Unexpected Treasures
By Randle Gedeon

Most readers of Gatherings have only a vague idea of the varied print, electronic, and non-print collections that can be found in the University Libraries. Some are unaware that besides Waldo Library, three branches, Education, Music and Dance, and Archives and Regional History, add to the general and selected collections located within Waldo. The Education Library, located on the third floor of Sangren Hall, is the support center for the education and counseling disciplines. Within its collection, there are several unique resources that serve the students, faculty, and staff interested in the study of education. However, these resources can also be of use or interest to a broader audience.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT COLLECTION
One such set of resources is the Curriculum Enrichment Collection. Users of the University Libraries may have discovered that Waldo Library has a Children’s Literature section on the second floor replete with “easy” books and Dewey Decimal classification numbers. In addition, the Curriculum Enrichment Collection in the Education library offers books selected for the pre-kindergarten to sixth grade audience. This useful set of materials includes picture books, beginning readers, biographies, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

As expected and required with children’s literature, the subjects covered are far ranging—the sciences, many aspects of society, history, the physically challenged, the homeless, gender roles. If you name a topic, there is an excellent chance that a book relates to it. Of particular concern in recent acquisitions is the area of multicultural literature. Mary Ann Haws-Johnson, of the Education Library staff, is the main selector of the resources. A taste of her favorite picture book authors includes Eric Carle, Judith Heide Gilliland, Angela Johnson, Steven Kellogg, Jerry Pinkney, Patricia Polacco, and Faith Ringgold. If you want to get a sense of contemporary fiction, look for Ellen Howard, Jean Little, Walter Dean Myers, Gary Soto, Yoshiko Uchida, Jacqueline Woodson, and Laurence Yep. Not surprisingly, adults find the collection as diverse and intriguing as the youthful readers who frequent public and school libraries.

ERIC
A second, far different set of resources is found in the over 400,000 documents that constitute the ERIC microfiche collection. ERIC (Educational Resource Information Center) came into being during the mid-1960s when clearinghouses for educational specializations were established across the U.S. The documents are collected at the national center, reproduced on microfiche, and today are indexed in both print and online catalogs. Information users who search the indexes can find technical reports from state and federally funded projects, institutional research surveys and statistical reports, papers presented at conferences and symposia, unpublished manuscripts (including theses and dissertations), teaching and curriculum guides, and tests and evaluation instruments. Almost anything that fell under the education umbrella, and was submitted to the Center has been included. (Indexed, but separate from the microfiche documents found in ERIC are journal articles that can be retrieved from the University Libraries or through interlibrary loan.)

ERIC identifies nine special audiences besides those of student and teacher who will be attracted to this growing database. Among them are researchers, practitioners, administrators, policymakers, counselors, media staff, educational support staff, and parents. The user often needs to review the abstract of the document in order to determine if it is relevant to his or her information query. Although searches of the online index (ERIC found in DataQuest I, WESTNET) will find the most recent articles listed first, users need to remember that this is a retrospective index and that some of the material is of historical interest only. Resources in Education (RIE) is the print index; each volume covers a given time span. In order for patrons to be able to read the microfiche, the Education Library has acquired three microfiche reader-printers and one microfilm/microfiche reader-printer. Users must have a local “copy” card to print out a paper copy but each machine has that capability.

Tremendous diversity in the coverage and content of ERIC brings a wealth of information to users. A small sampling revealed articles on women builders, email versus U.S. mail, the potential of the electronic library, literacy and empowerment, education behind bars, and the trials and tribulations of relationships.

MULTIMEDIA COLLECTION
Many of the marvels associated with the world of personal computing are attached to the star called “multimedia.” In its most basic form, this modern technology utilizes sound, animation, and video clips to catch the viewer’s interest, and aims to breathe “life” into the experience. Multimedia applications are in use everywhere—at home, in school, and in the workplace. As a result, the Education Library has developed a growing collection of CD-ROM based multimedia titles. These products are ideal for curriculum support, personal enjoyment, or simply to increase enthusiasm for personal computing. A number of titles is noted below to give an idea of the breadth of the resources available. They can be obtained from the reserve section of the Education Library Circulation desk. All are “played” in the library on a special multimedia station.

For the younger audience, there is Aesop’s well-known fable, The Tortoise and the Hare, and Mercer Mayer’s Just Grandma and Me. These are described as “living books;” they bring animation to the popular stories. Also of interest is Math Blaster: In Search of Spot, a CD-ROM that teaches math skills. Presidential history buffs will enjoy, The Presidents: The Picture History of Our Nation. Produced by National Geographic, the multimedia format includes photographs, recordings of speeches, video clips, and a wealth of information from elections to biographical data. Each U.S. President is brought to life, from Washington to Bush. Two recent acquisitions reflect contemporary interest in Native American culture. North American Indians is an historical database and photo archive encompassing the lives and times of the indigenous North Americans. The content covers leaders, tribal heritage, religion, family life, customs, art, and war and weaponry. A second CD-ROM, The Indian Question, contains approximately 10,000 pages of...
steps onto the soil of the 50th state. Gordon thinks he retired from WMU in 1990, but that really isn't true. Back in the busy months when Waldo Library was being rebuilt and expanded, Assistant Dean Bettina Meyer and Gordon, along with some colleagues, began the planning for the first Friends of the University Libraries organization at WMU. Staff member Bill Smith and Gordon drafted a constitution, called together interested individuals, and, ergo, the Friends became a reality. No officer has probably had as much time and effort devoted to his office as Gordon—especially when the semi-annual book sales are at hand. Not only does he assist in collecting, marking, moving, and displaying the items, but he's invariably at the scene—a salesman par excellence.

One might expect that Gordon would have little time for anything else given the interests just noted, but currently he is involved in organizing the library at the Hospice of Greater Kalamazoo. Over the years, boxes of materials had been collected and ignored at the Hospice headquarters. Every item is being reviewed and cataloged so that the staff and patrons can find and use the information. Most recently, he began mentoring third grade children at the North Glade Elementary School. These mentees are at-risk students who need academic and social guidance. This means that he also attends school events so that he can support and encourage his young charges.

What next? The wandering, musical, literary Dane really doesn't know. We can hardly wait for the next season to arrive!

A Dane for All Seasons
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Rare, Special, Why?
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What is more important in a library than anything else—than everything else—is the fact that it exists.

—Archibald Macleish

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searchable text and some 1,000 illustrations. Found within this substantial set of data are the original Encyclopedia on American Indians, published in the 1850s; the full text of over 350 treaties, color illustrations; myths; statistics; and biographical information on the lives of famous Indian chiefs.

Textbook Collection

Although the name may not immediately catch one's attention, this unique compilation of resources is heavily in demand, a focal point in the circulating collection. The titles found in the Education Library include elementary, middle school, and secondary textbooks currently in use in the U.S. They provide prospective teachers with examples of the books and resources they will encounter in the classroom. Among the topical areas are reading, spelling, language arts, mathematics, history, social studies, science, and several foreign languages.

The status of the item as a "textbook" is noted in the classification number that always begin with the letters "LT." The remaining components of that number indicate subject, publisher, series title, grade level, material type, and publication year. Along with the student and teacher editions are activity booklets and workbooks, copy masters, lab manuals, and other teaching tools. Part of the development of this collection is built on the premise that every major publishing firm should be represented. As a result, the user can find examples from Glencoe, McGraw-Hill; Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; Holt, Rinehart & Winston; Scott Foresman; Addison-Wesley; and Silver, Burdett & Ginn. As with other materials, the FINDER online catalog can be searched to locate specific titles. Although intended primarily for the teacher-to-be, many users peruse the collection simply because a textbook is a good introduction to the topic.

In general, the University Libraries does not select postsecondary textbooks for the overall collection. This special grouping in the Education Library is intended and developed for the future teacher whose career is centered on the K-12 schools of this country. As such, it is a valuable "special" collection at Western Michigan University as is each of the others described in earlier paragraphs: Curriculum Enrichment, ERIC Document Collection, and Multimedia. Visit the Education Library and discover, anew or for the first time, the variety of resources that can be found in the University Libraries.