Department Overview:

DMIAS consists of 10 selectors and 3 library assistants covering collection development for Europe, Africa, South America, and Asia (excluding China, Korea, and Japan). It contains the South/Southeast Asia Library service point with separate reference and periodical collections. Members of the department also participate in coverage of the general reference desks in Doe and Moffitt, at the same time providing individual reference service for the International and Area Studies collections.

Year's Highlights

Personnel Changes and Recruitments:

- Jason Schultz arrived in January 2008 to assume the position of Librarian for African Studies. Prior to Jason’s arrival, Simon Bockie performed in that capacity on an interim basis.
- Posted job description and began recruitment for permanent Head of the Department.

Facilities Changes:

The South/Southeast Asia Library acquired several new reading chairs and also repaired and cleaned the venetian blinds in both the public and office areas.

Collection Development Issues:

Acquisitions Trips: Spohrer (Germany and Switzerland), Potts (Spain), Shih, (Indonesia, Malaysia, East Timor, Vietnam, and Taiwan), Hamburg (Israel), and Malik (Pakistan).

Conferences and Meetings:

- Berkeley/Stanford Selectors Conference: all members of the department participated. (October 2007)
- California Cooperative Latin American Collections Development Group: Delgado, Hinojosa, Potts (October 2007)
- Middle East Collection Development Consortium: Khanaka
- Argentina Library Association: Delgado (April 2008)
- Association of Jewish Libraries: Hamburg (June 2008)

Important Acquisitions (selective):
• Indiastat database
• Current Digest of the Post-Soviet , 1992-
• Szyk Haggadah (facsimile)

Collaborative efforts within the department:

• Approval plan for Spanish imprints concerning Latin America (Potts, Delgado)
• Italian Judaica Retrospective Purchase (Potts, Hamburg)

Miscellaneous:

• Changing Face of Europe: Exhibit and Lecture (September 2007)
• Arranged lectures and readings: Michal Govrin (novelist), Meir Shalev (novelist), George Gilbert (historian), Sayed Kashua (journalist), Agi Mishol (poet)

Obstacles

• Breakdown of lines of communication with Technical Services
• Cataloging expertise absent for Southeast Asian materials.
• Lack of support for website development and maintenance. Changing software environment for website development has delayed improvements.
• Relying on student assistance for the performance of continuing primary collection development and maintenance tasks. This will be hampered in the future by what will be a reduction in general assistance funding which supports student employees.

Goals

In the upcoming year, the main goal will be to hire and integrate a new head into department activities. The challenges include adding the News/Micro Unit to the department structure and to develop a new system for managing the Gardner Stacks storage operation, a task with is done in cooperation with the DM Humanities and Social Sciences Department, the Circulation Department, and the Library Systems Office. Also of importance will be the initiating of an organizational structure to improve communications with the Technical Services Department.

Submitted, September 15, 2008 by:

Allan Urbanic, Interim Head and Slavic Collections
Simon Bockie, Africana Collections and Africana Government Documents
James Church, Foreign and Internation Documents
Rebecca Darby-Williams, Southeast Asian Collections
Carlos Delgado, Latin American Collections
Paul Hamburg, Judaica Collections
Shayee Khanaka, Middle Eastern Collections
Adnan Malik, South Asian Collections
Claude Potts, French, Spanish, and Italian Collections
Jason Schultz, Africana Collections and Liaison to African American Studies
Virginia Shih, Southeast Asian Collections
James Spohrer, Germanic Collections
Vanessa Tait, South Asian Collections