Research Incentive Fund Report

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The grant I received from InULA allowed me to travel to Rome, Italy to present my research project to my peers at the annual meeting of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centers (IAML) in July, 2016.

Carla Williams (Ohio University) and I presented a paper on the Hans and Alice Tischler Collection in the Indiana University William & Gayle Cook Music Library. The Tischler Collection includes approximately 600 scores and 200 sound recordings produced primarily in Israel and donated to the Cook Music Library by Hans and Alice Tischler.

The collection is equally valued by the Jacobs School of Music and the Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University (JSP). Faculty members of the JSP work in ethnomusicology, sociology, biblical study, anthropology, Hebrew and Yiddish language, and more. The origin and contents of the Tischler Collection are of interest to scholars in those fields of study and the Collection is viewed as an important attraction to draw future researchers to the Bloomington campus.

About half of the items in this comprehensive collection are unique to the library. Some of the scores are manuscripts or manuscript copies; some of the CDs are self-produced. At the beginning of the project, few of the titles had been cataloged due to the language challenge. Most are in Hebrew or contain parallel information. The project has been a mixture of challenges and opportunities involving fundraising, cataloging, promotion and patron use.

The presentation described the collection and included a discussion of its history and background, as well as the Music Library’s progress to date with processing the materials. Statistics about the contents were analyzed and issues surrounding processing and cataloging were explained. Current activities, including an exhibit featuring scores, sound recordings and biographical information, were covered, as well as the collection’s potential and the library’s plans for its future. We described the decisions made to promote the collection and to prepare it for patron use.

We have presented on the project at Indiana University and at the Music Library Association Midwest Chapter meeting. The project is ongoing and there is continuous new activity and analysis, with new results to report.

The opportunity to describe our work on this remarkable collection offered rewards on many levels: awareness of the collection was extended to the broader music library community; the reputation of Cook Music Library and its important donors was enhanced; and I benefitted from the opportunity to develop professionally through interaction with my colleagues at the conference.

This was my second time to attend and give a presentation at a IAML meeting and it was a great honor to receive this travel grant.