John Luczkiw Collection of Ukrainian Publications

On March 7, 2002, the University of Toronto Library held an event to celebrate the completion of the microfilming of a collection of original materials donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library by the Luczkiw family in 1982. The John Luczkiw Collection of Ukrainian Publications by “Displaced Persons” and Political Refugees: 1945-1954 consists of some 5,000 titles published in Ukrainian Displaced Persons camps in Germany and Austria after WWII. With funding from the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, the collection is now preserved for future scholarly research on 86 reels of microfilm. John Luczkiw (1923-1974), the collector, was born in Galicia, Western Ukraine, and emigrated to Germany where he pursued his studies, and then to Canada in 1950. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1951. He was a prodigious collector and bibliophile, and the richness and scope of this collection are vast.

Access to the collection is aided through the guide, Publications by Ukrainian

Students who require alternative formats have missed a familiar face this academic year. Iqbal Wagle, who has been a relentless advocate for students with disabilities in the Library, retired last year. As a parting gesture, Iqbal requested that staff donate to an assistive technology fund in lieu of a personal retirement gift. Over $1,400 was raised. This money has gone toward purchasing a site license for ZoomText. This software magnifies, enhances the contrast, and reads the computer screen out loud for students who are visually impaired.

An updated version of this guide will also be available in electronic form on the web page of the Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre in the Robarts Library (www.pjrec.library.utoronto.ca). The Fisher Library also houses the John Luczkiw Collection of pre-1950 Ukrainian Canadiana. This collection contains the prolific publishing of Ukrainians in Canada up to 1950. Robarts Library holds close to 2,000 titles collected by John Luczkiw in its stacks. The Library has built on the nucleus of these collections, and our expanded Ukrainica holdings now form a valuable resource for research into Ukrainian activities in the Diaspora.

The Library owes a great debt of gratitude to John Luczkiw for his foresight in collecting this material and preserving it for posterity.

Retired Librarian supports software for Visually Impaired Patrons

Using this software, students can read books, on-line resources, and computer applications, that they would not have been able to see properly without this software package. Iqbal continues to be a valuable resource for services to students with disabilities, even in her retirement.