

William A. Wilson Folklore Archives Collection Development Policy

Objectives: To provide original research documents dealing with folklore and ethnography for students and researchers primarily in folklore, history, family studies, anthropology, and Mormonism. The collection dates primarily from 1969 and contains student generated material. Under the direction of the curator, fieldwork projects will be conducted and the results added to the archive. The Utah Heritage Project, co-sponsored by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, a program designed to train students in ethnography and then conduct interviews on a Utah subject designated by the curator.

Trends: The archive is used primarily by undergraduates in folklore classes. However, there is an increase in use by students in other subject areas and by visiting scholars. The archive is also used by media representatives.

Responsible parties: Curator of William A. Wilson Folklore Archives, advisory board (consisting of Curator of Wilson Archives, Chair of Special Collections, BYU folklore faculty, William A. Wilson, Member of anthropology, history departments or School of Family Life, and one folklorist outside of BYU.)

Level: Four/Five in Mormon materials

Geographical: World wide for student projects, Intermountain West and Polynesia for curator fieldwork, papers, books etc.

Gender, ethnicity, economic, social and class parameters are open for student submissions. The main focus tends to be university students (especially at BYU), families, religious life, the Intermountain West, and Polynesia. These five areas will be the emphasis of any fieldwork conducted by the curator. The Field Schools held in 2004 and 2005 in connection with the American Folklife Center as well as materials collected through the Utah Heritage Project will focus primarily on families, religious life, and the Intermountain West all with a heavily Mormon content.

Rural or Urban: Contains items from both areas.

Time span: Collected from 1969 onward. Items are collected from living informants but may refer back to earlier historical events.

Core Topics and Sub-Topics: The folklore of university students, families, religious life (primarily Mormon), Polynesia and the Intermountain West. Curator will focus primarily on families, religious life, BYU, ethnic groups and the Intermountain West.

Collection Documentation Strategies: Accession student submission from folklore classes, papers of folklorists and ethnographers including their fieldwork, fieldwork done by curator in the five areas of emphasis. Materials from Polynesians settling in the Intermountain West will also be collected, and efforts will be made to establish a relationship with BYU Hawaii through the CES Consortium.

Not Collected: We will collect anything turned in by students. However, we will acquire professional papers only in folklore and ethnography in areas of emphasis, particularly with a Mormon connection. Fieldwork done by the Curator will provide future documents of historical value in areas emphasized by the curator of 20th and 21st century materials.