Michigan State University Libraries Records
UA.3.15

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University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall
943 Conrad Road, Room 101
East Lansing , MI 48824
Business Number: 517-355-2330
archives@msu.edu
URL: http://archives.msu.edu/

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Archives and Historical Collections
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Creator:	Davis, Brian
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Historical Note

The first library at Michigan State University was established in 1865 under the direct supervision of the president. Later, it was supervised by University Services, and since 1967 has reported to the Provost's office.

The library started with 200 volumes donated by John C. Holmes, one of the founders of the college, and was housed in a room on the third floor of College Hall, the college's first building. In 1862, student fees were used to buy materials for the library. In 1867 each professor was allowed $50 and later $100 request books in their fields. The room was open and supervised by a student for two hours a day. In 1871, the library moved from the third floor to the first floor when the chemistry department left. In 1881, it moved out of College Hall to the new Library/Museum building which is now called Linton Hall.

The first librarian was George T. Fairchild, a professor of English Literature. He took on the duties of librarian in 1872 along with his other work. Mary Jane Cliff Merrill became the first full time librarian in 1883. She left the position in 1888 and was succeeded by Mary Abbot and Jane Sinclair. Linda Landon was appointed in 1891 and held the position for forty one years.

In 1924, the library moved from Linton Hall to a new building specifically designated for it (which is now the MSU Museum). In 1925, there was a staff of nine to handle the work of the library.

The physics building was converted into a library annex to give the growing library more space. In 1953, money was appropriated to build a new larger library. This building, which currently houses the main branch of MSU Libraries, was completed in 1955.

"In the 1970s, libraries began transforming their collections and operations to take advantage of newly developing technology. Card catalogs were automated; films and software joined books on the shelves; telecommunications allowed libraries to share information quickly and easily. In 1989, the MSU Libraries' catalog went online, allowing users to perform searches in a few seconds that took hours with the card catalog." [from https://www.lib.msu.edu/about/history/]

By the year 2000, the MSU Libraries had over four million volumes in its collections, and offered services 24-hours a day.

Scope and Contents

The collection has numerous documents concerning the structure and development of the library. There are many newspaper clippings regarding events at the library and discussing library policies. There are also handbooks and pamphlets that give insight on how one would find publications. Correspondence, policy, and meeting minutes are also included in this collection. The collection also holds records of the First Midwest Academic Library Conference held at MSU in 1956. A detailed history is given for such things as the Dewey decimal system, opinion surveys, and literary articles published by the library, such as "Spartan Poets: A Preliminary Checklist." Two pictures of a radiation display held in the library are also included. Ledgers detail books and serials that were acquired by the library, and contain circulation records from the late-1800s and early-1900s.

Also included is the report "Michigan State College Memorabilia" which outlines how historical records relating to the university were collected and describes the foundations of the University Archives.

The collection also includes digitized recordings of Barnett Rosenberg Lectures from 1969 to 1989. Electronic Resources include e-mail memos from the Deans, Directors, and Chairs email listserv and a video about the G. Robert Vincent Voice Library.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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- • Popular Culture Association
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- • Midwest Academic Library Conference
- • Michigan State University. Libraries

Preservica Public URL

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Report of the Team Invited to Plan for the Development of a Law Library at Michigan State University	box 2636	folder 16
A Library Program for Present Needs and Future Growth (A Report from Richard Chapin and WIlliam Combs to the Provost), December 17, 1962 Creator: Combs, William H. Creator: Chapin, Richard E. (Richard Earl), 1925-2009	box 342	folder 66
A Report to the Board of Trustees, undated	box 2636	folder 46

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Research Materials Available, undated	box 2636	folder 45
Retirement Party Flyers	box 2636	folder 59

Richard Chapin files, speeches, and articles, 1957-1988

Title/Description	Instances	
Richard Chapin speeches and articles, 1957-1977	box 5002	folder 25
Richard Chapin speeches and articles, 1978-1988	box 5002	folder 26
Richard Chapin speeches and articles, undated	box 5002	folder 27
4th International Conference on Approval Plans	box 5002	folder 28
President's Ad Hoc Committee Preliminary Report, 1964	box 5002	folder 29
"The Emerging Institutions," by R.E. Chapin et al., October 1966	box 341	folder 23
"A Public Information Corporation: an Alternative for the Communication Technology of the 1970s", undated	box 5347	folder 12

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Sahel

Title/Description	Instances	
Aid to the Sahel: Report on a Conference and Acquisitions Trip, by Eugene de Benko, 1978	box 2636	folder 32
Drought Control in the Sahel: Report on a Conference and Acquisition Trip	box 342	folder 56

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Searching for Items, undated	box 5002	folder 9
Serials Automation - Memo #4, undated		

	box 342	folder 29
Sex Bias and the MSU Library, undated	box 341	folder 24
"Shawlists" Introduction, undated	box 341	folder 8
"Sounds of History," National Voice Library, March 22, 1964	box 342	folder 39
"Spartan Poets: A Preliminary Checklist, 1855-1978", 1978	box 760H	folder 14
Special Resources in MICROFORMAT in the Michigan State University, 1978, 1983	box 2636	folder 60
Spin Back the Years - National Voice Library, circa 1964	box 342	folder 45
Staff Manuals		
Manual, 1940-1945	box 341	folder 46
MSC Library Staff Manual Part I, 1941	box 341	folder 51
MSC Library Staff Manual Part II, 1941	box 341	folder 52
MSC Library Staff Manual Part III, 1941	box 341	folder 53
Michigan State College Library Staff Manual, 1938	box 2636	folder 73
Staff Notes, 1953-1954	box 341	folder 21
Strategic Plan, 2019	box 5347	folder 13

Time Capsule , 1986-1990

box 5067

Creator: Davis, Brian

Container Summary: There is a folder in the box with the scrapbook that contains scans of the time capsule's contents. This should be use whenever possible, to preserve the integrity of the items.

Biographical/Historical

This time capsule was created by Brian Davis and his friends during his student years at MSU. His collected material was placed in a hollowed out book, and the book was shelved in the library. (The book had been withdrawn and he put a fake call number on it.) He had hoped it would not be found for many years, however an accession note indicates that it was found after about 18 months. A statement by the creator accompanies the items.

Tisch Tax	box 2636	folder 27
University Library Statistics, 1969	box 342	folder 38
Undergraduate Book Contest, 1969	box 342	folder 26

Undergraduate Library Pro/Con Study	box 2636	folder 28
United States Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), 1962-1965, undated	box 5347	folder 19
Use of Printed & Audio Visual Materials for Educational Purposes	box 2636	folder 29
Video		
Videotape: "The Big Time Library Show & Using MSU Degree Navigator"	item Videotape -- Big Time Library Show	
Vincent Voice Library A Descriptive Guide, 1987	box 5347	folder 22
Visions of the Future		
Strategic Planning Document, September 1990	box 2636	folder 61
Strategic Planning Retreat Document, November 1990	box 2636	folder 62
Technical Services Strategic Planning Report, April 1991	box 2636	folder 63

Volumes

Title/Description	Instances	
"Accession by Purchase", 1880-1891	box 5347	folder 1
"Bound Donations" (publications received through library exchange programs), 1881-1894	box 5347	folder 2
Subscription List, 1891-1895	box 5347	folder 3-4
Books circulated to faculty, 1891-1892	box 5347	folder 5
Publications received by the library, December 1894 - May 1912	box 5347	folder 6
Publications received by library, May 1912 - 1930	box 5347	folder 7

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William H. Combs Papers		
1948	box 342	folder 16
1948	box 342	folder 17
1949	box 342	folder 18-20
1950	box 341	folder 3a-4
1951	box 341	folder 5-6
1952	box 341	folder 7-14

1953	box 341	folder 15-16
1954	box 341	folder 17-19
1955	box 341	folder 20-32
1957	box 341	folder 33-34
1959	box 341	folder 35

Photographs

Construction of the Library, 1954-1955	box 2636	folder 75-76
Library. Architects Drawings and Models	box 2636	folder 77
Library. Exterior	box 2636	folder 78
Library. Exterior (MSU Museum)	box 2636	folder 79
Library. Interior	box 2636	folder 80
Library. Interior (previous buildings)	box 2636	folder 81
Buildings. Library (3)	drawer MSU Photograph Collection	
Buildings. Library (3). Construction	drawer MSU Photograph Collection	
Buildings. Library (3). Plans	drawer MSU Photograph Collection	
Buildings. Library (3). Television tour photographs	drawer MSU Photograph Collection	
Buildings. Library Annex	drawer MSU Photograph Collection	

Oversize Materials

Reference posters - Looking for a Book and Computer Terminal Search Keys	box 4322
University Architect - Blueprints Library Building, April 23, 1968	box 4322

Annual Reports

Title/Description	Instances
Published in State Board Reports	volume Bd. of Ag.
1876	

1877
1878
1879
1880
1883
1884
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1943

1944		
1945		
1946		
1947		
1948		
1949		
1956		
1957		
Unpublished		box Annual Reports
1872		
1873		
1945		
1948		
1950		
1952		
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1954		
1955		
1956		
1957		
1958		
1959		
1959-1960		
1960-1961		
1961-1962		
1962-1963		
1964		
1964-1965		
1965-1966		
1966-1967		
1967-1968		
1968-1969		

1969-1970

1970-1971

1992

1993

1994-1995

Serials

Title/Description	Instances
#357: How to Find Series	
#417: (MSU) Libraries	
#419: (MSU) Libraries Staff Circular	
#420: (MSU) Libraries Staff Information Bulletin	
#421: (University) Library	
#422: (MSU) Library Newsletter and Monthly Horticulturalist	
#776: Personnel Notes	
#777: Public Services Notes	
#779: Technical Services Notes	
#985: The Sward	
#1005: Visions of the Future	
#1031: Library Link	
#1119: Insight	

Electronic Resources

Preservica Public URL

https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/sdb%3Acollection|fb2e2b0b-8bfc-4cf8-aa4e-fcce5f34e6f2/

Title/Description	Instances
Deans, Directors, and Chairs E-mail Memos	
Course materials; Faculty publications, 2010-2013	
Faculty Authors Reception memo, 2015	

Faculty Authors Reception; Course Pack and Course Materials Services, 2014-2015

MSUL Intranet Export, 2021, 1954-2019

Digital Object: [MSUL Intranet Export 2021 Part 1: 2021-11-05](#)

Digital Object: [MSUL Intranet Export 2021 Part 2: 2022-01-13](#)

Scope and Contents

Curated selection of content from the MSUL Intranet. Intranet moved to a new version of Drupal. Some content was preserved for historical purposes. Areas include: Meeting Minutes from Library Faculty Assembly,Library Environmental Committee,Libraries' Executive Council,Library Ergonomics Committee, Collection Coordinators,Cataloging and Metadata Services,All Bibliographers; Emails sent by Library Director Cliff Haka (retired) to all library staff; and documents from Web Services, Visioning Committee, RDA Group, Photo Archive, ILS, Copy Center, and Catalog.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Currently internal use only.

Vincent Voice Library (VVL)

Preservica Public URL

Rosenberg Lectures, 1969-1989

Digital Object: [Rosenberg Recorded Lectures: 2021-12-14](#)

Preservica Public URL

https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/ sdb%3Acollection|6be5490b-f202-4316-8c46- eb0650f5c848/

G. Robert Vincent Voice Library Presents "Mosaic of Voices" Video, 2007

Digital Object: [VVL Mosaic of Voices: 2021-11-15](#)

Scope and Contents

This video is about the G. Robert Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University. It includes segments about the Library, G. Robert Vincent, and Maurice A. Crane (successor to Vincent). Examples from the collection are diffused throughout the film.

Preservica Public URL

https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/
sdb%3Acollection|1eb982e5-73db-433e-
bbd0-8f16af890a6f/

Tales from the MSU Stacks, 2000

Digital Object: TalesFromTheStacks-CD-ROM: 2022-07-19

Scope and Contents

CD ROM for MacOS, Windows95/98, and Windows
NT. Subtitle is "Bibliographic Instruction CD with
Web Links". For preservation, images was created and
individual elements saved.

Preservica Public URL

https://msu.access.preservica.com/
archive/sdb%3Acollection|
adb292f7-40e5-4692-8c71-949243fde435/

MSU Libraries Employee Newsletter

Digital Object: 2022_MSUL_Emp_Newsletters: 2023-05-17

Digital Object: 2023_MSUL_Emp_Newsletters: 2023-05-17

Language of the Material: English.

Preservica Public URL

https://msu.access.preservica.com/archive/
sdb%3Acollection|f4e2f8ae-cac3-4f3d-bf46-
a64810af703e/