

21st Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts Collection Development Policy

L. Tom Perry Special Collections
Harold B. Lee Library
Brigham Young University

I. Introduction

The 21st Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts was a natural outgrowth of the 20th Century Mormon & Western Manuscripts collection. Materials in this collection have a similar focus as the 20th Century materials, documenting the social, cultural, religious, and intellectual history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the history of Utah; and of the American West. Historical manuscripts and records found in these collections include journals, scrapbooks, correspondence, family papers, business records, congressional papers, photographs, oral histories, printed ephemera, and digital materials.

The collection provides a breadth of primary sources for BYU faculty and students, particularly those researching or who have an interest in early Mormons, Utah, and Western American history. The collection also supports research interests of general patrons including genealogists and family historians.

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

Curator of 21st Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The main focus of collecting will be the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah, and the American West beginning in 2000 and continuing to the present. More broadly, the scope of collecting will also include Mormonism nationally and internationally.

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

i. Areas of Specialization

1. LDS cultural, including popular culture; LDS family; social; intellectual; and religious history
2. LDS ethnic and minority history
3. LDS women's history
4. LDS scholarship and historiography
5. Utah and Western American cultural, family, social, intellectual, and religious history
6. Utah and Western American ethnic and minority history
7. Utah and Western American women's history
8. Utah political history

9. Utah and Western American business and labor history
10. Utah and Western environmental history

ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

All disciplines within the University concerned with the historical experience of the Latter-day Saints, the history of Utah, and the history of the American West make use of the L. Tom Perry Special Collections manuscript and archival collections, with heaviest use coming from History, Religion, American Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, English, Communications, Political Science, and Humanities.

b. Limitations

Special Collections will not collect official LDS Church corporate records, but will recommend such records be submitted to the LDS Church History Department.

By agreement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the papers of all General Authorities who were living on January 1, 1976 and thereafter are to be preserved in the LDS Church Archives, except when extenuating circumstances make it impossible to follow this policy and the LDS Church Archivist and the University Librarian agree that a person's papers would be more appropriately preserved in the L. Tom Perry Special Collections.

The focus of Utah Political History will be BYU alumni, Utah County and region, and the Third Congressional District.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

21st Century manuscripts and records support research needs and requirements for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and scholars, researchers, family historians and genealogists, and community members.

b. Specific Delimitations

i. Type

Historical, archival, and manuscript materials of any type will be collected.

ii. Physical Format

Primary source materials, and unique historical, archival, and manuscript materials will be collected, including, but not limited to, manuscripts, photographs, journals, diaries, scrapbooks, letters and correspondence, records and archives, printed ephemera, and digital resources and assets with 21st Century content, as well as selected artifacts for exhibition purposes.

iii. Date

2000 – present

iv. Geographical focus

1. Utah County: Collected at the research level
2. Utah: Collected at the research level
3. The Great Basin: Collected at the research level
4. The Colorado Plateau: Collected at the research level
5. The Inter-Mountain West: Collected at the research level
6. The United States: Collected at the research level
7. The World, with a particular emphasis on “regions” or “pockets” of LDS membership: Collected at the teaching level

v. Subject Emphasis

1. LDS cultural, including popular culture; LDS family; social; intellectual; and religious history

Historical collections and materials that document the lives and careers of individual Latter-day Saints and Latter-day Saint families. Historical collections and materials that document the cultural and social history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Historical collections and materials that document the religious experience of Latter-day Saints. Historical collections and materials that document the experiences of Latter-day Saint missionaries.

Collected at the research level

2. LDS ethnic and minority history

Primarily historical collections of LDS ethnic and minority groups in Utah, the West, and the United States, but may also include international LDS groups selectively.

Collected at the research level

3. LDS women’s history

Primarily historical collections representative of LDS women in Utah, the American West, and the United States, but may also include international LDS women selectively.

Collected at the research level

4. LDS scholarship and historiography

Historical collections of leading LDS scholars, scientists, and historians, which would include Special Collections’s Professional Papers Project.

Collected at the teaching level

5. Utah and Western American cultural, family, social, intellectual, and religious history

Historical collections and materials that document the lives and careers of individuals and families from Utah and the American West. Historical collections and materials that document the cultural, social, and religious history of Utah and the American West.

Collected at the research level

6. Utah and Western American ethnic and minority history

Historical collections of ethnic and minority groups in Utah, the West, and the United States.

Collected at the research level

7. Utah and Western American women's history

Historical collections representative of women in Utah and the American West.

Collected at the research level

8. Utah political history

Historical collections of Utah politicians, grass roots political movements, etc. Materials to be collected include manuscript and archives collections.

Collected at the teaching level

9. Utah and Western American business and labor history

Historical collections of Utah and Western American businesses and labor groups, particularly those historical materials that document or chronicle important trends or movements in Western American economic and labor history.

Collected at the teaching level

10. Utah and Western environmental history

Historical collections and materials that document environmental change; water use; environmental activism; and mining, ranching, and agriculture in Utah and the West.

Collected at the teaching level

vi. Languages

1. English: Collected extensively
2. Spanish: Collected moderately
3. Other world languages: Collected selectively

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

The Curator for 21st Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts may present a proposal to deaccession material to the Harold B. Lee Library's Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with the Collection Development Policy for 21st Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts.

VII. Cooperation with other Institutions

Special Collections collaborates closely with our Harold B. Lee Library colleagues and, in specific cases, allied subject specialists, including, but not limited to, American history, LDS Church history, Women's Studies, Engineering, Science, Anthropology, Latin American Studies, Maps, Films and Media, and Literature.

Special Collections collaborates and cooperates with other libraries and archives and we endorse and support collaborative projects that promote access to shared cultural resources.

VIII. Revisions

This policy was created by Dainan M. Skeem, January 7, 2016, to complement and support the 19th and 20th Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts' Collection Development Policies.