



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

Paul Laurence Dunbar Library
Wright State University
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Dayton, OH 45435-0001
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Hours:

8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Wednesday
1:00–5:00 p.m., Sunday
Closed Saturday
No evening or Sunday hours during
academic breaks or summer term

www.libraries.wright.edu/special



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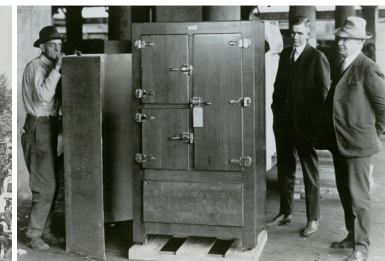
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

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P R E S E R V I N G H I S T O R Y



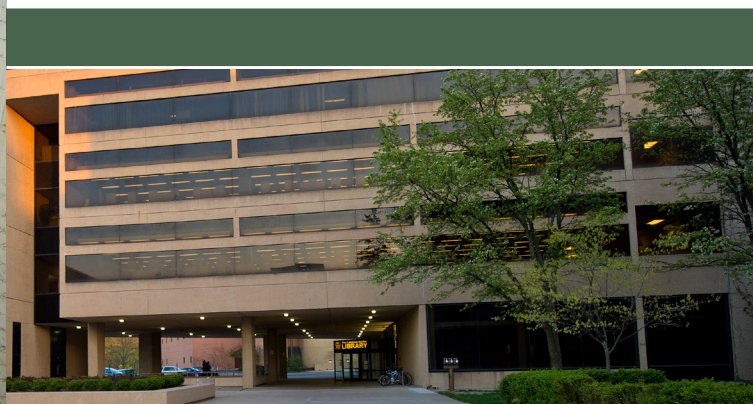
AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF HIGHER LEARNING

A UNIVERSITY HAS AN OBLIGATION, A MISSION, to educate its students in the modern sciences, theories, arts and humanities, and practices expected of a global citizen. We find the basis for most of these lessons in the historical records and files of the greatest minds of our times and of those gone by.

Wright State University's Special Collections and Archives is fortunate to have amassed an impressive collection crossing a wide array of disciplines and eras. These assets are cared for by professionally trained archivists and are available for study by researchers of every level.

“NO SERIOUS RESEARCHER exploring the invention of the airplane can avoid a visit to the Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University, home to one of the world’s most significant collections of original research material on the work of Wilbur and Orville Wright. The university, named in honor of the Wright brothers, can take genuine pride in the extent to which it is preserving the record of their achievement and making it available to researchers from around the world.”

— TOM CROUCH, Senior Curator
of Aeronautics, National
Air and Space Museum,
Smithsonian Institution





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WHAT WE DO



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES HAS EARNED international respect and recognition for its efforts to collect, preserve, and make available the history of aviation, the local and regional history of the Miami Valley of Ohio, and the university's history.

ABOUT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

THE DAYTON REGION has a rich history of serving as an incubator of inventors and other great minds. The spirit and history of these innovators and creative thinkers is captured in the Wright State University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives. Here you can discover the past through words and images that bring us closer to the minds of past generations.

Feel Milton Wright's anguish at the death of a son when you read the pages of his original diary. Watch the Wright brothers take flight through photographs and films. Sympathize with a Civil War soldier by reading his letters describing the loneliness and hardships of camp. Experience the lives of generations of local families through documents, photographs, and memorabilia.

We invite you to explore the Special Collections and Archives—where the spirit and history of creativity and innovation come to life.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES is dedicated to providing access and exemplary research services, for the campus community, the local community, and the world.

From grade school students to filmmakers, from engineers to family history researchers, from aircraft restoration enthusiasts to community historians, equal access is provided to all. These individuals, along with journalists, authors, and scholars worldwide, use the collections each year.

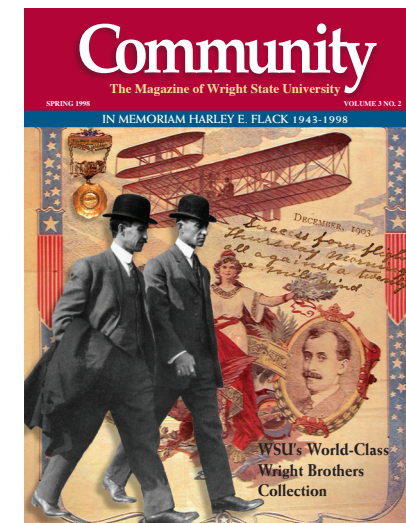
Special Collections and Archives uses the latest technology to provide researchers with information via electronic delivery and the web.

In addition to assisting researchers, Special Collections and Archives is a teaching archives supporting the Department of History's public history graduate program, one of the oldest and most respected such programs in the country.



ALONG WITH DIARIES, LETTERS, AND ORAL HISTORIES documenting the human experience from the ordinary life of an Ohio farm wife to Dayton survivors of the Holocaust, the collection includes:

- The largest Wright brothers collection in the world
- A Cold War aerospace technology archive
- Papers of political figures and parties
- The *Dayton Daily News* newspaper archive
- Local government records
- Records of major arts organizations
- Collection of Paul Laurence Dunbar first editions
- Women's history collections
- Letters, diaries, and photographs of first families of Dayton
- Records of civic and community organizations and associations
- Religious history collections
- The Wright State University Archives



Our dedicated staff of professionally trained archivists, records managers, and public historians:

- Handle hundreds of requests annually for research, photographs, and information for use in documentaries, books, symposiums, articles, and films.
- Provide quality reference service to both in-person and remote researchers.
- Provide access to historically significant materials in a supervised reading room.
- Preserve the history and heritage of the community.
- Arrange and describe archival collections.
- Protect and store materials in a safe and secure environment.
- Preserve collections according to accepted archival standards.
- Conduct outreach efforts, including public programs, guest lectures, exhibits, tours, scholarly publications, website, and social media.
- Improve access to materials through digitization projects and electronic delivery.
- Administer a strong records management program, including faculty and staff training in the retention and disposal of all types of records.
- Collaborate with and recognize donors.