

LIBRARIANS ON THE GO

REFERENCE SERVICES IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

Holly Flynn, Outreach Librarian

Librarians work with students at the reference desk, in branch libraries, and during office hours in academic departments. But what about the freshmen who need a little extra encouragement? The ones who are intimidated by our enormous library, or who are falling behind?

That's where the Neighborhood Engagement Centers come in, and MSU's team of roving librarians.

MSU has the largest residence hall system in the country with 25 undergraduate halls housing 16,000 students, including nearly the entire freshmen class. Last year, the university embarked on a new project: residence halls were transformed into "neighborhoods" where students were to be involved in living/learning communities. Currently, there are three "Engagement Centers" in the neighborhoods: spaces in Brody, Holden, and Hubbard Halls, where students can go for academic advising, tutoring, fitness classes, flu clinics...and now, research help from librarians.

These engagement centers are designed to bring the campus community to the students' own turf, where they are more likely to use and benefit from various services. The goal is to decrease academic probation rates and increase graduation rates.

MSU librarians armed with iPads offer drop-in reference service hours, where we partner with the Writing Center to help students working on research papers.

We also teach classes about time management and research skills, and participate in resource fairs. Finally, our Outreach Librarian is a member of the "Academic Pillar" of the neighborhoods, which is producing a strategic plan to serve the academic needs of students living at MSU.

After spending time with one librarian, a student in Hubbard Hall remarked, "I used to go to the library, and when I couldn't find something, I just left. Now I know I can ask you!" The neighborhood initiative is still new and evolving, but MSU Libraries are one of the earliest partners, and our efforts are paying off. ☺

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Dear Friends,

As we move ever further into the digital environment, some are drawn to wonder about the need and value of library services. Loosely based upon the absurd notion that “everything” is available and readily findable on the Web, some actually anticipate that libraries and librarians will disappear. It should come as no great surprise that I would reject such predictions, but being a librarian one could imagine my perspective might be biased, or at least influenced, by the natural desire that my profession not evaporate. So you might readily conclude, “Well, of course that’s what he would say.” Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I provide the following affirmation of the role that information specialists continue to play. It came unsolicited from a senior and distinguished member of the MSU faculty, and reads as follows:

“This semester, two MSU librarians made my class move up a level in performance. I was faced with adding secondary data sources and panel designs to my data mining course, which is taught principally to MS students in Marketing Research. My expertise is really in quantitative approaches to analysis of data after one has it, but since secondary data is absolutely needed by these students for their future employment I couldn’t ignore it—although I was tempted to downplay it.

“During the summer I consulted the Gast business librarians, and Breezy Silver offered to help me with the class. She asked many interesting questions, listened to my problem and got a sample assignment. Then, she did magic. She recruited Hailey Mooney to help and they took over my class for a whole period and taught them databases and search techniques, ran exercises, and helped the lost and bewildered. They did an absolutely excellent job—so well that they had constant visits from my students all term. I have already asked Breezy to continue working with my classes in future semesters.

“The best part is that during interviews and internships, employers have been raving about how good our students are at finding data and even solutions before field research projects actually start. Thanks to the MSU Libraries for having such smart, wonderful and caring people—it surely made a difference to me and my students.”

Roger J. Calantone, PhD.
Eli Broad Chaired University Professor of Business
Chair, Department of Marketing, Michigan State University

Libraries and librarians *do* make a difference. This is but one example of the impact that they can have. The staff of the MSU Libraries is working to make a difference. Thanks for your support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Clifford H. Haka
Director of 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, Computing & Technology at 517.884.6446, or visit <http://giving.lib.msu.edu>.



Director of Libraries
Clifford H. Haka

Director of University Archives & Historical Collections
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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

Public Services
Install a sound system in the Beaumont Instruction Room, to allow greater flexibility in classroom activities and help hearing-impaired students participate more easily: \$2500.



Special Collections
Conservation treatment and digitization of a rare 15th century Samaritan Pentateuch: \$7500.



126

countries are represented in our newspaper, magazine, and scholarly journal subscriptions

300

languages, both ancient and modern, can be found in our collection



Library users can search the catalog by entering terms in the Cyrillic and Hebrew alphabets; Chinese, Japanese and Korean characters; and in Arabic script.

Visitors to the library can pick up a bookmark with some of the many languages spoken at MSU.



BUILDING A WORLD-GRANT LIBRARY

MSU has a strong global presence: students from 127 countries, study abroad participation topping the Big Ten, and faculty doing research all over the world. How does the library build equally strong international collections to support these needs?

“It’s a challenge!” says Mary Jo Zeter, subject specialist for Latin American and Caribbean studies, and coordinator for area studies collections. “Outside North America and Europe, many parts of the world simply don’t have well-defined channels for book distribution.”

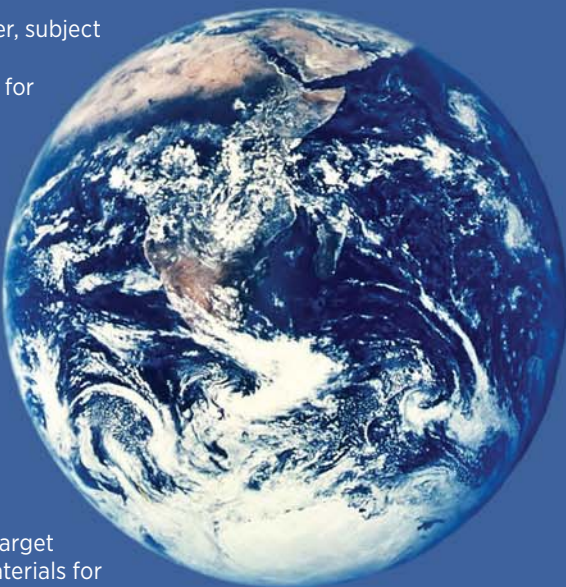
In many cases, material the library wants to collect is only distributed locally, or with limited print runs. “We have to develop relationships with many different vendors, even with individual universities or research institutes, to find the resources our faculty members require.” Subject specialists need proficiency in the target languages—not only to evaluate materials for purchase, but often to communicate with vendors.

Buying trips, sometimes scheduled around national or regional book fairs, are another way librarians collect material from far-flung locations. Each trip is a marathon, with a lengthy itinerary of visits to archives, museums, university presses, and bookstores—any kind of scientific or cultural heritage institution that might have books, journals, videos, or musical recordings to meet research or classroom needs.

And, as the library world goes digital, MSU is starting to add electronic resources from other countries too. A recent purchase was the license to a Korean e-book collection.

“Building a strong international collection is a way of bringing the world onto the MSU campus,” says Xian Wu, subject specialist for Asian studies. “And as a bonus, it enhances MSU’s reputation abroad. We want to build a rich collection representing many different perspectives. This is what an academic research collection should be.”

Subject specialists for area studies at the MSU Libraries. From left: Mary Jo Zeter, Latin American and Caribbean studies and coordinator; Xian Wu, Asian studies; Peter Limb, Africana; Deborah Margolis, Middle Eastern studies; Terri Miller, Russian and East European studies. Not pictured: Joe Lauer, Africana.





In the 17th century, European bookbinders used rich embroidery to decorate precious devotional volumes, such as prayer books, Bibles, and meditations on the life of Christ.

The exquisite volume shown here is *Formulaire de Prieres Journalieres*, a prayer book printed in Belgium in 1661. Flowers and berries appear on a ground of white silk, embroidered in green, silver, blue, and gold threads with gold sequins. The design is carried through the spine and back cover, and the text block is protected with silver clasps.

Formulaire de Prieres Journalieres was purchased with funds provided by the MSU Class of 1994 Library Endowment Fund. 📖



Photo: Dinu Lazar



MSU's strong collections in Eastern European history and modernist poetry were only two of the influences the library had on Suceavă's writing. "The MSU Library inspired me and motivated me to continue my projects, even if this meant a lot of work, long days and intense intellectual efforts," Suceavă says.

Now teaching mathematics at California State University-Fullerton, Suceavă has become one of Romania's most respected contemporary writers, with works translated into English, French, Korean, Hungarian and Bulgarian. "I view myself as an American mathematician and educator, but a Romanian writer," he says. And, MSU contributed to Suceavă's formation in both mathematics and literature. "I remember my MSU years with pleasure, and I have for the MSU Libraries my most sincere gratitude." 📖

Coming from an Off-Key Time, the English translation of Suceavă's novel *Venea din Timpul Diez*, was published by Northwestern University Press in 2011. The cover art is by Aurel Gheorghiu-Cogeaalac.

LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES

"If I were to name a place where I dream to be? After my grandmother's home in the Carpathian mountains, where I was raised, it would be the MSU Main Library."

A remarkable statement, even to those of us who love libraries, and the MSU Libraries in particular. But Bogdan Suceavă is perfectly serious. His most well-known novel, *Coming from an Off-Key Time*, owes much to research Suceavă did in the MSU Libraries, and the first draft was written in a carrel on 4 East—all while Suceavă was a doctoral candidate in mathematics at MSU.

Coming from an Off-Key Time is set during the political and social upheaval that swept through Romania after the fall of Communism in 1989. Suceavă was 20, a student at the University of Bucharest at the time of the revolution, and watched history unfold from that vantage point.

Already published when he left Romania in 1996, Suceavă's development as a writer entered a new phase in the MSU Libraries. Here, he discovered just how much of the Romanian history taught under Communism was a fabrication. "I had to do some serious library research to convince myself that I had been systematically lied to in school," he said in an interview with *The Quarterly Conversation*.

"As librarians, we often hear how important our resources are for teaching and research," says Terri Miller, subject specialist for Russian and Eastern European studies. "But Bogdan's experience with the collection was truly life-changing. When he was a student, he often stopped by my office to talk about the history he was reading. It was eye-opening to see how much he valued his connection to the history and literature of his country. As Americans, we often take this access to information for granted. So many people around the world are not this lucky!"

Digital Information

Upgrade the Vincent Voice Library recording studio, used by faculty to record oral history interviews: \$20,000.

Public Services

Create a new Collaborative Technology Lab, designed for students to work together online, plan presentations, and use technology resources in groups: \$30,000.

Collections

Acquire access to the online collection British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries from the Alexander Street Press—100,000 pages of material covering more than 400 years: \$29,000.



Endowment Spotlight

The Russell and Laura Whalls

Library Endowment Fund

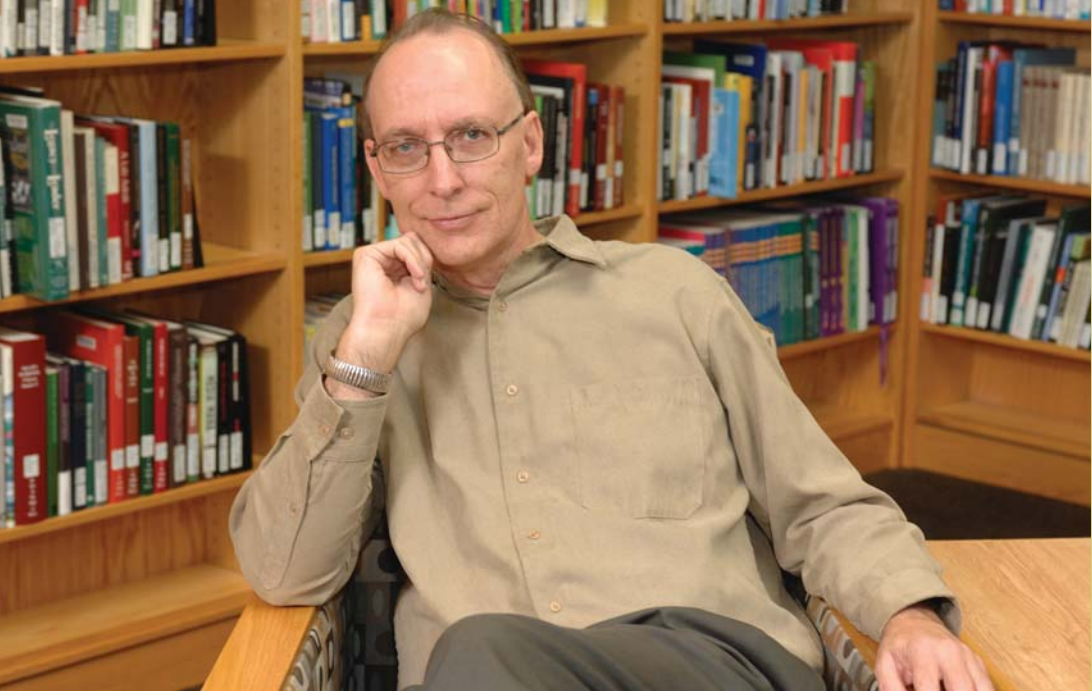
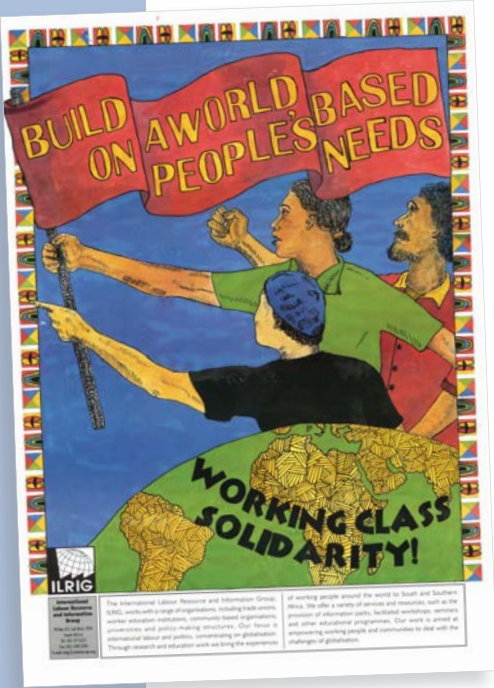
Water: easy to take for granted, but every living thing needs it for survival.

Water research is high on MSU’s agenda, with several groups focusing on this important work. At the Center for Water Sciences, researchers work to understand and protect water resources and their sustainable use. At the Institute of Water Research, investigation is paired with extensive outreach, such as training programs on surface and groundwater protection and watershed management.

That’s why the MSU Libraries are very grateful for the **Russell and Laura Whalls Library Endowment Fund**, which supports the acquisition of materials on limnology and all aspects of the study of freshwater environments.

The endowment is the gift of Dr. Marvin “Jack” Whalls of Fortuna, California. Dr. Whalls began his education at MSU, earning a B.A. in Zoology in 1950. After completing a PhD at the University of Michigan, he went on to a teaching career at California Polytechnic State University.

“The intent of my endowment is to honor my parents, Laura and Russell Whalls,” he explains, “and to provide aquatic information to all who seek such knowledge, be they professionals, students, or the curious.”



LIBRARIAN HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Africana librarian Dr. Peter Limb was one of ten MSU faculty members to receive the 2012 Distinguished Faculty Award. He was honored during the annual MSU Awards Convocation on February 14.

Since his arrival at the MSU Libraries in 2001, Dr. Limb has greatly expanded what was already an internationally recognized Africana collection. In the words of an esteemed historian of South Africa, he is “the leading African bibliographer in the world, a gold mine of information on almost any topic relating to African politics, history and literature.”

Dr. Limb focuses on acquiring unique materials and has emphasized primary resources, new media, and nontrade materials. Through the contacts he has cultivated with vendors and scholars and through trips to Africa and Europe, many rare or poorly distributed resources, such as dissertations from African universities, have been acquired. Further, the papers of many eminent researchers and important organizations have been donated to the MSU Libraries as a result of Dr. Limb’s initiative.

Dr. Limb also serves as adjunct faculty in the Department of History, teaching both undergraduate courses and graduate seminars, and serving on the dissertation committees of doctoral students working in South African history. Dr. Limb’s many publications include a major work on the early history of the African National Congress and a biography of Nelson Mandela. With MSU Professor of History Peter Alegi, Limb hosts “Africa Past and Present,” a series of freely downloadable podcasts on MATRIX. This cutting-edge cross-disciplinary broadcast reaches a worldwide audience and features interviews and discussions with key scholars on all areas of African studies.

The South African labor movement is well represented in the Africana Posters Collection, as are elections, health information, and human rights issues.

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another joint issue of *Insight*, the newsletter of the MSU Libraries and the University Archives and Historical Collections.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the University Archives, partnering with the Department of History and MATRIX digital humanities center, has just received a \$265,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize the records of the Michigan State University Vietnam Advisory Group.

The digital archive will document the U.S. government’s early efforts to build a stable, non-communist South Vietnam. This large and complex collection is of interest to researchers in multiple disciplines, and its wider availability will strengthen the understanding of current nation building efforts and conflicts abroad.

The Vietnam Advisory Group digital archive will join other digital works-in-progress: our Flickr site, now hosting 1500 images; the Archives blog, now in its fourth year; and On the Banks of the Red Cedar, an ever-growing MSU history website with exhibits, text and photo collections, and classroom resources. Our online presence attracts readers and viewers from as far away as Japan, Brazil, and South America.

And of course, we continue to acquire significant historical material. Recent additions include scrapbooks from the Tower Guard, an MSU student organization, and papers from the estate of Paul Honigsheim, an eminent German sociologist and student of Max Weber, who spent the last 15 years of his career at MSU. Honigsheim’s remarkable collection includes letters written home from a World War I French prison camp.

At the University Archives, we are deeply committed to both preservation and expanded access. Today’s archivists find it fascinating to have a foot in both worlds—cutting-edge technology for digitization, and time-tested preservation methods to care for fragile

handwritten texts and antique photography.

We welcome students, faculty and the general public to visit us online or at Conrad Hall on the MSU campus. Thank you for your continued support of the University Archives!

Yours in MSU history,
Cynthia A. Ghering
Cynthia A. Ghering
Director, University Archives & Historical Collections

UA&HC staff, clockwise from top left: Whitney Miller, Sarah Roberts, Ed Busch, Rich Burgis, Mary Patterson, Mary Grace, Portia Vescio, Cynthia Ghering, Lisa Schmidt, and Megan Badgley.





RELIVING THE PAST: THE SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION

Megan Badgley, Assistant Archivist

One of the most interesting and diverse sets of materials in the University Archives & Historical Collections is the Scrapbook Collection. It is comprised of over 350 scrapbooks and photograph albums which document student life at MSU, campus happenings, and Michigan history. The earliest scrapbooks date back to the mid-1860s with the most recent created in the 2000s.

As a hobby, scrapbooking has been around for centuries. Scrapbooks have endured because they are an excellent way of preserving history. The scrapbooks in the archives' collection vary widely. They were created by students, faculty, and departments. They cover the history of a specific event, a family's history, or an individual's college experience. Materials in the scrapbooks range from photographs and ephemera, such as dance cards, to sports and theatre tickets, to brochures and flower pressings. These scrapbooks are as varied and unique as the individuals who created them.

Michigan Agricultural College alumnus Kenneth Van Wagenen created a scrapbook that spans the years 1907 to 1911. He begins it with a preface, which he added decades after the scrapbook was created. Van Wagenen writes, "There are many ways to evaluate a college course and a

degree. The degree, the knowledge, the mental training, have been exceedingly valuable to me; but now, at age 70, when I look back over 50 years, it seems to me that the extra-curricular activities, the friendships made, and above all, the personalities of the teachers whose influences were so powerful, must be given equal value." Van Wagenen filled his scrapbook with dance cards, posters and photographs of the freshman/sophomore class rivalry, and programs from plays and concerts in which he performed. Attesting to the importance of his extracurricular activities and social life while at college, Van Wagenen's scrapbook provides a fascinating glimpse into his student life.

Eve Avdoulos, a senior majoring in anthropology, has used the scrapbook collection to gain insight into the lives of MSU students. "I was interested in looking at how

social and academic life differed from how it is today. The scrapbooks were a perfect place to find this information because it was a first hand primary source created by a student," Avdoulos said. In her field it is important that Avdoulos go straight to the source and not rely on interpretation for information. She finds additional value in the scrapbooks being primary sources. "The fact that it is a primary source is why researchers find these so valuable. They offer a direct view into the life of a student and the information is not tinted by the administration or faculty, which is very unique."

Scrapbooks make it easy to gain a personal connection to the past. Glancing through the pages you can put yourself into the life of a former student, and, for a moment, feel what it was like to walk in their shoes. With scrapbooks, it is possible to see and to touch the past. 📖



MSU HISTORY ONLINE AND ANYTIME

Portia Vescio, Assistant Director,
University Archives & Historical Collections

Did you know that MSU's history is available at your fingertips? In an effort to provide quick and easy access to Michigan State University's history and heritage, the University Archives & Historical Collections created the public website On the Banks of the Red Cedar. Our goal is for anyone interested in MSU to have access to MSU-related photographs and publications, whenever and wherever they want it.

We also want On the Banks to be all inclusive, so users don't have to visit multiple sites in their quest for MSU history. Any department on campus may add historical collections to On the Banks, and we'll gladly add links to class projects on MSU history.

You'll find content as diverse as *The Bubble*, the first-ever student publication (1868); an audio recording of Nobel Prize winner and MSU alumnus Alfred Day Hershey speaking at the Fairchild Theatre in 1970; and a video from MSU's centennial celebration in 1955. The site also includes thousands of photographs, scrapbooks, and some of the earliest class albums.

Several MSU classes and programs use it for research. Whitney Cornwell, a senior majoring in history, has used the site for her seminar on American History. "We are focusing our research on Michigan's involvement in the Civil War, and this site provides an excellent source for this research," Cornwell said. Cornwell refers to documents and photographs, including rosters and casualty lists, documenting Michigan State's involvement in the Civil War. "I plan to share this with my classmates," she adds.

On the Banks can only continue to grow. As long as MSU exists, On the Banks will have a constant supply of new materials to add. 📖

<http://www.onthebanks.msu.edu>



"As a historical archaeologist working with the Campus Archaeology Program, I find the MSU Archives' On the Banks website an invaluable resource for historical photographs and other primary documents. I often use materials from On the Banks to supplement the artifacts we recover in the ground. In this way, the archival record gives a voice to the archaeology. As Dr. Seuss' character Horton found, if you listen carefully to the voices in the dust, you can hear an entire community and On the Banks makes that voice loud and clear."

Kristin Sewell, graduate student in the
Department of Anthropology

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES ARE ONLINE...AND ON THE BANKS!

Tom Wellman, University Records Manager

The University Archives is pleased to make available digital versions of Board of Trustees minutes. No longer will researchers need to physically visit the University Archives to view these valuable and crucial university records—they can now be accessed on the web. The board minutes date back to 1855, the year MSU was founded. The minutes show the development of the institution from a pioneering land-grant college to a large, diverse university with a wide variety of degrees and programs. These records constitute a bedrock historical resource not only for researching MSU, but also the development of land-grant institutions and higher education in general.

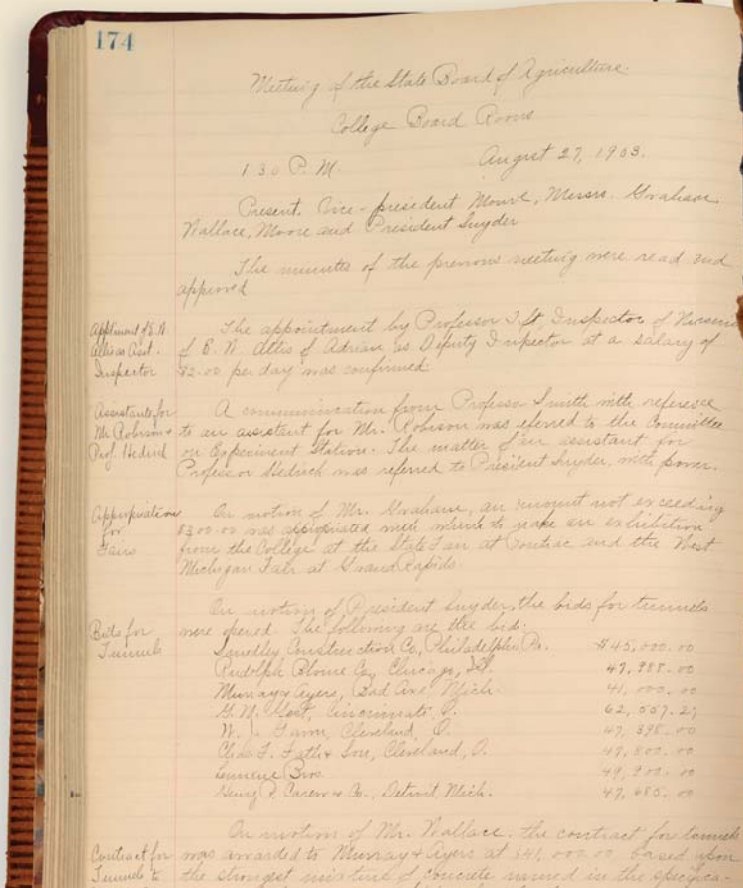
The original minutes are preserved in bound volumes in the University Archives. Early minutes are beautifully handwritten, and with the period binding, are treasured artifacts themselves. With an idea towards both preservation and improved access, the archives has digitized all of the board minutes and now provide access to them online in our On the Banks of the Red Cedar digital collections.

The minutes were scanned from microfilm, previously the only version of the minutes available for public use. Typed versions of the minutes begin around the 1890s and have been scanned and converted using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology, so they can be keyword searched. Since the 1990s the board minutes have been “born digital”—created electronically using word processing software. These digital files are being transferred to the archives for preservation and inclusion on On the Banks. Online minutes are available as downloadable PDF files.

Student employees from the Office of the President and Board of Trustees regularly access the records in the course of business. They enjoy finding new MSU trivia as they track down policy wording and changes. Dr. David Young, a physician from Holland, Michigan, who researched and wrote a book on the turbulent opposition by the University of Michigan to MSU’s entering the Big Ten Conference, has made extensive use of the digital board minutes. He notes: “[Archivist Portia Vescio]...introduced me to the digitized online minutes of the State Board of Agriculture. Perhaps I might find some ‘pearls’ during those early Hannah years when documents were sparse. Needless

to say, I discovered a treasure! Countless hours of my free time over the next three months were spent scanning through meeting documents dating back to 1900 while I searched for any clue pertinent to the Aggie/Spartan Story.”

Staff, students and researchers alike can read, copy or download board minutes and use them for their daily business, class assignments or publications research. The board minutes offer interesting insight into crucial decisions the university’s trustees have made for the past one-hundred and fifty plus years.



“One way scientists study climate change is by examining cyclic and seasonal phenomena in nature, such as plant growth patterns. Librarian Suzanne Teghtmeyer located a gold mine of information for this work: botanical inventories of the MSU campus found in early theses by MAC agriculture and botany students. The value of this data is unbelievable: it allows me to compare the size and condition of trees on campus to observations of those very trees more than 100 years ago.”

Frank W. Telewski, Professor and Curator, W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and Campus Arboretum

Above: Suzanne Teghtmeyer, subject librarian for agriculture, botany, forestry, natural resources, and parks, recreation & leisure studies.

LIBRARIES ANNOUNCE WILENSKY-RITZENHEIN GAY BOOK ENDOWMENT

The MSU Libraries have just received a generous and very welcome gift: the Wilensky-Ritzenhein Gay Book Endowment, which will provide income to further build our resources in gay literature and related areas. The donors are Stephen P. Wilensky and Mark S. Ritzenhein. Accompanying the endowment is an extensive collection of gay fiction and non-fiction titles.

“We firmly believe that LGBTQ people have the right to be integral, valued, welcome members of the wider local community,” says Ritzenhein. “It is very important to us that the collection remain within, and widely available to, the local community. And, the endowment will enhance and further solidify MSU’s commitment to fairness, inclusion, and gender diversity.”

The MSU Libraries have a long-established collection in LGBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, and Queer) studies, which is strong in both academic and popular materials. Scholarly sources include university press titles, a growing film collection, and a recent emphasis on international perspectives.

In Special Collections, the focus has been on preserving the individual voices of LGBTQ people. Virtually every gay and lesbian small press in North America is represented, and the collection is rich in magazines and community newsletters: *Amethyst*, *En la Vida*, *SisterSource*, *Black/Out*, *North bi Northwest*, *Family Tree*, *Girljock*, *Au Contraire*, *Lavender Prairie News*, and hundreds more. Archival holdings include the literary papers of poet Terri Jewell and mystery writer Lev Raphael, and files from the Greater Lansing Lesbian/ Gay Hotline and from Dignity chapters throughout the U.S.

“The LGBTQ collection is diverse in every way,” explains gender studies librarian Sharon Ladenson. “We have everything from scholarly studies to comics and vertical files, representing a wide range of viewpoints.”

The collection is heavily used by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, including Amy DeRogatis, associate professor in Religious Studies. “In Sexuality, Gender, and Religion, my capstone seminar for women’s studies majors, students benefit from an excellent presentation given by Sharon Ladenson, the gender studies librarian,” DeRogatis says. “Among other resources, she highlights the LGBTQ materials in Special Collections, which many of my students have relied on for research papers. The depth and breadth of the primary sources in the collection are outstanding.”

With the generous support of the Wilensky-Ritzenhein Gay Book Endowment, the MSU Libraries will continue to enhance teaching, learning, and research in this vital multidisciplinary area.



Gender studies librarian Sharon Ladenson with several titles from the collection donated by Stephen P. Wilensky and Mark S. Ritzenhein.



University Archives
Acquire environmental monitors to track temperature and humidity in storage areas to ensure optimal conditions for materials: \$700.

University Archives
Begin digitization of 16mm film from University collections to make it more publicly accessible: \$3500.



“When I speak to nursing faculty colleagues at other schools around the country and describe the many services Heidi Schroeder provides to our students and faculty, they are truly envious that we have such a high caliber of library support here at MSU.”

Susan M. Strouse, RN MSN;
MSU College of Nursing

Left: Heidi Schroeder, library liaison
to the MSU College of Nursing

LIVE LIKE A LIBRARIAN!

Julia Frankosky, Assistant Copyright Librarian

As a new librarian, I’ve noticed that I now have a knack for finding information outside of work, without using Wikipedia! Out of curiosity, I asked my colleagues if they’ve found other ways to translate their librarian skills to their home life. Here are a few of their responses:

Track your stuff

A reference librarian told me that she was always loaning out her possessions, like books and DVDs, but forgetting who had them. “I was tired of having to replace items because I couldn’t remember who borrowed it. I decided it was time to make my personal collection more like a library. Using a database program, I entered in my books, CDs, DVDs, tools, etc., and I record if someone borrows an item. I can now track my possessions with ease.”

Find what you need, when you need it

What do you do if you encounter a product that should be safe, but has a warning that makes you worry? One of our catalogers experienced this when her vet prescribed a flea powder that carried a dire warning: Fatal if Inhaled. “I realized that I could look up the toxicity data using the index Chemical Abstracts. I found that as long as the powder was used as directed, my cat and I would be just fine.”

Google isn’t always the answer

Librarians are careful to use, and recommend, only authoritative sources of information. “I try to prevent my husband from diagnosing his own health conditions on Google,” explained an Information Literacy librarian. “If I don’t, the Google results will convince him that he has some terrible, incurable disease, when all he has is a cold.”



Special Collections

Acquire a selection of current small press books on alternative health and vegan/vegetarian cooking: \$1000.

HEARD ON TWITTER

Is it a trend? Graduate students use social media like Twitter for their scholarly networking – not just chatting with friends. And one tip they share with fellow students is how the MSU Libraries have helped them:

“Thank you to John Shaw and Grace Metz at @msulibraries for giving me an intro to digitization this afternoon! Cool things happening at the library!”

—Rachael Hodder, graduate program in
Digital Rhetoric and Professional Writing

“For the record, I love @msulibraries. MARS doc retrieval service is going to get an acknowledgement on my dissertation.”

—Andrew Saltarelli, PhD candidate,
Educational Psychology
and Educational Technology

“Thank you @msulibraries for having electronic access to the Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. #whoknew”

—Megan McCullen,
PhD candidate, Anthropology

“Have you thanked your @msulibraries subject librarian lately? I so appreciate the amazing Kate Corby who always helps me out!”

—Andrea Zellner, PhD candidate,
Educational Psychology
and Educational Technology

“Thanks to Hui Hua Chua and Deborah Margolis @msulibraries for a helpful #zotero workshop this morning!”

—Erin Beard, PhD candidate, English

Follow us on Twitter: @msulibraries
For mobile access: m.lib.msu.edu



Collections

Acquire access to e-book collections from Oxford Scholarship Online. E-books are available 24/7 to any MSU-affiliated user with an Internet connection, and deepen the resources available to our many distance education classes. Cost: about \$5000 per subject area.

CONNECTING THE DIGITAL DOTS

The MSU Libraries’ collections now include more than 1.8 million ebooks and 67,000 online journals. How can you find these online resources? Search the library catalog, or databases that index the journal articles.

How can you access these online resources? It’s easy. Just click on the link in the catalog or journal database.

That simple act is made possible by Ranti Junus, MSU’s Electronic Resources Interface Librarian. But the work that goes into it is complicated.

“Our electronic resources are spread across 250 different vendor platforms,” Ranti explains. “ProQuest, JSTOR, eBrary, and more. We use an interface called WebBridge so users can move with one click between different search systems and resource platforms: the catalog, journal databases, e-resource sites, and the interlibrary loan system.

“WebBridge has to be set up to translate information coded in many different ways, about online resources that exist in different places and formats, and to work with computer systems having many possible design configurations. The permutations are endless.”

Ranti’s background in computer science is essential for her work, which requires a talent for systems analysis and knowledge of the fine details of information processing.

She also spends considerable time on accessibility issues, ensuring that our electronic resources can be used by everyone in the MSU community—including people with disabilities.

“True accessibility means more than captioned video and text descriptions for images. It’s so tedious to use screenreading software on a website that doesn’t have the right coding to support it. Or a certain website might be impossible for a user with motor impairment who can only use the keyboard and not the mouse.”

To better understand user needs, Ranti tests e-resource platforms with a student worker who is visually impaired. “This is a difficult area. The library doesn’t design the websites our licensed e-resources live on, but it’s our responsibility to make collections accessible to users with disabilities. Taking time to evaluate these sites with a user who has visual impairment means we can give our vendors really expert feedback.”

1.8 million
ebooks are in the
MSU Libraries Collection

67,000
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ESPRESSO BOOK MACHINE OFFERS ON-SITE BOOK PRINTING

In its first six months of operation, the MSU Libraries' Espresso Book Machine has printed more than 1000 volumes for customers—and they've been an exciting spread of genres, subjects, and audiences. Here are just a few:

- Playwright and librettist Sandra Seaton used the EBM to print her drama *Music History*, after its MSU premier during her term as writer-in-residence for the College of Law. Directors who inquire about staging her work will now receive an EBM-printed copy of the script.
- Faculty member Eugene Dillenburg wanted his students to use the software program Virtual Gallerie to design museum exhibits—but it was complex, and there was no adequate documentation. Dillenburg prepared a user's manual for his classes and had it printed and bound on the EBM.
- Katy Meyers, a graduate student in Anthropology, needed a reference copy of a dissertation to use during an archaeological dig. Field conditions would prevent using a laptop, but an EBM-printed copy was a convenient solution.
- The School of Planning, Design & Construction recently offered a training program on the housing and real estate industry for China's Ministry of Land and Resources. They used the EBM to produce workbooks for participants.
- Local author Amy Peterson used the EBM to print copies of *From Zero to Four Kids in Thirty Seconds*, her humorous take on becoming a stepmother, to use as review copies while preparing the work for publication on Amazon.
- The publisher of William Schoenl's book *New Perspectives on the Vietnam War* was no longer able to keep it in print. There is still a demand for the volume, so Schoenl, a faculty member in the Department of History, updated it and produced a new edition on the EBM.

Faculty members who attended a focus group on the EBM had many other ideas for potential uses: conference proceedings, coursepacks, supplemental data from research projects, student portfolios, printed copies of digitized primary documents, and more.

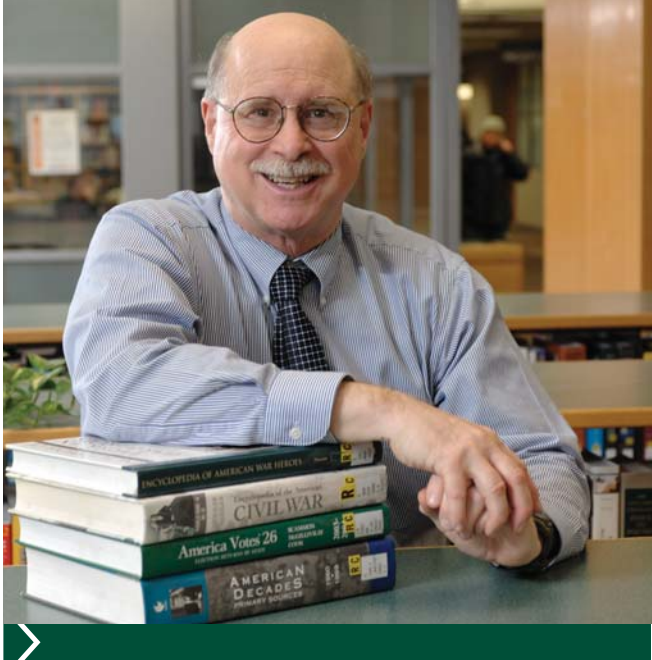
The MSU Libraries are already implementing the last suggestion. Printed copies of historic American cookbooks—previously digitized with grant funding—are now in production, with two volumes already available. 📖



➤ www.lib.msu.edu/about/ebm



Photo: Xerox Corporation



“One of Mike Unsworth’s specialties is working with students in History 201, the course where we introduce historical research methods and skills. Mike gives students a solid grounding in how to use the library, and assists in person and via email through the semester. His commitment helps produce excellent student outcomes: last year, one of my students had his HST 201 paper accepted in the MSU History Department’s peer-reviewed student journal—an unusual honor for a student in an introductory level course.”

Michael Stamm, Department of History

Above: Mike Unsworth, subject librarian for American History and Canadian Studies.

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP: 2012 MSU FACULTY AUTHORS RECEPTION

President Lou Anna K. Simon greeted MSU faculty authors during the 2012 MSU Faculty Authors Reception, hosted by the Libraries on April 18. This annual event honors MSU faculty members 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. In 2011, more than 250 titles by 197 authors were recognized, and added to the Libraries' Faculty Book Collection.

Established in 1998, the Faculty Book Collection is one of our most popular collections, with impressive circulation statistics. Titles for the collection are identified by the subject librarians who serve as liaisons to MSU colleges and departments, and through extensive database searches using current lists of MSU faculty provided by the Provost's office. Works by retired faculty and by academics staff are included whenever they can be identified.

The complete list of 2011 additions to the Faculty Book Collection are available at lib.msu.edu/general/collections/. 📖

From top: President Simon at the Faculty Authors Reception; Professor Gina Chacon, Department of Medicine, examines a new work; books and CDs on display. Photos by Louis Villafranca.



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366 W. Circle Drive
East Lansing, MI 48824

SHARE YOUR LIBRARY PRIDE!

The MSU Libraries now have an online store!

Our store includes a botanical coffee mug, insulated totes for tailgating, four books on MSU topics from our Espresso Book Machine, and two new notecard sets.

> shop.msu.edu

Visit shop.msu.edu and look for us under Specialty Shops.

