

20th and 21st Century Western and Mormon Americana

I. Purpose and Program Description

A. Historical collections and primary source materials that:

1. Document 20th and 21st Century local, regional, Utah, Western, and LDS history.
2. Support research and teaching at all academic levels, undergraduate through graduate, with an emphasis on providing the very best primary source materials for undergraduate education at Brigham Young University.

B. Curriculum Program Description

All disciplines within the University concerned with the history of Utah, the American West, the impact on history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and American history, use our historical collections.

The number of historical collections held by the L. Tom Perry Special Collections is always growing, and we make every effort to anticipate future curriculum and research requirements, and to meet the demands and requirements of a diverse and large undergraduate and graduate student body.

C. New and Expanding Areas of Interest

Ethnic and minority history (as related to local history, LDS Church history, and Western American history).

LDS Women

Popular Culture

See "Subject Emphasis" below

D. Areas of Specialization

See "Subject Emphasis" below

II. General Selection Guidelines

A. Treatment of Subject Depth

Historical materials acquired are unique historical, archival, and manuscript collections necessary to create an Association for Research Libraries (ACRL) level repository.

B. Specific Delimitations

1. Type

Historical, archival, and manuscript materials of any type, including photographs, film, media and folklore/ethnographic materials. The proceeding four types of material (photographs, film, media, and folklore/ethnographic) will only be acquired in concert with the Curator for Photographic Archives; the Curator for Arts and Communications Archives, Film Music Archives, and Motion Picture Archives; and the Curator for Folklore Archives and LDS Literature Manuscripts.

2. Physical Format

Primary source materials including unique historical, archival, and manuscript materials.

3. Creation Date

Collected extensively: 1900 – present.

4. Geographical Focus

Utah County, Utah, the Great Basin, the Colorado Plateau, the Inter-Mountain West, and the United States, with a particular emphasis on “regions” or “pockets” of LDS membership.

5. Subject Emphasis

I. “Utah political history,” including the historical collections of federal, state, and local politicians, grass roots political movements, etc. Materials to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

II. “Western American business and labor history,” including the historical collections of Utah and Western American businesses, particularly those historical materials that document or chronicle important trends or movements in Western American economic and labor history. Materials

to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

- III. “LDS scholarship and historiography,” including the historical collections of leading LDS scholars, scientists, historians, etc. Materials to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

- IV. “Ethnic and minority history,” including the historical collections of ethnic and minority groups in Utah, the West, and the United States. Materials to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

- IV. “LDS, Utah, and Western American women,” including historical collections representative of LDS women and women in Utah, the American West, and the United States. Materials to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

- V. “Environmental history,” including historical materials and collections that document environmental change, environmental activism, mining, ranching, and agriculture in Utah and the West. Materials to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

- VI. “Utah and the American West and LDS cultural, social, and religious history,” including historical collections and materials that document the lives and careers of Utah/American West and LDS writers; historical collections and materials that document the cultural and social history of Utah and the American West, and historical collections and materials that document the history of Utah County and region. Materials to be collected include historically important manuscript and archives collections.

Collected Moderately

6. Languages

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

C. Overlap with Other Subjects or Collections not in Special Collections but in the Harold B. Lee Library.

We collaborate closely with our Library colleagues, and, in specific cases, allied subject specialists, including Connie Lamb, Mark Grover, Gary Gillum, Michael Hunter, and Robert Means.

D. Cooperative Programs

By agreement with the LDS Church Historical Division, the papers of all LDS Church General Authorities are to be preserved in the LDS 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.