

Special Collections, USC Libraries  
Regional History Collection Collection Development Policy

Description

The Regional History Collection in USC Libraries Special Collections documents the political, social, cultural, and urban history of Southern California, and includes manuscripts, books, ephemera, film, photographs, and other archival items.

Initially conceived as a repository for the papers of political and civic leaders, such as Alphonso Bell, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, and Governor Edmund “Jerry” Brown Jr., the collections have grown to encompass a wide array of materials documenting growth, change, conflict, and everyday life in Southern California. They include the records of the Century Freeway Project, Los Angeles Union Station, Bunker Hill Redevelopment Project, and Webster and Independent Commissions established to study the Los Angeles Police Department in the wake of events leading to the 1992 uprisings.

Also included are the papers of black community leader Floyd Covington, the *Los Angeles Examiner* clippings morgue, and more than two million images in the *Los Angeles Examiner* and “Dick” Whittington photograph collections, as well as hundreds of smaller collections documenting the daily lives of ordinary Angelenos. In addition, Special Collections houses photographs and other Southern California-related materials belonging to the California Historical Society, including early Los Angeles city directories, records of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and photographs of the region by C.C. Pierce. Many of these images are included in the [USC Digital Library](#).

New Acquisitions

Documenting the histories and cultures of Southern California is an ongoing effort at USC Libraries. Our interest is to build upon existing areas of strength in our collections, as well as acquire new materials that expand the scope of our holdings in ways that reflect new and emerging areas of scholarship and perspectives on Southern California. We seek donations that broaden and deepen our understanding of the experiences and life stories of Angelenos. Subjects that we are actively seeking to document include:

- Underdocumented cultural and ethnic communities
- Women’s lives and experiences
- Activism, social justice, and civil rights in Los Angeles
- The urban and natural landscape
- Public Art
- Foodways in Southern California

For information about accessing or donating to the Regional History Collection please contact [specol@usc.edu](mailto:specol@usc.edu).