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WSULS 2006 Annual Report

Wayne State University Library System

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Look for this symbol throughout the annual report to learn interesting facts about the Library System.
With more and ever-changing technology, the Library System strives to stay current and to identify and meet the information needs of our patrons. While customers continue to make use of the increasing electronic resources offered, basics like customer service remain a high priority. In an effort to align ourselves with the University’s strategic goals and enhance our customer services, we’ve taken on several initiatives in the last year.

Based on customer feedback that indicates knowledgeable and friendly staff are critically important, and on our examination of organizational needs, we created a new position and hired a training manager for the Library System. The position is dedicated to developing and coordinating staff training and development opportunities so that employees can stay current with the ever-changing technological environment. However, just as important is the honing of our staff’s “soft” skills. More and more organizations are recognizing that in order to gain a competitive advantage they must also make certain that their employees know how to interact appropriately with customers and peers. We growing and learning, and this is an example of how we are all working together to continue the process.
In addition, many of our mid-level supervisors have begun the University Core Supervisor Development Program. This program is designed to increase supervisors’ personal effectiveness by building on fundamental skills such as leadership, customer service, communication, teamwork/teambuilding and talent management in a non-threatening environment. Many of those who have attended report that this training has been very helpful in developing their management skills, giving us impetus to extend this program even further in the organization.

By building a knowledgeable staff we are able to work successfully together and with other organizations to form partnerships and complete projects. In the “21st Century Fine and Performing Arts Librarian” Institute of Museum and Library Services grant project, we are collaborating with the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Opera Theatre and our own University College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts to train fine arts librarians for the digital environment. The Library and Information Science Program partnered with the Detroit Public Library to host the first ever “Rock and Roll Library Tour.” The “WSU Libraries First Year Experience” Web page was created by a team of librarians with input from first year students and provides “one stop shopping” for beginning university students by bringing together library information and resources with university-wide services.

These are just a few examples of how our excellent staff works together to bring about outstanding programming and extraordinary learning opportunities. In this annual report you will find even more examples of Library System excellence!

Thank you for your continued support of our endeavors. Without our colleagues and friends, many of these things would not be possible.

Sandra G. Yee,  
Dean of the Wayne State University Library System
In June, Wayne State University was awarded one of 35 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants, totaling $851,018 for a project called “Recruiting and Educating the 21st Century Fine and Performing Arts Librarian.” In this project, the Library System will establish a Detroit-based collaborative to educate new librarians about fine and performing arts librarianship.

The grants are designed to help offset a current shortage of school library media specialists, library school faculty and librarians working in underserved...
communities, as well as a looming shortage of library directors and other senior librarians, many of whom are expected to retire in the next 20 years.

Partners in the Detroit collaborative will include the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Michigan Opera Theater. Stipends will be used to attract 12 individuals, with an emphasis on underrepresented groups, and place them in mentor relationships with senior librarians. In addition to earning master’s degrees in library and information science from Wayne State University, the recruits will receive practical training from mentors in building and organizing a new library; managing an orchestra library; providing services in a well-established library; and providing services to faculty in an academic environment.

The Purdy/Kresge Library’s special collections contain a collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia, including the mate to the pistol used by John Wilkes Booth in the assassination and a lock of Lincoln’s hair.
LIBRARY SYSTEM EXPANDS OPEN ACCESS TO SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS
In 2006, the Library System pro-actively sought ways to reconcile the rising costs of journals with the research needs of faculty, students and staff. Through cooperation with other universities in Michigan, subscriptions to large electronic journal packages from scholarly publishers provided increased access to a wide variety of published information at a lower cost to each member institution.

The Library System supported open access journals with journal memberships that reduced publishing costs to university researchers seeking to publish in those journals while continuing to provide support and access to the Wayne State University Institutional Repository through the “Digital Commons,” which captures, preserves, promotes and facilitates electronic access to the intellectual output produced by Wayne State University students, faculty, researchers, staff and community partners. A campus-wide dialogue on the issues of copyright began in response to the issues of author’s rights and ownership of intellectual property. Finally, the Wayne State University Library System became a member of “Portico,” a nation-wide initiative to insure perpetual access to electronic journals if current delivery and access methods cease to exist.
The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program moved up two places to be ranked number 18 by *U.S. News and World Report’s* 2007 edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools.”

Prior to these rankings, the *U.S. News and World Report’s* most recent ranking for schools with master’s programs in library science and information science was released in 1999, when the Wayne State LIS Program placed twentieth in that ranking.

Rankings of the American Library Association-accredited information and library science degree programs are based on a survey of deans, directors and senior faculty of the accredited schools.
The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program was selected as the winner of the Excellence in Distance Education award in Sonic Foundry’s 2006 Rich Media Impact Awards at the EduComm conference in Orlando, Fla.

ECHO (Enhancing Courses Held Online) is the LIS Program’s online distance learning instructional project that was developed by implementing Mediasite technology with the goal of providing distance students with access to course content “live” and “on-demand.” The course instructional benefits include the use of polls to reinforce learning concepts, Q&A for live discussions and links to collateral material.

Sonic Foundry recognized 22 organizations across eight categories for their innovative ways of using rich media within their organizations. Nominations were received from members of the Mediasite user community. Finalists were selected for demonstrating how rich media has transformed their organizations through measurable improvements in accessibility, cost savings, efficiency and productivity.
Wayne State Library and Information Science faculty member Judith J. Field was named the Special Libraries Association (SLA) 2006 recipient of the John Cotton Dana Award. Sponsored by H.W. Wilson, the award honors outstanding library public relations. Field was chosen for the award based on her commitment throughout her life both to the SLA and the library and information science profession.

Field has distinguished herself as an enthusiastic educator, mentor and advocate for the information profession, all while serving the SLA in a range of capacities. Prior to her time at Wayne State, Field was a practitioner in corporate, government, academic and public library settings for over 20 years. She has been actively involved in the SLA for decades, and an active participant in the American Library Association and the International Federation of Library Associations, where she is currently secretary of the Standing Committee on Knowledge Management.
The LIS Program hosted Charlene Lyn Al-Qallaf, an assistant professor on sabbatical from the department of Library and Information Science at Kuwait University for the 2006-2007 academic year. Al-Qallaf’s visit to Wayne State includes opportunities to guest lecture and pursue joint research projects with Wayne State LIS Program faculty, as well as to research how individuals of Arabic backgrounds search for information and use information and libraries.

At Kuwait University, Al-Qallaf has served as assistant director for the department of technical services, head of the Science Library and other management and advisory positions. She currently teaches graduate courses in information technology, collection development and management, database management, the organization of knowledge, and online information retrieval and information and computer skills for the biological sciences for undergraduates.
The LIS Program traces its origins to library classes offered in 1918.
At the Alumni Reunion Reception in September, the Library and Information Science Program selected its 2006 Distinguished Alumna and Distinguished Professional of the Year for 2006.

L. Susan (Suzi) Hayes was chosen as the 2006 Distinguished Alumna of the Year. Presented to a graduate of the LIS Program who has made outstanding contributions to the library and information science field, the award is presented to those who have achieved distinction in the profession based on job performance, service, publications or other relevant professional activity.

Hayes earned her master’s degree in library science from Wayne State in 1972. Since 2003, she has been the director of the Parkland Library in Parkland, Fla. Over the years she has served as a project manager at Nova Southeastern University, associate director for automation at the Broward County Library and as a librarian at Encore Computer Corporation, all in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The LIS Program also honored Marion Ashen Lusardi with the 2006 Professional Service Award. The
Professional Service Award acknowledges Wayne State alumni and other individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to the Michigan library community during their careers. They may have served as leaders in state, regional or national professional associations or have held leadership roles in activities related to their positions.

Lusardi holds a bachelor’s degree from Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind., and a master’s degree in library science from Wayne State. She has served
in various capacities throughout Michigan, including reference, outreach and children’s services positions at the Troy Public Library; interim head of adult services at the Northville District Library; and reference/electronic services librarian at Macomb County Library. She has been the director of the Chesterfield Township Library since 1996.

“Iki,” a female Asian elephant’s skeleton, is on display at the Science and Engineering Library.
The Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET) launched the Allen Park Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Archives, a new digital project that showcases the history of the Allen Park VA Hospital through photographs, newspaper articles and audio recordings.

The VA Archives can be accessed through the DALNET Web site (www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/gateways/) and offer highlights of the history of the Allen Park VA Hospital from TV legend Lucille Ball’s visit in the 1940s, to visits from Chuck Norris in his acting role as the Chairman of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, in 1986 and 1988.

Henry and Clara Ford donated the 38-acre plot for the purpose of building a hospital on March 24, 1937. The hospital became eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in January of 1981, but was demolished in 2004. In 2005, a granite monument and memories were all that were left of the original Allen Park VA Hospital.
In coordination with the Library and Information Science Program and the Detroit Public Library, local band, The High Strung performed during National Library Week in the Old Browsing Room at the Detroit Public Library in its first ever National Rock and Roll Library tour.

In addition to playing a full-set of their rousing Beatlesque jams, teens heard first hand about the low-down of making records for major music industry labels. They also got an insider’s view of creating a video for MTV and learned about touring on the
road year-round across the country. The highlight of the performance was when the band solicited the audience’s help in writing and improvising a song on the spot.

The High Strung have been hailed by Rolling Stone magazine as one of the best new, young rock and roll bands in America, National Public Radio’s Ken Tucker named The High Strung’s debut album “These Are The Good Times” as one of the Top 10 Rock Records of 2003, and the Washington Post called the title track “runner up best song of the year.”

In the fall and winter semesters, there are from 12,000 to 15,000 logons to the student computers in the libraries each day.
The Legal Writing and Research Program of the WSU Law School and the Arthur Neef Law Library collaborated to create the Legal Writing and Research Library Workshop Modules. The modules serve as a supplement to the Legal Writing and Research Course required of all first year law students to provide assistance with the use of complex legal research materials necessary to complete the final research memorandum and brief required of all first year law students. The modules provide a simulated one-on-one introduction to legal research materials developed by law librarians and legal research faculty. The modules also assist the hundreds of Wayne State students engaged in classes in other disciplines that have legal components and require students to have a basic understanding of the process of legal research.
In 2006, the Library System held 557 presentations to groups for a total of 11,000 participants.
There are over 800 computers for student and public use throughout the libraries, most of them in the David Adamany Undergraduate Library.
Last year, the Wayne State University Library System’s Digital Dress Collection rolled off the computer screen and into a real display at the Detroit Historical Museum in “Digital Dress: Women About Town,” an interactive exhibit that displayed how women’s clothes evolved during the 20th century.

The featured pieces were from the costume collections of Meadow Brook Hall, The Henry Ford, Wayne State University and the Detroit Historical Museum and were photographed, digitized and stored in a shared database for the public to view. An intern from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-funded Digital Librarianship Cohort Program worked on the conversion of metadata about the costumes and entered the information into the Detroit Historical Museum’s Past Perfect database. The intern also assisted in dressing the mannequins for exhibit and exported the database and image files to share on the Wayne State server.

The Digital Librarianship Cohort consists of Wayne State LIS students that were recruited as part of an IMLS grant to train librarians in the field of “digital librarianship.” During a three-year period, the students attended classes and worked part-time at the Wayne State libraries, the Michigan State University libraries, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Detroit Public Library and the Reuther Archives.
A new Web page designed just for first year students debuted in the fall of 2006. The “WSU Libraries: the First Year Experience” page was created by a team of librarians with input from first year students. It provides a “one-stop shopping” environment for beginning students by bringing together library information and resources with university-wide services.

A few of the resources the students can see at a glance include the current day’s hours for the Undergraduate Library and the 24-Hour Extended
Study Center; the Assignment Planner, a time management tool for helping students generate a list of deadlines for a paper or project; a “Find Books and Movies” Wayne State catalog search to locate materials in the library; and a “Find articles” search that generates a list of articles available online from full-text library databases.

A section of the page called “Campus Connections” links to university services such as advising, the schedule of classes, tutoring, places to eat and other essentials. For fun, students can read “Weird News” from RSS feeds or learn unusual facts from a family of librarian avatars. Renewing books, getting personalized help from a librarian via e-mail or chat, or finding out where to get access to a computer are additional features of the page. Check out the “First Year Experience” features at: www.lib.wayne.edu/fye.

The Undergraduate Library had up to 18,000 visitors per day in the fall semester.
48,830 reference transactions took place in 2006.
Last year, the Shiffman Medical Library continued its mission to develop services and programs that demonstrate how access to health information that is customized for the individual, for community service organizations or for state and local agencies contributes to a healthier Michigan. The team worked hard all of 2006 to prepare for a 2007 launch of Michigan Go Local, which offers easy-to-use ways of uncovering health services in each county, while also linking to the highest quality, consumer oriented health topics from the National Library of Medicine’s MEDLINEPlus. Michigan Go Local’s goal is to provide a comprehensive database of local health services and resources matched to topics including diseases, no-cost preventive services and libraries and organizations with services for Michigan.

Self-service access to Michigan Go Local is also enhanced by the library’s partnerships with community-based organizations and agencies including the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, the Wayne County Health Department, the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Medical Center, the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion and the Royal Oak Public Library. Through the Shiffman Library’s Urban Health Partners and the Detroit Community AIDS Library, online access to health information resources is supplemented by customized training programs to enable clinicians and residents to access the health information they need, when and where they need it. A publication program producing the User Friendly Manual for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS offers a print and digital information resource and directory for Southeastern Michigan.
The Library System is delighted to have the support of all who gave last year. We gratefully acknowledge those who support the Library System in our goal of providing excellent information and access to all who seek it. We could not accomplish our goals without your generosity.

THE DUDLEY RANDALL COLLECTION

The Library System would like to thank Distinguished Professor Melba Joyce Boyd, the literary executor of the Dudley Randall estate, for gifting the Library System with Randall’s private library. Given Randall’s significance as a writer, librarian, educator, publisher, mentor and friend to many African American authors, this is a very important collection. The Dudley Randall Collection forms the core of the African American Literature Special Collection. It is notable for its extensive holdings of African American poetry; in numerous cases the books have been signed by the authors to Randall or his wife, Vivian. The list of authors represented is a virtual “Who’s Who” and includes names such as Amiri Baraka, Melba Boyd, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Danner, James Emanuel, Mari Evans, Addison Gayle, Michele Gibbs, Nikki Giovanni, Robert Hayden and over 900 others.
THE JAY C. LEVINE COLLECTION IN HONOR OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS

The Library System was pleased to receive the first shipment of Jay Charles Levine’s collection honoring Pulitzer Prize winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks. Levine, a Detroiter with a strong interest in African American culture, presented the Library System with an exceptional grouping of about 350 volumes that included authors such as Lorraine Hansberry, Ralph Ellison, Claude Brown, Robert Hayden and Donald Goines, with extensive materials by Frank Yerby, Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes and Alexander Dumas (father and son). The Jay C. Levine Collection Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks adds substantively to the Library System’s special collections and in particular those that emphasize African American Literature.

COLLECTIONS FROM NAOMI LONG MADGETT, RON ALLEN, CATHERINE BLACKWELL, TERRY BLACKHAWK, DON AND HILDA VEST

The Library System’s collections were enhanced by the generosity of donors who supported the African American Literature Special Collection with gifts that related directly to the metropolitan Detroit focus of the collection. Detroit Poet Laureate Naomi Long Madgett presented signed copies of all of her publications, while playwright Ron Allen gave the Library System a range of materials including play manuscripts, sketch books, electronic resources and advertising for his plays. Catherine Blackwell, who is known for her devotion to Detroit’s school children and Africa-centered study, presented monographs for the collection as well as art books on Africa for the open stacks collections. Terry Blackhawk gifted the Library System with the anthologies she helped to produce as executive director of InsideOut.

Don and Hilda Vest are not only former owners of the Broadside Press, but they are among a very small group of people from the university and the city that started the African American Literature Special Collection initiative. They gave the Library System a significant commitment of time to move the initiative forward and a collection of the books they published at Broadside Press. Their collection provides continuity with the Broadside Press resources published by Dudley Randall.
HARRY HAROOTUNIAN EAST ASIAN STUDIES COLLECTION

Professor Harry Harootunian, Lib.Arts ’52, a member of the faculty in the history department at New York University, presented a collection of seventy-seven boxes of books to the Library System in early August 2006. These materials reflect Professor Harootunian’s scholarly interests that focus on Japanese history and historical theory.

THE KAREN D’ANGELO AND ROB NAGEL GIFT

This brother and sister presented the Library System with a wonderful gift. It was only six years ago that their mother, Janet Anna Vdovich, passed away and sometime thereafter that they found what became their gift to Wayne State. Unknown to either D’Angelo or Nagel, Vdovich had been called before the House Un-American Activities Committee during the time it was led by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Vdovich lost her job as a cartographer when it was discovered that a family member had been involved with groups deemed unacceptable. While she chose not to talk about the incident, Vdovich saved the transcript of her testimony and the letters connected with her appearance before committee. These materials reached the Library System in excellent
condition thanks to the care that they received from Vdovich and later, her children. This gift was made to assure public access and longevity to the documents.

STEINHARDT-GARBER COLLECTION ESTABLISHED TO HONOR LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT

Joyce Garber, M.D., of Syracuse, N.Y., provided the Library System with a collection of plays, photographs and other materials connected with the work of her father, playwright Herschel Steinhardt. Garber not only reviewed her collections, she also contacted other family members in an effort to make this a comprehensive collection of Steinhardt’s works. A long-time resident of Detroit and later Southfield, Steinhardt did some of his work with the local theater company Concept East. He also wrote for television where his police dramas were well-received. The Library System administration is pleased to now hold one of the most complete collections of the literary accomplishments of playwright Herschel Steinhardt.

THE FREDERICK J. AND ROSE SIEVERT BUSINESS INFORMATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Frederick J. and Rose Sievert Business Information Endowment Fund was established in 2006 by Fred Sievert, who created the endowment to honor his parents. Sievert earned his master’s degree in mathematics at Wayne State in 1976. The Sievert Endowment will assist the Library System in obtaining needed resources for use by those in the School of Business Administration and other users who require access to business information.
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