

**Purdue University Libraries**  
**Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center**

**Collection Development Policy**

The Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center of the Purdue University Libraries collects, preserves, and makes available to University students, faculty, staff, researchers and the public rare or unique materials in a wide variety of formats. Archivists select content for the Archives and Special Collections based on the following criteria:

- Materials relate to the history, administration, or culture of Purdue University
- Materials relate to the history of Indiana
- Materials relate to a subject area of distinction for Purdue University as the land grant university for the state of Indiana (i.e. agriculture, aeronautics and astronautics, engineering, science, technology, business)
- Materials are rare or unique and support the research and teaching needs of the University

The bulk of the collections in the Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center relate to the history of Purdue University. Many collections reflect the areas of subject emphasis of Purdue University as the land grant institution for the state of Indiana. In addition, the Archives and Special Collections holdings include rare books, manuscripts, and related materials that have enduring value and support the teaching and research needs of the University.

Materials collected are typically primary source materials such diaries, correspondence, historical documents, photographs, scrapbooks, audio-visual material, electronic media, maps, and architectural drawings. Some secondary sources, such as rare books and all Purdue University publications, are also actively collected.

The Karnes Center accepts donations of materials relating to the history of Purdue University, including materials that document the lives and work of people and organizations associated with Purdue; significant research materials relating to the history of Indiana; materials of a regional or national focus relating to the subject strengths of Purdue University that meet the educational and research needs of the University and its faculty, staff, and students (in particular, materials relating to the history of agriculture, science, engineering, and technology); and significant research materials relating to major individuals and events in United States history that would complement the Center's existing holdings.

Major strengths in the Karnes Center's holdings include materials on the history of transportation, particularly railroads, canals, aeronautics, and astronautics; time and motion study; management; industrial engineering; chemistry; economical and political thought; glass and glass making; world fairs and expositions; the history of Indiana; political cartoons; book design, fine printing, and typography; finely illustrated children's literature; New Harmony, a utopian community in Indiana; bridge construction and design; botany; rhetoric and composition theory; athletic training in the Midwest; and food commodities and rationing.

The Karnes Center encourages gifts that complement existing collections. The Center also encourages gifts of materials that document the history of women, minorities, and other underrepresented groups in the Purdue community and the state of Indiana, with particular focus on collecting the papers of individuals in the fields of engineering, science, technology, agriculture, and management. The papers of individuals associated with the history of aviation and space exploration are a major focus of collecting interest as part of the Flight Archives. Papers of women, in particular women affiliated with Purdue University or the state of Indiana, are actively sought as part of the Women's Archives collecting initiative. Rare books, manuscripts, and archives relating to the history of psychoactive substances research, particularly as it relates to medicinal and therapeutic use of LSD and other psychedelics, are actively collected as part of the Psychoactive Substances Research Collection.

The Karnes Center does not accept donations of duplicate materials; copies of archival materials held by other institutions; non-archival materials with no enduring historical or research value; materials that are restricted from access by researchers for indefinite periods of time; non-rare books or other publications, unless they relate to the history of Purdue University, the state of Indiana, the people associated with the University or the state of Indiana, or they complement the existing collections in the Karnes Center.