Graduate Students Reveal Library’s Hidden Collections

The set design for an early episode of the television program Dark Shadows, the stage manager’s marked-up script for Pacific Overtures, and a letter from the Screen Directors Guild granting Orson Welles permission to share credit on his title card for Citizen Kane with director of photography Gregg Toland – these are only a few of the treasures UCLA graduate students have uncovered in “hidden collections” in the UCLA Library’s Performing Arts Special Collections.

Through August 29 the exhibit “Revealing Hidden Collections” offers a first-hand glimpse at what the students have found in the Dan Curtis Productions Records, East West Players Records, RKO Studio Records, and Randolph Scott Papers.

Collections are considered “hidden” when their contents are incompletely cataloged and described. As a result, the materials in these collections are inaccessible to students, faculty, and other scholars.

However, the UCLA Library has created a novel solution to this problem, which affects special collections in libraries across the country. In the Center for Primary Research and Training Plus, graduate students receive training in archival methods, then use that training and their own subject expertise to inventory and describe collections and to create online finding aids. This makes the collections more accessible to other researchers, and it also enables the students to discover possible thesis or dissertation topics.

Modeled after the successful Center for Primary Research and Training in the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections, the new center aims to integrate Performing Arts Special Collections more...
fully into the teaching and research mission of the university. Launched with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the center provides a substantive, year-long educational experience for graduate students, who are compensated at a rate competitive with similar on-campus employment options such as teaching and research assistantships.

Students contribute richness and depth to the archival process, as they offer a user’s perspective in addition to their subject expertise. In turn, they learn important skills that will be valuable in their graduate studies and future careers. The effects can be profound. For example, Jeanie Mao, a doctoral candidate in critical studies in the theater department who worked on the collection from the East West Players, said that the experience “allows me to discover the contradictions between published works and primary materials and teaches the necessity to compare materials from different accounts as a scholar and a researcher.”

“Compared with my previous experiences, which only dealt with an individual critic, designer, or playwright, the variety of the materials in this collection enabled me to understand theater history from a more panoramic viewpoint,” she added. “Moreover, the experience regenerated my interest in primary materials and offered me a chance to reconsider the relationship between special collections and academic departments.”

Performing Arts Special Collections contains archival materials in dance, film, music, television, and theater. Strengths include archives of leading Southern California film and television studios; archives of Southern California composers; documentation of the Los Angeles jazz scene; film, radio, and television scripts; personal papers of prominent directors, performers, producers, and writers; and the Archive of Popular American Music, which contains sheet music and recordings covering the history of American music from 1790 to the present.

UC’s Online Catalog Goes Global

A test version of a possible replacement for the UC libraries’ shared online catalog is now available at <http://ucla.worldcat.org>.

This test catalog provides UC students, faculty, and other scholars with Web access to the world’s richest resource for discovery of materials held in libraries in 112 countries and territories. Users can search the holdings of the ten UC campuses as well as those of libraries worldwide through the WorldCat database, while at the same time narrowing results to the local campus library level.

The catalog is a joint initiative of the UC libraries and the Online Computer Library Center, which created and supports the WorldCat system.
The Library Associates annual giving program is an association of dedicated supporters who provide unrestricted annual support to the Library.

**NEWS**

Your gift to the Library Associates can qualify you for membership in the Chancellor’s Associates!

Gifts directed to the Critical Needs Fund at the $2,500 level and above include membership in the UCLA Chancellor’s Associates. These leadership donors enjoy unique donor courtesies including a personal campus liaison, among several other benefits, and are invited to special networking events throughout the year.

For further information on the Chancellor’s Associates program, please visit the Web site at <http://www.uclafund.ucla.edu/leadership/associates.html>.

**IMPACT**

Contributions to the Library Associates made possible a number of important acquisitions for which funding would otherwise have been unavailable. Following is only one example:

The Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections has a wonderful collection of artists’ books, which are of interest to students and faculty in a variety of disciplines. Created in very limited editions that sell quickly, these items are often handmade and can be very expensive. Library Associates funds made it possible to enhance this important collection with *San’s Letters* by Howard Munson, *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* by Lilliput Press, and *Secrets* by Johanna Rogers.

**Events**

Throughout the year Library Associates are invited to programs and events such as author readings, Discovery Workshops, and Food for Thought lunches. Upcoming events will be listed on the Library’s Giving Web site at <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/development>; click on the “Events” link.

**SAVE THE DATE**

The third annual dinner for Powell Society members, whose annual fund contributions total $1,000 or more, will be held on Thursday, September 18.

The distinguished guest speaker will be Ray Bradbury. To join or for more information about the Powell Society, please call 310.206.8526.
From the University Librarian

Dear Friends and Supporters of the UCLA Library:

In the previous issue of this newsletter, I shared news about the upcoming renovation of the Charles E. Young Research Library. As those plans move forward, we are becoming increasingly excited by the opportunity to transform this facility into one that better meets the needs of twenty-first-century students and faculty.

Beyond the renovation of the first floor and A level, we are developing plans to create “affinity pods” on the stack levels, which will combine special collections and study areas for students in interdisciplinary/area studies. We also intend to construct an East Asian special collections room on the second floor, while turning the south side of that floor into a larger and more coherent East Asian Library.

In addition to the Research Library renovations, we are improving facilities in other libraries across campus.

Long-overdue renovations to Performing Arts Special Collections will create a more functional service area and work space for users. The enhanced facility will also enable us to invite donors and friends to view some of the marvelous treasures from these collections in a lovely new space.

Working with the Anderson School of Management, we are renovating the second and fourth floors of the Eugene and Maxine Rosenfeld Management Library to add more group work/study areas for students and faculty. These modifications will create more practical space in what is one of the newer and most beautiful libraries on campus.

Longer term plans include developing new user spaces in the Science and Engineering Library/Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, located in Boelter Hall. These renovations will utilize space freed up by moving acquisitions staff to Kinross South.

While renovation news is good, the overall budget news is not. California is facing a severe financial crisis, and plans call for serious reductions in the University of California’s state funding. We expect this will translate into permanent cuts of between five and ten percent at the UCLA Library. This will affect our ability to hire qualified professional staff, even to fill vacancies from retirements or attrition. It may also force us to cut back the hours the libraries are open if we cannot afford student employees to staff the circulation desks and other public service positions.

When it comes to collections, our concerns center on our reduced buying power. The costs for electronic journals and journal packages increase exponentially each year, far exceeding the rate of inflation. Complicating that further is the dollar’s continuing slide in value against the euro and British pound; many of our journals and books are published in Britain and Europe, so even when publishers don’t increase prices, their cost to us increases every time the dollar’s value declines.

As the budget plans stand currently, the Library will be funded for “adequate” levels of collection development and public services. But this will not provide the level of excellence that UCLA students, faculty, and staff need and deserve, and it makes your continued generosity – whether through endowments or the Library Associates – even more essential.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to thanking you personally on your next visit to the UCLA Library.

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian

Giving Opportunities

The UCLA Library Associates

Support from the UCLA Library Associates ensures that critical needs, from special-opportunity acquisitions to information literacy programs, are addressed. Discretionary funds available to the university librarian will make a significant impact on the quality, innovative resources and services that the UCLA Library is able to offer.

Honor with Books

Honor with Books allows donors to pay tribute to a special person by placing a bookplate in his or her honor in a newly purchased book in the subject area of the donor’s choice. This $100 gift supports a critical acquisitions need while honoring a loved one, friend, special teacher, or colleague in perpetuity.

Collection Endowment Initiative

The Collection Endowment Initiative provides critically needed funds to acquire, preserve, and make accessible library materials in a particular subject area of interest. Collection endowments begin at $25,000, and the Library invites donors to make a single gift or to build an endowed fund over several years. Special bookplates reflecting the interests of the philanthropist are designed in consultation with the donor and affixed to each item added to Library collections that was made possible by his or her generosity.

Making a Bequest

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the UCLA Library. In recognition of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who have chosen to benefit the university through planned giving, they are welcomed as members of the prestigious First Century Society. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, living trusts, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plans, or other estate planning arrangements.

If you would like to receive more information about these or other options to support the UCLA Library, please contact Amy Smith, executive director of UCLA Library Development, by telephone at 310.206.8451 or by email at amys@library.ucla.edu. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>.
New Endowments

The Library is pleased to announce the establishment of several new endowments. Seven support collections, and the eighth creates the first research prize at UCLA to be awarded to undergraduate students.

Professor emeritus Richard Lanham established the Carol Dana Lanham Memorial Endowment for Books in Medieval Latin Studies in memory of his wife, who worked for the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. She was also the author or editor of many texts, including Latin Grammar and Rhetoric: From Classical Theory to Medieval Practice; Renaissance and Renewal in the Twelfth Century; and Wordly Wise: A Guide to Resources for Editors, Writers, Researchers, and Graphic Designers.

Stephen Lesser established the Stephen O. Lesser Endowment to support the acquisition, processing, and preservation of Chinese materials in the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library. Lesser has also expressed an interest in funding an acquisitions trip to China for Judaica librarian David Hirsch in order to procure items of interest for the Judaica collection.

Library Board of Visitors member Fereshteh Diba established the Khorshid Metghalchi Endowment for Iranian Studies in honor of her mother.

Jacqueline Weber, wife of the late professor Eugen Weber, established the Jacqueline and Eugen Weber Collection Endowment in European History. Eugen Weber was a dedicated and passionate Library user and acquired or donated many valuable volumes to the Charles E. Young Research Library. Jacqueline has also given a bequest, which will further support the Library.

The Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture have established the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies Collection Endowment.

The Research Library Department of Special Collections is the beneficiary of two endowments. Sukey and Gil Garcetti established the Roth Family Foundation Endowed Fund for Los Angeles Photography. After thirty-two years in the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, including eight years as district attorney, Gil is now devoted to photography and has earned acclaim for exhibits and books including Water Is Key (Balcony Press, 2007). In addition to the Garcettis’ financial support, Sukey has recently become a volunteer with the department.

In memory of her mother, Amy Smith, executive director of development for the UCLA Library, and members of her family established the Geraldine J. Sherman Memorial Endowment for Artists’ Books. Gerry Sherman loved books and art, and the family felt that this was a uniquely fitting way to memorialize her passions.

Board of Visitors member Ruth Simon has established an endowment to establish the Ruth Simon Library Prize for Undergraduate Research in the UCLA Library. The endowment will provide funds to inspire and reward research by UCLA undergraduates, and plans are underway for the first research competition.
Upcoming Library Exhibits

July - December 2008

Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library
History and Special Collections for the Sciences
Selections from the Collection: Medicine, Natural History, and Physical Sciences
Through September

Powell Building Rotunda
Proyecto LIDER: Women in the Dominican Republic
July-August

UCLA History Lives Here: The Sixtieth Anniversary of University Archives
September 22 - December 5

Charles E. Young Research Library
Revealing Hidden Collections
Through August 29

Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library
September-December

Charles E. Young Research Library
Department of Special Collections
Aldus to Aldous: Highlights from the Department of Special Collections
Through September 5

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