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Guide to the San José State University Library Records

Processed by Robert Donahue.

SJSU Library Special Collections and Archives

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Guide to the San José State University Library Records

Collection number: MSS-2009-03-03

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library San José State University

San José, California

Processed by Robert Donahue.

Date Completed:

2009

Encoded by:

Robert Donahue

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Library Records

Dates: 1880-2002 Bulk Dates: 1962-1999

Collection number: MSS-2009-03-03
Creator: San José State University Library
Collection Size: 56 Boxes62.89 linear feet
Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University Library Records (1880-2002 [bulk 1962-1999]) document the administrative and operational functions of the university library. The records consist of reports, blueprints, architectural drawings, and administrative files such as meeting minutes. Also included is student census data and blueprints of the university library. The bulk of the records document the library from 1962 to 1999, but there are historically significant materials from earlier incarnations of the library, such as accession records dating back to the late 1800s. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Administrative Files, 1880-2002 (bulk 1962-1999); and Series II. Blueprints and Architectural Drawings, 1916-1973.

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

Processing Information

Collection processed and finding aid EAD encoded by Robert Donahue. 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 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.

The San José State University Library can trace its origins to the early days of the California State Normal School, which provided funding to purchase books and other materials for a campus library in the 1860s. The first California State Normal School building in San José was completed in 1872, with a new library located on the first floor. The building was destroyed by fire in 1880, but most of the library's 2,000 volumes were saved. Further expansion of the college library occurred in 1942. Construction of a Library Annex followed in 1956, expanding library facilities northward toward the old public Carnegie Library (now the Student Union) at the corner of Fourth and San Fernando Streets. In 1961, the Carnegie Library was destroyed to make room for Library North, a new building.

In the 1970s many San José State campus buildings were deemed unsafe and were destroyed, including the 1910 library. The Robert D. Clark Library, completed in 1982, became the home to new acquisitions, while older materials remained in the John T. Wahlquist library building. In the early 1990s, SJSU President Robert L. Caret and San José mayor Susan Hammer began negotiations to build a joint university and city library. In 2000, the Wahlquist Library was destroyed to make space for the construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on October 20, 2000 and the library opened on August 1, 2003.

Bibliography

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

San José Public Libraries and San José State University Library: Library History. http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/history/index.htm (accessed April 30, 2009).

San José State University: About SJSU. http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/ (accessed March 19, 2009).

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

Related Material

Joint Library Files. SJSU University Archives Collection.

Scope and Content

The San José State University Library Records (1880-2002 [bulk 1962-1999]) document the administrative and operational functions of the university library. The records consist of reports, blueprints, architectural drawings, and administrative files such as meeting minutes. Also included is student census data and blueprints of the university library. The bulk of the records document the library from 1962 to 1999, but there are historically significant materials from earlier incarnations of the library, such as accession records dating back to the late 1800s. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Administrative Files, 1880-1999 (bulk 1962-1999); and Series II. Blueprints and Architectural Drawings, 1916-1973.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Administrative Files, 1880-2002 (bulk 1962-1999); and Series II. Blueprints and Architectural Drawings, 1916-1973.

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--Library--History

San José State Normal School--History

San José State Teachers College--History

San José State College--History

California State University, San José--History

San José State University--History

Education--Higher--California--San José

Education--California--San José

Series I: SJSU University Library Administrative Files 1880-2002 (bulk 1962-1999)

Physical Description: 50 Boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The San José State University Library can trace its origins to the early days of the California State Normal School in the 1860s. The academic library has served students in San José for over a century. The records chronicle the library from its roots as a Normal School library to the university's preparations for the creation of a joint library with the main branch of the San José public library in 2003.

The material in this series contains administrative files, reports, questionnaires, and library statistics. Also included are files pertaining to the St. John Dixon case. Dixon was one of three students expelled from Alabama State University after participating in a sit-in at a white lunch counter. He applied for admission to San José State and was initially denied. President Wahlquist (1952-1964) and advocates for Dixon later managed to obtain the paperwork for Dixon and allow him admission to San José State College.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Accession Records 1887-1962
Handbooks, Pamphlets 1903-1947
General Files 1910-1999
California State Library Foundation 1950-1989
Administrative Files, St. John Dixon Case 1960-1973
OPAC Implementation Committee Files, Library Pamphlets, Renovation Reports 1960-1982
Library Newsletters 1960-1966
Periodical Lists 1961-1980
New Books Added to College Library 1961-1968
Reports, General Files 1961-1999
Library Statistics 1962-1970
Memos 1964-1971

Box 33	Minutes and Correspondence of	Library Staff 1965-
Box 34	CLA, ALA, General Files 1966-1974	
Box 35	1982 Opening of New Library 1967-1982	
Box 36	General Files, Summer Session 1968-1978	
Boxes 37-38	General Files, Questionnaire 1968-1976	
Box 39	Bibliographies 1969-1973	
Box 40	Resumes, General Files 1973	
Boxes 41-43	Library Move Files 1976-1982	
Box 44	Details of Clark Library Move in 1982 1980-1984	
Box 51	Collection of Library Finder Guides, Normal School Materials 1880-1960	
Box 52	Policy Manuals 1970-1998	
Box 53	Faculty Status and Salary Material 1976-1984	
Box 54	Collection of Annual Reports 1982-1999	
Box 55	Various Reports on California State Collegs and San Jose State College 2000-2002	_
Box 56	Memos and Invitations 1940-1959	

Series II: SJSU University Library Blueprints and Architectural Drawings 1916-1973

Physical Description: 6 Boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains blueprints and architectural drawings of the SJSU library from 1916 to 1973. The materials illustrate the various incarnations of the library, which has moved to several different buildings and locations on campus due to the need for expansion throughout the university's 150-year history.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 45	Building Plans, Blueprints 1916-1947
Box 46	Floor Plans, Blueprints of Library North, Central South, and 1940 Library 1940-1953
Boxes 47-48	Blueprints, Architectural Drawings 1949-1961
Box 49	Floor Plans, Blueprints of Library North, Central, South 1961-1963
Box 50	Blueprints, Drawings, General Files 1967-1973