The papers of Eloise Ramsey, a nationally recognized expert in children’s literature and teacher education, were given to the Wayne State University Archives in August of 1978 by Robert T. Grazier, Associate Director of University Libraries, on behalf of the Libraries.

Ramsey was an Associate Professor in English Education in the College of Education and taught at Wayne for some 36 years. She received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Ohio State University and spent some time teaching school in Ohio and South Dakota. She began teaching at Detroit Normal School in 1919. The school became the Detroit Teachers College in 1920 and in 1933, the College of Education, when Wayne became a university. Ramsey remained at the University until her retirement in 1956. Her titles ranged from teacher to Assistant Professor to Senior Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Ramsey insisted that courses in children’s literature be offered to future teachers. She was responsible for initiating such courses in the College early in her career. She provided materials from her personal library as samples of good children’s books for her students to view and examine in their classes. After the arrival of Dr. G. Flint Purdy as Director of the University Library in 1936, Ramsey launched a campaign to establish a section in the library for children’s books. Purdy not only agreed to this, but also allowed Ramsey space for an office near her precious books. She again provided the nucleus of the children’s collection. Library money was soon allocated for the purchase of new children’s books. Ramsey also provided over 400 rare and notable books which exemplified the best in children’s literature. These became known simply as the Case Collection, a non-circulating collection to be used for research. The Collection was later renamed the Eloise Ramsey Collection of Literature for Young People to recognize Ramsey’s pioneering efforts.

Ramsey was well known throughout the United States for her work in children’s literature, folklore, and the education of children. She was an active member of the Association of Childhood Education, National Council of Teachers of English, National Education Association, and the American Folklore Society; taught summer sessions at Johns Hopkins and Northwestern universities; was involved in developing ideas for the establishment of various centers and institutes dealing with children; and served on the editorial board of *Childhood Education, Story Parade, Reading for Fun*. Ramsey co-authored three books and was working on another at the time of her death in 1964.
The Eloise Ramsey Collection reflects Ramsey’s work in children’s literature, folklore, and children’s education. It documents her involvement with professional associations and her teaching career. The collection includes teaching materials from the 1930’s and ‘40s, papers given at conferences and seminars, miscellaneous writings as well as book manuscripts. It also includes correspondence from many significant persons in the field of children’s literature and publishing such as Lucy Sprague Mitchell, Helen Ferris, May Massee, Elizabeth Coatsworth, and Carolyn Snedeker. Ramsey was a contemporary and friend of such notables as May Hill Arbuthnot and Evelyn Gardner.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Children’s literature
Curriculum
English Education, Wayne University
Ferris, Helen
Folklore
Graham, Hazel
Poe School, Detroit
Williams, Helen

An index to subjects in the collection will be found on p. 11.
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Correspondence, notes, programs, and clippings. The files contain biographical material, information on committees and professional organizations to which Ramsey belonged, proposals for the establishment of various centers and institutes dealing with children, teaching materials, papers presented, and items written by Ramsey without corresponding information as to whether published or presented. Ramsey was also considered a folklorist with emphasis on materials for children, and material representing those interests is found in this series.

**Series II, Correspondence, 1922-1958**, Boxes 2-3:
Professional (1922-1958) and personal (1932-1958) correspondence.

**Series III, Manuscripts**, n.d.; Boxes 3-4:
Manuscripts, drafts, research notes, outlines, background materials, clippings and charts. Most of the material is undated. Some files are not readily identified as part of a specific book while others are identified as parts of three distinct titles.
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31. Library of International Relations; Story Cove, Bibliography of children’s books, 1933
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33. National Assn. for Nursery Education; biennial conference, Detroit, 1941
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