INTRODUCTION
The Michigan State University Collections Council

Founded in 1988, the Michigan State University Collections Council comprises all of the directors, curators, and collection managers on campus. The UCC serves as an Administrative Advisory Committee to the Offices of the Provost and the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies on existing and proposed policies and procedures that affect the development, preservation, and use of collections. The council encourages professional stewardship of collections and promotes the use of collections through publications such as the Michigan State University Collections Guide and statewide and national directories of collection resources and links all collections on the MSU website. The Michigan State University Collections Guide was published in 1994 and is now out-of-print. An on-line version is available at the MSU web site.

Peter Berg, Special Collections, and Cynthia Ghering, University Archives, have formed a committee to update and re-envision the collections website.
IMLS-funded collection care library: applied for on behalf of the Collections Council and housed in the MSU Museum.

The Co-Chairs of the University Collections Council are: Dr. Susan J. Bandes, Director, Kresge Art Museum, and Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst, Director, Michigan State University Museum.

MSU Collections

Michigan State University maintains a rich array of valuable collections for research, teaching, and outreach & engagement. These collections, housed in campus museums, libraries, and departments, are used by MSU faculty, students, and visiting scholars from around the world. The collections serve a central role in providing faculty resources for scholarly research activity as well as for teaching.

COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES FOR 2007-2008
This small sample was chosen to show the range of activities across campus. Each unit submitted these brief descriptions and has available more comprehensive summaries of their collections-based activities.

Collections: Notable accessions/deaccessions (collection growth)

4-H Children’s Gardens, Horticulture Gardens:
Built and opened the Pete & Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden in 2008 adding 2500 square feet to focus on demonstrating what can be done in relatively small spaces at schools. Some of interesting features include: Hoop house, an outdoor classroom with a green roof, raised vegetable beds and an Experiment Garden.
A. J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:
John Perona collection of 8,000 Michigan Upper Peninsula Lepidoptera and other insects. Steve Wood Collection, in part, of 5,000 world-wide bark beetle specimens.

Apparel and Textile Design Historic Collection:
The staff has been trying to limit collection growth while transitioning into the Art and Art History Department. Therefore they have accessioned about two dozen artifacts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century this past academic year.

Kresge Art Museum:
292 additions to the collection. Gift of 160 Polaroids and black and white photographs by Andy Warhol, gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation Legacy Program. Gift of 23 ceramics by the artist Toshiko Takaezu. Photographs (Hine, Stieglitz, Burtynsky, Cunningham, Newman, Chinese photos). Prints: Gift of large 19th century group after W.M. Turner; Old Master prints by Goltzius, Fragonard; 19th century (Pissarro, Manet); and 20th century (Grant Wood); and contemporary; paintings continued the expansion of Figurative Expressionist paintings.

MSU Museum Cultural Collections:
MSU Museum cultural collections grew with the addition of a collection of Mexican masks from David and Gloria Thomas; several small collections of MAC/MSC/MSU memorabilia and ephemera from several donors; a collection of South American molas; two 18th century bed quilts; over 100 handmade textiles from Europe and Africa donated by Eve Boicourt; six Finnish-American rag rugs collected by curator Yvonne Lockwood; several handmade baskets made by contemporary native American weavers collected by Dr. Marsha MacDowell and Dr. Kurt Dewhurst for the Carriers of Culture Project; and a set of handmade Nantucket basket molds; a large collection of contemporary art baskets donated by Melvin Reiter in memory of his wife Berle; 15 ralli quilts from India; a large collection of African-American quilts; and large collection of quilt kits, books, ephemera and correspondence from the estate of African American quilt scholar Cuesta Benberry of St. Louis, Missouri.

A collection of over 200 contemporary designer shopping bags produced by S. Posner Sons Inc. of New York City for clients such as Armani, Scalamandre, FAO Schwarz and Bacardi.

MSU Museum Curator Val Berryman donated a collection of 18,000 antique stereoscope photos as well as numerous stereo viewers and 3-D cameras and equipment that he has been collecting for more than 50 years. The photo collection covers world cultures and events from London’s Crystal Palace Exposition of 1851 through Lindbergh’s flight across the Atlantic in 1927.

MSU Museum: Occasional 4-H history ephemera items donated throughout the year.

MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History Collections:
A series of Great Lakes carnivores (bobcats, fishers, otters, pine martins, and wolves) donated by the Michigan DNR; carnivore and amphibian specimens from the Detroit Zoo; Australian material and a series of rare melanistic *Peromyscus* donated by renowned mammalogist B.E. Horner; known-age spotted hyena specimens from Kay Holekamp’s long-term study in Kenya; Massasauga rattlesnake material from the Lansing office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service; avian specimens and historical field notes from former staff of the Michigan Conservation Department; South African meerkat and mongoose specimens donated by The Meerkat Project (producers of *Meerkat Manor*); rhino specimens from the Potter Park Zoo; Great Lakes *Peromyscus* specimens collected by Zoology and Fisheries & Wildlife student researchers; and voucher specimens donated by the MSU Toxicology Laboratory, MSU Fisheries & Wildlife Department, Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Nature Conservancy, and the Capital Area Audubon Society.

**Special Collections:**
Robert Coles Papers donation
King Features Syndicate donation of 1.5 million comic strip proofs dating from 1940s through the 1990s
Webster Comic strip donation of 1 million comic strips
Shirley Sliker donation of food ephemera
Dan Gerber Papers donation
Latino Film Collection acquisition

**University Archives & Historical Collections:**
Fendley Collins Papers. 10 cu. ft. Fendley Collins was the coach of the MSU Wrestling program from 1929-1962. His papers include information concerning the MSU program, as well as his coaching activity with the Pan American games and the Olympics. His papers also have records relating to the founding of the MSU Credit Union.

Michigan Association of Extension 4-H Youth Staff. 5.2 cu. ft. The 4-H Youth Staff is an organization for 4-H staff in Michigan. The records document the staff and their activities from 1912-2005 and includes a large number of photographs. The organization is associated with the MSU Extension Office.

Secretary of the Board of Trustees Records. 3 cu. ft. The correspondence and subject files of Elliot Ballard, BOT Secretary 1975-1981 were added to 4 cu. ft. of previously available BOT Secretary material 1857-1959.

IMC Film Archive. 18 film reels. This MSU related film includes informational and sports footage dating from the 1950s – 1970s.

**Care of Collections:**

**A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:**
The collection continues to be generally curated, with taxonomic names and holdings being recorded to eventually be placed into the Specify Database being implemented.

**Apparel and Textile Design Historic Collection:**
Martha Browscombe, Marie Gile and Mihaela Peteu have worked together to curate and manage the collection. Work continues to organize the holdings in the new location in the Urban Planning Landscape Architecture Building. Computer cataloguing and digital imaging of the collection is underway. Goals include web-based exhibitions of artifacts from the collection and continued fund development to build the Jackson-Bloss Endowment for the collection.

**College of Communication Arts and Sciences: Chicago Tribune Collection:**
Lucinda Davenport & Julie Goldsmith obtained a $397,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation to preserve, digitize and research the collection.

**Kresge Art Museum:**
Conservation of a 19th century Chinese scroll showing a scholar in a landscape was paid for by the donor and completed in spring. Launched collection database on museum’s website in January allowing public access to information on over 7,000 objects in the holdings.

**MSU Museum Cultural Collections:**
Ten interns and volunteers were employed to work on the IMLS-funded rehousing project in the MSU Museum cultural collections. Doll collections, oversized paper collections and sewing and accessories collections are in the process of being rehoused into 45 new cabinets with appropriate storage materials.

**MSU Museum/Michigan 4-H History Collection:**
MSU undergraduate student history internship – records and report generated by student on history of 4-H animal science program.

**MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History Collections:**
A grant of $81,755 from the IMLS is being used to purchase new cabinets and archival supplies for the MSU Museum Mammal Collection (Phase 1). The MSU Museum’s vertebrate database records are internet searchable via the distributed database portals of the *Global Diversity Information Facility* (GBIF), *National Biological Information Infrastructure* (NBII), *Herpetological Collections Database Network* (HerpNET), *Mammal Networked Information System* (MaNIS), and *Ornithological Information System* (ORNIS). The Museum is joining the *FishNET 2* and *PaleoPortal* projects.

**Special Collections:**
Completion of the Saving America’s Treasure NEH grant to conserve over 1,500 nineteenth century American schoolbooks.
Facilities upgrades:

4-H Children’s Gardens, Horticulture Gardens:
New Tree House ramp built
Extensive painting and repairs to celebrate our 15th anniversary

A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:
Funding was acquired to renovate Nat Sci Rooms 450 and 451, and purchase 14 new cabinets and 190 new drawers. These rooms will house the Coleoptera and Hymenoptera Collections. The entire Lepidoptera Collection (part of which was stored in a hallway) is now housed in Room 454.

Communication Arts: Chicago Tribune Collection:
Need to find storage for this collection elsewhere on campus that is climate controlled.

Kresge Art Museum:
Ongoing planning and fundraising for the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. Architect Zaha Hadid was announced in January. Groundbreaking in April 2009; substantial completion by the end of 2010.

MSU Museum Cultural Collections:
An HVAC system and movable Spacesaver storage system were installed at the end of last summer in the Cultural Collections Resource Center to accommodate the MSU Museum furniture collection. A majority of the furniture collection was then moved from the upper loft of the museum’s stadium storage facility and reorganized into the new space.

University Archives & Historical Collections:
Compact shelving was installed in the basement of Conrad Hall to allow the storage of an additional 2716 cu ft boxes.

Collaborations/On Campus:

4-H Children’s Gardens, Horticulture Gardens:
Collaborations with MSU Museum, MSU Bug House, Teacher Education.
The primary emphasis for the 4-H Children's Gardens in 2007 was to enhance and expand educational programming. Our three main programs were: 1) Butterflies in the Garden: Nearly 4,000 students and parents experienced our butterflies program between March 15 and April 30. 2) Seeds of Science: Nearly 400 students participated by visiting the 4-H Children's Gardens on three day-long visits. Students were immersed in science discovery, experienced authentic experiments and maintained ongoing connections with scientist at MSU through our on-line Wonder Wall. 3) Family Programs: These were offered throughout the summer and covered a wide range of topics, including: Bug Day,
Garden Chefs, Kid Curator, Stories in the Garden, and An Evening in the Garden. In 2008 our programs continue to expand reaching over 10,000 students. In addition, we are celebrating our 15th anniversary and have been doing numerous updates and repairs in the gardens. The gardens look as good as they have in years.

Apparel and Textile Design Historic Collection:
Mihaela C. Peteu and Sally Helvenston Gray have used artifacts from the ATD collection and MSU Museum collection in our investigation of nineteenth-century clothing invention (primary patents for women’s skirts).

Communication Arts: Chicago Tribune Collection:
Experts who examined the collection, in preparation for the grant application:
Eric Alstrom, Collections Conservator, Michigan State University Libraries
Special Collections, Michigan State University Libraries

Kresge Art Museum:
Continued substantial participation in Public Art on Campus Committee. Maintained PAOC searchable database on the web. Added new acquisitions as they were installed and deleted works removed from the collection.
Ongoing collaboration with adjunct curator Howard Bossen (Comm Arts) on future Steel photography exhibition, with off-campus collaborator, Carnegie Museum of Art.
Organized joint publicity for WPA collection shows at KAM and MSU Museum.
Consulted with RCAH in design of new gallery space and selection of objects for courses. Assisted Louise Siddons, art history, in development of curatorial course based on KAM’s print collection.

MSU Museum Cultural Collections:
The History Division is working with the College of Communication Arts and Sciences to transfer, catalog, preserve and digitize a collection of over 4000 pages from the Chicago Tribune that document their innovative color printing techniques between 1880 and 1949.

The History Division is also working with Food Science and Human Nutrition Professor John Partridge in the planning of a potential new facility near the MSU Pavilion that would provide space for an enlarged MSU Dairy Store, for improved dairy manufacturing operations and product storage, and a large permanent exhibition space for display of the MSU Museum’s historic Dairy and Agriculture Collections.

The History Division is working with the University Archives, the Library’s Special Collections, MATRIX and other campus groups to plan the digitization of various media holdings that document MSU history. These documents, images, film and audio recordings will eventually be made available to students, staff, faculty and the public via a web site.

Exhibitions prepared by History Curator Val Berryman and Cultural Collections Manager Lynne Swanson were installed in departmental galleries around campus including:
Cowles House, Veterinary Medicine, University Outreach and Engagement in Kellogg Center, the Union Building, and MSU Development in the Football Tower.

**MSU Museum Anthropology Division:** Lovis collaborations:
Alan F. Arbogast, Department of Geography, MSU – ISTE grant co-PI, joint fieldwork, coauthor of NSF proposal on Saginaw Valley paleoenvironments, coauthor of presented papers.
Gerald R. Urquhart, Lyman Briggs School, MSU - Stable isotope analysis of carbonized food residues, coauthor of international refereed journal article in *Journal of Archaeological Science*.
Margaret B. Holman, MSU Museum, MSU – Coauthor of refereed, peer reviewed book chapter in *Nomads* volume from Cotsen Institute of Archaeology UCLA.
Helen P. Pollard, Department of Anthropology, MSU – coauthored paper on specialized ceramic production in the Lake Patzcuaro Basin, Mexico submitted to *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.

**MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History Collection:**
Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty and adjuncts are collaborating with faculty from the Department of Psychology on a study that uses computed tomography (CT scans) of museum mammal specimens to examine the relationship between frontal cortex morphology and social complexity.

Dr. Barbara Lundrigan is serving as a consultant for the MSU Brain Biodiversity Bank website (http://www.brains.rad.msu.edu).
Curator Dr. Michael Gottfried is collaborating with colleagues in the MSU College of Engineering and MSU Clinical Center on a CT-scan-based analysis of cranial features in fossil sharks.
Dr. Pamela Rasmussen is collaborating with graduate students from Fisheries & Wildlife on a bird/parasite biodiversity project in Uganda.
Affiliate staff James Harding is collaborating with a Zoology Department student on a study of state-threatened turtles in Michigan.

**Michigan 4-H History Collection:**
Collaborated with MSU Archives and Historical Collections to offer a session for 4-Hers in June 2008 on using the archival collections to research 4-H history.

**Special Collections:**
Provided time and resources to the beginning Book Arts program in the new Residential College for Arts and Humanities.

**Collaborations/Off Campus:**

**4-H Children’s Gardens, Horticulture Gardens:**
American Horticultural Society
A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:
Collection supports the national effort to survey for potential exotic bark beetles funded in a collaboration with the US Forest Service.

Collaboration with Michigan Technological University to survey for an exotic wood-boring wasp, *Sirex noctilio*.

Apparel and Textile Design Historic Collection:
Sally Helvenston Gray and Margaret Ordonez (University of Rhode Island) continue to work on research on wrappers (18th-19th century at-home attire) in both URI and MSU collections and others.

Comm Arts: Chicago Tribune Collection:
Jeanne Drewes, Chief of Collections Care, Library of Congress
Julie Goldsmith, National Endowment for the Humanities

Kresge Art Museum:
Traveling exhibitions from the collection organized by Kresge Art Museum: *Blast from the Past: Art of the 1960s*, final venue at the Dow Museum, Midland Center for the Arts, fall 2007.

*Art in the 'Toon Age* shown at the Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph, Michigan (Nov-Dec 2007) and the Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, NY (Jan-April 2008).


Additional works from the collection lent this year:


MSU Museum Cultural Collections:
The Quilt Index is a major collaborative project of the Museum, The Alliance for American Quilts, and MSU MATRIX in conjunction with museums, libraries, private collections, and archives across the United States holding significant collections of quilts, quilt ephemera, and quilt data.

The History Division is working with Michigan Farm Bureau to upgrade a series of exhibits and wall display panels at their headquarters building in Lansing that tell of the
history of the Farm Bureau and its assistance for Michigan farmers and its cooperative interactions with MSU over the years.

Museum staff from the History Division, Folk Arts and Exhibits Division have provided their expertise in preparing a 60-foot-long photographic mural of MSU history images and objects and another 30-foot-long mural of historic MSU buildings for the new headquarters of the MSU Federal Credit Union.

MSU Museum Anthropology Division: Lovis collaborations:
Adrian A. Evans, University of Bradford, UK – Coauthor of article published in *Journal of Archaeological Science*, as well as paper to be presented at an International Symposium on mobility at the University of Oxford.
Yvonne B. Wolframm, University of Bradford, UK – Coauthor of article published in *Journal of Archaeological Science*.
John P. Hart, New York State Museum Research and Collections Division – Stable isotope analysis of carbonized food residues, coauthor of three international refereed journal articles on isotopes, dating, and residue analysis.
Janet K. Schulenberg, Pennsylvania State University – Stable isotope analysis of carbonized food residues, coauthor of international refereed journal article in *Journal of Archaeological Science*.
Robert Whallon, University of Michigan – Co-organizing a symposium on Information in Hunter-Gatherer Societies accepted for the 2008 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Vancouver BC.
Randolph E. Donahue, University of Bradford, UK – Fieldwork and analysis in North Yorkshire, multiple articles and book chapters, proposal writing, coauthor.
Hans Peeters, National Center for Archaeological Heritage, The Netherlands – Work with graduate student Marieka Brouwer on Swifterbant culture research in the Netherlands.
G. William Monaghan, Indiana University – Coauthor of research on early Cucurbita in the Great Lakes, ISTEA grant co-PI, coauthor of NSF proposal on Saginaw Valley paleoenvironments, coauthor of multiple presented papers.
Amy J. Hirshman. Department of Anthropology, West Virginia University. Coauthored paper on specialized ceramic production in the Lake Patzcuaro Basin, Mexico, submitted to *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.
Robert I. MacDonald. Archaeological Services, Inc. and the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Coauthor of accepted Encyclopedia entry in *Archaeology in America: An Encyclopedia*, about Great Lakes paleoenvironments and their relationship to adaptive change.
Robert A. Cook. Department of Anthropology, Ohio State University, Columbus. Coauthor of article submitted to *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology*.

MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History Collection:
Dr. Barbara Lundrigan is collaborating with faculty and students from University of Michigan, Miami of Ohio, and University of Guelph on a study of the effects of global warming on boreal mammal communities. Curator Barbara Lundrigan and museum adjunct Dr. Kay Holekamp are collaborating
with faculty from Fisheries & Wildlife and the University of Michigan on a study of behavioral and morphological ontogeny of large mammalian carnivores. Dr. Michael Gottfried is collaborating with colleagues from Ohio University, Stony Brook University, and University of the Witwatersrand (in South Africa) on a study of the fossil record and geologic setting of the Rukwa Rift Basin in southwestern Tanzania.

Dr. Michael Gottfried is collaborating with colleagues from Otago University in New Zealand on a study of marine faunas in the southern oceans following the establishment of the circum-Antarctic current.

A Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty member is conducting collaborative ornithological field research on birds of Myanmar (Burma) and the northeastern Himalayas with colleagues from the Smithsonian Institution, California Academy of Sciences, BirdLife International (Vietnam), and Myanmar.

A Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty member is commencing bird-parasite field research in Uganda.

A Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty member is collaborating on ornithological research with colleagues at the Natural History Museum (Tring, UK), Ceylon Bird Club, Indonesian Ornithological Union, Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, and Celebes Bird Club on the systematics, distribution, and biogeography of South Asian and Indonesian birds.

A Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty member is working with staff from the Natural History Museum (Tring, UK) to complete a book on ornithological frauds and their detection.

**International Projects:**

**A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:**
Partnered with the University of Guyana to survey the insect diversity of wet tropical forests.

**Kresge Art Museum:**
*Steel: Hot Metal, Cold Reality*, ongoing curatorial research preparation by Adjunct Curator Howard Bossen, Professor of Journalism, College of Communication Arts, for this international travelling exhibition beginning in 2011. Began planning of exhibition of Korean art for fall 2009, in collaboration with Asian Studies.

**MSU Museum Cultural Collections:**
Curator Marsha MacDowell and Director C. Kurt Dewhurst developed and led a study abroad program focused on museum studies and South African cultural heritage, the first program of its kind offered by an American university, in South Africa.
MSU Museum helped celebrate the 90th birthday of former South African President Nelson Mandela on July 19, 2008 with a specially designed exhibit opening and an announcement of a curatorial fellowship at the Nelson Mandela Museum in Qunu, South Africa. Created by MSU Museum staff and project partners along with other MSU faculty, staff and students and community members in South Africa and Michigan, "Dear Mr. Mandela, Dear Mrs. Parks: Children’s Letters, Global Lessons" is an exhibit of letters written by children from all over the world to human rights leaders Mandela and the late Rosa Parks.

MSU Museum Anthropology Division: Lovis international projects:
Yorkshire Dales Hunter-Gatherer Research Project, with the University of Bradford, Yorkshire, UK. This is an ongoing project since 1995, addressing the post glacial Mesolithic hunter gatherer mobility systems of the Yorkshire Dales, northern England. We continue to produce single and multiauthored papers and publications on the results of our work.

MSU Museum Division of Vertebrate Natural History:
Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty and graduate students are involved in the following international projects:

- fossil collecting and interpreting the geology of the Rukwa Rift Basin, southwestern Tanzania in the context of Gondwanan paleobiogeography
- collecting Oligocene and Miocene fossil fishes and sharks as part of a paleo-oceanographic study of New Zealand
- fossil fish occurrences from the Late Cretaceous of Madagascar, in the context of Gondwanan paleobiogeography
- collections-based research on African and South Asian birds
- assessing the biodiversity and conservation status of bird populations in northern Myanmar (Burma)
- ‘Study Abroad’ programs in Antarctica, Uganda, Madagascar, Tanzania, Malaysia, and Indonesia
- collaborating with Indonesian scientists on the rediscovery of an Indonesian species of crow unseen by ornithologists for over 100 years and long feared extinct
- documenting new taxa (with Indonesian scientists) the avifauna of the Banggai Islands and Togian Islands, Indonesia
- field and collections-based research on large carnivores in Kenya
- development of a database of bird sounds for automated pattern recognition

Grants and Contracts (new and ongoing):

A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:
MAES support ($33,000) for renovations and new storage.

Chicago Tribune Collection:
McCormick Foundation ($397,000) to preserve, digitize and research the collection.
Kresge Art Museum:
Completed Carpenter Grant to purchase three contemporary Chinese photographs.

Funds from College of Arts and Letters and VP for Research to support Steel exhibition and relevant acquisitions.

MSU Museum Cultural Collections:
A grant of $149,806 from the IMLS is being used to complete critical database activities and upgrade technological infrastructure in the MSU Museum’s History and Mammal Collections (Curator Barbara Lundrigan and Collections Managers Laura Abraczinskas and Lynne Swanson).

A grant of $150,000 from IMLS is being used to provide new storage cabinetry and materials to rehouse the doll collection, paper collections, and the sewing and handwork collection. The grant also funded “Kids Curate,” a public education component involving two 5th grade classes from E. Lansing Public Schools. The grant will provide funding for a paper conservator to consult with MSU Museum staff and students (Curator MacDowell and Collections Manager Swanson).

A grant of $275,000 from NEH for the Quilt Index is being used to reach a critical mass of data, establish and implement long term protocols for materials use and the ongoing addition of new data, and to greatly enhance searching and sorting mechanisms. This grant supports the incorporation of thirteen new contributors from across the United States.

A grant of $911,809 from IMLS for the Quilt Index will increase the capacity and utility of The Quilt Index collection for target audiences and effectively evaluate the development and usability of tools and the expansion of diverse content throughout the project. Specific activities resulting in online products include digitizing and building collections of additional associated objects and materials, developing and implementing online tools to enhance use, analysis, and publication, establishing infrastructure and capacity for public object submissions, and building social networking capacity and training and user guides.

MSU Museum Anthropology Division:
*Dune Activation and Archaeological Site Formation: A Taphonomic Perspective on Site Preservation and Prediction* (Lovis, A. Arbogast, and W. Monaghan) - Interstate Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA)/Michigan Department of Transportation - 2005-2008 ($261,421)

MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History Collections:
ONGOING:
Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty/adjuncts, with collaborators from MSU and the University of Michigan, have a grant ($630,942) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a field and collections-based study of the Roles of Competition and Constraint in the Evolution of Mammalian Behavior.

In collaboration with Ohio University faculty, Division of Vertebrate Natural History faculty have a grant ($265,000) from NSF to fund field-based research on paleontology and geology of the Rukwa Rift Basin, Tanzania.

A grant of $81,755 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is being used to purchase new cabinets and archival supplies for the MSU Museum Mammal Collection (Phase 1).

A five-year, NSF-funded, multi-institution, Community Effort to Build an Integrated, Distributed, Enriched, and Error-checked ORNithological Information System (ORNIS). MSU budget $25,267.

In collaboration with researchers from the Smithsonian Institution Conservation and Research Center and National Zoo, Assistant Curator Pam Rasmussen received a grant from the National Geographic Society ($20,000) to investigate the avian community and new species from Sub-Himalayan Myanmar.

**New Grants:**

**MSU Museum:**
A grant of $78,486 from the IMLS was awarded for the purchase of new cabinets and archival supplies for the MSU Museum Mammal Collection (Phase 2).

A grant of $71,532 from the IMLS was awarded for critical database improvements and technological infrastructure upgrades in the MSU Museum’s History and Ornithology Collections (Phase 2).

**MSU Libraries/Wallace conservation Laboratory:**
Saving America’s Treasures grant to conserve 1,500 Sunday school books and textbooks concluded on June 20, 2008.

**Endowments/Major Planned Gifts (new):**

**4-H Children’s Gardens, Horticulture Gardens:**
Pete & Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden

**A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection:**
Dr. Richard Snider bequeathed $1 million for the general operation of the collection.
Fundraising focused on gifts in connection with Broad Art Museum.

MSU Museum:
Val Roy Berryman planned gift of $500,000 for historical and cultural collections and programs.

Fred and Mary Clinton planned gift of $30,000 for Native American collections care.

Selma Appel endowment of $40,000 for ethnic collections care and research.

Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell endowment of $40,000 for folk and traditional arts research and programs.

Special Collections:
Several endowments and large planned gifts were made in 2008-09.

Publications of note by staff/on the collections:

4-H Children’s Gardens, Horticulture Gardens:


Comm Arts: Chicago Tribune Collection:


MSU Museum Cultural Collections:

Hart, J. P. and W. A. Lovis. The Freshwater Reservoir and Radiocarbon Dates on Cooking Residues: Old Apparent Ages or a Single Outlier? Comments on Fischer


**Michigan 4-H History Collection:**


**Rankings of Collections:**

**Kresge Art Museum:**
Began AAM reaccreditation process.

**MSU Museum:**

**MSU Cultural Collections:**
MSU Museum agricultural heritage collection are ranked in the top 20 in the United States.

MSU Museum Great Lakes Quilt Center ranked in the top 10 in the United States.

**MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History:**
*MSU Museum Division of Vertebrate Natural History* – the MSU Museum Fish skeletal collection is about the 9th largest in North America; the Mammal holdings from Mexico rank 7th in North America; the Mammal Research Collection ranks 21st in the Western Hemisphere.

**University Archives and Historical Collections:**
Not applicable

**Additional information:**

**Kresge Art Museum:**
Frequent consultations with the public to identify and date works of art and to offer advice about proper care and conservation.
Curator April Kingsley was promoted to Senior Specialist in June.

MSU Museum Cultural Collections:
Lynne Swanson and William Lovis completed implementation of a major two year project for archaeological collections rehousing funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This project is complete, and the grant is not listed above.

NAGPRA compliance occupied substantial time this year, and will continue to do so, as we synthesize and update all of our NAGPRA records for enhanced Federal reporting standards. The update is being accomplished with the Collections Assistant provided by the Department of Anthropology, CSS. We have sent out numerous letters to Federally recognized tribes and have begun responding to requests for information.

William Lovis, along with Lynne Swanson and Laura Abraczinskas worked closely with Dr. Patricia Sutherland and Ms. Erin Lagalisse of the National Museums of Civilization, Ottawa, Canada, in the inventorying and return of Moreau S. Maxwell’s arctic archaeology collections, notes, and records. This included acting as liaison with the Maxwell family. This work is continuing into 2008 with ongoing CITES as well as other mammal and bird permitting necessary for international interinstitutional transfers.

MSU Museum Vertebrate Natural History Collection:
The Mammal Research Collection is accredited by the American Society of Mammalogists.

MSU Museum & MSU Herbarium:
Registered Scientific Institution recognition by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

University Archives and Historical Collections:
This past year Cynthia Ghering was hired as the new Director of the University Archives was hired, along with three new staff members: two electronic records archivists and one technical services archivist.