Mardigian Library Welcomes New Director, Elaine M. Logan

Elaine M. Logan joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn community in October 2011 as the Mardigian Library's new director. Elaine comes to us from Eastern Michigan University where she has been the Associate University Librarian since 2007.

From 1998 to 2007, Elaine served in various roles, including director, for library and information services at Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert/Pfizer. She led a team of professionals responsible for delivering information world-wide, managing an information repository, and implementing database management software. Elaine worked closely with scientists and researchers to create new paradigms for integrating published and proprietary information, as well as finding innovative ways to use information and technology to speed the invention of new medicines.

Elaine is not a stranger to UM-Dearborn. From 1987 to 1991, Elaine worked as a cataloger at the Mardigian Library where she transformed the technical services department to an all electronic workflow. She also has ties to the Ann Arbor campus, where she obtained her Master of Arts in Library and Information Science, and where her husband is the Director of Communications for University Housing Administration.

Serving in numerous leadership roles within Michigan’s library community, Elaine currently is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Library of Michigan. She served as the Board Chair from 2006 to 2009, and is also a member of the Library of Michigan Foundation Board. Since 2011 Elaine has served as Board Chair for the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS), an organization that supports Michigan and Indiana libraries. Most recently, she was elected chair for the Coalition of Library Directors (COLD), an association of the library directors at the 15 state supported universities in Michigan.

The possibility of a major library renovation is among the top issues for Elaine as she assumes her role as director of the Mardigian Library. The library is now over 30 years old, and today’s students have different study and space needs. The transition from paper to electronic resources enables us to look at possible new ways to use our space. Students need services that support all of their intellectual needs, such as research, tutoring, writing assistance, and collaborative work spaces. The library space needs to change in order to meet the needs of 21st century students.

Elaine’s combination of academic and corporate experience; her work with faculty, students, scientists, and researchers; and her management expertise will be valuable assets in her new role as library director.

Welcome Elaine Logan!
We’re excited to announce the addition of two new digital bookplates, acknowledging the ongoing support of William A. Gosling and a recent donation from Susan Wineberg.

William (Bill) Gosling is University Librarian Emeritus of the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, as well as Curator Emeritus of their Children’s Literature Collection, Special Collections Library. Before retiring in 2008, Bill spent three years helping to organize and shape the early development of the Children’s Literature Collection, gaining an extensive knowledge of this very popular literature. Bill works closely with library staff of the Mardigian Library and faculty from the School of Education in shaping and building our Juvenile Historic Collection to meet the needs of our students and faculty. In addition to donating multiple gifts to enrich our collection, he generously volunteers his time to locate and acquire materials, share his extensive expertise, and provide support of conservation efforts.

Susan Wineberg has wonderful childhood memories of being read to every night, and she fondly remembers having many Little Golden Books. When Susan and her brothers were too old for their children’s books, the books were given to Goodwill for other children to enjoy. Later in life, Susan longed to see these books again, and she began collecting the titles she remembered so fondly. Susan’s gift to the Mardigian Library includes many Little Golden Books, which will be a wonderful addition to our Juvenile Historic Collection. When we were working with Susan to design her bookplate, we asked her which Little Golden Book had been her favorite as a child, and she replied, “The Color Kittens.” We were thrilled when Ransom House graciously gave permission for us to use the cover illustration from this children’s classic as the basis for Susan’s bookplate.

As the donations from Susan and Bill are processed, the titles will be linked to their respective bookplates. You can see both new bookplates at the library’s digital bookplate home page: http://library.umd.umich.edu/eBookplates/

For details about making a gift to the library, go to http://library.umd.umich.edu/Us/give.php or call Susan Flannery at 313-593-5236.
In November, the Mardigian Library’s Events Committee sponsored a presentation by UM-Dearborn alumnus Joseph Cabadas. Mr. Cabadas, a 1990 graduate with a B.A. in Political Science, is an award-winning author and reporter with 15 years of writing experience in the areas of automotive news, business, feature stories, and public relations. During his interesting presentation and slide show, Mr. Cabadas discussed his newest book, ‘40 Ford: Evolution * Design * Racing * Hot Rodding, the story of the design and manufacture of this iconic American automobile.

This latest book by Mr. Cabadas joins his other titles in the library’s collection: The American Auto Factory (MBI Publications, 2002) and River Rouge: Ford’s Industrial Colossus (MBI Publications, 2004). The library’s special collection of books by alumni authors and faculty is located near the Circulation Desk on the library’s first floor. We invite you to take a look at the many wonderful titles authored by our alumni the next time you are in the library.

The library plans to host more of these events to bring recognition to our alumni as well as our faculty and staff authors. If you would like to be notified when we host other events, please contact Sue Flannery at sasbury@umd.umich.edu or 313-593-5236.

Finding the Needle in a Haystack

The Mardigian Library subscribes to over 270 databases that contain articles from over 20,000 journals. It can be overwhelming and time consuming to search one database after another, wading through thousands of results, and eliminating articles that are duplicated from one database to another. To our users, it can feel a little like looking for a needle in a haystack.

During the fall 2010 semester, the library tested a new search discovery tool called Summon. Now implemented and fully functioning, Summon provides a new way to simultaneously search numerous library subscription databases and the library catalog for books, journal articles, e-books, and other materials available to our students and faculty. Summon is the best place to begin all types of scholarly research, with tools to help limit searches, save references, and read abstracts. Valuable information such as abstracts, subject headings, online full text availability, basic bibliographical information, and more is conveniently displayed within the results list for quick and easy review.

Although research begins with a single simple search box, Summon also provides researchers with a wide range of functions and features to customize, expand, or narrow their research. Results are delivered in a relevancy-ranked list and may be easily refined using functions such as filters, facets, and sort options. For example, the “scholarship” filter limits results to “scholarly” publications, including peer-reviewed material, which are preferred by most professors. Faceted searching allows users to narrow the results by content type, subject, library location, language, publication dates, and more.

Discovery tools like Summon are critical to helping students and faculty access a wide variety of materials in a single search, maximizing access to the many resources available in the Mardigian Library.

To try Summon, our new search discovery tool, go to the library website (http://library.umd.umich.edu/) and enter your search in the search box located on the upper left side of the home page.

Do you have an e-reader? Did you get one as a gift during the recent holiday season? Kindle e-readers containing fiction and non-fiction titles were recently added to our collection. To help encourage the transition to e-books, we selected titles from New York Times bestseller lists and other listings, such as the American Library Association’s Notable Books for Adults. The four books being read and discussed this year by the campus book club were also added to several of the Kindles. Other Kindles have course readings for classes, thanks to collaboration with faculty members. Patrons can suggest additional titles to be purchased for the Kindles through an online request form.

E-readers are quickly becoming commonplace, and both Amazon and Barnes & Noble recently released new versions of their e-readers. The Kindles give our students the opportunity to try reading a book or their class materials on an e-reader. By providing some popular titles, we hope to entice students to try the e-readers. So far, the Kindles are highly popular and frequently checked out.