Introduction to UC Irvine’s Special Collections & Archives

Special Collections and Archives
Langson Library, Room 570 (5th floor)
Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm. 949-824-3947

Derek Quezada - Public Services Librarian
quezadad@uci.edu 949-824-4967
What are Special Collections & Archives?

• **Special Collections and Archives (SCA)** is a library department that houses UC Irvine’s collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographs, and other rare and special materials.

  – **Special Collections** are generally characterized by their value, uniqueness or rarity, and an institutional commitment to long-term preservation and access –

  – **Archives** refers to ‘records’ of the daily life of people and organizations. They are the documentary evidence of past and can be used to interpret and understand history.
How it looks in practice...

Rare Books Stacks

Archival Boxes
More Thoughts on Archives

- **Archives** are organic, they document activity – (the stuff in your room and your computer is your archive in the making)
- **Archives** are often unconsciously created. Not created for the sole purpose of becoming an archive.
- Very few archives are complete.
- Its up to the archivist to **create order** where there was none and determine **what is worth keeping**.
- Often needs a **finding aid or guide** to the archive before being made available to the public.
Example of a personal archive (before and after an archivist)
Types of material you will find in a Special Collections & Archives Dept.

- Photographs
- Artist Books
- Rare Books
- Paintings and other museum like objects
- Correspondence (handwritten letters & emails)
- Manuscripts (writing that haven’t been published)
- Maps
- Posters
- Post cards
How are they different from other library collections?

- In contrast to general (or circulating) libraries, the uniqueness of special collections means that they are not easily replaced (if at all) and therefore require a higher level of security and handling.
- Since material does not circulate it is viewable only in a Reading Room – where patrons can consult the material in coordination with library staff.
- Material cannot be browsed in the open stacks and must be requested by the patron to be brought out to the reading room where it is kept until no longer needed by the patron.
What do people do with Special Collections & Archives?

• For instruction or education (what I am doing now), outreach and development, and preservation

• Most importantly, on doing **primary source research** usually with the goal of publication, either in a journal, book, thesis or dissertation

• Primary sources are usually defined as **first hand information** generated by witnesses or participants in past events.

• The **interpretation and evaluation** of these sources becomes the basis of their research
Locating Special Collections & Archival Material

To find books – Antpac
http://antpac.lib.uci.edu/
ANTPAC, (Anteaters Public Access Catalog), provides records for materials in all of the UC Irvine Libraries. Limit to “Special Collections/Archives” from the pull down menu.

To find Archives – Online Archive of California
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/
Provides access to finding aids and historical materials from a variety of California institutions, including museums, historical societies, and library archives.

To find Digital Images – Calisphere
https://calisphere.org/
Calisphere is a gateway to digital collections from California's great libraries, archives, and museums. Discover over 400,000 images, texts, and recordings—and counting.
To Find Books

**Antpac** - UCI Library Catalog


ANTPAC, (Anteaters Public Access Catalog), provides records for materials in all of the UC Irvine Libraries. Limit to “Special Collections/Archives” from the pull down menu.
Keyword search under “Special/Collections Archives”
Click on the title you want

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call #</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>169 bits by Ed Ruscha / In type by Karl Nawrot</strong>; typeset by Scott Ponik Ponik, Scott [Portland, Oregon : Stand Up Comedy, 2008.]</td>
<td>Langson Library Special Collections TOS</td>
<td>N7433.4.P65 A17 2008</td>
<td>LIBRARY USE ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Morris &amp; Co.: stained glass windows, painted tiles &amp; ceramics, painted papers &amp; chintzes, woven fab</strong></td>
<td>Langson Library Special Collections Gen</td>
<td>NK1137 .M67</td>
<td>LIBRARY USE ONLY</td>
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Write down the location and call number of the item

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Permanent link to this ANTPAC record: [http://antpac.lib.uoregon.edu/record=b3885872-55](http://antpac.lib.uoregon.edu/record=b3885872-55)

Description:
1 v. (169 leaves) : 43 x 28 cm

Subject - LCSH:
- Ruscha, Edward. Leave any information at the signal
- Artists' books -- Specimens
- Ruscha, Edward. Leave any information at the signal
- Reference Library (Firm)
- Ruschat, Karl
- Ruscha, Edward. Leave any information at the signal

Genre/Form:
- Artists' books -- Oregon -- 21st century.

Title:
One hundred sixty-nine bits by Ed Ruscha

Note(s):
- Title taken from accompanying slip
To Find Archives

Online Archive of California - UCI

http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/UCI-Irvine

Provides access to finding aids and historical materials from a variety of California institutions, including museums, historical societies, and library archives.
Select an archival collection from UC Irvine

UC Irvine

Department of Special Collections and Archives
The UCI Libraries, P.O. Box 19557
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Phone: (949) 824-3947
Fax: (949) 824-2472
Email: spcoll@uci.edu
http://special.lib.uci.edu/

Contributing institutions on campus: 4
Collections with online items: 35
Physical collections: 650

Browse the Collections

Find a collection at these institutions
Hit escape key to turn off autocomplete feature.

- Show collections with online items
- Critical Theory Archive
- Southeast Asian Archive
- Special Collections
- University Archives
Find a specific archival collection

Southeast Asian Archive, UC Irvine

Collections with online items: 15
Physical collections: 50

Bonner (Mitchell I.) Photographs and Ephemera
Click on the ‘Collection Contents’

Collection Guide

Collection Title: Guide to the Mitchell I. Bonner Photographs and Ephemera MS.SEA.006

Collection Number: MS.SEA.006

Get Items: Online items available

Collection Overview

Description: This collection comprises approximately 3,000 photographs and slides taken by Mitchell Bonner between 1975 and 2001, as well as printed ephemera collected by him through 2014. The images document Hmong, Lao, Khmer, Vietnamese, and Cambodian community social and cultural events throughout Northern California, primarily in the San Francisco Bay area. The emphasis is on Lao American communities. The ephemera includes programs, posters and flyers from cultural, religious, and popular culture events, refugee publications, pamphlets and brochures from refugee assistance agencies, and other materials related to social services, education, and refugees. The collection also includes a small amount of material documenting other Asian American communities in California, including Burmese, Thai, Filipino, and Tibetan.

Background: Mitchell I. Bonner has been active in the San Francisco Bay area’s Southeast Asian American communities since 1975, when the first Lao and Hmong refugees moved to the area. Over the years Bonner has documented both daily life and special community events, through photographing private and public activities in the Southeast Asian community. His photographs include images dating from a 1975 Christmas party for Vietnamese refugees at San Francisco’s International Student Center, to a 2000 Laos New Year’s celebration in Richmond, California.

Collection Contents

Visual materials
Printed ephemera
Unprocessed addition 2002-2006
Unprocessed addition 2012
Unprocessed addition 2014
Write down the Box and Folder number you want to view.

- Box 1, Folder 1: Angel Island (San Francisco Bay) 1978
  - Physical Description: 32 photographic prints and 24 color slides.

- Box 1, Folder 2: Bangkok, (Thailand), old refugee camp circa 1984
  - Physical Description: 19 color slides.

- Box 1, Folder 3: Bicentennial religious parade, San Francisco 1976
  - Physical Description: 19 color slides.
To Find Digital Collections

Calisphere - UCI

https://calisphere.org/UCI/collections/

Calisphere is a gateway to digital collections from California's great libraries, archives, and museums. Discover over 400,000 images, texts, and recordings—and counting.
Keyword search or scroll to institutional collections

The deeper you look, the more you'll discover.

Calisphere is a gateway to digital collections from California's great libraries, archives, and museums. Discover over 400,000 images, texts, and recordings—
Select UC Irvine Digital Collections

Explore University of California collections:

UC Merced  UC San Francisco  UC Santa Cruz  UC Berkeley  UC San Diego  UC Irvine

UC Santa Barbara  UC Riverside  UC Davis  UCLA

Featured statewide partners:

View all contributing institutions →
Click on a collection that interests you

UC Irvine

Location: Irvine, CA
Phone: (949) 824-3947
Email: spcol@uci.edu
Website: http://special.lib.uci.edu/

Collections at UC Irvine

Artists' books collection

UCI's collection of artists' books dates from the 1960s to the present (400 volumes to date, most of them published after 1990)

Click on one of the collections
Click on an item that you want to learn more about

About this Collection
UCI’s collection of artists’ books dates from the 1960s to the present (400 volumes to date, most of them published after 1990) encompassing nearly all aspects of the genre from “normal” published works to altered, sculptural, painted and unique books. The collection has three major focus works by and about women; works that explore contemporary American politics; and works produced in Latin American countries.

View this collection on the contributor's website.

41 items found in this collection

Search within collection

Type of Item
 physical object (41)

Select all

After reasonable research: years...
 Alphabet tricks
 Are you a boy or a girl?: conversations...
 Arguments
 Behind my own disguise
 Bibliofilia y encuadernacion ...
View objects and download images

UC Irvine, Libraries, Special Collections › Artists' books collection › Alphabet tricks

Physical Object set / Alphabet tricks

Use the carousel below to page through items in this set. Got it!
Thank you!
Please contact me with any questions...

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