

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

February 2007

OLIN LIBRARY RECEIVES GIFT FROM PROFESSOR YOSHIKO SAMUEL

Yoshiko Samuel, professor of Asian languages and literatures, retired in the summer of 2006. She donated her entire collection of about 540 Japanese books to Olin Library. The collection is now fully cataloged and is available in the stacks. The books are primarily in the following fields:

- Feminist theory
- Japanese literature of all time periods
- Japanese history and sociology
- Literary criticism

Professor Samuel came to the United States in 1960. She taught Japanese language at Antioch College in Ohio from 1962 to 1974 before returning to graduate school. After receiving her doctor of philosophy from Indiana University, Professor Samuel came to Wesleyan as an adjunct professor of Japanese language and literature in 1979. She became an assistant professor in 1982, received tenure in 1989, and was promoted to professor in 1998. At Wesleyan, Yoshiko taught Japanese literature survey courses covering the period from the Meiji Restoration in 1868 through the post Second World War period. She specialized in the themes of nativism and post-colonialism, and she also taught courses in the literature and

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WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

From the University Librarian

“LIBROCIDÉ” IN WARTIME

Natural disasters are responsible for the decimation of libraries while authoritarian regimes take their toll on libraries through the willful destruction of literature considered to be offensive to the government. Authoritarian governments are often responsible for the execution of librarians who either attempt to save books or to speak out against censorship.

The effects of war are especially destructive to libraries. The following is an account by Marica Sapro-Ficovic, member of the FAIFE (Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) Committee; Marica and I are colleagues on this committee. She is also the coordinator for the Dubrovnik Regional Public Library Network. She coined the term “librocide” to describe her experiences as a librarian during the recent wars in the Balkans. Marica’s forthcoming doctoral dissertation for the University of Zagreb is entitled: *The State and Role of Libraries in War: An Example from Dubrovnik, Croatia*. The dissertation includes numerous interviews with librarians who worked in libraries during the bombings in the early 1990s.

I visited with Marica and her family in the Old City in December 2006. Her story of the Balkan war, which I have edited slightly, is written from the perspective of a librarian, and I share it here to honor library colleagues who literally have risked their lives to provide library service to people even under the most extreme circumstances:

“During the 1991/92 homeland war in Croatia, 195 public, school, academic, and other libraries were seriously damaged or completely destroyed. Some libraries have not yet recovered, including the Research Library in Dubrovnik. Because Dubrovnik is listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, the destruction of its cultural monuments and libraries becomes even more complex. The Dubrovnik City Library was open all the time and provided service to users; circulation of books increased threefold.

“As the threat of war increased, we listened to the radio, read the newspapers, and waited to see what would happen. The last day of September, 1991 our colleague from the administrative staff didn’t come to work. Her husband was killed by a handmade bomb. She cried on the phone that we should all go home; two military planes were flying very low. I ran home, took the kids and some clothes, and went to the Old City. I believed, like many others, that the Old City wouldn’t be attacked, given its UNESCO status. But the bombings began. On October 1, water and electricity were cut off. We ran out of food except bread from the main bakery. There was lack of information; we just waited in dark and fear.

“I couldn’t and didn’t want to leave my home, parents, city, or job. I went to work in the library every day, except the days we were alerted of direct bombings. There were seven librarians at the City Library. The majority of our regular users stayed in the city and continued to visit. They were joined by a new group of users/refugees. There were many old people, children, and women from the occupied villages. Other new users were soldiers, who came to the library between shifts. Because there was no electricity, books seemed to be the only entertainment in town. But not only that, it had therapeutic and other positive effects. Regarding the lack of information, the book was the only means to shorten a long and uncertain time.

“The winter and cold started. We didn’t have heat, so we worked in coats, caps, and gloves. The library didn’t have a direct hit, but the roof was damaged. When entering the library, we had to jump over a big hole full of water.

“The heaviest bombardment of the city occurred on December 6, 1991. A young man was killed while taking pictures of the bombs falling on the main street. He was the son of the library director.”

— BARBARA JONES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

SERIALS REVIEW 2007

Wesleyan's library collections are as old as the university itself, and they have evolved over the past 175 years to support changes in the learning, teaching, and research requirements of students and faculty. Collection changes are implemented through professional collection management by librarians working closely together with the faculty. It is crucial that collections be evaluated and reviewed on an ongoing basis in order to make important decisions about which materials to retain and which might be cancelled to make funds available for resources that more closely reflect the curriculum and current research needs. It is particularly important to review serials subscriptions—journals, magazines, newspapers, and databases that represent ongoing monetary commitments. Serials subscriptions now account for a full two-thirds of the library acquisitions budget. The cost of staff time to service the collections as well as our shrinking shelf space to house them must be considered above and beyond just subscription costs.

Subscription Cancellations — a brief history: The library conducted several major cancellation reviews for subscriptions beginning in 1975, while the most recent one occurred in 2001. The following are some of the reasons that we now must initiate another full subscriptions review:

- *Price increases:* Subscription price increases are the obvious and often immediate motivation for a review. Periodicals in print format increase about 8 percent annually, while book prices rise about 5 percent each year. Pricing for electronic resources such as journals, indexes, and databases do not increase predictably, but they rose 6.1 percent last year. Until last year the acquisitions budget was increased about 5 percent annually, so it is increasingly the case that the acquisitions budget is not keeping pace with costs.
- *Curricular changes:* As teaching departments change their focus, and as new faculty with different interests are hired, other resources are needed to support new programs. A review of subscriptions, on a regular basis, allows us to determine those resources that might be cancelled in order to make funds available for resources that more closely reflect current teaching and research requirements.

- *Technological improvements:* Many journals have become available online, and in some cases they are available only online. In recent years the quality of online text and graphics has steadily improved. The automation of interlibrary loan and document delivery services have improved to the point that it is quicker, easier, and more cost effective to obtain research materials from other institutions that are not often used at Wesleyan but nevertheless impact heavily on subscription and maintenance costs. Online resources until the last few years consisted primarily of periodical indexes, journal articles and some reference materials. Now the universe of materials available online extends to audio and video recordings, graphical images and statistical data sets. Subscriptions to these newer kinds of online materials are especially costly, and funds must be available to accommodate them within the parameters of our budget. The librarians and faculty will undertake another major serials subscriptions review in the spring of 2007 to insure that our collections accurately reflect Wesleyan's teaching and research needs in the most cost effective way.

- *Print format cancellations this fiscal year:* The librarians have worked closely with faculty since 2001 to convert many paper science serial publications to an online only format that has saved the university approximately \$92,000. Last semester we further extended this effort to minimize format duplication of our serial subscriptions in all disciplines. The purpose of this intensive effort has been to ensure that the library does not overspend the acquisitions budget for the current fiscal year. As part of the broader university plan to reduce reliance on the endowment, the library did not receive an annual acquisitions budget increase for this fiscal year.

Unfortunately, however, price increases for print periodicals, electronic journals, databases and monographs have surged unabated. In order to prevent a projected \$115,000 expenditure in excess of the budget this year, we conducted a print journal review this past fall. The cancellation of print journals that duplicate titles already included in our electronic journal collections has realized about \$53,000 in savings. The remaining \$62,000 will be saved this year by trimming expenditures for monographs, videos, CDs, and other one-time purchases. This winter and spring the

library will again work with faculty towards a comprehensive review of periodical and other subscriptions, regardless of format, to decide if further savings can be identified by cancellation of those titles that are underused.

Procedures for the 2007 Review

Early in 2007 the library began to determine the level of funding that will be required during the next five years to cover cost increases for both serial and monographic acquisitions in order to accommodate requests for new resources. This has provided us with a target amount by which we will need to reduce serials spending for FY 2008.

The Collections Group, a committee of librarians who regularly evaluate, select, and acquire ongoing subscription commitments will compile a list of library serials and data sets in all formats (electronic or paper) to be considered for possible cancellation. Not all serial titles can even be considered for cancellation. Many of the journals to which we subscribe electronically are bundled together in large packages of journals by their vendors, and we are not permitted to pick and choose among the individual titles. We cannot, for example, cancel two or three journals from Project Muse to which we may not want to subscribe. Other packages of online journals are purchased through consortial arrangements with other universities that bind us to subscribe to certain resources. The list for review will contain **only** those titles whose cancellation will result in a direct cost savings for the library without jeopardizing access to other titles that are part of a larger package.

The Collections Group and the library liaisons will work closely with the faculty of each department to review the list in order to determine those titles that might be cancelled in order to achieve our budgetary goal as described above. The review will occur during spring term with the intention of cancelling the designated subscriptions for FY 2008.

For more information about the details of the 2007 subscription review project, please contact ptully@wesleyan.edu or call at extension 3887.

— PAT TULLY, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

LIBRARY BEGINS ETHNOGRAPHY STUDY

Since the tremendous success of the prototype Information Commons in 2005, many students have asked for additional space. Others have remarked that they like the rest of the reference area as it is, or they have asked for yet a different type of facility.

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politics of postwar Japan, and Japanese women writers. Yoshiko is especially interested in Oē Kenzaburo and Yukio Mishima, two important postwar Japanese writers, as well as minority writers in Japan, such as Koreans, and the Burakumin, a Japanese minority group who are indistinguishable from other Japanese other than their original family trades and the places where they live. Among her own writings are *Twelve Years, Twelve Animals*, a children's book based on Japanese folk tales, published in 1972, *The Life and Works of Oē Kenzaburo* (1981), as well as several scholarly journal articles. Although Yoshiko continues to reside in Middletown, she will be sorely missed as an active member of the Wesleyan University faculty.

Considering the fact that Olin Library does not have a librarian or other staff member who reads Japanese, it was not an easy task to catalog these books in such a short period of time. We thank Shari Swanson, a library cataloger who received her bachelor of arts in history at Wesleyan in 1979 for this accomplishment. Shari began work as a cataloger in Olin library in 1981, and she has become an expert at the art of transliteration with experience in cataloging books for the library in Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, and Russian. With Yoshiko's collection, Shari first looked at each book for clues in English such as an ISBN number or a publisher's name in English with which she could search the WorldCat database to determine if the item had already been cataloged by another library. If so, she could use that electronic bibliographical record for the Wesleyan catalog. For those titles that had no such information in English, Shari learned a sufficient number of Japanese characters to identify author's names, titles or publishers in order to identify the book in WorldCat. For the remaining books that she was unable to locate in WorldCat, Shari and Yoshiko worked together to either locate the item in WorldCat or to create original catalog records that were then contributed to the database and which may now be shared by other libraries who might acquire those books in the future. Shari will retire in June of 2007 after 26 years of expert and meticulous cataloging work in the library, and she too will be greatly missed in the library by the many people who have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her.

—ALAN J. NATHANSON, BIBLIOGRAPHER/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

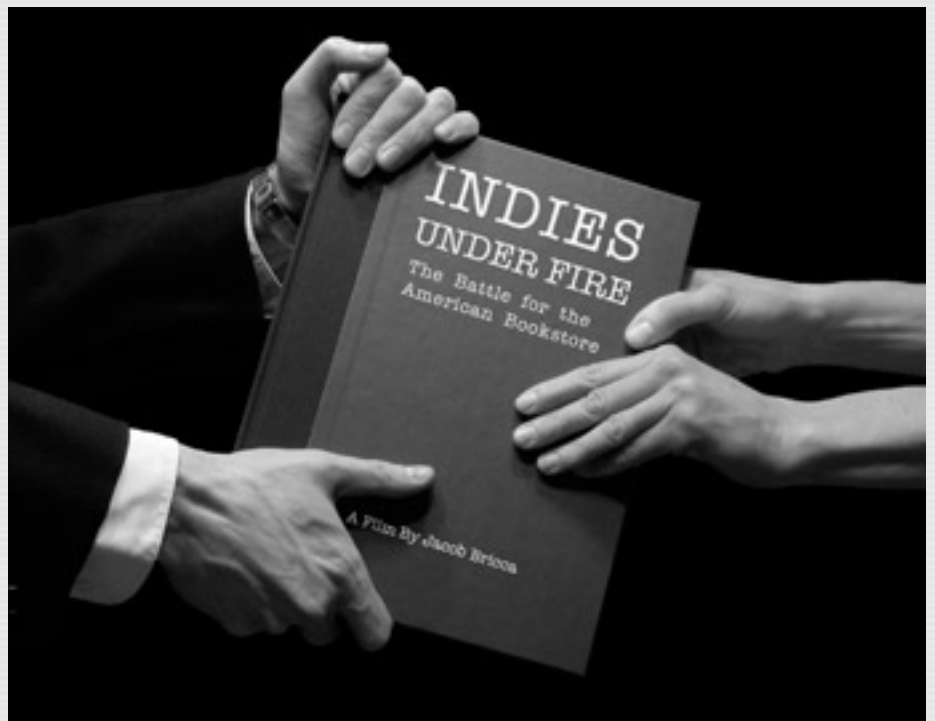
On Tuesday March 6, 2007 the Friends will host the Connecticut premiere of "Indies Under Fire: The Battle for the American Bookstore," a 2006 film by Jacob Bricca, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Film Studies at Wesleyan. It is a documentary about the disappearance of many independent bookstores in the United States in recent years as a consequence of "big box" retail bookstores. The screening will take place at Wesleyan's Goldsmith Family Cinema at 7:30 p.m., and it will feature a talk by Bricca with additional commentary by a local independent bookstore owner. Further information about the film is available at www.indiesunderfire.com/index.html.

Your support of the Friends enables us to sponsor events that should encourage discussions on a wide variety of topics related to books and library collections. This past fall, Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., a renowned letterpress printer and designer of artists' books, presented workshops to four classes at Middletown High School along with two sessions at the Green Street Art Center. We hope that he inspired students with a passion for art. Kennedy began in a computer career, and he became interested in the printing press as a means to make the printed word accessible to all. His talk on October 24, 2006, "Put the Message in the Hands of the People and Move On" drew a capacity crowd to the Smith Reading Room in Olin Library. Hundreds of his art posters were displayed on the Reading Room tables, and an exhibit of his works was available for viewing in Special Collections and Archives. Kennedy showed how artists can make a difference in the world by teaching a group of Wesleyan students and community artists to design and print posters in order to raise money for Middletown High School and the Green Street Arts Center.

The Friends are finalizing details on a project that will make the Nathan Comfort Starr Collection of Arthuriana accessible to our users. This collection was donated to the library in 1981 and it consists of approximately 700 books and manuscripts. It is one of the finest collections of materials on King Arthur in existence, and it has remained one of the library's "hidden" or uncataloged treasures. Recent Friends' fund-raising efforts will allow the library to take the first steps in processing this important collection, and we anticipate future donations will permit us to complete this project.

We invite you to attend events sponsored by the Friends and encourage you to browse our ongoing book sale on the first floor of Olin Library. If you would like to become a Friend of the Wesleyan University Library, membership information is available at www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends/membership.html or by contacting me at extension 3897.

— JENNIFER HADLEY, LIBRARY ASSISTANT FOR SCORES & RECORDINGS/WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES



To better meet student requirements in future upgrades of our facilities, librarians and members of ITS are learning better ways of determining those needs and how to implement them.

This past fall semester Wesleyan and other similar institutions used grant funds to hire Nancy Foster, an anthropologist who specializes in the study of library and academic space, to educate us about useful ethnographic techniques for observation of student study space requirements.

Beginning in fall 2006 several librarians, a member of the Center for Faculty Career Development, and ITS staff began to use three methods to look closely at the study habits of Wesleyan students. This "ethnography group" recruited students to photograph various places in the library and elsewhere on campus that they use for study and other activities. Another group of students were given campus maps which they carried around during "a typical day," and they listed where and when they visited various locations. Yet a third group of students was invited to the space in the glassed-in area of the Science Library, provided paper and markers, and asked to draw a diagram of how they would design that space for study purposes if we could hire them as our architect. The ethnography group continues to meet in order to refine the results of these observations.

The ethnography group has already discovered from these exercises that we should provide a wide variety of types of spaces and resources. The group's next issue will be to ascertain possible funding sources as well as how and where to provide new facilities. Since the psychology journals in the glassed-in area will soon be relocated elsewhere, that space will likely be the first location to consider implementing some of the ideas we have learned from our early efforts as amateur ethnographers.

— DIANE KLARE, HEAD OF REFERENCE AND KENDALL HOBBS, REFERENCE/INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN

NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY CATALOG RECORDS

Olin Library has, for several years, subscribed to Naxos Music Library, an amazing resource that brings an additional collection of nearly 4,000 CDs of mostly classical and world music into the library through the Internet, and playable on any computer on the campus. Until last spring, it was impossible to search for these

recordings without going directly to the Naxos Web site itself and looking them up individually. While this was not a particularly difficult thing to do, it was not generally something that came immediately to mind when students were unable to find a particular recording by searching the online catalog for it.

Last spring, the library entered individual bibliographical records for nearly all of the Naxos recordings directly into Caleb, the online catalog. Each record displays just as though Wesleyan owned the CD itself, but instead of a call number there is a direct link to the recording within the Naxos Music Library. From the catalog, one can follow this link and listen to the recording immediately. (If the listener wishes to continue searching the catalog while listening to the music, it is best to hold down the shift key while clicking the link to Naxos, so a new window opens up to play the music.) Many individual CDs contain multiple works, often by different composers; the detail in these catalog records is of tremendous importance. If the Naxos Music Library contains an online recording of string quartets by Haydn, Mozart, and Bartok, then each of these works is searchable in Caleb, and each will match the same online recording.

Since Naxos consists mostly of Western classical music and world music, you probably are not going to find your favorite new CD there. But Naxos is especially useful for students who are looking for a piece of music for classes or lessons when the library may not own the individual CD of that particular work. Now that we have entered the age of integrated lists of online and print resources within the same catalog, it should not be at all surprising that library users can go directly from an online catalog entry for a musical work directly to the work itself.

— ALEC MCLANE, MUSIC LIBRARIAN



LIBRARY DEPARTMENTAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OLIN LIBRARY, FRONT DESK	685-2660
REFERENCE AND RESEARCH	685-3873
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT	685-3877
RESERVE OFFICE	685-3852
INTERLIBRARY LOAN.....	685-3876
ACQUISITIONS DEPARTMENT	685-3834
CATALOGING DEPARTMENT	685-3845
SERIALS DEPARTMENT	685-3888
ART LIBRARY	685-3327
PSYCHOLOGY LIBRARY	685-2770
PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT	685-3875
SCIENCE LIBRARY	685-2860
SCORES AND RECORDINGS	685-3898
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/ARCHIVES....	685-3864
WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES.....	685-3826



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Check It Out is a publication of the Wesleyan University Libraries that has been published three to four times annually since 1998. Its purpose is to offer timely information to students, faculty, and staff of recent developments in library technologies and resources available at Wesleyan that will assist them in using the libraries in the most effective ways possible.

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