Western Michigan University Libraries has become a Regional Digitization Center for “The Making of Modern Michigan” digitization project funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS, located in Washington, DC, is “a federal grant-making agency that promotes leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation’s museums and libraries” (http://www.imls.gov). Created by the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996, the Institute is a major force behind contemporary initiatives for all museums and libraries in the U.S.

“The Making of Modern Michigan” project was proposed by the Digitization Committee of the Action Team for Library Advancement Statewide (ATLAS) with the goal of empowering a wide range of libraries, smaller libraries in particular, to contribute to a digital collection focusing on Michigan history. The theme of the project fits into the K-12 Michigan Curriculum Framework and makes available unique collections of historical materials housed in smaller communities in Michigan. These unique collections will be available to scholars and lifelong learners as well.

The ATLAS Committee is chaired by Michael Seadle, Michigan State University, and has a larger charge to determine the level of digitization in the State of Michigan and then to propose projects and gain funding for digitization. A key result of their planning is “the making of Michigan” effort which is the first step to “creating the infrastructure necessary to ensure an integrated digital environment within Michigan” (http://www.michiganelibrary.org/about/atlas/digitize.htm). Among the members are Margaret E. Auer, University of Detroit Mercy; Jo Budler, Library of Michigan; Ruth Dukelow, Michigan Library Consortium; Sheryl Cormicle Knox, Clarus Information Architects; Bettina Meyer, WMU; Nancy R. Robertson, Library of Michigan; Kathleen M. Swanger, Macomb Intermediate School District; and Jeffrey G. Trzeciak, Wayne State University.

At Western Michigan University, there will be several internal digitization efforts. One of the first comes from the Archives and Regional History Collections; this library will be contributing images from photographer Ward Morgan. The Ward Morgan Collection includes 26,436 photographic negatives taken by Morgan, a Kalamazoo, Michigan, photographer, between 1939 and 1987. Images include architectural exteriors and interiors of Kalamazoo area business and industries, street scenes, exterior views of residences, portraits of local community leaders, and advertising.

The images are arranged both in chronological order and by subject, (e.g., Advertising, Business Products, Daily Life, Events, People at Work, etc.). Some major industries have been maintained separately. Within these categories, 156 images have been selected for presentation. Scans were made at a 303 pixels/inch resolution and saved in the tif format. Positive images were created for presentation. The next steps involve creating metadata for the collection and making decisions about the user interface. As an online collection, it will provide resources for several classes at Western Michigan University and serve patrons seeking regional images. On a larger scale, it will make a valuable contribution to visual resources for Web researchers.

Because of “The Making of Modern Michigan” project, and additional support from the Office of the Provost, a digitization center is under construction on the lower level of Waldo. Lou Ann Morgan has been employed part time to manage the digitizing lab and supervise the student workers who will be digitizing the documents and images. She will also assist and train people from regional libraries who are working on “The Making of Modern Michigan” projects.

The department of Special Collections is another unit in the Libraries that is already involved in the digital initiatives. Special Collections will be making high quality digital copies of rare books useful for research. Over the last few years, Special Collections has acquired a number of books in which the first printing of Old English appears, often using special fonts of type cast particularly for the printings. A testbed project involving a book printed in 1567, which will be accompanied by an introduction to the text written by a professor of Old English from another university, will be underway in late 2003. This effort will initiate a long-term collaborative project contribut-
tuition and other responsible actions that
would be taken to balance the budget.
Unfortunately, this action compounds a
four-year history of net losses to the
University budget in July that also
includes a base-budget cut to library
purchases must be cut back in some areas,
subscriptions must be cancelled, and elec-
tronic resources must be curtailed. And,
this reality is further accelerated by the
fact that the Board of Trustees approved a
University budget in July that also
includes a base-budget cut to library
personnel and operational expenses of
some 3.75%.
"Damnit!" The process of downsizing
has been, needless to say, far less pleasur-
able than our fine dreams of the future.
Inevitably, we must step back from a
position that, in and of itself, was to be
enhanced and expanded. To meet the
anticipated cut to the base budget, some
public service fiscal-year faculty have
gone to academic year appointments,
thereby reducing the quality and degree
of public services offered during certain
time periods such as the summer ses-
sions. Student work hours have been
reduced, and, as a result, some work will
be delayed significantly or simply not
done. Maintenance and upgrades to
essential technologies have been delayed.
Faculty development and travel funds
have been eliminated. We anticipate gaps
in service to departments; less flexibility
in scheduling instructional sessions;
shorter open hours of Waldo and all
branches; closure of public services
during breaks; delays in reshelving
books, journals, and other materials; and
an overall loss in service both in person
and online. These are not only possible,
but known outcomes of the first cutbacks
in 2003.
The reductions have necessarily
focused our attention on daily operations,
infrastructure, workflow, and patron rela-
tions. We have been reexamining what
we have done and had expected to do,
but now must postpone or modify or
reposition. The veterans on the University
Libraries' faculty and staff remind us that,
on other occasions, state budgets have
been inadequate, and notable holes (miss-
ing titles or years) have developed in our
collections, especially in journal collec-
tions. Moreover, the entire University
community is undergoing budget
 reverses and cutbacks. Indeed, because
the University Libraries is an academic
service, we have not suffered the greater
losses of our non-academic, non-instruc-
tional colleagues.
What will be? The mission and goals
of Western Michigan and the University
Libraries will guide us through these
times as we continue to serve the aca-
demic enterprise. Despite the immediate
consequences and ongoing implications
of the present economic climate, the
morale of our faculty and staff is high.
More than ever, we have been function-
ing as a team. The many members who
comprise the advisory group for collec-
tions will use acquisitions dollars wisely.
Their decisions will reflect the specific
needs of advanced study and research,
but will never bypass our teaching mis-
ion. We will move soberly ahead in pur-
chasing technologies and resources that
will enhance instruction and research.
Still on our priority list are the image
management system and the establish-
ment of our digitization center that is
described elsewhere in this issue. We
have been able to fund replacement of ter-
minals in the Libraries bringing the latest
technology to one of our classrooms as
well as all public terminals. In the short
term, we will draw upon endowment
monies to provide travel and develop-
ment support to faculty in the tenure
track and faculty desirous of promotion.
We will support research and continuing
education for all of our faculty and staff,
whenever possible, for a knowledgeable
and strong faculty and staff are a conduit
to excellence in service for all of WMU's
students, faculty, and staff. I might also
add that our Friends of the University
Libraries organization, which is now
helping to publish Gatherings, has estab-
lished a development fund for staff mem-
bers to improve and add skill sets.
Mobilizing ourselves under the banner
of our mission, we will identify metrics
that will offer us a truer picture of where
our University Libraries fits among the
members of the Association of College
and Research Libraries and the reputable
Association of Research Libraries.
Comparisons to peer institutions will
assist in assessing the relative size of the
library staff, volumes held, number of
current serials, and dollars spent on
monographs and serials. Such documenta-
tion will guide our planning and underpin
requests to the central administration
for future funding. Commercial evaluation
instruments assessing library services
and patron satisfaction will be employed
to give us an indication of our effective-
ness in rendering essential support to the
student and faculty users in areas of ser-
collection, library services, and technology.
We, must, to paraphrase William Faulkner,
"not only endure, but prevail."
In good times and in bad, every great uni-
versity should have an equally great library.
No "damnit" needed!

...Modern Michigan"
Continued from page 1
ning to academic research in Medieval
Studies.
In serving as one of two Regional
Digitization Centers for west Michigan,
WMU will also be training, and working
with seven public libraries, recipients of
incentive grants, to digitize unique collec-
tions housed in their respective libraries.
Participating libraries are: Buchanan
District Library, Lincoln Township Public
Library (Stevensville); Maud Preston
Palenske Memorial Library (St Joseph);
Niles District Library, Van Buren District
Library (Decatur); Calvin College,
Hekman Library (Grand Rapids); and
Loutit District Library (Grand Haven).
Library staff will be trained in digitization
techniques, metadata standards, and
copyright issues to empower them to
digitize their own local and unique mate-
rials relevant to the 19th and 20th century
Michigan history.
Not only does "The Making of Modern
Michigan" provide access to Michigan
history to a broader audience, but it has
become a catalyst to preserve unique his-
torical resources across the state of
Michigan as well as the preservation of
other extraordinary documents and
records of our civilization—time truly
made memorial.