Collection Development and Management

*Promoting the Collections*

- As she does every year, Noa curated a lobby display in honor of Jewish Book Month in October. This year’s theme was an overview of Jewish habitation around the world’s urban spaces, revisiting the two constructing terms of Ghetto – both in medieval times and the chilling 20th century Nazi interpretation of it. The exhibit looked at Jewish contributions to urban life through the ages.
- Luis and Denise Stuempfle (Cataloging) co-curated the exhibition “From Trash to Treasure: Introducing the *Libros Cartoneros* from Latin America and Spain” (originally October 1-November 9, 2012; extended to November 16), Wells Library, main floor.
  
  Lynn Schoch (Director of Information Resources at the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs and editor of *IU International*) has written an article about the exhibition for the February 2013 issue of *IU International*. The piece will complement the main story of the issue which focuses on President McRobbie’s recent trip to Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. Luis and Denise were both interviewed by Mr. Schoch for this piece.
- Both Noa’s and Luis’s exhibitions have been announced on our Facebook page.
- Wen-ling finished the final review of IU’s East Asian Collection entry in the *Directory of Japan Specialists and Japanese Studies Institutions in the United States and Canada*, which will be an online publication later this year.

*Tours*

- Wookjin gave a collection tour for a visiting scholar, Igor’ Danilevskii, from Russia (11/7).
- Wen-ling gave library tours to three candidates who were interviewed for the History of Modern China position in the History Department. She also gave tours to Dr. Baocheng Kang, Director of the Institute for Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China; the second one a tour to Dr. Serfei Miniavev, a visiting speaker who wanted to find materials in Mongolian Studies in our collection.
- Akram met with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the USA and organized and conducted a tour of the Wells library for the Ambassador.
- Marion met with a visiting scholar from western Kenya to give a tour and orient her to the African Studies Collection. She also attended the scholar’s Wednesday Evening Seminar lecture.
- The African Studies Collection and the African Studies Program co-hosted Adama Diouf, visiting librarian from the West African Research Institute. During Adama’s week in Bloomington, she spent time with Marion, met with Diane Dallis as well as several IUB librarians, and visited SLIS classes.
Other Collection News

- Wen-ling submitted information on the Japanese collection and a support letter to the East Asian Studies Center for its proposal to the Japan Foundation; she also applied for the 2013 Reference Materials Distribution Program sponsored by the Korea Foundation.
- Wen-ling initiated and coordinated a Chinese book exchange project with the East Asian Studies Librarian at the University of Notre Dame Libraries and sent 105 volumes of duplicate Chinese books to Notre Dame. In return, we received 69 volumes of new and valuable Chinese books from Notre Dame in early December.
- The Department for Jewish Studies has recently made a considerable purchase of Yiddish antiquarian materials. Noa has started processing these materials and adding them to the collection. Many of the records lack existing authority records and Noa is working on creating those in RDA format. They will be sent to the Hebraica funnel for review and then added to the national authority file.
- Akram accepted a gift donation (57 boxes of Hungarian books). He also accepted, reviewed, and processed other donated books.
- Akram visited a retired faculty member’s house to evaluate his collection of Central Asian newspapers. Akram is now exploring various possibilities of making this valuable collection accessible for users.
- Akram continued working on his partnership with UIUC (where he has for the past two years contributed his expertise in collection development, reference, and instruction). In December, he visited UIUC for 5 days and provided training for their new Middle East Studies librarian.
- Wookjin continued processing the Samuel Fiszman collection (37 boxes of Polish literature books acquired from the family of the late IU Professor Samuel Fiszman). He reports that it is already clear that this gift will be much more useful to the collection than usual in that at least 30% of the total will be added to the collection. 17 rare titles will be added to the Lilly Library.
- As the new librarian for Global Studies, Marion has been in e-mail contact with the Director of the Center for the Study of Global Change. A meeting has been scheduled for January to talk about some of the Center’s initiatives and the library’s area studies collections.
- Noa has been busy working on Jewish studies reference questions in November, which induced purchases of special materials and help with class syllabi building.

Workshop on Area Studies Librarianship and Collections

- As a next step to our work on the ARL Spec Kit on Collecting Global Resources, and also in connection with Akram’s partnership with UIUC (see above), we (i.e., members of the Area Studies Department) are organizing a workshop on Area Studies Librarianship and Collections, to be held October 30 and 31, 2013.
- We have formed a small sub-committee (Luis, Akram, Marion) to begin planning for the conference. The format of the workshop will be interactive, and we are currently developing a list of invited participants.
- We completed a document which outlines the context, goals, and format for our workshop and submitted it to James Simon at the Center for Research Libraries for inclusion in CRL’s next Focus (newsletter).
In December, we were notified by the Provost’s office that our application for a competitive Mellon Grant for “Innovative Workshop in International Research, Teaching, and Collaboration” in the amount of $5000 (to supplement the funding we already have) was successful. We will use this grant for the funding of two invited keynote speakers.

In November, Marion attended a conference at Yale University on area and international studies collections in the 21st century. Conference participants were mostly heads of area studies units. Marion was given room on the agenda to report on the IU workshop, and the group decided to try to meet again next year in Bloomington, the day after the workshop.

Watch for more news about the workshop in the coming weeks!

Technology/Web Projects

- Wookjin launched the test version of “Publishers Database” at http://www.indiana.edu/~obmen/publishers/. He used Omeka for this project, which he also plans to use for a larger online exhibition later this year.
- Wookjin continued to work on his project to create a publishers’ database, in cooperation with Will Cowan of DLP (using Omeka as a tool). A first version is now up at http://www.indiana.edu/~obmen/publishers/.
- Marion is working on two web-archiving projects. One is her own project on African travel writers, which will be a web project with an Archive-It component. The other project is a collaborative project with 4 colleagues from the African Studies Program. Marion spent the summer and fall consulting with colleagues in DUX and DLP, and researching web publishing platforms and, based on their advice, has decided to use WordPress for both projects. She has begun website selections for both Archive-it components.

Teaching and Learning

- Wen-ling conducted a PowerPoint presentation on Japanese electronic resources for EA511 (Research Methods in Japanese Studies). She also taught two training sessions for a student/research assistant searching for print and electronic resources related to the environment, cities, and space in Japan.
- Luis taught a library session for J301: “Latin America beyond the Textbook”.
- Many one-on-one research consultations were conducted by all of us.
- Marion is currently the supervisor of two MA theses of dual MA degree students (African Studies/SLIS). One is almost finished; the other student is just beginning to write.
Professional Development

- Akram has submitted an article entitled “Manuscripts of al-Muṭarrizi’s (1144-1213) works in Tashkent”. The paper aims to describe, evaluate, and demonstrate the research importance of four manuscript copies of al-Muṭarrizi’s works from the collection of the al-Beruni Institute for Oriental Studies in Tashkent. In spite of their incredible value and importance, there is no information in published catalogs about these manuscripts.
- Akram received a grant ($4,400) from the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs to attend a Hungarian Language course in Budapest in March 2013. He submitted a research leave application for the duration of the course (ca. 3 weeks). He has also continued taking the “Introductory Hungarian” language course at IU.
- Akram attended the annual meeting of the Middle East Librarians Association in Denver, CO.
- Wookjin presented a paper “What did we publish?: A bibliometric look at the publications of the Slavic and East European studies librarians of the United States” at the roundtable “Inclusivity and academic diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies” at the ASEEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) annual convention.
- Wookjin chaired the annual meeting of the Collection Development Subcommittee, the Association for Slavic and East European Studies/ASEEES’s Committee on Library and Information Resources.
- As Contributing Editor for the Handbook of Latin American Studies (HLAS), Luis wrote annotations for 25 recent works and the introductory essay for the history of Puerto Rico section in HLAS volume 68.
- Luis updated the Researching Brazil Bibliographic Index by adding content from ten new history and social science journals to the database (http://www.indiana.edu/~liblatam/researching-brazil/).
- Noa has joined the Jewish Book World online magazine as a reviewer of Jewish children’s books. Her first review for a graphic novel with Jewish content, Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite, was submitted in November, and a second one in December.
- Marion has resumed work on her article about the history of IU’s African Studies Collection and hopes to submit it to African Research & Documentation (peer reviewed) in late January.
- Marion attended the annual meeting of the African Studies Association and the fall meeting of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) where she met with vendors; chaired the Title VI Librarians meeting; attended the meeting of national Title VI African Studies center directors to present report on library activities; had a proposal for Title VI money for a web-archiving accepted and has formed a sub-group to begin working on the project; reported on IU’s plans for area studies librarianship conference; and led a 30 minute discussion on related issues.
Marion has submitted the revisions on the final draft of her chapter on library resources for the *Africa* textbook (4th edition; edited by Maria Grosz-Ngate, John Hanson, Patrick O’Meara; to be published by IU Press in 2013) – a project which has been ongoing for several years.

**Selected Service Highlights**

- Marion was elected Chair Elect/Chair of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC).
- Luis continues to chair the Collection Development Committee and to serve as a member of the Libraries’ Standing Search and Screen Committee as well as of the Steering Committee, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS).
- As Chair of the Brazilian Studies Program, Luis is planning a symposium on “Human Rights, the Right to Memory, and the Truth Commission in Brazil,” to be held on February 25-26, 2013 at IUB. The program will feature as guest speakers Professor James Green (History, Brown Univ.) and James Simon (Center for Research Libraries). He is exploring the possibility for the library to sponsor an additional talk by one of the invited speakers, James Simon from the Center for Research Libraries.
- Wen-ling is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Journal of East Asian Libraries*. In December, she reviewed one article for potential submission and submitted her review to the chief-editor.