

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James Ottaviani, B.S., M.S., M.S., librarian in the University Library, retired from active faculty status on January 28, 2022.

Mr. Ottaviani obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois in 1986, a Master of Science degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan in 1987, and a Master of Science degree in information and library science from the University of Michigan in 1992.

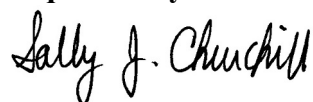
Mr. Ottaviani began his career in 1990 as a library associate in the University of Michigan's Engineering Library while enrolled as a student in what is now the School of Information. After graduating with an M.S. degree in information and library science, he moved into a full time position as a librarian with the Engineering Library. His work included developing interactive computer-based instruction programs, conducting user training in bibliographic tools and microcomputer skills, and serving as a dedicated liaison for a research program in the Mechanical Engineering department. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming the head of Reference at the Engineering Library in 1994 and then the head of Reference and Information Services at the Media Union Library in 1996. In this position, he coordinated the library's many reference services for Colleges of Engineering, Art, and Architecture and supervised the work of librarians and student assistants.

In 2005, Mr. Ottaviani became the first service coordinator of the library's institutional repository, Deep Blue, and served in this position for the rest of his career. Mr. Ottaviani was instrumental in the planning, launch and growth of Deep Blue, the library's institutional repository. The library developed Deep Blue to address the demand from University of Michigan faculty for a means to share materials with scholarly and educational value that did not fit into traditional publication models. The library also used Deep Blue as a means to support the Open Access movement so researchers could make their published scholarship widely available to more people. Since its inception in 2006, Mr. Ottaviani has sought out opportunities to add to the collection of materials stewarded through Deep Blue. His efforts have led to agreements with the Rackham Graduate School for Deep Blue to serve as the host of the theses and dissertations written by University of Michigan students. He has worked with the Bentley Archives, the Clements Library and departments from across campus to host digital archival documents. Most recently, Mr. Ottaviani began a program to assist faculty in capturing their scholarly legacies and preserving them in Deep Blue. Deep Blue now hosts more than 140,000 individual works, which collectively have been downloaded more than 100,000,000 times. Under Mr. Ottaviani's leadership, Deep Blue has become one of the most prominent institutional repositories in the world and a model for other libraries to emulate.

Mr. Ottaviani has been a trailblazer in the library community and has furthered the reputation of the University of Michigan through providing the world access to the scholarship produced by Michigan's researchers and educators. His ingenuity, thoughtfulness, and generosity of spirit made him a joy to work with and an outstanding colleague. He will be deeply missed by the University of Michigan Library.

The Regents now salute this distinguished librarian for his dedicated service by naming **James Ottaviani, librarian emeritus**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

July 2023