

## **Special Collections and University Archives**

### **Collection Development Policy**

#### **Introduction**

Special Collections serves as the repository for rare, unique and valuable materials in the Binghamton University Libraries. The collections support research by a wide range of scholars including undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and other researchers whose work relies on primary resource materials, rare books, and manuscripts. Over the years Special Collections has built collections of manuscripts, books, films, photographs, sound recordings, and other formats in a number of specialized areas.

Materials in Special Collections are non-circulating and maintained in closed stacks. Security measures include limited access by staff as well as continuous environmental monitoring. Exhibits from materials in Special Collections are created by the department and are rotated several times a year.

Acquisitions that do not fall into existing collecting areas may be made in anticipation of new emphases. In addition to scholarly research value, staff may also take into account items' exhibit and/or outreach potential.

Special Collections accepts transfers of materials that require special protection and care from the circulating collections of the Binghamton University Libraries. Criteria considered in such transfers include fragility, age, association values, and value. These materials are accepted regardless of whether the subject area(s) represented are ones targeted by Special Collections as collecting emphases.

#### **Collecting Rationale**

Special Collections' primary responsibility is to serve the research needs of Binghamton University's faculty and students. To this end, Special Collections seeks to collect in subject areas receiving substantial and sustained attention within the University community, those representing ongoing departmental research interests, or those areas that are the focus of interdisciplinary programs.

Special Collections also considers service to scholars on the national and international levels to be an important part of the mission. Special Collections seeks to play a role in the broader research community by building collections in areas not well covered by other repositories. Consequently, Special Collections draws visiting scholars to Binghamton University and enhances the University's overall reputation as a center for scholarship.

## **Collecting Methods**

Responsibility for collecting materials for Special Collections rests among members of the department who, to complement their own subject expertise often consult with resource specialists elsewhere within the Binghamton University Libraries. The Head of Special Collections is responsible for the general supervision and coordination of collection development activities.

Donation is the preferred method of acquisition for Special Collections, which solicits gifts of materials from individuals and organizations.

When materials are not available through gifts, acquisitions may be through the purchase of items selected from dealer catalogs, by way of auctions, and from private individuals or organizations. Purchases are funded by endowment income, gifts, and library appropriations.

## **Subject Areas Collected**

Collecting areas are regularly reviewed and modified. As circumstances change, the collecting areas will be reevaluated and modified as appropriate. Brief collection development statements for individual subject areas follow.

### **Primary Collecting Areas**

#### **Alumni Literary Collections**

Existing Collection Strengths: Manuscript collections of Molly Peacock, Maria Mazzioti Gillan.

Current Collecting Focuses: Personal papers and manuscript materials of alumni writers, poets, playwrights, authors, novelists, etc.

#### **University Archives**

Existing Collection Strengths: The collections of the Binghamton University Archives.

Current Collecting Focuses: The University Archives includes materials relating to the University's history and includes, but is not limited to, campus publications; tapes, films and videos of campus events; scrapbooks; records of campus offices, departments and organizations; and minutes of campus committees, groups and organizations.

#### **Alumni Authors**

Existing Collection Strengths: The Alumni Authors collection contains signed or limited editions of alumni books.

## **Faculty Publications**

Existing Collection Strengths: The Faculty Archives contains books written, translated or edited by Binghamton University faculty.

## **Faculty Papers**

Existing Collection Strengths: The William Klenz Collection; The Professor John H. Hagan Collection; The Lofton Mitchel Collection; The Immanuel Wallerstein Papers.

Current Collecting Focuses: Papers of present and former Binghamton University faculty members.

## **Local History**

Existing Collection Strengths: The Link Collections [The Edwin A. Link, Jr. Collection, The Marion Clayton Link Papers, The Marilyn Calms Collection, The Link Foundation Papers, The Link-Hughes/L-3 Collection, The Link-Roberson Collection, The Link Community Collection]; The Medical History Collection [Binghamton General Hospital Collection]; Records of the Anitec Corporation; The Broome County Peace Action Collection; Local Business and Professional Women's [BPW] Collections; Local Post Card Collection; The David Bernstein Papers; The Lamont Montgomery Bowers Papers; The Charles Monroe Dickinson Papers; The Daniel S. Dickinson Statue Papers, The MacDonald Collection, The Mark Kulikowski Collection.

Current Collecting Focuses: Papers and published works of locally important figures, organizations and groups; secondary works that document the culture, society, life, physical and human environment of the local area.

## **American Civil War of Local Significance**

Existing Collection Strengths: The Grace Nichols Collection; The Anna Wilcox Collection; The Lewis Brown Collection along with numerous American Civil War era manuscripts, diaries, Confederate imprints, and the anti-slavery pamphlet collection.

Current Collecting Focuses Materials relating to locally important figures, battles, and events.

## **Rare Books**

Existing Collection Strengths: Approximately 100,000 titles ranging from the fifteenth century to the present and including early European, English, and American imprints, local and regional imprints, facsimiles, limited editions and examples of fine printing, bindings, and illustrations. The departmental reference collection also includes selected bibliographic tools and dictionaries including books, with a concentration on North American editions published prior to 1850 and British and European monographs prior to 1800.

Noteworthy collections include The William J. Haggerty Collection of French Colonial History; The Archibald Howard Collection; The George Hinman Collection; The Herbert Reichner Collection; The H. Warner Waid Collection; The Yi-t'ung Wang Collection; The East Asian Collection; The Allan Rogg Collection of Modern Cinema.

Current Collecting Focuses: Rare books that support the research needs of Binghamton University's faculty and students by collecting in areas that represent ongoing departmental research interests or are the focus of interdisciplinary programs. These may include fine printing and bindings; editions with fine illustrations; first editions; limited and numbered editions (less than 1,000 copies); miniatures (10 cm or smaller); fine facsimiles of important primary sources or research texts; books inscribed or autographed by persons of some significance; special presses of particular interest; books published prior to 1800.

### **Performing Arts and Fine Arts**

Existing Collection Strengths: The Max Reinhardt Archive and Library; The Tillie Losch Collection; The Peter Wexler Collection; collections of sheet music; The Allen Rogg Cinema Collection; The George Wellwarth Collection; The Binghamton University Theatre Department Collection; The Frances R. Conole Archive of Recorded Sound; The Professor John H. Hagan Collection; The John McLaughlin Collection; the Loftin Mitchell Collection.

Current Collecting Focuses: Film, Theatre, Music.

### **Other**

Existing Collection Strengths: The Vera Beaudin Saedpour Kurdish Library & Museum Collection.

Current Collecting Focus: Materials relating to Kurds, especially oral histories.