

## IN OUR VIEW

# Russian books find good home

**T**hanks to the generosity of Library of Congress officials, thousands of books on Russian history and culture were saved from likely destruction.

Now a portion of those books are at Miami University in Oxford.

Miami University officials are excited about receiving the books and say they will be housed in its Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies.

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.

The first shipment was expected to arrive Friday, totaling about 10,000 books — roughly two-thirds of what the university anticipates receiving by next spring.

School officials were told that the books are mostly used and are generally Russian-language volumes. But even if they are used, they still will prove a valuable resource for Miami and its Russian language students.

Miami has embraced Russian culture on campus, going so far as to build and erect two cupolas on the top of Havighurst Center that resembled Russian dome architecture. These approximately 15,000 volumes have found a good home.