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Janet Crayne: The Years at the University of Michigan, 1993-2019

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ABSTRACT

This narrative celebrates the career of Janet Crayne, the bulk of whose service was at the University of Michigan (U-M). Written by Janet's successor as U-M's Librarian for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, it offers a unique perspective on Janet's many achievements and her legacy at U-M and beyond. Through conversations with Janet and her colleagues, the author finds that, even more than her love of books, her intimate knowledge of the SEEE region, and her belief in the many vital roles that libraries play, what made this great collector truly great was her passion for people and for service.

KEYWORDS

Collection development; Yugoslav wars (1991-2001); Bosnia; Crayne; University of Michigan; Ardis

Even before I had the honor of being hired as Janet Crayne's successor as the University of Michigan's Librarian for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (SEEEES) in 2019, I knew that I'd be trying to fill some very large shoes. In my first weeks on the job, the legacy I had picked up became increasingly daunting. The way that every coworker I met said, with a hint of warning, "Oh! You're the new Janet! Good luck!" spoke to the presence she had in the library, the scope and impact of her career's work. It was telling that whenever someone came to my office for the first time they would, without fail, exclaim about how unrecognizable the space was. Every flat surface in Janet's office had been covered by documents, collection items of interest, reference works, and more. I did inherit one tall file cabinet filled with neatly organized folders, most of which document the history of various acquisitions. Especially to someone of the Google Docs generation, such as myself, this material trace of Janet's workspace and methods spoke to the capaciousness of her mind, the volume and diversity of her development efforts, and her personal knowledge of the vast collection that was her charge. The same impressions of Janet were reinforced when, shortly after being hired, I attended the annual convention of the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEEES) in San Francisco and introduced myself as "the new Janet" to my new vendor partners and fellow SEEEES librarians. Those impressions then fully materialized when I had the pleasure of developing a personal relationship with Janet (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Janet’s U-M library staff photo. © 2013 regents of the University of Michigan. This photograph was taken by Austin Thomason and is held by the Bentley Historical library. It is licensed under the CC-BY-NC 4.0 license.

By Way of Introduction

Today, having a fuller grasp of Janet’s many contributions to U-M and the field more broadly, I feel a profound if also intimidating sense of honor and privilege in attempting to capture the essence of her career on the pages of this special issue of *Slavic and East European Information Resources (SEEIR)*—a publication to which Janet actively contributed in manifold ways over the years. The professional portrait that I’ve endeavored to compose is based on discussions with Janet herself (we try to meet regularly for a meal – and would do so more regularly if it weren’t for my beloved rugrats!) as well as with colleagues from the University of Michigan (U-M) and beyond, and from other documentary sources. The profile begins by tracing the path, and the important people along it, that brought Janet to U-M. Once she arrives in Ann Arbor, I make a brief detour to describe the history of the U-M Library’s SEES collections up to that point, recognizing the individuals whose legacies Janet herself built upon and to whom she’s first to acknowledge her indebtedness. Next, though Janet achieved much in her 26 years at U-M (1993–2019), it

was very shortly after taking the job that she found herself starting the projects for which she would come to be most esteemed, namely, her activities around the Yugoslav Wars (1991–2001). This period then serves as a narrative centerpiece; not because it necessarily contains her greatest accomplishments, but because in her activities of that time we can see so clearly the qualities that make Janet such a remarkable librarian, colleague, and human being. I also use the war years as a reference point, drawing those key qualities out of it. Those are: 1) her prescience and perspicacity regarding the importance of distinctive collections (today's buzzword in academic libraries) and the possibilities of the digital future; 2) the importance she places on and the energy she devotes to relationships; and 3) her inherent commitment to service and to advocating for the people, seen and unseen, around her. The latter half of this piece elaborates on those qualities, in the course of which descriptions I hope to identify several more career collecting landmarks.

Early Pathways

Like many of us, Janet's path to SEES librarianship was not a direct one. She does have ties to the region, with strong Polish roots on her father's side and Ukrainian and Belarusian on her mother's, though this did not lead to a strong personal interest early in life. While she vaguely recalls her maternal grandmother singing to her in Russian as a very young child, when in high school it came time to study a foreign language, she opted for French. As it happened, it was her French instructor, fluent in a dozen other languages, who awoke Janet's interest in Russian. She became enchanted by the language's sounds, and that sparked a rapidly intensifying passion for that part of the world. She pursued that passion through her tertiary education, studying Russian and later Yugoslav literatures, as well as Russian Art History, with an eye not on the library but on the Academy proper. After earning a Certificate for Russian Language Study from Indiana University (1970), Janet spent her undergraduate and graduate careers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, continuing with a focus on 20th-century Russian literature. It was also at Wisconsin-Madison that Janet got her first taste of academic librarianship, when she picked up some hours in the College Library as a graduate assistant. Janet wrote her minor thesis on Russian influences on the early works of abstract painter Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944). For her dissertation, she turned to the life and works of Benedikt Livshits (1887–1938), one of Russian Futurism's founders and key philosophers and a victim, like his friend Osip Mandelstam (1891–1938), of Stalin's purges.

It was while working on her dissertation and thinking seriously about what life after its deposit would be like that Janet began to question whether the professoriate was where she truly belonged. The Civil Service exam suggested that she might excel in a hospital setting. She gave it a whirl, rotating on three

medical units as a unit clerk, and she enjoyed the fast pace and the need to think quickly on her feet. However, when a position opened in Harvard College Library's Slavic Department, she felt compelled to pursue it.

Janet landed the position of Library Assistant IV at Harvard in 1981, where she quickly felt at home in what many of us appreciate as the more humane world of the library. At that time, Hugh Olmsted headed the library's Slavic Department and Slavic Reference Service, and Janet considers him an important early mentor. Olmsted instructed her in cataloging and advised her in areas of practical experience. Janet recalls, in particular, Olmsted devising an independent study assignment that had her create a collection development policy modeled on the Slavic Department. He encouraged her to attend the Slavic Librarians' Workshop, for instance, and even helped secure funding for her to do so. When a position came up at Cornell's library, Olmsted encouraged Janet to apply. She didn't get the job, and, she readily admits, rightly so; but she remembers it as a valuable dry run on the job market that would serve her well down the road. More than anything, though, it was Olmsted's work as a bibliographer *par excellence* that really inspired her. She'd found her calling. And so, while at Harvard, where she would stay for five years, she further invested in a library career by enrolling in the University of Rhode Island-Kingston's Masters in Library and Information Science program. Janet was awarded her MLIS in 1986.

Degree in hand, Janet began looking for positions outside of Harvard (and the other part-time gigs she'd picked up in Boston-area public libraries), where she might diversify her experience and enjoy roles of increased independence and impact. A cataloging position at Princeton looked promising, but Janet was ultimately grateful to have ended up, in 1987, at the University of Virginia's Alderman Library, where she again benefited from a wise mentor in the person of Angelika S. Powell. Virginia was a good fit, too, because it afforded her the opportunity to explore different roles. Janet started out in an original cataloging position, but after a few years took on reference responsibilities as well. When the Berlin Wall came down near the end of 1989, Angelika had to go to East Germany to try and reclaim, as Janet recalls, the family home in that formerly closed-off region. Before departing in the early '90s, Angelika asked Janet to fill in as Bibliographer in her absence. That absence lasted longer than expected, so until she left Virginia in 1993, Janet found herself as *de facto* Slavic Bibliographer, handling all acquisitions, while still working as a reference librarian and cataloging all Slavic materials to boot.

Janet transitioned into collection development during an important and exciting time for SEEES acquisitions. During the late Soviet period there were essentially two formal vendors of books from the region, the German outfit Kubon & Sagner and the French firm Les Livres Étrangers (LLE). Bibliographers hand-selected titles from pre-publication catalogs like LLE's *Novye knigi*. When the Soviet Union collapsed in late 1991, Les Livres

Étrangers, for one, fell with it, but the loss was well compensated for by the host of new vendors who appeared as major players on the market, vendors such as MIPP, ATC, Russian Press Service, and East View Information Services.¹ In other words, Janet came into her own as SEES collecting was developing into the scene we recognize today, where the librarian works closely with multiple vendors while also enjoying more automated purchasing through approval profiles. It was in that rapidly changing and expanding environment that Janet would come to thrive.

University of Michigan Slavica Before Janet

It was at the University of Michigan, her next and last academic library, that Janet would perform her most impactful work – and quickly too, undertaking in her first few years some of the projects for which she’s most widely recognized to this day. But before launching into Janet’s career at U-M, it is necessary to pause and lay the deeper foundation that Janet would build so much upon. While the university established a Department of Russian Languages and Literatures in 1910, and expanded it to encompass all Slavic Languages and Literatures by 1952, it would be a few more years yet before scholarly interest, ignited by the Soviet Union’s aggressive expansion into Eastern Europe after World War II, would be complemented by similar expertise in the library. The library set up a separate Slavic Cataloging Unit in 1962, headed by Herbert Dahlstrom (1897–1972), to deal with the materials’ unique language challenges, though acquisitions were still handled centrally. In 1968, however, Dahlstrom was succeeded by Joseph A. Placek (1929–2020), who soon also became Head of the newly-created Slavic Division.² Placek also remained Head of Slavic Cataloging, and Adam Halicki-Conrad, former Head of [general] Acquisitions, was moved into the new, specialized role of Head of Slavic Acquisitions. We might also view 1968 as the year when the U-M Library initiated its enduring emphasis on South Slavic collections, with the hiring of Dana Jekich (1929–2018, born Danica Jekić, in Serbia) as an acquisitions and cataloging specialist for Serbo-Croatian materials. For a brief period in the early ‘70’s the Slavic Division was headed by Peter Kudrik (1906–1991), though he moved to Stanford, where he spent the rest of his career.³ With Kudrik’s departure, Placek returned to head the Slavic Division. In the mid-‘80s, the Slavic Division was joined with other international divisions under the broader umbrella of Area Programs. Placek retired in 1986, and Jekich assumed his role until mid-1987, when Barbara Galik, coming from a similar position at the University of Washington (Seattle), was appointed Head of the Slavic Division and Coordinator of Area Programs. At this point, the Slavic Division consisted of two professional librarians (one dedicated to South Slavic) and four paraprofessional positions. Galik quickly relocated again, accepting an Associate University Librarian (AUL) position at

Miami University, Ohio, in 1990. For the next 18 months or so, Jekich would again serve as acting Head, until Alan Pollard (dates unknown) took up the mantle in mid-1991. Pollard was something of a unique hire at the time, as he came from a more conventional academic background. A Harvard grad, he earned his PhD in Russian History from the University of California (UC)-Berkeley in 1968, and served as Assistant Professor of History at both Rhode Island College and Indiana University. He did get his MLS in 1973 and worked as Slavic Bibliographer at Princeton for five years before coming to U-M. Pollard remained with Michigan until his retirement in 2004.

Crayne at U-M

Janet joined U-M's Slavic Division on October 1, 1993, hired at the Associate Librarian rank into the roles of South Slavic Bibliographer and Supervisor of Slavic cataloging and acquisitions functions, while also offering South Slavic selection and reference support. She maintained these roles for the next nine years, during which time she rose to the rank of full Librarian. In 2002, Janet became Pollard's Assistant Head of what was by that time the Slavic and East European Division. She maintained many of her previous duties, save for supervision of Slavic cataloging, which role was taken over by Beth Snyder (who remains Head of Technical Services for International Studies today). With Pollard's departure in 2004, Janet became sole Head of the division. Finally, in 2013, after some reorganization, which also saw Area Programs rebranded as the International Studies Department, Janet's title changed one last time. Now Librarian for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Janet's focus could turn again more squarely to collection development and liaison activities.

For the theme of this special issue, and because the job's impacts are often more immediately palpable, Janet's collection development work will take center stage in this profile. However, I would be shamefully remiss if I did not reflect on Janet's lengthy experience in the role of Supervisor of Slavic Cataloging. Though perhaps less visible, those contributions were no less important. Cataloging and acquisitions processes were woefully antiquated when Janet arrived. She recalls that catalogers were still doing their work on paper, paper that would then be handed to other staff who would enter the data into the computer system. Things had been much more automated at Virginia, and so drawing on that experience, Janet saw to updating and streamlining the processes at her new institution. Again, the tremendous growth of the acquisitions landscape made such an overhaul all the more necessary: more books were coming in and they were arriving from more varied regions and multiple suppliers. Janet, in tandem with Beth Snyder, turned U-M's SEES acquisitions and cataloging into a well-oiled machine that could better keep up with the volume and variety of incoming materials,

and the framework she created for those functions remains in place today. Nor was her acquisitions and technical services expertise limited to SEES materials. Indeed, she helped define the library's cataloging processes and standards more broadly as Chair of the Library's Cataloging Policy Council from 1999 to 2005. In that role, Janet had particular impact on shaping policy around the cataloging of electronic resources, just when the landscape for such media was seeing explosive growth.

More important for Janet than the logistical know-how she gained from cataloging, however, were the attendant values the practice helped instill in her, values that, sadly, carry less and less weight anymore. In today's academic libraries, innovations like shelf-ready services see even large, lavishly-endowed research libraries gutting their technical services departments, especially of foreign language expertise, meaning that the librarian need not think so much about resource description. A potent change in title concisely reflects this shift: the role of *bibliographer* (literally, the "writer" or "recorder" of books) is a relative rarity today; its replacement, *selector* (as librarians with collection responsibilities are called at U-M), communicates equally well the role's divorce from resource description. By contrast, Janet was ardent in her belief that cataloging expertise is part and parcel of collection development. After all, the richest collection in the world, she'll tell you, is all but worthless if its contents are not discoverable; and discovery is possible thanks only to accurate and detailed cataloging. Happily, the U-M Library is bucking the trend of disinvestment in international cataloging expertise. Just for SEES materials, we boast a team of five full-time technical services specialists. While this no doubt testifies to a larger institutional commitment, it is difficult to imagine that we'd have this robust and stellar team were it not for Janet's vocal advocacy.

The Yugoslav Wars

It was as South Slavic Bibliographer that Janet began to perform some of the most impactful work of her career. This was because by the time she arrived in the role, the Yugoslav Wars (1991–2001) were well underway. Thanks to the Library's and the larger University's historic strength in Balkan Studies, Janet soon found herself immersed in activities based around the conflicts, though especially in Bosnia (1992–95) and later Kosovo (1995–99) because they tended to suffer the most violence. Naturally, she started collecting as many materials as she could from the region. This endeavor was facilitated greatly by personal connections she developed. For one, while familiar Western vendors could only get small amounts of materials from the regions during the war, Janet connected with a Turkish supplier with close ties in the area who was able to obtain a far greater volume and diversity of books. Similarly, Janet began to coordinate efforts with Robert (Bob) Donia and Professor of History

John Fine, both specialists on the region who, among other publications, coauthored *Bosnia and Hercegovina: A Tradition Betrayed* (1994). Donia made frequent visits to the war-ravaged region, and Sarajevo in particular, always bringing back large quantities of resources, especially newspapers. Donia was also diligent in collecting ephemeral materials like maps, posters, survival manuals, and pamphlets, items often ignored by vendors but prized by researchers.

Near the end of the Bosnian war, Janet herself went straight to the conflict zone, traveling to Slovenia and then Bosnia to acquire materials and establish new connections with publishers, vendors, and private individuals. Like Donia, Janet appreciated the value of daily and weekly newsprint resources as gold mines for historical research, and so she prioritized collecting those. Bosnia and Herzegovina's most important paper at the time was the Sarajevo-based leftist daily *Oslobođenje* ("Liberation"). Since the besieged Sarajevo was the epicenter of intensely fierce fighting, it was less reliable and less safe to acquire issues there. Fortunately, the paper maintained an office in Ljubljana, hence the inclusion of Slovenia on Janet's travel itinerary. The newspapers Janet amassed from the war period, which amounted to roughly a quarter million pages of newsprint across 50 different titles, became a multi-year microfilming project through the Slavic and East European Materials Project (SEEMP), with the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) doing the reformatting. That major undertaking was initiated in 2017, and just this April I received the final box of microfilm reels, which, all told, number nearly 200. After this initial trip, Janet would regularly return to Sarajevo to collect and connect. It was on these subsequent visits that Janet set up productive exchange arrangements with regional institutions and met partners like vendor Dragan Marković of University Press, who would become a major supplier for Bosnia and Croatia, sending, among other things, those critical regional newspapers on approval.

Back home in Ann Arbor, Janet also organized a number of large events dealing with the war, such as the 2005 exhibit titled "The Impact of War on Publishing and its Aftermath in Bosnia and Hercegovina." Other events brought scholars and librarians from the region to the U-M campus. For instance, in 1994, Janet shared in hosting Enes Kujundžić, Director of Bosnia's National and University Library, for a two-week visit to the University of Michigan. While here, Kujundžić gifted U-M a copy of the *Bosnian National Bibliography*. The hand-typed volume was not only an invaluable reference work; the document's more rough and rudimentary physical composition served as a material reminder of the vast differences in circumstance and resources between the Bosnian and US libraries. Crucially, Janet was mindful of the place of privilege she, the University of Michigan, and other US institutions held vis-à-vis the region whose materials she was collecting. Thus, her activities on this front were not merely acquisitive. As much as

she wanted to gather and preserve as many at-risk resources as possible, she devoted herself equally to helping the impacted region retain and rebuild its native collections and knowledge legacy. As happens in many conflict zones, institutions of cultural knowledge and heritage became fast targets of violence in the Yugoslav Wars. In this case the aggressors in Bosnia, whose goal was to erect a Serbian state that would encompass many Bosniak-majority areas, aimed to “cleanse” the region of its distinctive Bosnian heritage (Croatia, too, was targeted in the very same way). Hence, very early in the Bosnian War, the Bosnian National and University Library and the Oriental Institute, for instance, were shelled to rubble as part of the siege of Sarajevo.⁴ The latter, dedicated to the study of manuscripts and rare texts, had boasted one of the world’s richest collections of Oriental manuscripts with nearly 5,500 documents dating back as early as the 11th century.⁵ The Oriental Institute’s losses were, of course, largely irremediable. But to aid the National and University Library in rebuilding its collections, Janet, along with Donna Parmelee, a programming officer with U-M’s Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES), and some student assistants, set out to inventory every one of U-M’s books related to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Those of us who have attempted to form a comprehensive list of holdings relevant to a specific country or region appreciate what a difficult task it is. Janet’s and Donna’s efforts resulted in the three-volume *Bosniaca: A Bibliography of University of Michigan Library Holdings* (1997). Upon completion, Bob Donia and Professor John Fine personally delivered copies to Bosnia’s acting National Bibliographer Kemal Bakaršić, the University of Sarajevo’s Faculty of Philosophy, and the Institute for History. The bibliography was also made openly available online, allowing for easier consultation by other institutions and researchers. Additionally, so that a fuller picture might be formed of *bosniaca* abroad, Bakaršić created a website where libraries the world over could upload their own bibliographies.

Janet did not merely list books that ought to belong in Bosnian libraries. She also led the effort to reconstruct the destroyed institutions’ holdings. It became a vast, coordinated undertaking, with many US libraries donating duplicates from their own collections and some even acquiring materials on behalf of the Bosnian libraries. András Riedlmayer and Jeffrey Spurr of Harvard, Tania Vitvitsky of the Sabre-Svitlo Foundation, Kemal Bakaršić, and Norman Ross Publishing of New York were the initiative’s other key actors. Riedlmayer and Spurr, for instance, worked on tracking down and collecting copies (photographs, photocopies, microfilm) of Oriental Institute holdings made by researchers before the bombing.⁶ Norman Ross microfilmed the 101 reels worth of Yugoslav and Kosovar telephone directories whose donation and delivery to U-M Janet helped orchestrate (Figure 2). With government archives burned and refugees having their personal documents confiscated and destroyed when fleeing the region, telephone directories might serve as the



Figure 2. Janet with Serbian phonebook, from an article on the project that appeared in U-M's *the university record* in January, 2000. Image credit: Paul Jaronski, Michigan Photography.

only remaining record of a citizen's residency and property ownership, and so could prove invaluable to individuals seeking repatriation.⁷

Janet is quick to distinguish her more modestly scaled but librarian-driven book-sending initiative from UNESCO's much larger Sarajevo Library Assistance Programme, launched in 1995.⁸ As she explains it, UNESCO essentially sent out an open call for books and didn't screen any of the content. This of course created much additional labor on the receiving end as Bosnian librarians and staff would have to sift through great quantities of chaff to get to the wheat: books that were actually relevant to their collections. Janet further laments UNESCO's frequently bungled shipments as well, with deliveries going missing, sustaining significant damage enroute, or arriving with no advance notice and so having no planned secure storage location. Janet was likewise disappointed by the failure of the larger field of SEES librarianship to take a stance on the war. Ahead of the 1995 convening of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) in Warsaw, affiliated librarians held a pre-conference in Krakow. There Janet made a proposal to have the body openly condemn the destruction of the human record in Bosnia. A resolution was unanimously accepted but, alas, not put in the record, and ultimately no action was taken.

Together, Janet's many good works around the Yugoslav Wars form one of the most prominent parts of her legacy as a librarian at the University of Michigan. For many U-M colleagues and fellow SEES librarians afield, these same activities also epitomize the values and the commitments that formed the beating heart of Janet's professional practice. It is to a description of those key values and commitments that I will now turn, highlighting along the way how they translated into other significant acquisitions.

Key Values and Commitments

The first of Janet's professional qualities that I'll discuss is, perhaps, the most obvious and the one that speaks most directly to the theme of this "great collectors" issue, and that is her commitment to building not just strong but distinctive collections and her foresight, both in identifying which collecting areas might be of particular significance down the road and recognizing the possibilities of digital preservation. For instance, though Janet's predecessors initiated the focus on South Slavic collections, Janet's maintenance and enhancement of those collections was important and is paying real dividends now. This impact is borne out for me in the research interest I perceive on campus. Without question, most of the scholars and learners who reach out to me for research support are working on the Balkans/former Yugoslavia. The interest is understandable. Constituting a sort of confluence point where Asia, Europe, North Africa, and the Mediterranean world meet, the Balkan peninsula remains a zone of rich ethnic, religious, and political diversity. For example, while the geographically clustered countries Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia have closely related languages, they each have different majority religions. Croatia is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, Serbia – Eastern Orthodox, and Bosnia – Muslim. Moreover, different cultural identities have emerged within each country. And while the region is celebrated for how peaceably its different demographic groups cohabitate, that diversity can of course invite conflict too. Hard times inspire great art, and the tensions that built in communist Yugoslavia gave rise to a vibrant counterculture and set off a creative explosion that still resonates today. Further, most of the constituent states never found independent stability after Yugoslavia's dissolution in 1991–92. Instead, "bad governance, sluggish economies, corruption, and European ambivalence," as the International Crisis Group succinctly puts it, have kept the region foundering and have even given rise to occasional flare ups.⁹ These factors make the territory the site of avid scholarly attention.

Other Collection Development Commitments

One of the main ways Janet built distinctive collections was by broadening what constituted the SEEE region and centralizing traditionally marginalized areas. She was U-M's first SEEE librarian to collect Hungarian, for instance. Although her major buildup of Armenian collections leaps out as an especially illustrative example. Janet's predecessor, Alan Pollard, had started collecting Armenian materials in depth when he established ties, via Professor Kevork Bardakjian, with the Manoogian family, local philanthropists who actively promoted Armenian language and culture. Janet maintained a close connection with Bardakjian after Pollard's departure. The arrival of another esteemed faculty member, Professor Gerard Libaridian, in 1997 also quickly led to a very

important acquisition in the personal archive of Hunchakian Party activist Hampartzoum Arzoumanian (1896–1971).¹⁰ With that groundwork laid, when Janet assumed control of the collection she got to building in earnest. Janet committed so much money to Armenian materials, a separate fund was created in 2012 for that country alone. (Previously, modest funds for Armenian materials were drawn from the fund for Russia.) As ever, the effort was driven by personal and professional connections. For instance, Professor Libaridian also led Janet to a valuable acquisition when he learned that the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Watertown, Massachusetts was looking to liquidate its collection so long as the receiving institution would pay for shipping. The center provided Janet with an itemized inventory, and she brought in everything that was not a duplicate.

In 2014, Janet oversaw another sizable and prominent Armenian donation. Brothers Edward, Jonathan, Norman, and Robert Hogikyan (all U-M graduates, a couple of whom are today faculty with Michigan Medicine) sought to donate their parents' private library. The Hogikyans' father Azad (1919–1970) was an ethnic Armenian who lived in Turkey, emigrating to the United States after graduating from medical school in Istanbul. Azad eventually settled in the Detroit area yet remained deeply connected to his Armenian heritage and aspired to write about the country's history in his retirement. Books were the vehicle through which Azad maintained that connection; he sought out important volumes from antiquities dealers and brought back boxes of books on his regular trips back to his homeland. Thus, the Hogikyan collection featured many old, rare, and unique items on Armenian history, language, and culture. Janet not only handled the donation, she worked closely with the brothers to orchestrate the construction and installation of an oak case to house the collection's nearly 500 titles. This case lives in the main floor Gallery of U-M's Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, right around the corner from where the library displays such treasures as papyrus leaves from the oldest existing manuscript of St. Paul's epistles and an original double elephant folio of Audubon's *The Birds of America*, enabling the Azad and Margaret Hogikyan Armenian Studies Collection to serve as a visible and vibrant ambassador of the larger Armenian holdings (Figure 3). Thanks to the commitment of Beth Snyder and her technical services staff, the collection's holdings, although not available for circulation, is fully accessible for in-house use through the library's online catalog.

In 2020 we were pleased to see how this investment in collections aligned with increased scholarly activity, when the Armenian Studies Program got a large bump in status, becoming the Center for Armenian Studies. Though perhaps the greatest testament to the strength Janet brought to the Armenian collections is in our expert personnel. For the past several years, our library has



Figure 3. Janet pictured with, from the left, Vahe Sahakyan (presently senior research and information resources Specialist at U-M-Dearborn's Armenian research Center, Vahe was of immense help in cataloging the collection), Prof. Gerard Libaridian, and the brothers Robert, John, Norman, and Edward Hogikyan in front of the case that holds the Azad and Margaret Hogikyan Armenian Studies collection in U-M's hatcher graduate library. Photo credit: Peter Smith and the Center for Armenian Studies.

also been blessed with one of the country's few (full-time, permanent) Armenian cataloging specialists in the person of Armine Kirakosyan.

Similarly, Janet was almost single-handedly responsible for the rapid and substantial growth of our Modern Greek collections. Although U-M's Classics Department started teaching Modern Greek in 1990, when Janet arrived there was still no Classical Studies librarian to develop complementary collections. Janet began filling the gap, collaborating with Traianos Gagos, U-M Library's papyrologist, who also taught Modern Greek. Again, her timing was just right. In 1999, the Classics Department hired two powerhouse scholars in Professors Artemis Leontis and Vassilis Lambropoulos. The new faculty brought with them personal connections, which led to a rapid influx of library materials. The Library established the position of Field Librarian for Classical Studies in 2002, though Janet continued to manage Modern Greek collection development all the way up until her retirement in 2019, when its care was transferred to the Librarian for Classics.

Janet greatly expanded representation of Central Asia too. One substantial acquisition came when Professor Douglas Northrop, a Central Asia specialist, informed Janet that KIMEP University (formerly: Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research) in Almaty, Kazakhstan was dramatically downsizing its library and sought to donate its withdrawn books. Janet arranged to pay for an American library exchange student to go through the collection and send Janet a list. Unfortunately, some drama ensued. Another US librarian traveled to Almaty and selected books first-hand; then the remaining items Janet had selected were held hostage for a time

by the shipping company (who wanted to charge Janet for storage). But in the end the library was still rewarded with a precious caché of Soviet-era Kazakh government publications – “the kinds of things,” Janet adds, “that were being tossed by newly independent countries.”

Janet even went so far as to include Mongolia – a country wildly under-represented in US libraries – in her collecting for Central Asia, a gesture that has very recently proved quite fortuitous. While for years we lacked serious bibliographic and scholarly expertise on Mongolia, I recently connected with a new faculty member who is ethnically Mongolian and specializes on Mongolian Buddhism. She, in turn, invited me to partner with a grant-funded, interdisciplinary research group, called Centering the Northern Realms, which is entirely focused on the country.¹¹ As an affiliate of that group, I’ve gained invaluable insight that is enabling me to collect Mongolian materials more intentionally. At the time of revising this article, I just returned from a three-week visit to Mongolia with the Northern Realms group, where I was able to acquire some unique materials for the library and establish connections that will strengthen my collecting moving forward.

Exhibition Initiatives

Janet was also proactive in bringing these historical collections into the twenty-first century, so to speak, particularly when digital reformatting and things like digital exhibits were still in their nascent stages. The prime example of this kind of work is the “Travels in Southeastern Europe” project that she and Bob Donia created in the late ‘90s. Featuring nearly 200 full-text accounts of travel in the Balkans, with an emphasis on Bosnia and Herzegovina, “Travels in Southeastern Europe” was the first digital collection of its kind. The collection is still accessible now, and its age is made readily apparent by its relatively rudimentary appearance and functionality. This is no criticism. Rather, what may look like clunkiness today only testifies to the challenges and obstacles Janet and her collaborators encountered in creating the pioneering collection. Scanning, loading, and describing the English- and other Western European-language materials was tricky enough at the time; but then technologies like optical character recognition (OCR) were unfriendly not only to non-Latin scripts but also to Latin scripts with additional diacritical marks, which are frequent in South Slavic languages. This complexity translated into the immense labor of hand correcting flawed and incomplete OCR renderings.

A few years later, in 2003, Janet curated a physical exhibit as part of a university-wide commemoration of the tricentennial of Saint Petersburg’s founding. It became, Janet says, something of a revelatory experience about the need for and value of digitization. The exhibit depicted 300 years of St. Petersburg culture in a captivating array of nearly 150 documents –

“histories, poetry, prose, drama, religious texts, and city plans” – all drawn from U-M’s holdings.¹² “St. Petersburg: Window on the East – Window on the West” was “such a lot of research and work to put together,” Janet remembers, that it would have been a “great shame” if the narrative in texts she had composed disappeared when the exhibit came down. Not only that, it would be difficult for users to get close to many of the materials again after the exhibit’s close because most of the items resided in the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). While SCRC is fully open to the research community, it can be a lengthy, multi-step process, requiring advance planning to actually sit down with one of its items. This means real, practical barriers for many would-be users; and so Janet, in collaboration with Digital Projects Librarian Terri Geitgey, put in the additional labor of creating a digital counterpart to the physical exhibit. This project inspired her to pursue other digitization projects, though from that point forward she often opted to simply supply the materials and (wisely) let others do the digitizing. Such was the case with a caché of Russian election ephemera – Yeltsin in 1991 and Putin in 2007/2008—which Janet loaned to East View to digitize.

For all these remarkable accomplishments in collecting, in my discussions with Janet about her work, she speaks quite little about the physical items that she collected. And let it be noted that she knew (knows) the SEEES collections intimately. To familiarize herself with them, Janet regularly walked the stacks, seeing and touching the books in her charge. That’s how she unearthed some of the 100 volumes signed by and donated to the library by Grand Duke Aleksei, son of Tsar Alexander II, during his 1871–72 tour of the United States. Still, for all that, Janet focuses on the people she met and the partnerships she formed. That is why I want to emphasize next the centrality of relationships to Janet’s practice.

Private Collections and Collectors

In the course of the descriptions above, the reader has been offered a glimpse into the vast web of Janet’s network and how instrumental it was to her work. To put it simply, and to risk troubling the very theme of this *SEEIR* special issue, Janet understood that in truth there is no individual “great collector.” Rather, the collector gains access to unique and valuable resources by making connections with colleagues, vendors, scholars, political actors, and private individuals who are close to the materials of interest. Nor did Janet treat those relationships as transactional. She very often developed strong and enduring friendships with the individuals she may have first encountered in a professional capacity.

When it came to collecting, Janet naturally drew first from the top-tier academic expertise on U-M’s campus for guidance. She was an energetic and involved liaison to the many departments and centers that U-M’s SEEES

collections support and she credits faculty connections for some of her most significant and cherished acquisitions. Sometimes faculty were the direct source of books. Such was the case with Professor Vitalij V. Shevoroshkin, a historical linguist whom Janet describes as “extremely erudite,” and who was evidently an inveterate bibliophile. Janet recalls that both his campus and home offices were so densely packed with books that his wife strongly encouraged him to weed his collection. He heeded, and Janet was invited to pull items from both personal libraries, resulting in many fine additions to U-M’s stacks. Other times, a faculty member would introduce Janet to one of their own personal connections. Professor Jindrich Toman, a leading expert on Central European visual and literary avant-gardes, also personally donated “tons” of Czech primary and secondary literature at a time when U-M’s holdings from the country were still quite spare. But in 2011 Toman also put Janet in touch with the estate of Roman Jakobson, which was liquidating the renowned Prague linguist’s personal library. Janet had the opportunity to make selections. When they didn’t bring in materials directly, faculty friends provided guidance to inform Janet’s purchasing. Janet highlights as eager sources of expertise Professors Douglas Northrop and Alexander Knysh, specialists in Central Asia and Islam in southeastern Russia, respectively. Partners like Northrop and Knysh consistently clued Janet into the scholars, institutions, publications, and publishing houses putting out innovative and topical scholarship.

Particularly important in this vein, however, was Janet’s almost preternatural gift for finding (and being found by) donors. As U-M’s Board of Regents observed when formally awarding her Librarian Emerita status upon her 2019 retirement, Janet “excelled in attracting a record number of donors who entrusted her with their prized collections.”¹³ And indeed, the sheer number of donor relationships Janet cultivated is a feat worthy of recognition. Mentioned above, most of the five-foot-tall filing cabinet Janet left me in her former office is densely packed with donor files documenting every step of a given cooperation. Alas, let it suffice here to note just a few of the more prominent donations Janet arranged.

Of all the relationships Janet made with colleagues in the world of Russian studies, Janet says that the bond she shares with Ellendea Proffer is probably the strongest. Ellendea is of course one of the founders of the celebrated Ardis Publishers. Ardis is almost the stuff of legend in Russia because they primarily published, in Russian and in translation, literature that Soviet censorship would not permit; frequently those books found their way into the USSR, where they surreptitiously circulated among an eager readership. The friendship Janet formed with Ellendea was key to getting the Ardis archives into U-M’s Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) in 2005.¹⁴ The two met when Janet was notified by Ellendea that, following donation of half the Ardis papers, she wished to sell the second half. University of Michigan’s SCRC was

her first choice. As often happens with Janet, the two hit it off. Coincidentally, Ellendea's second husband, who had also worked for Ardis, had ties to U-M, plus there were a number of activities at the time celebrating the publishing house and its academic connections, and those happy circumstances put the two in more frequent contact. Their closeness helped smooth the acquisition process. Consisting of some 26 boxes (27 linear feet) containing typescripts and proofs, correspondence, photographs, promotional materials, news clippings, and much more, the Ardis Archives have become one of SCRC's more popular collections (Figures 4 and 5). In recent years (around the jubilee of

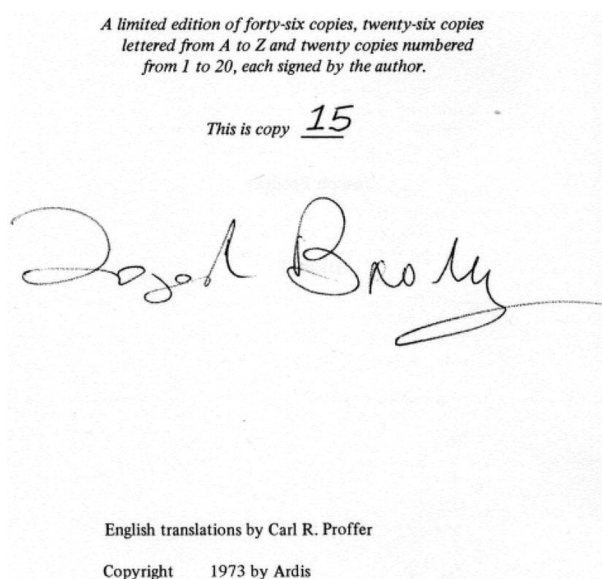


Figure 4. Front matter of a signed, limited edition of Joseph Brodsky's *Debut*, translated by Ardis Publishers' founder Carl Proffer. Proffer was also instrumental in helping secure Brodsky a teaching position in U-M's Slavic Department, which Brodsky held from 1972 to 1981. Image courtesy of the University of Michigan Library's Special Collections Research Center.

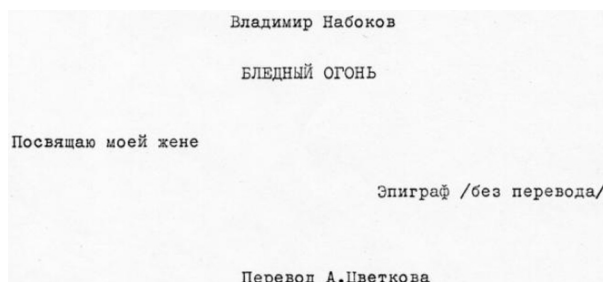


Figure 5. Front matter of a typescript for a Russian translation of Vladimir Nabokov's 1962 novel *pale Fire*. As described below, U-M is also home to a great quantity of other rare and unique Nabokov materials, thanks to donations by prominent scholars of the Russian-American writer. Image courtesy of the University of Michigan Library's Special Collections Research Center.

Ardis's founding), SCRC colleagues and I have assisted Russian-based scholars using archival materials for their books on the publishing house, and we even made major accommodations to enable a film crew to capture footage of large amounts of content for a documentary.

When prominent Russian literature scholar Fan Parker, who founded, developed, and chaired Brooklyn College's Russian Department for nearly 40 years, moved to Ann Arbor in 2002 to be closer to her granddaughter, she reached out the U-M Library's Special Collections Research Center regarding her collection of works by and about Vladimir Nabokov, including numerous translations of his 1955 masterpiece *Lolita*.¹⁵ As subject specialist, Janet got involved selection process. While at Fan's home, she noticed a sketch that appeared to have been signed by celebrated Russian Futurist David Burliuk (1882–1967). Fan confirmed Janet's observation and showed her the Burliuk oils that hung in her living room. One was a portrait of Fan herself. Things "clicked" between the two. This friendship led to Janet being invited to go through Fan's personal academic collection, selecting items U-M didn't own. Then, when Fan's son Stephen Jan Parker, another leading Nabokov scholar from the University of Kansas (KU), died in 2016, Fan and Janet's friendship again helped generate a collections windfall. Janet worked with the Parker family and with Jon Giullian (KU's Librarian for Slavic and Eurasian Studies) to consider options for the late Stephen Parker's Nabokov collection.¹⁶ The remaining Parker family agreed to have the two collections combined, so today the Dr. Fan Parker and Dr. Stephen J. Parker Vladimir Nabokov Collection features several hundred thematically cohesive titles. (The archival items still await thorough evaluation and processing.)

Another, positively monumental donation most likely resulted, Janet speculates, completely from word of mouth. Janet knew of, though never met, one Ursula Lapeza, who had worked in U-M library's Gifts and Exchanges department; nor was she aware until later of Ursula's connection to Russian studies. Ursula's only son David Lapeza received his PhD from U-M in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1986 (when he was also awarded his JD from U-M), lectured in the Slavic Department, and was the translator, including with Ardis, of such works as V. Voinovich's *Ivankiad* and N. Gumilev's *On Russian Poetry (Pis'ma o russkoi poezii)*. Tragically, David met an untimely death in a swimming accident in 1994, at the age of 44. Ursula's husband died in 2008, leaving her the sole remaining member of the family. When Ursula herself passed in 2014, she bequeathed a very substantial sum of money to the library, stipulating that the funds be used exclusively for the purchase of Russian materials. Only after the fact did Janet learn that she and Ursula had a connection with David, the fund's namesake, through Ann-Ellen Akeley, herself an active donor of books. Janet credits that connection, and perhaps the publicity she garnered in the '90s and early aughts, with the donation landing in her budgets. Whatever the case may be, that donation became an

endowment whose interest I still draw today, adding immense buying power on top of my centrally distributed budget.

The last of Janet's qualities that I would like to highlight is very much related to the previous one; it is part of the reason she attracts so many people to herself. This is Janet's deeply personal commitment to service. And I mean here "service" in its lofty, almost spiritual sense: a genuinely selfless desire to support and uplift others, especially those who wield less power or enjoy fewer privileges than oneself. As friend and longtime colleague Beth Snyder put it, Janet was first and foremost "a humanitarian and an advocate," and it was that fundamental disposition that drove her "almost superhuman dedication" to her work. It is a sentiment that is routinely echoed in my conversations with people close to Janet. It was certainly the force that inspired Janet's activities during the Yugoslav Wars, and it warrants reflecting on how truly uncommon Janet's efforts of that time were. While she may not have been the only American librarian giving in the ways she did, she was undoubtedly a standout among a small minority. Fellow SEEEES librarian Robert H. Davis Jr. (Columbia and Cornell University) recalls being "awed by [Janet's] willingness to engage with colleagues on the ground in war-torn Sarajevo, in person, during times in which events were far from being settled." Others shared the same sense of awe, including none other than the First Lady Hillary Clinton. In October, 1996 Clinton invited Janet, along with American and Bosnian colleagues, to visit the White House where, to coincide with the formal launching of a pair of Bosnian aid initiatives,¹⁷ she personally recognized Janet for her own "humanitarian assistance" in getting books, in partnership with the Sabre Foundation, to Bosnian libraries.¹⁸

Recognizing that the two situations are by no means synonymous, I still think it worth comparing, too, Janet's activities around the Bosnian War with library responses to today's war in Ukraine. To be sure, librarians are leading some truly inspiring efforts to support knowledge and cultural heritage institutions in Ukraine. The Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO) project is a fine example. Bringing together many hundreds of volunteers around the globe, it is a massive, coordinated undertaking that's preserving tremendous volumes of important content. Still, with its online focus, the project's work can be conducted entirely remotely, from the safety of one's computer. Is there a Janet for the Ukraine War? Someone going into the conflict zone to rescue, preserve, and restore the physical materials – still championed by so many of us librarians – that have been, like in Bosnia, bombed and burned and looted since the earliest days of the invasion? If there is, I'm not aware of them.

For the people closest to Janet, though, it was not the grand, headline-making deeds that are most meaningful today. Rather, they remember the smaller, everyday ways Janet embodied a spirit of service. For many years at U-M Janet had formal supervisory duties. Former supervisees like Beth fondly

recall Janet as a sensitive, caring, and supportive supervisor, and they appreciate in her the same things that Janet appreciated in her first library mentor, Hugh Olmsted at Harvard. That is, Janet always thought about her supervisees' professional development, creating opportunities for individuals to challenge themselves, build new practical skills, and to explore beyond their normal duties, and she used her greater access to resources to get increased support. She brought the same attentiveness and pragmatism to her many other, less formal mentorships. I can attest to this myself. I was not only new to the institution when I came to U-M, I was new to librarianship. From day one, Janet has opened herself up to me, sharing her experience, her institutional knowledge, her connections, and her advice, while always respecting my unique perspectives and my autonomy in the role, encouraging me to chart my own path, even if it's not always the one she would take.

One did not need to work closely with Janet to benefit from her generosity of spirit, either. She committed herself to unseen colleagues as well and strove to help make the library as a whole a more equitable workplace. Take the work Janet did in the late 1990s and early 2000s evaluating perceived inequities in library salaries. As member of both the Librarians' Forum Committee on Salary Compression and the Committee on Librarians' Salaries, the latter of which she also chaired, Janet helped conduct the Library's first ever computerized regression analysis of salaries.¹⁹ The assessment revealed significant compression (similar salaries for individuals with different levels of experience and/or different scopes of duties) at certain ranks and generally disproportionate increases for individuals higher in the leadership rungs (i.e. wealth heavily concentrated at the top). The groups' recommendations helped bring about pay adjustments to reduce compression and other discrepancies. Similarly, Janet served as Chair of the Classification and Evaluation Committee, whose analyses and recommendations classified newly created positions and applicants' resumes, and determined the ranks of internal professional promotions. Her work on the latter committee also led to Janet, along with colleague Jean Loup, proposing to the U-M Faculty Senate the creation of two new awards, the University Librarian Achievement Award and University Librarian Recognition Award, with the latter celebrating the accomplishments of early-career professionals. Significantly, though the awards have "librarian" in the name, they were (and remain) open to archivists and curators as well.²⁰ These awards did not just raise the visibility of campus information professionals and create a new venue for us to celebrate one another and our work. More importantly, they bestowed on U-M's LACs a new form of symbolic capital, perhaps Academia's most important form of currency, that signals those professionals' indispensability to the scholarly enterprises of learning, teaching, and research.

Final Thoughts

Frankly, it is a shock to me that Janet was never the recipient of one of the awards she created. As I hope the preceding pages have at least begun to demonstrate, Janet did so much not only to enhance U-M Library collections but to enrich the Library as an organization and to strengthen its place in the University. And all that I have introduced here still only scratches the surface of Janet's contributions. To list more of her acquisitions, preservation projects and exhibits, the many other library committees she served on both at the local and national levels, her publications and conference participation, would take too much space and veer too far off this special issue's thematic course. Nor do I think Janet herself has even given the matter much thought. Not because she's received other significant accolades but because the evidence of her exceptional work is ultimately found in those unquantifiable phenomena: the countless relationships she formed over her lengthy career, relationships through which she had the privilege of impacting others and by which she was herself indelibly shaped. I trust that many who know Janet have and will read these pages, and I hope that they recognize their friend in them.

Notes

1. East View Information Services actually began in 1989, dealing heavily in cartography; but Janet recalls their very rapid growth, including pioneering service automation, after the collapse.
2. Placek was a native Michigander, with degrees from University of Detroit (BA), Catholic University of America (MLS), and Georgetown University (MS). Along with Donald R. Mandich, Placek authored *Russian Heraldry and Nobility* (1992), based on ten-volume *Obschii gerbovnik dvorianskikh rodov Vserossiiskoi Imperii* (1797–1840). Placek was a devout Roman Catholic, too, and also helped compose the annotated bibliography *The Guide to Catholic Literature* (1962).
3. Peter Kudrik was born Petr Aleksandrovich Kudrin in 1914 in Russia. The Hoover Institution at Stanford University holds his papers, and an excerpt from the description of that collection summarizes his remarkable experience: “[Kudrik’s] family lived in Vilnius (now Lithuania) between the two world wars. [. . .] After World War II, Kudrik lived in a displaced-persons camp in Germany and moved to the United States in 1950. He studied at the University of North Carolina, where he received his degree in library science. He later found employment as a Slavic librarian and curator at the University of Michigan and at Stanford University. After retiring, he worked for a time as manager of the San Francisco – based Russian newspaper *Russkaia zhizn'*. Kudrik died in San Francisco in 1991. His papers consist of photographs, personal documents, correspondence, and reports (in part relating to Soviet book trade and librarianship).” Read more about Kudrik and his papers at Anatol Shmelev, “Peter Kudrik Papers in the Hoover Institution Archives,” *News from the Hoover Institution Library & Archives* [online], <https://www.hoover.org/news/peter-kudrik-papers-hoover-institution-archives> (accessed January 16, 2020).

4. The Oriental Institute was shelled on 18 May 1992. The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered the same fate during the night of 25–26 August 1992, when most of the 2 million volumes held in the building were destroyed.
5. Aleksandar Stipčević, “The Oriental Books and Libraries in Bosnia during the War, 1992–1994,” *Libraries & Culture* 33, no. 3 (Summer, 1998): 277–282.
6. For more on these and similar efforts see Andrés Riedlmayer, “Libraries Are Not for Burning: International Librarianship and the Recovery of the Destroyed Heritage of Bosnia-Herzegovina,” *Art Libraries Journal* 21, no. 2 (1996): 19–23, DOI: 10.1017/S0307472200009834; Kimberly Sweet, “Volumes of Hope,” *The University of Chicago Magazine* [online], <https://magazine.uchicago.edu/9810/CollegeReport/volumes.htm> (accessed October, 1998).
7. “Yugoslav phone books: perhaps the last record of a people,” *University of Michigan News* [online], <https://news.umich.edu/yugoslav-phone-books-perhaps-the-last-record-of-a-people/> (accessed January 20, 2000).
8. “UNESCO Mobilizes Support for Sarajevo Library,” *The UNESCO Courier* 48, no. 2 (February, 1995): 45, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000099692>
9. International Crisis Group (ICG), “Managing the Risks of Instability in the Western Balkans,” Europe & Central Asia Report No 265, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/balkans/managing-risks-instability-western-balkans> (accessed July 07, 2022).
10. For more about Arzoumanian and his papers, see the lengthy description in the materials’ finding aid (University of Michigan Library, Special Collections Research Center): <https://findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-scl-arzoumanian>.
11. As I’m learning from the Centering the Northern Realms group, and as their name indeed suggests, theirs reflects a larger movement pushing against the centuries-old *idee recue* which insists that China is and always has been the axis of cultural generation, influence, and transmission for all of East Asia. Instead, the scholarly movement strives to demonstrate that the region always had multiple axes and that culture evolved in a process of mutually productive exchange. In other words, Janet’s collecting strategy is now being met by research priorities; and I am well set up to capitalize on this circumstance further enhance the collections.
12. This quote is drawn from the digital collection’s introductory comments. Read those and explore the collection here: <https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/144578/preface.html>
13. The Regents of the University of Michigan, “Report of Faculty Retirement,” <https://regents.umich.edu/files/meetings/12-19/2019-12-VI-Crayne.pdf> (accessed December 05, 2019).
14. Ardis Publishers was launched at the University of Michigan by Professor Carl Proffer and his wife Ellendea, a fellow scholar of Russian literature, in 1971.
15. For more about the Fan Parker donation see “Nabokov Collection Donated to U-M,” *University of Michigan News*, <https://news.umich.edu/nabokov-collection-donated-to-u-m/> (accessed March 29, 2004).
16. Jon Giullian worked closely with Stephen Parker’s widow to assess the scholar’s private collection, which included personal papers of a correspondence with Nabokov’s son Dmitri. In consultation with the remaining Parker family, it was determined that the research community would be best served if the Stephen Parker papers were held together with his mother’s.
17. One of the initiatives was a Superman comic, the product of a partnership between DC Comics and the Department of Defense, meant to warn Bosnian children of the danger of landmines. The other was a “partnership between Buffalo General Hospital and the Tuzla Clinical Center to provide health care for the Bosnians in Tuzla.” “Hillary unveils comic

book for Bosnia,” *United Press International*, <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1996/10/21/Hillary-unveils-comic-book-for-Bosnia/4280845870400/> (accessed October 21, 1996).

18. The quoted text comes straight from the letter of invitation Janet received from First Lady Clinton. See Janet Crayne, “Janet Crayne Visits the White House,” *The University of Michigan Library Newsletter*, 6–7, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015082936223&view=1up&seq=479> (accessed November 04, 1996).
19. At the University of Michigan, Librarians’ Forum is a venue, led by the Forum Board, for staff with librarian appointments to discuss concerns, share work, and advocate for needs.
20. At the University of Michigan, Librarians, Archivists, and Curators (LACs) all have faculty appointments, though they do not enjoy all the same benefits such as tenure. Nor do all LACs enjoy the same place in faculty governance. While librarians have long been voting members of the Faculty Senate Assembly, archivists and curators have been denied the same voice. However, as I write this, the Senate is debating extending the vote to all LACs.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).