The Institute of Hungarian Studies Opens New Reference Library

Indiana University's Hungarian Institute has recently opened a new library in order to make research collections donated to the institute more accessible to the IU community and visiting Hungarian studies specialists. The Institute of Hungarian Studies Library, located in the Smith Research Center on the Bloomington campus, offers scholars a rich and diverse collection of journals, rare texts, newspapers, and pamphlets related to Hungarian topics that span the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The new facility contains five major collections, which are described below.

The Aladár Szegedy-Maszák Collection: This 4,500 volume collection from Hungary’s former U.S. ambassador centers on Hungarian political history and U.S. foreign policy, particularly from the Second World War through post-Fascist/pre-Communist era. The collection, which addresses such diverse topics as religion and literature, is primarily in English, yet also contains a large number of literature studies in the Hungarian language.

The Lajos Vincze Collection: Primarily in Hungarian, this small, but important collection features works on religion in Hungary and the Hungarian diaspora in Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine that are otherwise unavailable in the U.S.

The Louis Szathmary Collection: A 5,000 volume collection containing some of the library’s rarest books and journals, including Hungarian-language cookbooks and women’s fashion magazines from the late nineteenth century. This collection’s concentration on culture and literature reflects the central role of these issues in the formation of Hungarian national identity. The collection possesses the only complete set, outside Hungary, of the literary journals Nyugat (West) and Új Idők (New Times)—both major trendsetters in the early twentieth century. Much of the collection is in English.

The Hungarian Reading Room: A 3,500 volume collection developed from the libraries of IU’s former György Ránki Hungarian Chair professors. This cumulative collection contains uninterrupted series of many of Hungary’s most important sociological, historical, linguistic, and literary journals, as well as an extensive file of policy statements from the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Approximately half of the collection is in English.

The Paul Marer Collection: The 2,500-3,000 item collection was donated by IUB Business Professor Marer, who fled Hungary in 1956. The collection focuses on the Hungarian economy during the socialist period and also contains many documents from Dr. Marer’s tenure on the joint American-Hungarian Blue Ribbon Panel formed to restructure the Hungarian economy after 1990. Approximately half of the collection is in English.

The Institute of Hungarian Studies Library is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-4:30 PM and by appointment. The library is located in Room 110 of the Smith Research Center at 10th and the Bypass. For further information and the scheduling of special appointments, contact James White, e-mail: jmwhite@indiana.edu.