Empower Extraordinary, the capital campaign for MSU, is off and running—and the MSU Libraries are an integral part of MSU’s future as a force for creativity, discovery, and teaching.

One priority for the campaign is to establish 100 new endowed chairs and fund important academic programs, in order to attract and retain great thinkers. Within the Libraries, our goal is to establish an endowed, named directorship and an endowed head of Special Collections—giving us an edge in recruiting the most highly-qualified individuals.

We also seek to create endowments to support our library collections. With doctoral programs in 113 fields—the sixth highest total in the Association of Research Libraries—MSU faculty, graduate students, and professional students place extraordinary expectations upon the Libraries. We must continue to build richly diverse holdings of print and electronic resources, and unique holdings of rare books, maps, manuscripts, ephemera and recordings.

Curating world-class collections means we also need experienced specialists to direct acquisitions, preserve materials in unusual formats, and digitize fragile materials so they can be used by researchers around the globe.

The most challenging problems in the world require solutions based on cutting-edge scholarship—and that scholarship requires timely, streamlined access to the broadest possible array of current information. With your help, the MSU Libraries will continue to meet and exceed the needs of MSU scholars as they work toward scientific breakthroughs, artistic achievements, and collaborative projects that advance the common good.

“ THERE IS A STRAIGHT LINE FROM THE STRENGTH OF A LIBRARY TO THE SUCCESS OF A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.”

Clifford H. Haka, Director of Libraries
From the Director’s Desk

In my 40+ years of working in libraries, the changes I’ve seen in our profession are staggering. When I joined the staff of the Illinois State Historical Library in 1971, the “transformative” new technology was a self-correcting electric typewriter. We’ve come a very long way since then!

As technology has evolved, academic librarians’ jobs have changed dramatically. Until the early 80s, reference librarians spent much of their time helping users identify works of interest through printed index volumes and the card catalog. Their assistance usually ended by telling the user where an item’s call number would be found… and that was that. The user didn’t need help opening the book and reading the material.

The shift to technology-dependent resources presented many challenges for both users and librarians. One milestone was when the federal government began to distribute data from the 1992 Economic Census in “TIGER” files —Topically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing—instead of printed volumes. Suddenly, librarians had to know how to work with data files to answer a question or show a user how to dig out needed information.

These days librarians are actively involved in teaching users how to manipulate data, and in many different formats. Not only statistics, but data on chemical reactions, international monetary transactions, and foreign language corpora—to name just a few.

Today we recruit librarians with a new, diverse set of skills, in addition to the subject expertise which remains central to a research library. An outstanding collection is pointless if it can’t be used, so our librarians are ready to help users with text mining, data visualization, geographic information systems, and more.

In this issue of Insight, you’ll be introduced to some of these new librarians and their specialties. I hope you’ll have the opportunity to receive their assistance.

Clifford H. Haka
Director of Libraries
The MSU Libraries are thrilled to announce a very generous $1 million gift from Gerald M. Kline to benefit the G. Robert Vincent Voice Library. The Digital & Multimedia Center, the parent unit for the Voice Library, is now the Gerald M. Kline Digital & Multimedia Center.

Kline is the founder and former CEO of Innovative Interfaces, Inc., a leader in the field of library automation. When introduced to our Voice Library’s unique holdings, he was immediately engaged regarding both the challenges and opportunities associated with making these valuable resources accessible. His gift will assist the Voice Library to accelerate the process of preserving and presenting these “hidden treasures.”

“A priority for endowment income will be upgrading our sound studio with equipment from the few remaining suppliers who work with historic sound technology,” says Shawn Nicholson, the library’s assistant director for digital information and systems. “At that point, we can finish digitizing the heart of the collection, which is Bob Vincent’s original 6,000 voice recordings. We also look forward to an improved setting for recording original content, such as interviews and oral histories.”

Vincent’s work grew from the conviction that the human voice, with its inflections, accents, and imperfections, tells a story that cannot be conveyed by the written word—allowing us to respond emotionally, as well as intellectually. The G. Robert Vincent Voice Library is one of MSU’s most notable collections, with more than 100,000 hours of recordings dating back to the earliest days of sound technology.

Dr. Maurice Crane, former head of the Vincent Voice Library, died in East Lansing on June 1, 2014, at the age of 87. Crane arrived at MSU in 1953 to teach Humanities, and became director of the Voice Library after founder Robert Vincent retired. He received MSU’s Distinguished Faculty Award in 1979 and led the Voice Library until his retirement in 2000.

“Dr. Crane took Bob Vincent’s pioneering voice collection and increased its size twenty-fold,” says John Shaw, Crane’s successor and long-time colleague. “He transformed the Voice Library into a major resource for students and researchers, for the public, and for radio and television broadcasting.”
Archival Treasures in Special Collections
Patrick Olson

Most of the attention in Special Collections goes to individual rare books and manuscripts. But we also have many fascinating sets of papers and files which document the work of people and organizations: a historian’s bread and butter. Here are just three examples of our archival collections.

**Claypool Comic Art Collection, 1993-2006**

Comic giants like Marvel and DC sometimes eclipse the smaller publishers, many of which put out spectacular work and boast legions of loyal fans. Claypool Comics, founded by Cat Yronwode in 1993, is one of those smaller publishers, by design. Claypool intentionally limited its number of series to just three titles—Elvira, Mistress of the Dark; Soulsearchers and Company; and Deadbeats—and did them brilliantly.

The Claypool archive offers readers a wealth of correspondence, proof sheets, and marketing material, covering the full 23 years of the company’s print publications—all the evidence of great comic books in the making.

**Growing in Place Community Farm Records, 1990-2002**

With the success of MSU’s cookbook collection firmly established, it’s time to introduce a less familiar collection that takes us beyond the recipe!

The Growing in Place Community Farm took root in Mason in 1995, following the community-supported agriculture (CSA) model. Founded by Laura Delind, professor of anthropology at MSU, the farm provided locally grown, organic food to the Lansing area for seven years.

From the Claypool Archives: the cover illustration for issue #71 of Deadbeats moves from concept, to sketch with editorial corrections, to a final drawing with color added.
Introducing children to organic gardening was a high priority at the Growing in Place Community Farm.

It became a truly cooperative venture, with members committing both funding and hours in the field. Despite this strong internal support, Growing in Place was forced to close when its landowner declared bankruptcy—but it remains a success story among CSA projects. The Growing in Place archives are rich in organizational documentation and ephemera, providing an in-depth portrait of an early midwestern CSA in action.

**Ben Hamper Archive, 1972-2005**

Flint native and fourth-generation General Motors assembly line worker, Ben Hamper made a name for himself as a frank chronicler of life and work in the rust belt.

*Rivethead: Tales from the Assembly Line* received wide acclaim, and remains in print more than twenty years after it was published. Hamper is known, too, as one of the longest-standing collaborators of fellow Flint native Michael Moore.

The Ben Hamper Archive spans more than thirty years and includes correspondence, publicity material, and drafts of Hamper's writing.
The MSU Libraries are now in our third year of expanding our professional staff, thanks to a generous commitment from the Provost. And, due to several retirements, we’ve welcomed seven new librarians in the last six months—with an eighth arriving soon!

The addition of Emilia Marcyk, Jessica Sender, and Iris Kovar-Gough to our staff reflect the ever-growing importance of information literacy in today’s digital world. Emilia and Jessica are both instructional technology specialists in our Information Literacy unit, while Iris focuses on educational technology for the health sciences and is the liaison to the College of Human Medicine.

Emilia arrives from the University of Illinois, where she recently completed her MSLIS, while Jessica was previously an instructional technology librarian at Guilford College in North Carolina.

Iris has just completed her MLIS at the University of British Columbia. Her graduate degree in classical archeology proved valuable for tutoring students on medical and biological terminology, which of course draws heavily on ancient Greek and Latin vocabulary.

Tim Kiser and Nicole Smeltekop joined Cataloging and Metadata Services this summer as catalogers for “special materials”—the many non-book items we acquire, such as maps, posters, manuscripts, and other unique items.

Tim recently completed his MSI at the University of Michigan, and previously worked at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design library. Nicole comes to MSU from Albion College, where she headed the Archives unit. She has a secondary assignment managing the Manuscripts and Archives collection in Special Collections.

Our Special Collections unit has expanded with the addition of rare book librarian Patrick Olson and conservator Rebecca Caswell. Patrick has been working in the rare book field since 2003, most recently at the University of Iowa, while Rebecca has worked in the conservation labs at Harvard and MIT as well as in private practice.
Dear Friends,

This year the University Archives celebrates its 45th anniversary! Since 1969, we’ve diligently pursued our mission to collect and preserve MSU history.

Along the way, we’ve continuously expanded our services and collections. These days, we’re especially attentive to connecting with our users where they are—online. We recently reached 900 likes on Facebook and we’ve attracted more than 1100 Twitter followers. Social media lets us share with you, but more importantly, lets you share with us.

We’re also reaching out to departments and faculty to help them manage their business records. Our expanded records management program works closely with MSU units to separate permanent materials from those that can be destroyed, and provide permanent safe storage for those files. It may surprise you to know that we even help keep MSU’s IT systems running smoothly by scheduling the deletion of non-permanent materials. That keeps MSU from spending money unnecessarily on terabytes of storage.

Just as MSU continues to grow and build momentum, we hope to keep doing so as well. This past summer, we were asked to return to MSU’s popular Grandparents University, and this fall one of our archivists is teaching a freshman seminar about the history of student life. From the youngest to the oldest members of our university community, MSU’s proud history unites us all.

Yours in MSU history,

Cynthia A. Ghering
Director, University Archives & Historical Collections
Preserving Digital Records: The New Spartan Archive
Lisa M. Schmidt, Electronics Records Archivist

Do you remember flipping through a thick paper catalog to find out your course requirements and figure out your schedule? How about looking up a classmate’s phone number in the MSU directory or phone book?

For a number of years, the information in MSU’s course catalogs and student directories has only been available digitally. Students locate course information through a database on the Office of the Registrar website, and they use the MSU website’s People Search to find a classmate’s contact information.

What hasn’t changed: the MSU Archives’ mission to collect and make available the historical institutional records of the university. Once the semester or academic year has passed, and the catalog and directory have passed into history, the Archives is still charged with preserving and providing access to the information now found in database files rather than paper volumes.

These digital records are at risk of becoming inaccessible due to technology obsolescence, file corruption, and even natural disasters and cyber sabotage. To keep them safe and available into the future, we’re building a trusted digital repository for long-term preservation and access to historical digital records. The first phase, funded by the National Archives and Records Administration, entailed developing a preservation and access system for structured data records.

The new repository contains academic programs, course descriptions, course schedules, and student directories, with the earliest material (course descriptions) dating back to 1970. As the project advances, we’ll add the faculty directory and other types of historical digital content.

In our digital world, it’s easy to forget how our ancestors experienced the early years of photography. Ornate photo albums remind us that, before our grandparents’ and great-grandparents’ generation, photos of loved ones were rare enough to justify elaborate and expensive housing. From the collections of the University Archives & Historical Collections.
Records Management Program Moving Forward
Hillary Gatlin, University Records Manager

Recordkeeping at Michigan State University is an integral part of managing the university’s daily business. The records management program, administered through University Archives and Historical Collections, has expanded its reach on campus with two new employees: Hillary Gatlin, University Records Manager, and Jennie Russell, Assistant Records Archivist.

The records management program focuses on both identifying university records that have business and legal value, and controlling those records from creation to final disposition. By implementing records management best practices, MSU will increase information security, reduce storage costs, and ensure compliance with legal policies and procedures.

University Archives received its mandate to manage university records, in any format, from the Board of Trustees in 1969. While the paper records management program is long established, the electronic records management program is a crucial area for further development. In an electronic environment, information is growing at an unprecedented rate, and MSU must be ready to meet the challenge of electronic recordkeeping by updating records retention policies and instituting better records controls.

Thus, a major goal of the records management program has been a complete revision of MSU’s records retention policies. We’re also expanding outreach to the university community by offering training for departments on records management best practices. Archives staff can provide guidance on distinguishing business records from historical documents.

Managing records can seem a daunting task, but with the assistance of the records management program, the university community can move forward with confidence.

Scrapbooks and Photo Albums

Over the years, MSU students have created marvelous scrapbooks to document their college years—especially campus social life! Valentines, party invitations, dance cards, ticket stubs, and even commemorative event ribbons can be seen in the examples shown here. From the Scrapbook Collection in the University Archives & Historical Collections.
The family of retired MSU professor and Department of Anthropology chair, Iwao Ishino, has generously donated his personal papers to the University Archives & Historical Collections.

Iwao Ishino's career began unexpectedly in 1942 at the Colorado River War Relocation Center, one of the internment camps for Japanese Americans set up during WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. A 21-year-old college student interned with his parents, Ishino was hired as an interviewer and analyst for a sociological study being conducted at the camp.

That experience led to a position in the Office of War Information, public opinion research for the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in Japan, and finally graduate work at Harvard University, where Ishino earned his PhD in 1954. He arrived at MSU in 1956 and began a distinguished 35-year career as teacher, scholar, and administrator. He was awarded two Fulbright Fellowships to teach at the University of Tokyo, served as “Chief of Party” of MSU’s University of the Ryukyus Project, and spent two years as director of the National Science Foundation’s Anthropology program.

Professor Ishino's papers include many valuable records related to his involvement in international higher education, as well as material on Japanese American internment during WWII and the Japanese American community in general. We look forward to making this resource available to researchers!

Archives Acquire the Iwao Ishino Papers
Sarah Roberts, Acquisitions Archivist

Professor Ishino participated in MSU’s Sesquicentennial Oral History Project. Read the transcript here: bit.ly/1qtW3Eu

As a Fulbright Scholar in 1958-59, Professor Ishino taught at the University of Tokyo and conducted research on Japanese village life.
Searching: The Next Generation

This semester, the MSU Libraries launched a powerful new tool for users: SearchPlus, which provides a single entry point into nearly all of the library’s resources.

“Library users will no longer face a confusing array of different indexes and databases,” explains Steve Sowards, associate director for collections. “SearchPlus opens up content from so many sources in a single search, with potential benefits for everyone from first-year students exploring a topic, to researchers seeking a cross-disciplinary approach.”

For decades, library users have been challenged by the variety of indexes. Whether in print or online, most cover only a small part of the research landscape. The scope of an index might be defined as an entire discipline (EconLit), a specialized field (Turfgrass Information File), a geographic region (Bibliography of Asian Studies), a period in history (Nineteenth Century Index), or a document format (Dissertation Abstracts).

A comprehensive search on almost any topic means checking multiple indexes. And for cross-disciplinary questions, it gets even more complicated. “There are many hot research topics that cross disciplinary lines,” adds Sowards. “Think of public health policy, biometrics, alternative fuels, gender issues in the professions, and environmental impacts on wellness.

“SearchPlus lets users navigate a unified list of results drawn from a variety of content types, including books, e-books, journal and magazine articles, dissertations, and historical newspapers. Then, search filters are applied to narrow results by date, language, content type, and so on.”

“We’re pleased to be implementing Summon for our users,” concludes Cliff Haka, director of the MSU Libraries, “because it brings serendipity back into the research process.”
MSU’s Project 60/50 is a community-wide conversation on civil and human rights: a full year of books, films, exhibits, and most of all, engaged discussions. It’s being organized by MSU’s Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, with partners all over campus and throughout the mid-Michigan area.

The MSU Libraries have been an active contributor to Project 60/50—presenting films, speakers, and musical performances, and exhibits drawing attention to resources in Special Collections and the circulating collection.

And, the Libraries are using the Espresso Book Machine to give students a greater opportunity to be heard. In October, the Libraries published *Speak Out! The MSU Student Anthology on Civil and Human Rights*.

Its five student authors reflect on difficult questions and moments in history that have moved, angered, or challenged them—from damaging stereotypes about undocumented immigrants, to societies repressing the collective memory of torture or genocide, to the censorship of hate literature.

“Before getting involved with the 60/50 initiative, I had trouble finding ways to have my voice heard in regards to civil rights issues,” says Kenneth Williams, one of the student authors. “I’m blessed to be able to clearly voice my opinion through the written word, thanks to the MSU Libraries.”

| Preface by Charles Liu, MSU Office for International Students and Scholars |
| Elizabeth Gil • *Painting a Fuller Portrait: An Open Letter* |
| Kyle Goldstein • *When is Censorship Justified?* |
| Sam Mather • *Torture and Human Rights* |
| Kenneth J. Williams Jr. • *Racial Equality is a Myth!* |
| Connor Yeck • *Eight Moments at Shima Hospital* |

*Speak Out! The MSU Student Anthology on Civil and Human Rights*

Available for sale on Amazon.com and at [lib.msu.edu/publications](http://lib.msu.edu/publications)
Make it Yourself—
At the Library!

Libraries have always been in the business of providing learning resources, and technology lets us explore new ways to do it. That was the thinking behind the library’s installation of an Espresso Book Machine several years ago.

Since then, we’ve helped several hundred students, faculty, and community members self-publish an incredible array of books, from design portfolios to poetry collections. Creating a book is a learning experience—one that some students discover as part of a class project, and others seek out on their own.

Now, the Libraries are expanding this concept to a new service: 3D printing. Although 3D printing is well established in the College of Engineering, the library has the only 3D printer available for the whole MSU community.

“There are a whole range of applications for 3D printing in education,” explains Terence O’Neill, entrepreneurship librarian. “Do you want to show your students a model of a Gothic cathedral, or a fossilized skull? Do you want them to design engine parts, or tableware, or prosthetic ankle joints?”

“This technology has reached a level of availability and ease of use that faculty outside the engineering fields can incorporate it into their teaching,” says Erica Ervin, coordinator for the 3D printing service. “We’re already working with a professor of interior design, for example, who is adding a 3D printing component to her students’ furniture design competition. We’re also assisting a professor from Radiology to scan and print an infant skeleton, because the original is too fragile for repeated handling in the classroom.

“Like the Espresso Book Machine, 3D printing lets users learn through doing, and gives us a way to make artifacts and rare materials more widely available.”

Erica Ervin, coordinator of the library’s 3D printing service, with one of our MakerBot Replicators. Environmentally friendly bioplastic filaments are used for printing.
A library acquisitions budget in the range of $15 million might sound like paradise for book lovers, but spending it turns out to be a very big job.

There are all sorts of challenges, say Lee Sochay and Lisa Smith, who lead the Acquisitions staff in Technical Services. The 13-person team orders, receives, and pays for 40,000 monographs a year, plus journal and database subscriptions, ebook packages, and more.

“The Acquisitions budget is divided into funds for each subject area,” explains Lee Sochay, head of the unit, “with subdivisions for monographs, serials, and electronic resources. There are also many endowment funds, each with its own rules. Every subject librarian knows how much can be spent on the disciplines he or she is responsible for. There are dozens of funds, so accounting is one of our big jobs.”

“We also buy materials from all over the world,” says Lisa Smith, assistant head of the team. “That adds a level of complexity to our work, from communicating with suppliers in different time zones, to finding trusted vendors for obscure items.

“Our staff work with materials in literally scores of languages. We order and receive materials in Asian languages; languages that use the Cyrillic alphabet; the script used for the languages of India—even handling music accurately requires some knowledge of musical vocabulary.”

“The bottom line is using University resources efficiently,” concludes Lee Sochay. “We negotiate for the best terms we can get from our vendors; we make sure the budget is spent out; and when we’re audited, we know how every dollar was spent.”
Discovering the Magic of Special Collections

In her blog last month, MSU senior Meg Hughey described the fulfillment of a long-held dream: being able to see, and hold, a first edition copy of *The Great Gatsby*. Even better, MSU’s copy is inscribed by F. Scott Fitzgerald himself, with a note to his friend Charles Scott about the main character, Jay Gatsby. It begins, “Gatsby was never quite real to me…”

“I was astounded,” Meg writes. “How could Fitzgerald say this about my favorite book of all time, and about a classic piece of literature? I was fascinated. Of course, Gatsby didn’t become a classic until the 1960s, but he had to have known how gorgeous his prose and characters were. They changed my life. They must have changed so many peoples’ lives.

“I touched Fitzgerald’s writing, his signature, and his words… He didn’t end his final sentence with punctuation, and instead just let it stand. I wondered if he’d become so frustrated with what he was saying about Gatsby that he could not finish his thoughts.

“This read-through took me back to the first day I read *The Great Gatsby*, and felt distinctly magical… I felt spiritually connected to my hero and favorite author, and I sincerely hope that this shows up in my future writings. What better way for an aspiring writer and an avid English student and reader to feel powerful, than to connect first hand with the most glorious copy of her favorite novel?”

(Excerpted from Meg’s blog, unwrittenverses.blogspot.com, with permission.)
Gifts made by December 31 may help reduce your tax bill for 2014!

Need more information? The IRS website has everything you need to know:
www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc506.html

MSU's copy of The Seasons by James Thomson (London: Longman, 1847) is embellished with a fore-edge painting of a man fishing in a hilly landscape, which can be seen when the pages are fanned.