

Miami to get thousands of donated Russian books

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OXFORD — Miami University officials are excited about receiving thousands of books on Russian history and culture, saved by the Library of Congress from possible destruction.

Miami and Texas A&M University expect to receive the books over the next few months from a collection that had been owned by the Kamkin bookstore in Washington, D.C.

When the bookstore fell behind on rent and faced having its book collection evicted from a warehouse and sent to a landfill, Library of Congress officials stepped in and absorbed some of

the collection and offered the remainder to interested schools.

Miami and Texas A&M accepted, seeking to expand their campus collections of Russian books.

"They asked if we were interested. We were very interested," Richard Pettitt, Miami's associate dean of libraries, said Thursday.

Miami educators expected a moving van to arrive by Friday with the first shipment of about 10,000 books — roughly two-thirds of what the southwestern Ohio school anticipates receiving by next spring.

Miami will house them in its Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies.