UCLA Library Receives its Largest Gift Ever for Collections

The UCLA Library has received the largest single gift for collections in its history: $5 million from the Arcadia Fund.

The Library plans to use gift funds to support efforts to further develop, preserve, and make accessible its collections, which are among the finest in the country and, in some subjects, the world.

“Words cannot express the depth of our thanks for this extraordinary gift,” said UCLA University Librarian Gary E. Strong. “We are extremely grateful to Arcadia for its visionary, exemplary generosity, which opens up virtually unlimited possibilities for transformational changes in our collections and the services that support them. We look forward to sharing the tangible results made possible by this gift with present and future students, scholars, and researchers worldwide.”

Strong said the library is exploring specific uses of the gift that will best achieve his goal of transformative change. Among the possibilities under discussion are projects that build new collections, enhance existing ones, repurpose already digitized materials, expand digitization efforts into new areas of concentration, and explore and develop new types of recorded knowledge.

Funds may also be used to enhance end-user discovery of UCLA Library holdings, encourage the use of materials in novel ways, leverage new technology to attract broader audiences to use them in instruction and scholarship, and manage and make accessible scholarship in new formats.
The Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections is very eager to acquire the Haple'atah Archive. The items in this collection were printed for, and relate to, Jewish displaced persons who lived in camps in Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1949; they were called the She’arit Haple’atah, or the surviving remnant. She’arit Haple’atah literature is extremely rare, so the vastness of this particular collection provides invaluable insight to Jewish life in Europe in the post-World War II period. It includes secular and religious texts, poetry, children’s books, newspapers, and Zionist material, printed in Yiddish and Hebrew.

Arcadia has made several major donations to the UCLA Library to support the Center for Primary Research and Training in the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections, the most recent being a significant gift in 2008 to the endowment supporting the program.

“Surviving Remnant”: Haple’atah Archive

This type of literature was only intended for distribution in the camps; it was not available for sale, so many people did not have access to it outside of the camps. The materials were quickly and inexpensively produced, and when survivors left the camps, they often left these materials behind. Most were destroyed when the camps were razed; hence, the rarity and fragility of the surviving items.

This collection is incredibly moving and illustrates that despite the atrocities and humiliation of the Holocaust, the survivors never lost their humanity.

Donation Needed: $200,000

The renovation of the lower level of the Charles E. Young Research Library is underway. The next issue will focus on the exciting changes to come.
Library Gets an Oscar!

University Librarian Gary E. Strong receives the Oscar given to Dorothy Jeakins for costume design in The Night of the Iguana (1964) from Bruce Davis, executive director of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Jeakins’s papers are part of the UCLA Library’s extensive and acclaimed Performing Arts Special Collections. The Oscar is kept on deposit within a special housing in a highly secure setting.


Jeakins (1914–95) also received Academy Awards for her costume designs for Joan of Arc (1948) and Samson and Delilah (1950). Her other credits include South Pacific (1958), The Music Man (1962), and The Sound of Music (1964).

In Appreciation

By Amy Smith, Executive Director of Development

UCLA has given me the opportunity to work with some amazing and talented colleagues, and among those, one in particular stands out: Victoria Steele, the extraordinary head of the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections.

Recently, Vicki was offered the position of director of collections strategy at the New York Public Library, where she will be responsible not only for remarkable rare and special collections, including the Berg Collection, the Schomburg Center, and the Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center, but also for the collections in eighty-six branch libraries. Vicki will be able to combine her love of special collections with her passion for collections that are relevant to the public at large.

Vicki had a hand in almost all of the notable successes we’ve had over the five years that I have been affiliated with the UCLA Library. I thank her deeply for her collegiality and friendship, and while I will miss working with her, I wish Vicki every success in her new professional home.

Library Associates Corner

As it approaches its fourth year, the UCLA Library Associates annual giving program continues to attract many new supporters each year. Events for members during the past year have included the University Librarian’s Powell Society dinner, an author reading, and a Food for Thought luncheon.

The Bradbury Chronicles: Dinner with the Legendary Author

Last September’s Powell Society dinner featured Ray Bradbury, author of the acclaimed novels Fahrenheit 451 and The Martian Chronicles and recipient of the 2004 National Medal of Arts award. University Librarian Gary E. Strong surprised Bradbury with a plaque commemorating the author’s writing of Fahrenheit 451 in the library’s former typewriting room. Guests also enjoyed a preview of the Library exhibit “The History of UCLA Lives Here: The Sixtieth Anniversary of the University Archives.” Strong hosted the dinner for Library Associates members whose contributions total $1,000 or more annually.

Revisiting the Nostalgia of Los Angeles’ Unofficial Main Street

A standing-room-only audience came to hear Kevin Roderick and J. Eric Lynxwiler discuss their Los Angeles Times’ bestseller Wilshire Boulevard: Grand Concourse of Los Angeles in February at the Charles E. Young Research Library. Roderick and Lynxwiler recaptured the glamour, style, and vibrancy of Wilshire’s past through photographs and stories. The authors also discussed their use of the Gaylord Wilshire archive, which was donated to the UCLA Library by Gaylord’s son Logan and contains the earliest known photograph of Wilshire Boulevard from 1895.

Cerebrally Stimulating Cuisine

Internationally renowned researcher Fernando Gómez-Pinilla’s talk, “Eating Your Way to a Better Brain,” complemented the menu at the Food for Thought luncheon in April. Gómez-Pinilla discussed the cerebral benefits of feeding the brain healthy foods such as berries, whole grains, fish with omega-3s, and vegetables, as suggested by his studies showing that certain foods can heighten cognitive awareness and function. For the most cognitively beneficial, he suggested eating vegetables that are slightly cooked as opposed to raw, antioxidant-rich blueberries, and fish such as salmon.
Dear Friends and Supporters of the UCLA Library:

Despite the sobering economic outlook globally, nationally, and in California, the UCLA Library has recently enjoyed some wonderful financial news. Maybe you read about it in the Los Angeles Times or heard it on a local radio program: our tremendous donation from the Arcadia Fund. This is the second largest gift to the Library ever and the largest single donation for collections.

Arcadia has been supportive of the Library over the last few years, and this recent five-million-dollar donation marks the fund’s fourth gift to us. In the past Arcadia has supported the Center for Primary Research and Training, an integral part of the our efforts to make our special collections more accessible. This latest contribution for “transformative services” will enable us to offer access to collections and provide services that users need from a twenty-first-century academic library. The Arcadia gift reaffirms the importance of the research library and the centrality of its place in UCLA’s mission of teaching, research, and public service.

Speaking of the research library, progress is well underway on the first phase of the renovation of the Charles E. Young Research Library, the main humanities and social sciences library for graduate students and faculty. As I write this, I can hear the drilling and hammering of the work on the lower level, right under my office! This renovated space will house current periodicals and self-service maps and microform; it will also offer seating in a variety of configurations in a sunlit, expansive space. This “garden commons” will be a welcome addition to study spaces on campus, and I expect it will be heavily used.

As part of the renovation process, we have developed a demonstration area in which we’re testing concepts for the research commons to be created on the first floor. In this area, located near the reference desk, hardware, software, and furniture enable users to experiment and offer feedback on how the equipment, configurations, and services meet their needs. It’s a very exciting process, and I invite you to come by and take a look for yourselves.

I am also delighted that this issue features our newest angel donor, Bill Edwards, who provided the funding needed to acquire the Aldous and Laura Huxley Collection. Bill is a 1961 alum of UCLA with a degree in English, and his favorite genre has continued to be science fiction. We are deeply grateful to Bill for his generous support, which will enable scholars on campus and around the world to rely on the UCLA Library for research related to Aldous Huxley.

With so much positive news, it is unfortunate that the budget outlook remains dreary. The news will no doubt have changed between the time I write this and the time you read it, but I invite you to read my blog, where I post the most recent information I’ve received, at <http://blogs.library.ucla.edu/universitylibrarian>.

I continue to be extremely grateful for your support of the UCLA Library, and I hope to see you here one day soon.

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian

For information on supporting the UCLA Library, please contact Amy Smith, executive director of UCLA Library Development, by telephone at 310.206.8551 or by email at <amys@library.ucla.edu>. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>.

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 310.206.8551 or by email at amys@library.ucla.edu. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>.
Bill Edwards

Science fiction aficionado Bill Edwards just couldn’t resist when he heard that the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections had an opportunity to acquire the Aldous and Laura Huxley Collection. Standing in a group of guests at last year’s champagne reception, he listened as Victoria Steele, then head of the department, enthusiastically described the papers, which would complement the Library’s existing Huxley archive. When the collection became available recently, he offered to help fund the purchase.

This remarkable collection contains literary materials Huxley created subsequent to a devastating 1961 fire that destroyed his Los Angeles home and much of his earlier archive; correspondence, photographs, and audiotapes; typescripts and galley proofs retrieved from publishers after his death; and personal effects such as his address book and British passport. Also included are the papers of his wife, Laura, an author and lay therapist.

Edwards, together with his wife, Ann, has been a longtime supporter of the UCLA Library; both are members of the Board of Visitors and the Library Associates’ Powell Society. Now he has also joined a very select group of angel donors – that is, donors who enable the Library to acquire a unique or rare collection by donating the funds needed to make such purchases of opportunity. The Library has fortunately been blessed with other angel donors, most notably, the person who funded the acquisitions of both Susan Sontag’s papers and the Isadora Duncan collection.

A 1961 UCLA graduate with a degree in English, Edwards is the general partner of Westwood Investments, a real estate investment company with commercial properties in California, including the Hilgard House Hotel in Westwood Village, and throughout the southern U.S. In fact, Edwards and his wife live atop Hilgard House and often walk to campus to attend events.

Edwards’s many other affiliations with UCLA include life member of the UCLA Alumni Association; gold member of the Chancellor’s Associates; founding director of the Ziman Center at the Anderson School of Management; former chair of the Department of Economics Business Economics Council; and member of the UCLA tennis team’s support group, the Racqueteers, as well as Blue Shield and Friends of English.
Archives Alive: Student Discoveries in the Center for Primary Research and Training

CHARLES E. YOUNG RESEARCH LIBRARY,  
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LOBBY  
JULY 2009 - MARCH 2010

Over the past five years, UCLA graduate students have worked with more than 150 archival collections in the Center for Primary Research and Training, making them available to scholars worldwide.

Through the Center, students are matched with unprocessed collections in their discipline and are given training in the archival principles of arrangement, description, and preservation. As a result, the students receive hands-on experience working with primary documents in their area of study, and the UCLA Library gains newly cataloged materials.

Discoveries on display include cuneiform tablets, Near Eastern manuscripts, early twentieth-century photographs of Hollywood starlets, letters from Japanese internees, Mexican colonial manuscripts, and Barack Obama election memorabilia from Kenya.

Edwin B. Hesser, photographer. Hesser color photograph. 
Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections. Edwin B. Hesser Papers