

Mormonism, Utah, and Western Literary Manuscripts Collection Development Policy

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

I. Introduction

The number of Mormon authors is increasing rapidly. The Mormon Literature Manuscripts collecting area was established in the first decade of the 21st century to meet a need to collect from this growing area of Mormon materials. Beyond Mormon authors, we also wish to collect to a lesser degree the materials of authors from or related to Utah and the American West.

II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

Curator, 19th Century Mormon & Western Manuscripts (1800-1899)
Curator, 20th Century Mormon & Western Manuscripts (1900-1999)
Curator, 21st Century Mormon & Western Manuscripts (2000-present)

Each curator will be responsible for an author's papers based on the century in which the bulk of their publications appeared. Curators and Subject Librarians will collaborate regarding the appraisal of potential acquisitions.

III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

- a. Literary manuscripts with a Mormon connection either by creator or by content in fiction and non-fiction, including:
 - i. Genre fiction
 - ii. Young adult fiction
 - iii. Literary fiction
 - iv. Devotional literature
 - v. Poetry
 - vi. Children's literature
 - vii. Literary criticism
 - viii. Short stories
 - ix. Biographies
- b. Literary manuscripts with a Utah focus, with an emphasis in the following areas:
 - i. Genre fiction
 - ii. Literary fiction
 - iii. Poetry
 - iv. Children's literature
 - v. Short stories
 - vi. Biographies

- c. Literary manuscripts with a Western focus, with an emphasis in the following areas:
 - i. Genre fiction
 - ii. Literary fiction
 - iii. Poetry
 - iv. Biographies

IV. Priorities and Limitations

a. Priorities

- i. Areas of Specialization
 - 1. Mormon connection
 - 2. Utah
 - 3. Western
- ii. Major Faculty Research Interests
 - 1. Creative writing
 - 2. Young adult fiction
 - 3. Religious education
 - 4. Children's literature
 - 5. Literary criticism
 - 6. Poetry
 - 7. Short stories
 - 8. Illustrations

b. Limitations

Literary manuscripts of works created by non-Mormon Western authors not featuring Mormonism, Utah, or the American West will generally not be collected.

V. General Selection Guidelines

a. Treatment of Subject Depth

The collection will provide support for both undergraduate and graduate courses.

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, digital resources and assets, and selected artifacts for exhibition purposes.

iii. Geographic Focus

United States will be collected at the research level.
All other locations will be collected at the teaching level.

iv. Subject Emphasis

Mormonism will be collected at the research level.
Utah and the West will be collected at the teaching level.

v. Languages

English language materials will be collected at the research level.
Other materials in their native language will be collected at the teaching level.

VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

Deaccessioning will occur by proposal to, and approval from, the Special Collections Coordinating Committee.

VII. Cooperation with other Individuals

The curator of 19th and 20th Century Mormon and Western American and the curator of 21st Century Mormonism and Western Americana will be contacted to make sure that published works of authors are collected.

Other literary collections that are being curated separately include the Orson Scott Card papers and the Zane Gray papers.

VIII. Revisions

Mormon Literature Manuscripts Collection Policy approved 2 November 2009.
Mormon Literature Manuscripts Collection Policy revision approved 9 February 2012.
Mormonism, Utah, and Western Literary Manuscripts Collection policy revision approved 12 October 2017.