

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 primary source materials in a wide variety of formats.

Collecting Criteria

Archivists select content for the Karnes Center collections based on the following criteria:

- Materials relate to the history, administration, or culture of Purdue University
- Materials relate to a subject area of distinction for Purdue University as the land grant university for the state of Indiana (agriculture, engineering, science, technology)
- Materials are rare or unique and support the research and teaching needs of the University
- Materials complement the existing special collections areas of subject emphasis

Subject Emphasis

The Center collects original primary source materials that strengthen its existing collections and build upon particular subject areas of emphasis. Many collections reflect the areas of emphasis for Purdue University as the land grant institution for the state of Indiana, illustrating Purdue's strengths in agriculture, engineering, science, and technology. Major strengths in the Karnes Center's holdings include materials on the history of engineering and science, in particular transportation and railroads, aeronautics and astronautics, and time and motion study; the history of psychoactive substances research; agricultural history; the history of economics, business, and management; and book design, fine printing, and typography.

Papers of noteworthy individuals in the fields of engineering, science, technology, and agriculture are actively sought. The papers of individuals associated with the history of aviation and space exploration are a major focus of collecting interest as part of the **Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives**. Papers of women, in particular women affiliated with Purdue University or the state of Indiana, are actively sought as part of the **Susan Bulkeley Butler Women's Archives**. Rare books, manuscripts, and organizational records 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 Center encourages gifts that complement these collecting areas. Potential gifts are evaluated based on the collecting criteria listed above, as well as the enduring research value of the material, its condition, and the relevance of the material in supporting the teaching and research needs of Purdue University.

The Karnes Center also accepts donations of materials that document the lives and work of people who have made an impact on Purdue University's history and culture. Materials

documenting Purdue student life and culture are actively sought. The Center particularly encourages gifts of materials that document people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Archivists actively solicit collections of the papers of women and people from diverse and underrepresented groups to ensure that their voices and experiences are documented and included as part of the history of Purdue University.

Formats and Types of Materials Collected

Collections in the Karnes Center include manuscripts and personal papers; rare books; and university archives. Materials are collected in print, digital, and audio-visual formats. Examples of rare and primary source materials collected include diaries, correspondence, historical documents, photographs, scrapbooks, audio-visual material, unique digital or electronic records, rare books, maps, and architectural drawings. Some secondary sources, such as Purdue University publications and reference works that support the archival and manuscript collections, are actively collected as part of the University Archives.

Materials Not Collected

The Karnes Center does not accept donations of materials that duplicate existing holdings; reproduced materials (such as photocopies or other types of facsimiles); 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 and journals or other commonly available publications, unless they relate to the history of Purdue University or are identified as needed reference material; items in poor condition that require extensive resources to preserve, or materials that are infested and pose a risk to staff and other collections.

The Karnes Center does not collect three-dimensional artifacts and memorabilia unless the items represent a significant aspect of Purdue University history or a significant aspect of flight and space history. Large artifacts that represent challenges to storage and exhibition are typically not collected. The Karnes Center does not collect works of art unless the works represent a significant aspect of Purdue University history.

To the extent possible, the Karnes Center engages in collaborative collection development with other research libraries and archival repositories to avoid duplication of collecting efforts.

Last revised: November 27, 2012