Endowment for Croatian Books Established

The Library is delighted to announce that the John Zdunic Charitable Foundation has pledged a $150,000 endowment for the acquisition of Croatian library materials. The income from the endowment will be used to purchase journals, books and other materials relating to Croatia in both Croatian and English. All materials acquired with the funds will become part of the John and Anne Zdunic Croatian Collection. A striking new book plate has been designed to recognize the Zdunic’s generosity.

“This exceptionally generous gift will foster the study of Croatia and promote a greater awareness and knowledge of the rich cultural heritage of Croatia,” says Carole Moore, Chief Librarian. “With this gift we will be able to build an international- ly renowned collection of research material related to Croatia that will be used by students and scholars for generations to come. The establishment of the John and Anne Zdunic Croatian Collection marks another step forward in enriching the resources for Slavic and East European Studies at the University. It will join The Petro Jacyk Ukraine serials and The Frank J. Scheybal Czech Collection endowments in providing invaluable research resources to our academic community.”

Grant Supports the Early Anatomical Illustration Digital Project

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library has been awarded a grant of US$40,000 from the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The grant is part of an RLG initiative to support the creation of digital content in the History of Science and Technology for inclusion in the RLG Cultural Materials service. The funding will assist with the digitization of early anatomical illustrations from the collections at the Fisher Library.

The Early Anatomical Illustration Digital Project involves digitizing and making accessible through the Library’s web page, as well as through the RLG site, the illustrations of human anatomy contained within the Jason A. Hannah and related collections at the Fisher Library. This portion of the collection consists of a total of 83 titles and approximately 8000 images, ranging in date from Johannes de Ketham’s Fasciculus Medicinae of 1522 to the mid-nineteenth century, among which are such renowned and heavily consulted works as Vesalius’s De humanis corporis fabrica. In the traditional library setting, the content of the images has been difficult to access since analytics for individual plates have never been available, and catalogue searching is limited to MARC records for the entire work. Mounting the illustrations online in high resolution digital copies will allow a wide range of users to access the collection in a very precise way, allowing them to find all the images of the brain, or the kidney, or the wrist. The availability of high-resolution digital surrogates will also help to preserve the originals from excessive handling.

Work on the project is already well underway. Over 1800 plates from the earliest works have been digitized and an indexer with expertise in medical illustration has begun to create descriptive content for these images at the item level, using standardized medical subject headings (MeSH). The project is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2002.