A Glimpse Into the World of International Studies

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Welcome

Welcome to the University of Michigan Library – International Studies! We are a diverse community of individuals providing access to library materials in over 400 languages, while also supporting research needs and instruction at the university and beyond. This website provides a comprehensive overview of the unit – our services, our activities beyond the general scope of work, and newer initiatives in outreach and technology. The space was created as a part of the Michigan Library Scholars Summer Internship Program by intern Lauren Stachew with mentor Nerea Llamas. All of the images on this website are items from collection material associated with the International Studies unit. To learn more about individual images, visit the Treasures Gallery. For general information and hours, visit our department website, and for more information on our staff and the regions that we cover, visit our staff page. Our unit operates within Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

“This unit is really important to me because it is one of the few International Studies units that exists in the country. It's a place where we can showcase these truly unique collections, and where we as experts come together and share with each other to build services. The campus really is engaging globally in many different respects, whether it be researchers going abroad or coming here, or students studying abroad - there is a whole spectrum of global engagement, so it’s important to us to partner with those initiatives.”

- Nerea Llamas, Head of International Studies

SHARE THIS:
Our Community

Outreach and Collection Development

Cataloging
Outreach and Collection Development

Our subject specialists are responsible for choosing the material in their region of expertise, which is then cataloged and made accessible to the public. This material is not limited to books, however. Subject specialists buy manuscripts, artwork, postcards, movie posters, ephemera, maps, photographs – any material that might be useful for research. Yet their roles reach farther than just selecting materials. They often teach – like Evin Kroft, who leads a course in bibliographic resources in Middle Eastern Studies, or Barbara Alvarez, who teaches open sessions on publishing in the humanities. They regularly assist students, faculty, and researchers with their projects, theses, or research questions, leading them to the right resources or even collaborating on their work.

A great deal of travel is also common among subject specialists in order to obtain materials and network with other librarians, going to places like India, Thailand, Chile, and Russia, sometimes multiple times a year. The impact of their work encompasses a number of areas – such as long-term collection building, which involves constantly thinking about who might need certain materials in the future, the short-term impact of working and liaising with faculty members, and in addition to that, shepherding scholarly communication to help produce research that could possibly become the basis of someone else’s research. The role of the subject specialist is dynamic and multi-faceted – always shifting their performance to best suit people’s research needs.

“It should be obvious why this unit is important. The connections between different countries, peoples, and cultures is crucial. The world is shrinking, and our collection has to grow to match that. Not only do we have students from all over the world, but we have researchers, so we need to be able to serve a much wider and diverse population. It’s important to be able to reach out to that community and serve their interests.”

- Elliot Gertel, Irving M. Hermelin Curator for Judaica
Cataloging

Our catalogers are responsible for making collections accessible, which involves several steps to get materials to the bookshelves, such as assigning call numbers and following standard vocabularies for describing items. International Studies catalogers, in particular, have a strong authority with foreign languages so that they can describe and label the materials in the clearest, most accurate way possible.

This line of work is very detail-oriented and requires a great amount of organization. All areas of the library have catalogers for their materials, but those in International Studies have the added difficulty of being well-versed in multiple languages. An in-depth understanding of the culture that an item comes from is essential to best attribute descriptions and tags for that item. It is for this reason that cataloging in International Studies is such an integral part of the unit.

To learn more about the catalogers, visit their staff pages here.

The diversity that catalogers represent is really important because they provide access to things that are essential for global awareness. They deal with all subjects in their languages because it’s necessary that we have a broader sense of the world and how we fit into it. Their work covers a lot of the globe, and it’s important to have access to these materials for everybody. Everything is becoming so interdisciplinary, so when you add in the different languages, it takes the work to a whole new level.

- Beth Snyder, Technical Services Coordinator for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and Near Eastern Studies
Beyond the Library

Teaching

Personal Projects

Travel

Curating
Teaching

All subject specialists participate in some form of teaching as a part of their work — whether it’s leading or assisting a university course to giving guest lectures and open sessions. Below are a few unique instances of teaching that our librarians have facilitated.

Feyza Sayman, Turkish Studies Specialist

Since 1990, Feyza has taught a class called Turkish Language and Literature Conversation on U-M’s campus. “It’s mostly attended by retired professors and sometimes students; they love to discuss the subjects — literature, language, history. We get together once a week. It was an enjoyment for all of us, and I brought Turkish desserts which made the professors so happy. It was good to eat and talk to share ideas and experiences. Now there are only three of the professors left, but we still get together once a week. It’s kind of a tradition now.”

Evin Krepf, Librarian for Near Eastern and Religious Studies; Curator, Islamic Manuscripts Collection

In March of 2015, Evin co-taught with other colleagues a papermaking course at the British Library called “Traditions of Papermaking in the Islamic World,” which involved examining the papers of manuscripts. “I am primarily an Islamista, but also a manuscript specialist, so I have a lot of special information on manuscripts, and that’s rather unusual for someone in my field. I try to be pretty proactive with liaising with folks that work in areas of my subject purview. It is very special and valuable to me to enjoy the sort of work that I do.” To learn more about this course, visit this page from The Islamic Manuscript Association.
Personal Projects

Barbara Alvarez, Librarian for Romance Languages & Literatures and Comparative Literature

Barbara’s continuing interest in developing the field of digital humanities led her to create an independent project, Don Quixote in English. “This past spring, I had a graduate assistant that helped develop the newest version of the project, which follows the translations of the book into English. It began as a simple chronology, and then we continued to add more material and shape the content. I am very interested in pushing the boundaries towards new modes of research, while also preserving the materials that that research uses. In my department, I see a lot of interest with the students. The two areas I work with – Comparative Literature and Romance Languages – are very different, but in the last few years I have been trying to fill that gap between what the department offers and what I can offer, in terms of beginning guidance on what kinds of things you can do with digital humanities.”

Janet Crayne, Librarian for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Since 1992, Janet has had the continued interest of assisting Kosovo, Bosnia, and Croatia in the restoration of their lost library collections due to the Bosnian War and Siege of Sarajevo. “The first thing I did was on Christmas Eve. I emailed the contents of a typescript of all of the works that had been published in Sarajevo during the war to a group of librarians interested in helping. The paper was in really bad shape. I tried many avenues to get materials to Sarajevo; they’ve all fallen through, but I’m still looking into it today. A lot of other people are working on this too; scholars who risked their lives to go into Sarajevo during the war years, people who snuck out of the country to try to publicize what was going on. Sarajevo really needed support to get things going again, and now they’re completely independent. The librarians are doing an incredible job and I have a great amount of respect for them.” For her efforts, Janet was awarded a certificate of recognition at a conference in Sarajevo.
Travel

Travel is an integral component of the subject specialist’s work to acquire materials for the library’s collections. This travel can be as short as a few days to as long as a few months, involving a variety of tasks. Subject specialists attend book fairs and conferences, and network and communicate with other international librarians. Below are a few unique examples of how traveling plays a principal role in International Studies.

Fe Susan Go, Librarian for Southeast Asian Studies

Susan is one of the most extensive travelers in International Studies. Every year she visits the Southeast Asia region to places such as Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines – as an essential part of obtaining collection items for her area of focus. “I come from the countries that I study and work with, so I can put myself in the best of the indigenous population and I can be an American if I want to be. I bring the indigenous perspective to my work by understanding the subject matter; since I know the field and the people who work in it. What’s difficult is the encountering of different languages and people that I have to meet when I travel, and really sometimes not knowing the culture of the group. I remember learning in school about Thai customs and traditions, but in practice, it is very different, and you tend to forget about those things you learn in classrooms. Those are minor cultural things that you learn from school that don’t always apply to practical things when you are in the field. When you travel, you have to reassess where you are and determine what things you should and shouldn’t do.”

Loyd Misa, Librarian for African Studies

Loyd often travels to Africa for teaching. The trip in this photograph and others found in the Treasures Gallery were part of the University of Michigan’s Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) program in Kenya. “It’s a great program that offers summer cross-cultural service learning within the U.S. and internationally. The program is comprised of completing a year-long UC 275 course and a field trip. All our previous three meetings were primarily health related, either conducting instruction sessions to schools or sponsoring a clean water tank project. A significant cross-cultural piece of our trips is whereby students stay with host families for about three weeks.”

Jeffrey Martin, Librarian for South Asian Studies

Jeffrey’s experience with travel plays an essential role in his work as a South Asian librarian. “I’ve actually lived in India for many years, in different areas, so I learned a lot more than just the language. That gives me quite a different perspective, and I look at things in an anthropological way, too, with my studies, so the concept of culture has always been important to me. A lot of people don’t know about my background. I think they take for-granted I must know something about South Asia, but I really lived there and have real knowledge of the culture.”
Curating

Elliot Gertel, Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica

Elliot has been involved in curating the Jewish Heritage Collection since 2003. “A woman named Connie Harris had this large collection of Jewish objects, books, artwork, just everything. There were ephemera, letters, pamphlets, calendars, rare artworks and prints, fabrics, postcards, photographs, metal objects. One of our vendors approached two of our professors in the university and thought this would be a good collection for UM. There are thousands of objects still being added – things that would be lost otherwise, because people wouldn’t think to save them. Portrait of a People, from 2005, was the first exhibition of the materials. It coincided with the 350th anniversary of the first group of Jews to arrive in the U.S.”
Besides the Bookshelf

Research Data

Digital Scholarship

Michigan Library Scholars

Undergraduate Global Research Award
Research Data

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Digital Scholarship

"By having a unit that looks at all subject areas, the great role we have is to go beyond the barrier of language and acquire materials of all languages that not only pertain to what we traditionally collect."

- Barbara Alvarez, Librarian for Romance Languages & Literature, Comparative Literature
Michigan Library Scholars

This year, International Studies and Asia Library launched the first cohort of the Michigan Library Scholars Summer Internship Program, designed to reach out to undergraduate students with an interest in international studies and learning more about the library's units and services. Each of the four interns was provided with an independent project and a mentor to guide them throughout their work. Along with the project, the interns were exposed to various aspects and units within MLibrary, such as meet and greets with all of the units in International Studies, tours of the Preservation and Conservation Unit at Buhr Shelving Facility and the Bentley Historical Library, and training sessions on copyright, LibGuides, and e-resources.

At the end of the summer, the four interns will present final presentations on their projects, along with reflections on their work and the internship program as a whole. Future iterations of this program are hoped to continue in the following summers.

Student testimonies:

Hyung-Gwan Bae: "I had a fantastic experience working as a library scholar this summer! The new program was filled with wonderful opportunities for us to learn and expand our networks. I was most impressed with the scope of each intern's project, the possibilities seemed limitless."

Blair Scott: Personal statement forthcoming

Mena Hermiz: "Being a part of Michigan Library Scholars this summer has been a great experience! I've loved learning more about how the library works and getting to meet many different librarians. I've gained skills in project management, web design, and communication. This internship has been a unique opportunity, and I've gained a larger appreciation for the U-M library and all that it does."

Lauren Stachew: "I was really pleasantly surprised at how much this program taught me about the library as a whole. It really felt like everyone that we met cared that we were here, and we all felt immediately welcome in this space. I've realized through this experience that I'm capable of a lot more than I previously thought, and that's something I'll carry with me for a long time to come."
Undergraduate Global Research Award

Each year, the U-M Library conducts a research award competition to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary academic achievements of our undergraduate students. The award is given to students who demonstrate excellence in library research conducted in support of an undergraduate student project. This year, International Studies supported a new Global Research Award component with a Maize and Blue category to be awarded to a project with an international focus. This year, the Global Award in the Maize category was given to Emily Bodden, Mario Goetz, Emilie Neumeier, Aaron Szulczewski, and Leslie Teng for their research project, "Divestment for Humanity: The Anti-Apartheid Movement at the University of Michigan." The Global Award in the Blue category was given to Monique Becker for her Honors thesis, "An Escape from the Perceived Rationalist-Constructivist Binary: A Look Into Derogable Human Rights Agreements."

To learn more about the Undergraduate Research Award and the 2014-15 recipients, click here.
Acknowledgments

Thank You

This project would not be possible without the help of so many individuals. Thanks is given first and foremost to the International Studies unit – both subject specialists and catalogers, for eagerly giving their time and interest to this project. In addition, to Library Information Technology (LIT), in particular Meghan Musolf, for her continued effort in seeing this project through, and to Larry Wentzel and Randal Stegmeier in the Digital Conversion Unit (DCU) for making the digitization of the images on this website so efficient and expedient, for offering their skills and services on the technical side of this work. Thanks to the Special Collections staff for their organized assistance in the digitization process, and to the Knowledge Navigation Center for training in Photoshop. Lastly, to Nerea Llamas and Diana Fabre Case – whose support, patience, and guidance provided in this project is incomparable.

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Questions? Contact: Nerea Llamas, nllamas@umich.edu

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Budín de lúcumas

2 tazas de leche
1/2 taza de azúcar más 2 cucharadas de maicena
1/2 taza de lúcumas, de color amarillo y tamaño aproximadamente el de un limón
1/2 taza de naranja
1/2 taza de leche de soja

Coloque el frango en el fondo de una olla pequeña. Agregue el azúcar, la maicena y 1/2 taza de leche. Cocine a fuego medio, revolviendo constantemente hasta que la mezcla espese. Descontinue, déjele reposar 5 minutos. Sirva suave, helado o con refrescos.
Cover of "Recetas de la abundancia" by Esther Sanchez Botero

Recipe book in Spanish with traditional recipes from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Peru, Venezuela
Literatura de Cordel

A collection of literary pamphlets from Brazil, purchased for Special Collections through the Library of Congress Rio de Janeiro Office.
Suleyman the Magnificent Receiving the Austrian Envoy

Turkish miniature reprinted by The Historical Research Foundation from the Turkish Republic Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Ixchel, Kyra, Natalie, and Johanna in practice.

This photo of UM students leading a hand-washing session was taken by Charles Ransom in 2011 at Kihaka Primary School in Mau, Kenya as part of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program.
Tu na zdjęciu jestem ja, Blumka.

Mocno ściśkam swój pamiętnik, w którym zapisuję to, co dzieje się w naszym domu. Zapisuję w nim też moje różne tajemnice. Gdy domu, chciałbym zostać wychowawczynią. Tak jak Pani Stef.

Excerpt from "Pamiętnik Blumki" by Iwona Chmielewska
Page from a Polish children's book written and illustrated by Iwona Chmielewska
“Tsarevich” by Leon Bakst

The costume designs for the Ballets Russes by Bakst incorporated Turkish, Indian, and Persian motifs in ways that had not been attempted before. Their colors, patterns, and unstructured designs were innovative and eye-catching. This book takes advantage of this popularity containing an introduction written by Jean Cocteau and Bakst's hand-painted renderings of costumes and set designs, almost all for Ballets Russes. Pictured here is Leon Bakst's costume design for Tsarevich in “The Robe.”
Evin teaching a Papermaking course

Leading a session on examining papers of manuscripts during “Traditions of Papermaking in the Islamic World,” a papermaking course which she co-taught with other colleagues earlier this year at the British Library, London, UK.
Jewish handmade pop-up card
Scene on Beach Manila, P.I.
Pre-World War I postcard from the Philippines
Page from a puja manual

Puja is a prayer ritual performed by Hindus to honor, honor, or worship one or more deities. Shown here are hand signs for prayers.
Süleyman the Magnificent Receiving Isabelle, the Queen of Spain

Turkish miniature reprinted by The Historical Research Foundation from the Turkish Republic Ministry of Culture and Tourism
পূজা একটি পূজার চিত্র। এটি হিন্দুদের দেবদেবী এর স্মৃতি স্তম্ভন এবং প্রতিরূপের জন্য ব্যবহার করা হয়। এই চিত্রে দেখা যায় দেবদেবীর মাঝে একটি ওষুধ এবং একটি মন্ত্র।
*Firebird* by Leon Bakst

The decorative designs for the Ballets Russes by Bakst incorporated Russian, Indian, and Mexican motifs in ways that had not been attempted before. Their colors, patterns, and unconventional designs were innovative and eye-catching. This book takes advantage of this popularity, containing an introduction written by Jean Cocteau and Bakst's hand-painted renditions of costumes and set designs, almost all for Ballets Russes. Pictured here is Leon Bakst's costume design for *Firebird* in "The Firebird."
Sarajevo Map

Satirical map of Sarajevo during the Bosnian War years. For a closer look, click on "View full size" on the bottom right area of the screen.
Johanna with children at play

This photo was taken by Charles Rancou in 2011 at Kitoka Primary School in Matu, Kenya as part of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program.
Squirting

Pre-World War I postcard from the Philippines
Coconuts being rafted to market down Pasig river, Manila

Pre World War I postcard from the Philippines
Sīrāt al-ard li-Sharīf al-Idrīsī al-mutawwatta namat 550, reprinted 1951

This is a map of the world as known to medieval cartographers. It was created by the Arab geographer al-Idrisi in the 12th century. The map is oriented with south at the top and shows the known world at the time. It includes many details, such as mountains, rivers, and cities. The map is a significant historical document and is considered one of the most accurate maps of its time.
Plate LX.
A SULTANA, OR KADIN.

In the description to the second Plate there is a slight sketch of the biretto, and its inhabitants, particularly supposing the females. The Plate itself is a portrait of a Sultan, or Gahdik, a term by which all the leaders are distinguished except the few [head names] who are misled to a superior rank, and are called Kaddens, or Kadamens. When the Sultan assumes the last, other than from oppression or misery, which it does by allowing her to the old biretto, another Gahdik is in his place. This, of course, is an honour surely sought after. One of the nations, perhaps, of the Sultan's not週onizing is, that he finds himself in a superior rank in other matters, and that he shall dignify himself by foregoing any assumption of so inferior a nation with what he looks upon as an inferior being.

Plate LXI.
A TURKISH FEMALE.

Plate XXVI. was a representation of a Woman of Constantinople, as she appeared to be dressed appropriating her long tunic and full skirt. The present plate is the portrait of a female living at Paris, as she appears in the interior, or ladies. Her beauty, according to European ideas, would seem slight, in her face; as the immediate use of the man’s best, together with their mode of life, and manner of living, completely destroys all elegance of form, while the situation of the girdle, unlike the European style, across this appearance even a DISPARGING-COURSE. If it were not for this circumstances, the manner of dress would by no means be so unbecoming or unjust.
Cover of a rare Persian lithograph book
Jewish handmade pop-up card
El hilo continuo: la conservación de la tradiciones textiles de Oaxaca

Edited by: Kathlyn Klein
Published: Los Angeles, Getty Conservation Institute; Mexico, D.F. Fomento Cultural Banamex, 1997
Jewish handmade pop-up card
Jewish handmade pop-up card
Back of Sarajevo Map

For a closer look, click on "View full size" near the bottom right area of the page.
Set design by Goncharova

Set design for "Le Coq d'Or" (The Golden Cock) by Natalia Goncharova. Two Russian proponents of a form of cubism known as rayonism, Natalia Goncharova and Mikhail Larionov, worked for Ballets Russes beginning in 1914 and continuing through 1929. Displayed here is reproductions of Goncharova's set design for Diaghilev, taken from a Russian émigré journal.
Four photographs of Anna Pavlova, 1881-1931, as a young dancer.

Anna Pavlova was a Russian ballerina of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She was a principal artist at the Imperial Russian Ballet and the Ballets Russes of Sergei Diaghilev. Pavlova is most recognized for the creation of the role The Dying Swan and, with her own company, became the first ballerina to tour around the world. For more images of St. Petersburg dance, art, literature, and music, visit the online St. Petersburg exhibit here: http://www.lib.msu.edu/stpetersburg/
Flower Vendors, Manila

Pre-World War I postcard from the Philippines
GIEU 2014 Water Project

This photo was taken in 2014 at Malanje Secondary School in Kakamega, Kenya as part of the GIEU Water Project.
Ixchel, Kyra, Natalie, and Johanna on theory

The photo of UH students taking class instruction was taken by Charles Ransom in 2011 at Kithoko Primary School in Muru, Kenya as part of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program.
This map by C. Allom imaginatively depicts the Ottoman Empire on the eve of the Great Turkish War (1683–1699). It marked a turning point in the fortunes of the empire andtrust of Europe. Up to the 1680s, the Ottoman Christian powers of Hungary, Austria, Moldavia, and Wallachia and the Habsburg monarchy had repeatedly sought the Ottoman Empire in successive wars over the last century only to arrive at a stalemate. The Turks had largely kept the field gains they had made during the reign of Sultan Selim III (1754–1807) in spite of insurmountable attempts by the Christian powers to dislodge them. The line of control generally ran through Christian lands of Hungary and northern Romania to what is now Macedonia, with the Ottoman lines being the south of the Timus.
Le'or

This watercolor painting done by an anonymous artist in a displaced person's camp after the second World War depicts a Jewish army attacking and defeating the Nazis. The title of the painting is Hebrew for "to the light."
Mogą też być połączone jak dwie ściany podtrzymujące dach domu.

Stoją one naprzeciwko siebie i nigdy nie mogą się zbliżyć.

Chęć bardzo chciały.
Takvim-i Lüyvâ, Kılıç Çelebi, 1609-1557

Elegant illuminated handscroll opening on p. 11 consisting of rectangular pages with empty gold cartouches framed by floral motifs in gold, green, lavender, red, and white on grounds of gold and dark blue, surrounded by scalloped borders filled with swaying fantastic compositions in gold, green, lavender, red, white, and yellow on grounds of dark blue and gold. Initials are decorated with vertical sites (right) in blue, written-piece filled with a word ofversation defined by "gold" borders, written area surrounded by frame consisting of maroon-bronze-colored band defined by black fillets with ornamental medallions, divisions within (for lines) in red illis. In final sections illis missing: keywords and ornamental headings highlighted, others in blue, green or orange, textual divisions in the form of gold and red dots.
Cover of "Dwoje Ludzi" by Iwona Chmielewska

Cover page of a Polish children’s book
Tobias Smollett’s translation of Don Quixote

The history and adventures of the renowned Don Quixote; translated from the Spanish of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra; to which is prefixed, some account of the author’s life; by T. Smollett, M. D.

London: Printed for A. Millar, 1756.
"Migrar" by José Manuel Mateo and Javier Martínez Pedro

Winner of the Bologna Children's Fair Award, purchased for the Children's Literature Collection at the Guadalajara Book Fair.
Jewish handmade pop-up card
Page from "Pop Wuj"

Version by Adrián I. Chávez with illustrations by Diego Rivera