The Library of Michigan (LM) Foundation has received a $305,000 gift from Lansing's Talbert and Leota Abrams Foundation to fund acquisitions that will increase the size and breadth of LM's genealogical materials collection. The new grant brings total gifts by the Abrams Foundation to LM since 1987 to more than $500,000. According to state librarian James Fry, the gift should move the national ranking of LM's collection from its present number 10 "to one of the top five of all American libraries."

The New York Public Library's Oriental Division received a gift of $1.3 million from Japanese publisher Kodansha, Ltd. to expand and increase access to the collections. One of the foremost resources for Asian, Indian, and Middle Eastern studies, the Oriental Division houses nearly 300,000 books, journals, and other materials. Kodansha's gift will enable the division to continue collecting and preserving a broad spectrum of materials, and to improve public access to its resources by renovating its reading room.

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) received $37,500 from the James Smithson Society for a one-year pilot program to establish a post-graduate residency for minorities in library and information science. The residency will improve SIL's effectiveness in responding to culturally diverse programs, to increase the number of minorities on its staff, and to enhance the career potential of minority members of the library profession.

The School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been awarded grants of $135,000 and $65,000 respectively from the Henry Luce Foundation to support further library development in the field of Southeast Asian Studies. The Southeast Asian Studies Programs at the two universities, together with the program at the University of British Columbia, make up the Northwest Regional Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies. At UO the funds will be used to support acquisitions activities and to strengthen vernacular cataloging capabilities. The UW will use the money primarily for cataloging activities.

In addition, the Foundation has made available another $80,000 to the two programs: $30,000 for each institution for research assistantships, and $20,000 to be jointly allocated as small grants to support predissertation research and travel.

Acquisitions

A gift of 256 early botanical works with an estimated value of over $1 million has been donated to the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., by collector Mary P. Massey. Given during the Folger's 60th anniversary diamond jubilee year, the books make up the largest and most valuable collection of rare books ever given to the library. The collection of early herbals dates from the 15th to the 19th centuries and represents many European countries. It is particularly strong in the earliest printed works, including a copy of the first printed herbal De virtutibus herbarum (Naples, 1477). Other gems include the Hortus sanitatis...