Libraries by the Hollanders in 2004, and was re-installed this summer in a new location.

Guests also had an opportunity to see the library’s new Espresso Book Machine in operation as it produced paperback copies of The History of Labeling, one of Stanley Hollander’s earliest publications. Each copy was printed and bound in approximately three minutes.

Kenneth Beachler, Rebecca Surian, and Selma Hollander enjoy the Skyfire reception in the Main Library.

Every faculty member in the College of Nursing uses ANGEL, the University’s online course management system,” adds Heidi Schroeder, liaison to CON. “Our full-text electronic resources allow us to seamlessly integrate research materials from the library collection into the course content.”

The health sciences librarians also collaborate with faculty in the classroom. Abraham Wheeler, liaison to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Program in Public Health, partners with COM faculty in teaching a course on evidence-based medicine. “In evidence-based medicine, students learn to evaluate the research they use to make treatment decisions. Is it reliable and relevant? Evaluating information is a central competency in librarianship.”

Faculty also depend on health sciences librarians for help with literature searches, an essential first step in preparing grant proposals and journal articles. John Cofey, liaison to the College of Human Medicine, is particularly active in this role. CHM faculty have even credited him as a co-author in research articles, most recently in the Journal of Family Practice and the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

“Health sciences librarians take a specialized course of study during their graduate work in information science,” explained Susan Kendall, who coordinates the library’s Health Sciences Team. “We also have an additional credentialing system, the Academy of Health Information Professionals.”

MSU is unique in having community-based medical schools. Only the College of Veterinary Medicine has a teaching hospital on campus; students and residents at the other three schools do their clinical training at nearby 50 hospitals around the state.

“We’ve always had students and adjunct faculty far from East Lansing, so the health sciences librarians at MSU took the lead in purchasing and securing access to electronic resources,” Kendall continued. “It’s not enough to search databases to find citations to research articles; it’s essential to provide full text online.”

Electronic access is critical even when the teaching hospital is on campus, explains Sheila Bryant, liaison to the College of Veterinary Medicine. “The more titles we can provide online, the easier it is for vets and students to get the information they need without taking time from patients.”

Clockwise from top left: Sheila Bryant, Abraham Wheeler, Andrea Kessel, John Cofey, Susan Kendall, Heidi Schroeder.

The flood of new information in biomedical disciplines is never ending. PubMed, one of the premier databases of medical literature, adds 700,000 citations a year. To manage the deluge, medical schools and hospitals depend on health sciences librarians.

Six librarians at MSU work in this critical area, serving as liaisons to the College of Human Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the basic biomedical fields, such as physiology, pharmacology, and molecular genetics.

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The University Archives is also tackling the challenges of the Digital Revolution head on. In 2010 we received a three-year, $250,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to build a digital preservation environment for the university’s historical records in digital format. We are partnering with the Office of the Registrar to preserve vital information which until recently was distributed in print, including the Academic Calendar, Description of Courses, Course Schedules and the Student Directory. In January 2011 we began to archive the university’s massive website and online publications. Considering that the MSU website receives 70,000 visitors per day, we think it will continue to be an historical treasure trove for Spartans 150 years from now!

We are most excited to report that the number of researchers using the University Archives collections and services continues to increase each year. This semester alone we have welcomed class groups working on such diverse topics as the history of post-secondary education, archaeological field methods, museum curatorial practices, and the history of Michigan.

Thank you for your continued support of the University Archives. Visit us in Conrad Hall any time!

 Yours in MSU history,

Cynthia A. Ghering
Director, University Archives & Historical Collections
Collection Spotlight:

THE MARGARET ZEE JONES PAPERS
Megan J. Badgley, University Archives & Historical Collections

Dr. Margaret Zee Jones, MSU professor emerita in human pathology, recently donated her personal and professional papers to the University Archives & Historical Collections. Dr. Jones’ collection spans her three decades as an educator and researcher and documents her role as one of the first women in her field at MSU. The collection was processed with assistance and generous support from Dr. Jones and her husband, Dr. John (Jack) W. Jones.

From 1970 to 2001, Dr. Jones developed innovative curricula such as modular instruction units and Neurological Problem Solving Exercises, which were used in the Colleges of Human and Osteopathic Medicine and at other universities nationally and internationally. Dr. Jones’ curriculum proved “extremely effective and popular with students,” said Dr. Kathy Lovell, a former student of Dr. Jones and current professor of Neurology in the Colleges of Human and Osteopathic Medicine. “In my teaching of neuropathology to students in both medical schools at MSU, I have followed Margaret’s approaches, modified and updated the modules for student use, digitized Margaret’s kodachromes [35 mm slides], and adapted the material for an online open interactive web resource (team, chm.msu.edu/neuropath). Over a thousand pictures of brain sections and microscopic slides that Margaret had in her collection have been digitized and have been used for CD-ROM or web resources, or will be catalogued and made available for educational purposes for medical students, residents, physicians, and the public to illustrate neuropathology concepts and characteristics.”

The new collection documents Dr. Jones’ extensive research of many diseases, including caprine (goat) β-mannosidosis, an inherited disease discovered by Dr. Jones and her research team. Included in the collection are laboratory books, papers, and photographic materials created by Dr. Jones and her team while conducting her seminal research of β-mannosidosis. Also of interest are Dr. Jones’ notes regarding the materials, providing a wealth of information typically unavailable to researchers.

Ultimately, the collection is an important source of information for those interested in many issues, including curriculum development, women in the sciences and higher education, and scientific research conducted at universities. According to Dr. Lovell, “a lasting legacy of [Dr. Jones’] many activities is the effect on students of all types—medical students, graduate students, and undergraduate students—whom she mentored and assisted in their career development.” The new collection reflects her legacy and will continue to serve students and faculty and inform researchers for years to come.
Text-A-Librarian debuted on August 29, just before the start of classes. The service allows students to use their preferred method of communication—texting—to ask questions of the reference librarians. Terri Miller, head of the Reference unit. “Texting is a great addition to the many ways we communicate with our users.”

By Sarah Roberts, University Archives & Historical Collections

Will you see reference librarians texting at the desk now? Actually, no. The texting service uses a commercial software product, Mosio, which funnels the text messages to staff workstations at the reference desk, to be answered between in-person questions. The software also allows librarians to easily track the number of text questions received, create and save the best answers, and manage privacy and security.

The collection documents the discovery of cisplatin and carboplatin; personal correspondence with other researchers, the medical community and cancer survivors; and the records of the Barros Research Institute, which Dr. Rosenberg founded and led for over thirty years. In the 1970s, Dr. Rosenberg and his laboratory supervisor, Loretta Van Camp, investigated platinum electrodes and their effect on cell growth. Further research into the effects of platinum and the division of cells led to the discovery of the cancer drug cisplatin, and later, carboplatin. These drugs, mixed with other cancer inhibiting ingredients, and combined with surgery and radiation, have drastically improved cancer survival rates.

One researcher currently using the collection is Dr. James Hoeschele, a former associate of Dr. Rosenberg and a successful scientist and researcher in his own right. Dr. Hoeschele began working with Dr. Rosenberg as a postdoctoral cancer fellow in 1970 and went on to become one of the team that invented carboplatin. Now semi-retired, Dr. Hoeschele was instrumental in bringing the Rosenberg Collection to the University Archives and is assisting with the organization and description of the papers. Dr. David Juckett, another former researcher with Dr. Rosenberg’s team, is assisting with the Barros Research Institute records.

As Dr. Hoeschele states, Dr. Rosenberg’s voluminous correspondence files demonstrate “the pivotal role that Dr. Rosenberg played in directing and informing individuals of advances in the field of the use of metal complexes in cancer chemotherapy.” The Rosenberg Collection “is a marvelous historical collection. Given sufficient time to study it, it would allow one to reconstruct the discovery and the development of the globally important antitumor drug, cisplatin, because all of the key notebooks, papers, and quarterly reports are preserved and included in the collection.”

The University Archives is pleased to preserve and provide access to Dr. Rosenberg’s papers and research. It not only documents the work of a prominent MSU scientist, says Dr. Hoeschele, but it also “gives us insight into the genius of Dr. Rosenberg. He had such a diverse range of intriguing research interests and all were conceived for the purpose of improving the lives of people.”

Dr. Barnett Rosenberg (above) in 1978. Lab notebooks from the Barnett Rosenberg collection. The open book is one of Dr. Rosenberg’s own notebooks; below are notebooks kept by his laboratory supervisor, Loretta Van Camp.

Daniel Owens, Hope College (Class of 2013)

Above, from left: Joe Lauer, Peter Limb, and Africana library student employee Mary Olabisi Hollist. Photo: Louis Villafane.

Collection Spotlight:
THE BARNETT ROSENBERG PAPERS

By Sarah Roberts, University Archives & Historical Collections

In June, the University Archives & Historical Collections was pleased to acquire the papers of MSU biophysicist and researcher, Dr. Barnett (Barney) Rosenberg. Dr. Rosenberg came to MSU in 1961 as one of the founding faculty members in the newly created Biophysics Department. During his prestigious career, Dr. Rosenberg discovered cisplatin (Platinol) and carboplatin (Paraplatin), the world's leading anti-cancer drugs. The collection was donated by Mrs. Ritta Rosenberg, Dr. Rosenberg’s widow, and processing has been made possible with her generous support.

The collection documents the discovery of cisplatin and carboplatin; personal correspondence with other researchers, the medical community and cancer survivors; and the records of the Barros Research Institute, which Dr. Rosenberg founded and led for over thirty years. In the 1970s, Dr. Rosenberg and his laboratory supervisor, Loretta Van Camp, investigated platinum electrodes and their effect on cell growth. Further research into the effects of platinum and the division of cells led to the discovery of the cancer drug cisplatin, and later, carboplatin. These drugs, mixed with other cancer inhibiting ingredients, and combined with surgery and radiation, have drastically improved cancer survival rates.

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The MOBILE LIBRARY

Iphones, Blackberries, Androids and more—cell phones are nearly universal among college students, and smartphone use is rising sharply. To stay connected, the MSU Libraries have created two new services that are already proving popular.

Text-A-Librarian debuted on August 29, just before the start of classes. The service allows students to use their preferred method of communication—texting—to ask questions of the reference librarians. “Sending links to websites is much more accurate in a text message than a traditional phone call,” explains Terri Miller, head of the Reference unit. “Texting is a great addition to the many ways we communicate with our users.”

Will you see reference librarians texting at the desk now? Actually, no. The texting service uses a commercial software product, Mosio, which funnels the text messages to staff workstations at the reference desk, to be answered between in-person questions. The software allows librarians to easily track the number of text questions received, create and save the best answers, and manage privacy and security.

Also this summer, the Web Services team has been hard at work on a mobile version of the library’s website. Through the mobile site, users can check library hours and news, search the online catalog, renew and recall materials, and browse course-specific research guides.

Full-text journal databases are also beginning to offer mobile-friendly sites, so the library’s mobile site includes links to those licensed resources as well. ScienceDirect, LexisNexis, PubMed, AltRست, Cambridge Journals Online, and others.

Visit the library’s mobile site! m.lib.msu.edu

Text us at 66746 and start your question with AskMSU.

*Message and data rates may apply.

NEW WAYS TO GIVE

NOW TO GIVE

WISH LIST

University Archives

Purchase archival boxes for the scrapbook collection: $3000. Sturdy, acid-free housing for our large collection of MSU student albums and scrapbooks, containing treasured photographs, dance cards, tickets, greeting cards, receipts, postcards, and other souvenirs.

Vincent Voice Library

Purchase a new desktop micrographic reader-printer-scanner, to allow researchers to easily read, edit, and print material from microfilmed collections, such as early campus newspapers. $6000.

Technical Services

Fund a one-year subscription to Mosio, the software which supports our Text-A-Librarian service: $1200.

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“MSU is one of only a few forward thinking institutions that collects zines and other punk/hardcore ephemera. From these zines, as documents of radical youth subcultures trying to build a better and more just world, we may access an array of vibrant and challenging ways of political and social thought. These zines were created by kids, some by MSU students, and show that these individuals did not wait for someone to publish their work; they were ahead and did it themselves.”

“I am particularly interested in the Libraries’ robust and growing collection of punk zines from the 1970s to the Present, and in the Residental College in the Arts and Humanities, I regularly teach a sophomore tutorial on radical youth subcultures in which students both use the zines housed in Special Collections, as well as collaborate to make their own zines. The synergy between the Libraries’ resources and my own collection allow students to enter into a culture that facilitates an intimate access into the thoughts and lives of everyday people—punks, vegans, midwives, single parents, squatters, gay...”

Dylan AT Miner, Assistant Professor of Transcultural Studies, MSU Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, and Adjunct Curator of Indigenous Art, MSU Museum.

“Hailey Mooney is Data Services Librarian and liaison to Human Development and Family Studies, MSU School of Social Work.”

Sally A. Rypka, Clinical Associate Professor & Statewide Blended MSW Program Coordinator, MSU School of Social Work.