The UH Energy & Sustainability Research Collection

Building the Energy & Sustainability Research Collection is an important priority for University of Houston, and UH Libraries. The collection underpins UH’s leadership role as a tier-one public research university located in Houston—commonly described as the Energy Capital of the World.

Located on campus, in the M.D. Anderson Library, the Energy & Sustainability Research Collection is a primary focus of UH Libraries’ strategic plan to build unique and special library collections that embody the essence of our region, our people, and economy.

Great university libraries are distinguished by the special collections, unique roles, and customized services only a university library can provide to the community it serves. Our role is increasingly important because of the transformative power of information to unleash human potential.

In a diverse urban city, like Houston, every person’s potential can be elevated, simply by having significant special collections inside the library to serve as a cornerstone for interdisciplinary scholarship and energy research.

Acting as a knowledge resource to the public, our mission involves building partnerships across UH, and with other educational institutions, community organizations, government agencies, and the private sector to serve the region and impact the world. Five of Six Key UH Goals (National Competitiveness, Student Success, Community Advancement, Local & National Recognition, and Competitive Resources) can be realized through the growth and enhancement of UH Libraries’ Energy & Sustainability Special Collection.

Mission

The mission of the Energy & Sustainability Research Collection is to acquire and promote materials representing the entire energy spectrum; the history, people, development, distribution, exploration, and consumption of resources that fuel human activity. We accomplish this mission by assembling a comprehensive collection of energy and sustainability related materials that support national and international research, and recording the history of these essential endeavors. Our mission supports the Greater Houston Region and our community of alumni, students, teachers, authors, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, visiting scholars, environmentalists, and other members of Houston’s vibrant and multicultural community by helping to fulfill our promise as creative, and informed global leaders in energy and sustainability.

Vision
Our vision is to be the preeminent repository of knowledge on oil, gas, alternative energies, and the environment in the world. In addition to being the leading public repository, the collection will serve to attract top students and faculty to Houston, and to bring national and international scholars to the University of Houston to research and publish within a wide array of energy and sustainability disciplines.

**Initiatives**
In support of this mission and vision, University of Houston Libraries is:

- Acquiring archival collections of unique, primary source documentation from corporations, governments, nonprofit organizations, and individuals involved in oil and gas, alternative energies, and environmental issues.
- Building a comprehensive historical archive of oil, gas, and alternative energy industry journals and in-house newsletter publications.
- Incorporating a “Women in Energy” focus by acquiring records and papers of women active across the energy spectrum.
- Developing technical infrastructures to collect, preserve, visualize, and interpret research datasets.
- Digitizing collection materials to make them accessible to students, teachers, scholars, industry, and activists beyond the limits of print and the walls of the library onto the global stage.
- Creating on-line and on-site exhibits of print, archives, artifacts, audio, and film collection materials to engage the public with history and innovation in energy and sustainability.
- Collaborating with faculty across disciplines to instruct students on the tools and methodologies used to discover, acquire, and build knowledge in energy and sustainability related fields.
- Engaging UH and community students from different disciplines to support our archival, exhibition, digital scholarship, and research programs, giving those students unique opportunities to gain experience and understanding in energy and sustainability fields.
- Offering research fellowships for scholars to work in our unique, comprehensive collections.
- Organizing speakers and events that highlight our collections and programs.

The University of Houston Libraries is building collections and programming related to energy and sustainability in support of teaching, learning, and scholarly research on the campuses of the University of Houston and globally. Our collections document exploration, innovation, development, and growth in oil and gas, alternative energies, and the environment. Collections also document the impacts of energy-sector industries and individuals on their economic, political, social, technological, and cultural communities. Our programming empowers students, teachers, researchers, and the public with the knowledge and tools to discover, access, and use energy and sustainability documentary resources at our university and well beyond.

UH Libraries Energy & Sustainability Research Collection embodies Houston's intellectual capital, and energy resources. It serves to provide an outstanding documentary resource for energy-related teaching, learning, research, and enterprise.

**UH LIBRARIES VISION**
A community nurtured by curiosity and creativity that drives lifelong learning and scholarship.

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