This policy provides details specific to the Special Collections at the University of Lethbridge Library. In addition to physical Special Collections, the Library is also engaged in ongoing digitization projects aimed at preserving and expanding access to historical materials for current and future generations of students, community, faculty, and researchers.

About the Special Collections at the University of Lethbridge

The University of Lethbridge Library Special Collections is the result of careful collecting by former University Archivist (1996-2020), Michael Perry, and important donations from community members and former university staff. The University Library Special Collections contains more than 6,000 volumes and manuscripts, with a particular focus on Southern Alberta, Western Canadiana, and Indigenous materials.

Dr. Robert Lampard Canadiana Special Collection

The Special Collections are in large part made of the Dr. Robert Lampard Canadiana Special Collection, a major donation to the university. The Lampard Collection has a major focus on Canadian/Prairie books, including Champlain Society volumes dating back to 1905, the Canadian Alpine Journal, and many other outstanding titles. The Archives and Special Collections Reading Room is named for Lampard’s aunt, Dr. Dorothy Lampard, a founding faculty member and University of Lethbridge Senator.
Collection Policy

The Library Special Collections acquires materials, by purchase or through donation, to support research and teaching at the University of Lethbridge. These materials include a wide variety of formats, not limited to:

- printed books
- manuscripts and diaries
- photographs
- newspapers
- prints and drawings
- maps
- printed ephemera (e.g., posters, postcards, pamphlets, etc.)

Donations of gifts-in-kind are an integral part of the University of Lethbridge Library Special Collections’ collection development policy, and the Special Collections Librarians will work with donors to acquire books and collections that offer research potential.

At the discretion of the Special Collections Librarians, materials are acquired based on the following criteria:

- books or ephemera printed before 1850 anywhere;
- books or ephemera printed before 1867 in Canada;
- books or ephemera printed before 1900 in the Prairie provinces;
- books or printed ephemera with significant research potential in Indigenous topics;
- books or printed ephemera with significant research potential in Western Canadiana;
  and/or
- books or printed ephemera with research potential in Southern Alberta.

Preference is always given to materials that complement and build upon existing collection strengths or represent complete collections of new subject areas.

Contact

If you have any questions about this policy or a potential Special Collections donations, please contact the Special Collections Librarians: Romany Craig, 403.329.2246 or romany.craig@uleth.ca; Mary Greenshields, 403.329.2390 or greemc@uleth.ca.