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Guide to the San José State University and the San José Public Library System Joint Library Project Records

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Guide to the San José State University and the San José Public Library System Joint Library Project Records

Collection number: MSS-2009-08-05

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Processed by:
Robert Donahue
Date Completed:
2009
Encoded by:
Mary Ellen Petrich

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University and the San José Public Library System Joint Library Project Records

Dates: 1994-2005

Bulk Dates: 1998-2000

Collection number: MSS-2009-08-05

Creator: San José State University

Collection Size: 24 boxes(28.88 linear feet)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University and the San José Public Library System Joint Library Project Records, 1994-2005 (bulk 1998-2000) document the planning and construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, the first joint venture between a university and public library in the U.S. The records consist of administrative files, architectural files and renderings, legal files, newspaper clippings, photographs, and promotional materials. This collection is arranged into three series: Series I. General Joint Library Files, 1997-2005 (bulk 1998-2000); Series II. Architectural Files, 1994-2003 (bulk 1999); and Series III. Promotional Materials, 1998-2003.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

San José State University and the San José Public Library System Joint Library Project Records, MSS-2009-08-05, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Donahue. Finding aid EAD encoded by Mary Ellen Petrich. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Organizational History

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized 200,000 dollars to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal School is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

In 1996, SJSU President Robert L. Caret and San José Mayor Susan Hammer began early discussions to build a joint library, and in 1998 the two entities signed an operating agreement. Complex planning efforts began in 1999 and in 2003 the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library opened to the public. The completion of the 475,000-square foot library--the largest library to be built at one time west of the Mississippi--under budget and on schedule became known as "the miracle on Fourth Street." The amount of planning and productivity to carry out this innovative venture required multiple layers of collaboration, fund-raising, and support from a diverse community of users.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library provides combined services for the campus community of 30,000 students, SJSU faculty and staff, and to the larger community population of close to one million people. The merger has enhanced access and discovery to a wealth of resources, from books, e-books, databases, audiovisual materials, and primary sources to an expansive public art collection. The library opened in 2003 despite initial opposition from some university faculty and members of the community at large. Today the library serves as a gateway from K-12 to higher education, and has become the cornerstone for life-long learning in the region.

Bibliography

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University*. San José, California: San José State University, 1980.

San José State University. *About SJSU*. http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/

Timeline of the new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library Project. http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/history/timeline.htm (accessed October 5, 2009).

Walsh, James P. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000*. San José, California: San José State University, 2003.

Related Material

San José State University Library Records, MSS-2009-03-03, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection

The San José State University and the San José Public Library System Joint Library Project Records, 1994-2005 (bulk 1998-2000) document the planning and construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. The records consist of administrative files, architectural files and renderings, legal files, newspaper clippings, photographs, and promotional materials.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series: Series I. General Joint Library Files, 1997-2005 (bulk 1998-2000); Series II. Architectural Files, 1994-2003 (bulk 1999); and Series III. Promotional Materials, 1998-2003.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

San José State University -- History.

San José Public Library -- History.

Joint-use libraries -- California -- San José.

Library buildings -- California -- San José -- Planning.

Library buildings -- California -- San José -- Design and construction.

Education, Higher -- California -- San José.

Series I: **General Joint Library Files 1997-2005 (bulk 1998-2000)**

Physical Description: 16 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this series document the planning and construction of the joint library, from conceptualization to the building's grand opening in August 2003. The series includes architectural specifications, correspondence, general files, meeting minutes, reports, and technology and network information.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 1	**General Files, Legal Documents 1997**
Box 2	**Memos & Email Correspondence: C. James Schmidt's Office 1998-1999**
Box 3	**Architectural Bids: Construction & Building Design 1998-2000**
Box 4	**Opposition to Joint Library and Planning Files from David McNeil 1998-2000**
Boxes 5-9	**General Files 1998-2002**
Boxes 10-11	**General Files: SJPL Program Manager Sharon Russell 1998-2003**
Box 12	**General Files: SJSU Associate Dean Jo Bell Whitlatch 1998-2005**
Box 13	**Library Technology, CAT 5, Network 1999-2002**
Box 14	**Meeting Minutes, Agendas, General Files 2000-2003**
Box 15	**General Files, Operations & Planning 2002**
Box 16	**General Files, Consultants' Reports, Legal Documents 2002-2003**

Series II: **Architectural Files 1994-2003 (bulk 1999)**

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this series document architectural plans concerning the joint library project. Included are concept drawings for the building, as well as items and materials suggested for use in the interior such as furniture and library stacks and shelving. Also included are photographs and consultant files on the joint library project.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 17	**Architectural, Interior Design Files, Concept Files 1994**
Box 18	**Architectural, Interior Design Files 1998-1999**
Boxes 19-20	**Architectural, Interior Design Files, Advisory Files, AV Equipment 1999-2003**

Series III: **Promotional Materials 1998-2003**

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series documents various types of materials used to promote the joint library project, including media coverage of the building's construction and grand opening. Several different formats are represented in the series, including newspaper clippings, photographs, t-shirt samples, and audiovisual materials.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 21	**Articles, Newspapers 1998-2000**
Box 22	**Audiovisual Materials, Photographs 1998-2003**
Box 23	**Newspaper Clippings, Photographs 1998-2003**
Box 24	**Grand Opening Promotional Material 2003**