

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Mission Statement:

Special Collections consists of individual items and collections that warrant extraordinary care in preservation because of their historical significance, physical format, subject content, or other distinguishing features. The purpose of Special Collections is to collect material in the primary collecting areas, to serve as a resource and laboratory to stimulate and nourish creative teaching and learning; to encourage the use of Special Collections through exhibits, lectures, and publications; to serve study and research by making available and encouraging the use of its collections to members of Illinois Wesleyan University and the community at large.

Collection Development Policy:

Special Collections of Illinois Wesleyan University currently holds collections in various subjects.

Special Collections encourages the donation, by individuals and organizations, of collected works and materials which fall within its collecting parameters and primary collecting areas. In the following areas special collections attempts to collect and welcomes donations:

Works by and about John Wesley Powell and the exploration of the Western Frontier

Environment & Ecology with special focus on the Midwest, including prose and poetry, organizational records, and manuscripts

Beat Writers, including all forms of printed materials, including ephemera

Works by and about John Gay and the 18th and 19th Century British Stage

Special Collections may consider accepting donations of unique items or collections, even if they fall outside of its primary collecting areas.

Special Collections holds material primarily for researcher use and access. However, it also holds items to assure their preservation and security, including Early imprints (prior to 1800), non-standard formats (i.e. broadsides, miniature book that are 10cm. and under), fragile bindings, and other items requiring extraordinary storage or supervised handling. Special Collections does not acquire collections of artifacts but may accept a small number of artifacts when those items could be used as part of the Library's exhibit program.

To discuss the possibility of donating materials and to learn about our gifts policy, please contact the Archivist & Special Collections Librarian at The Ames Library, or the Development Office, at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Tate Archives & Special Collections does not conduct monetary appraisals of donated materials but will refer the donor to professionals in the area who specialize in such services.