

## Special Collections Library

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The Special Collections Library holds internationally renowned collections of books, serials, ancient and modern manuscripts, posters, playbills, photographs, and original artwork. It is home to some of the most historically significant treasures at the University of Michigan and includes in its holdings some 275,000 volumes of published books and serials, approximately 6,500 linear feet of archival material, about 450 incunabula (books produced in the earliest stages of printing from movable type), 20,000 posters and prints, 10,000 photographs, and nearly 1,400 manuscripts on vellum and paper.

The Special Collections Library is the repository for a broad and rich array of archival collections that have been selected by curators to support the undergraduate and graduate curriculums and the research interests of faculty and students at the University of Michigan. Archival collections consist of material created or received by a person, family, or organization in the conduct of their affairs and preserved because of the enduring value of the information they contain or as evidence of the functions and responsibilities of their creator. Collections typically consist of a variety of materials ranging from personal papers (letters, diaries, notebooks, etc.), photographs, drawings, and ephemera to administrative and financial records, appointment books, drafts, and published works. Many collections also contain, or are complemented by, other types of material including audiovisual material.

Archival collections that have been processed and are available for use are described in finding aids. A finding aid facilitates discovery of information within a collection by providing a description of the collection that includes its history, scope, organization, and contents. Many of these finding aids are accessible online in our finding aids database; others can be consulted in our Reading Room.

We have a long history of working with students and faculty in various ways including

- General and specialized classroom presentations
- Bibliographic instruction (finding and using primary source material)
- Making collection material available for individual study or classroom use
- Project development and support for individual and/or group assignments

The Special Collections Library is located on the 7th floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library. We are open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm and on Saturday from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. To make arrangements for a classroom presentation or scheduled visit, or to make an appointment for consultation with one of our staff, please stop by the Special Collections Library or send email to [special.collections@umich.edu](mailto:special.collections@umich.edu).

We look forward to working with you!



<http://www.lib.umich.edu/special-collections-library>