

The Archives of the Mormon Experience

I. Purpose and Program Description

A. Library's Collection Development Objectives

The Archives of the Mormon Experience seeks to support research and teaching concerning the Mormon experience from 1800 to the present at all academic levels, undergraduate through post-graduate, in order that the record of the LDS past and the understanding of the impact of Mormonism on the world will be as complete as possible.

B. Curriculum Program Description

All disciplines within the University concerned with aspects of the past of the Mormon experience make use of the archives, with heaviest use coming from History, Religion and Church History, American Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, English, Communications, Political Science, and Humanities. In addition, numerous scholars in a wide variety of unrelated disciplines, from Organic Chemistry to Physical Education, research our holdings in pursuit of their interest in Mormon History as either a secondary scholarly interest or simply an avocation. Undergraduates, graduates, and faculty research the existing collections; potentially this same broad group will continue their use with no change in their makeup except as individuals, although we hope for a general and steady increase in the amount of use.

C. New and Expanding Areas of Interest

Mormon Women

D. Areas of Specialization

See "Creation Dates" and "Subject Emphasis" below.

II. General Selection Guidelines

A. Treatment of Subject Depth

Collected are unique archival and manuscript materials to create a research-level collection. Some LDS church records and some papers of LDS General Authorities are excluded. (See "Cooperative Programs Outside the Lee Library" below.)

B. Specific Delimitations

1. Type

Archives and manuscripts of any type, except aural and photographic are collected. Aural materials are collected by the Archives of Recorded Sound; photographs are collected by, or transferred to, the Photo Archives.

2. Physical format

Primarily original archives and manuscripts are collected. Photocopies, microform, typescript, and other types of copies are collected.

3. Creation date

- a. Collected extensively: 1810-1930, especially in areas of specialization. An effort is made to complement, as appropriate, the efforts of Special Collections to collect everything written by or about Mormonism during the first century of Mormonism by collecting archives and manuscripts from that same period in as much depth and breadth as possible. (See “Subject Emphasis: below.)
- b. Collected selectively: Post-1930. (See “Subject Emphasis.”)

4. Geographical focus

The papers of selected Mormon individuals, institutions, and organizations worldwide are sought, with the greatest amount of material continuing to come from Utah and the Intermountain West.

5. Subject emphasis

The Archives of the Mormon Experience seeks to preserve the papers and records of individuals, families, organizations, and institutions relating to or documenting the experiences and accomplishments of Latter-day Saints from all walks of life, in order that all areas of Mormon life—individual, family, business, professional, cultural, political, etc.—will be represented. The following subjects are emphasized:

- a. Mormon Church history and Mormon Doctrine
- b. Education

- c. Mormon historians, intellectuals, scientists, and artists
- d. Mormon folklore
- e. Mormon women
- f. Mormon diarists, especially missionaries and immigrants
- g. The Mormon family, both as an institution and specific families

The following subjects are also important in understanding the Mormon experience, but the primary collecting responsibility for them lies with other archival programs:

- a. Mormon literature
- b. Arts and communications
- c. Business, mining, and transportation
- d. Energy and the environment
- e. Politics, Utah, and the United States
- f. American Indian
- g. Overland trails
- h. Brigham Young University

Emphasis is placed on those individuals, organizations, and institutions which have played significant roles in the growth of Mormonism or which have achieved prominence and significant accomplishments in a specific field. However, if the subject content of an individual's papers is so specialized or limited that the papers would be likely to receive little use at BYU and their presence here would cause scholars in that field to be seriously inconvenienced, the papers will not be acquired in the original. Also, with rare exception, it is felt that the papers of LDS members of the United States Congress are more appropriately preserved in repository physically near their constituency. If an LDS Congressman or Senator has achieved national stature such that he or she will be an important figure in American history and the papers would be sought after by the Library of Congress or similar

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repositories of national scope, then it will be appropriate for the Lee Library to preserve the papers.

In addition, records of a high quality created by “ordinary” Latter-day Saints, i.e., Latter-day Saints who have not achieved prominence, are also collected. An example of such records is missionary journals from all periods of Church history, other diaries, and very complete archives of specific families over several generations. We collect all Mormon diarists from 1820 to the present.

Also, we collect, in a highly selective manner, those materials related to the time periods and localities in which Mormonism emerged and developed, with specific reference to American religious thought and history, social and intellectual history as it relate to religious history, and United States governmental policies as they directly influenced Mormonism.

6, Languages

Most materials sought will be in English, but no language is excluded if other criteria are met.

C. Overlap with Other Subjects or Collections Within the Lee Library

See General Introduction above.

D. Cooperative Programs

By agreement with the Church Archives, the papers of all General Authorities who were living on January 1, 1976 and thereafter are to be preserved in the Church Archives, except when extenuating circumstances make it impossible to follow this policy and the Church Archivist and the University Librarian agree that a person’s papers would be more appropriately preserved by BYU.