

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**


**Timothy F. Richards, A.M.L.S.**, librarian and director, Mardigian Library, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2011.

Mr. Richards received his B.A. degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1968 and his A.M.L.S. degree from the University of Michigan in 1974. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant librarian in 1976, and was promoted to associate librarian in 1977 and senior associate librarian in 1985. He left the University of Michigan in 1985 to become director of the Central and Science Libraries at Vanderbilt University, but returned in 1989 to assume the position of director of the Mardigian Library at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He was appointed librarian in 2005.

Developing a student-centered organization was always one of Mr. Richard's top priorities. To that end, he implemented such enhancements as extended regular hours and 24-hour finals study, and had certain areas redesigned to provide better service to students and faculty. Under his leadership, the Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive and the Campus Archives were established, and a significant donation, the Juvenile Historic Collection, was received. Mr. Richards encouraged librarians to develop the data collection processes and evaluation instruments needed to gather important information for data-based decision-making, and was a strong proponent of staff professional development. Mr. Richards is known also for his involvement with the Michigan Council of Library Directors, an organization that seeks to foster collaboration among leaders of the libraries at Michigan's 15 state-supported universities in order to improve services and save costs. His passionate advocacy led to the development of a statewide document delivery system and the establishment of the Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat) Project in 2004.

The Regents now salute this accomplished leader for his dedicated service by naming **Timothy F. Richards librarian emeritus**.

**Requested by:**

  
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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**September 2011**